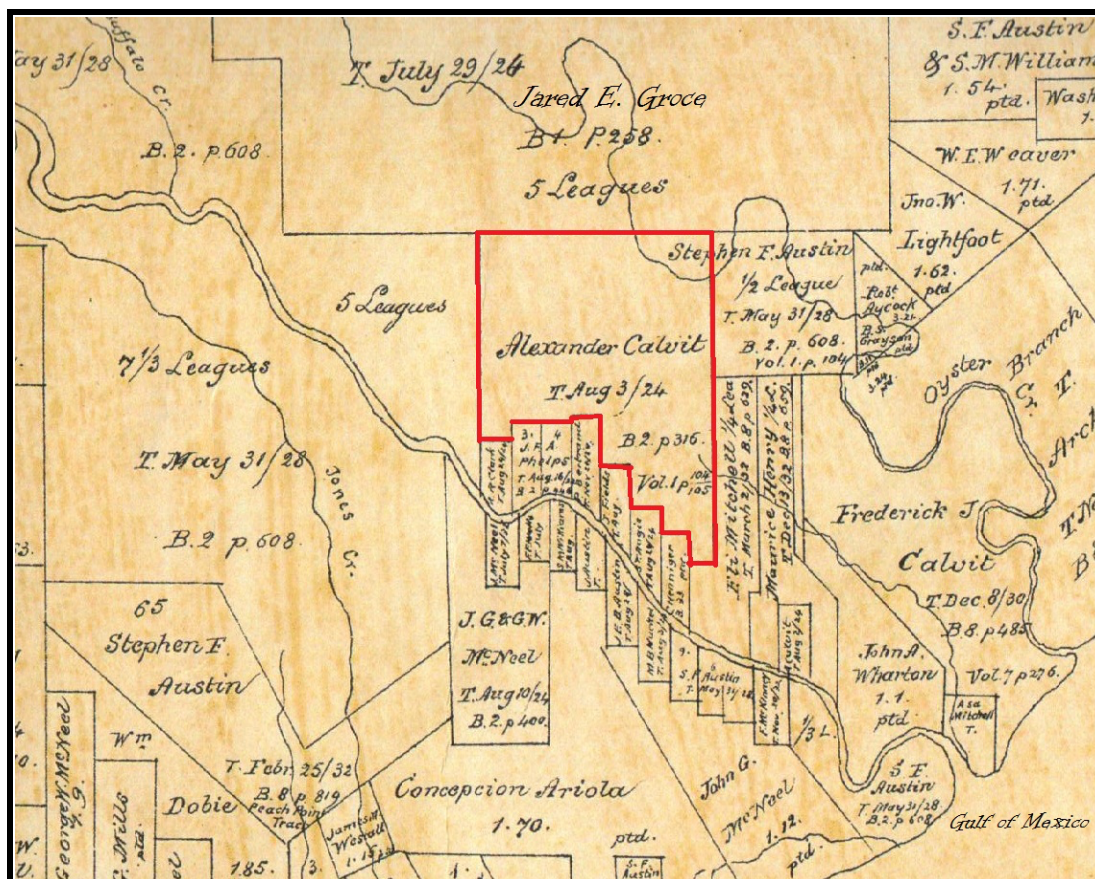


Alexander Calvit-John H. Herndon Plantation  
Brazosport Archaeological Society



Alexander Calvit League Map 1879 Texas General Land Office

Alexander Calvit, originally from Mississippi, arrived in Texas early enough to be one of Stephen F. Austin's original 300 families. With his wife Barbara M. Calvit and three daughters they made their home on the east side of the Brazos River on a league of land granted Alexander Calvit August 3, 1824. After the death of Alexander Calvit in 1836, Barbara M. Calvit took over the operation of the plantation and developed it into a sugar producer. Throughout the 1850's the Calvit Plantation was a consistent producer of sugar with a small slave labor force using only horse power in her mill. With the marriage of her youngest daughter to John H. Herndon of Kentucky and their subsequent move to the port of Velasco, Barbara M. Calvit may have let her son-in-law help with the plantation. After her death in 1858 her daughter Barbara M. Herndon inherited the tract of land and the improvements associated with the plantation. After the Civil War Moritz Kopperl of Galveston became one of the mortgage holders of the plantation. In the early 1870's moneys were procured thru Kopperl to keep the plantation running each year. However, John H. and Barbara Herndon were forced to sell out to Kopperl in 1875. Mortiz Kopperl sold the plantation lands to Solomon T. Clute, a northerner, in 1877. Solomon in turn sold it to his brother George Clute in 1886. The plantation lands were later broken down into smaller tracts and the town of Clute now covers the Calvit plantation.

Alexander Calvit was born in Mississippi on June 17, 1784. He married Barbara Mackall Wilkinson December 18, 1814 in Washington, Adams County, Mississippi. He was in the War of 1812, holding the commission of Captain of reconnoitering. In 1816 the Governor of Mississippi appointed Calvit Captain of artillery in the Thirteenth Mississippi Regiment. Alexander and Barbara Calvit's first three children were born in Mississippi, but the family resided near Alexandria, Louisiana for a short while before coming to Texas as their last child was born there (See Appendix A). The family was initially at San Felipe de Austin.<sup>1</sup>

"On account of his good qualities and circumstances, his notorious application to agriculture, rearing of cattle and industry" as one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred Alexander Calvit had received title to a league and two labors of land now in Brazoria and Waller counties on August 3, 1824.<sup>2</sup> His brother Frederick Joseph Calvit would later join the family and would also receive a league of land December 8, 1830. According to Noah Smithwick, Alexander was popularly known as "Sandy" Calvit.<sup>3</sup>

The census of March 1826 listed Alexander Calvit as a farmer and stock raiser with a household including his wife Barbara M. Calvit, three daughters, and thirteen slaves. Their three daughters were Mary Ann aged 10, Sarah Jane Wharton aged 7, and Barbara Mackall Wilkinson aged 5. They had lost an infant son William Frederick Calvit before coming to Texas.

In a notice written to the public at San Felipe de Austin Alexander Calvit exposes some of his personal finances for all to see giving the indication that he possibly had left creditors behind in the United States in his moving to Texas:

Deeming it to be the duty of every man to deal with perfect Candour with his fellow Citizens as regards his pecuniary situation, and also as an act of justice to my family to prevent them from being improperly harassed by the presecution of unjust claims against property brought by them to this Country I have Considered it to be my duty to give public notice that the Negroes and property brought by myself and family to this Colony, are actually and bona fide the property of my Wife and Children, being in part the dotal estate of my Wife given to her by her parents and brought into the Marriage as her own individual property, and the balance is to make up for such parts of my Wife and children by a regular deed of trust bearing date 20 december 1820 and which deed is on record in the office of the Parish Judge of Rapide in Louisiana, and also in the Office of Stephen F. Austin Judge of this Colony, therefore no Claim whatever against me can in any manner have any liens on or against said property or its proceeds, this notice is given to prevent any person from being deceived by purchasing Claims from the United States on me, for a part of those Claims are unjust, every just claim however on me shall be paid As soon as circumstances will admit, but the property itself of its—proceeds Can not be taken for and Claims whatever against me for the reasons above stated.

11<sup>th</sup> January 1826<sup>4</sup>

In 1828 Robert S. Brink brought a grievance against Alexander Calvit for failure to pay a debt of \$124 and Calvit received a verbal demand from Thomas M. Duke Alcalde at San Felipe de Austin to pay the debt August 12, 1828. For whatever reason Alexander failed to pay the debt and the next alcalde Joseph White put his entire league of land up for sale to satisfy the debt. At

<sup>1</sup> *History of Texas Together with a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston*, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1985, pp.284-285. Some references having Alexander Calvit as moving in the later half of 1824 and trying to make one crop on the Neches River before moving in December 1825 to San Felipe de Austin.

<sup>2</sup> Brazoria County Deed Record: Spanish Translation 263/65

<sup>3</sup> Smithwick, Noah, *Evolution of a State*, Steck-Vaughn Company, Austin, Texas, 1968, p. 35.

<sup>4</sup> Barker, Eugene C. ed., *The Austin Papers*, Vol. 2, Washington Government Printing Office, 1924, pp.1255-1256.

auction Hosea H. League bought the property for \$100 and received title on March 16, 1829.<sup>5</sup> Frederick J. Calvit, shortly thereafter, bought the league of land back from Hosea H. League for \$292.43 to hold in trust for Alexander's three daughters.<sup>6</sup> The deed was never transferred back to Alexander Calvit's name, again hiding his property from any creditors.

In 1832 Alexander Calvit signed the militia roll and is recorded on the muster roll of June 22, but no further records show where or whether he fought at the Battle of Velasco. It was on his labor of land, about two miles above the mouth of the Brazos River, the Brazoria militia camped June 23-25.<sup>7</sup>

The next year, October 1, 1833, Alexander and Barbara M. Calvit's oldest daughter Mary Ann Calvit wed Jared E. Groce III whose father originally owned Bernardo Plantation. They would make their home at Pleasant Hill Plantation on the same property as Bernardo.

Despite his early friendship with Stephen F. Austin during which time Barbara M. Calvit and her sister Jane Long made Austin a buckskin suit, Alexander Calvit apparently got into difficulties with the empresario over land fees and Austin's efforts to prevent speculation in land. In 1833 Calvit wrote General Jose Antonio Mexia "we generally hope that you detain S. F. Austin for five years, because really he is very noxious to Texas as well as to the general government."<sup>8</sup>



Stephen F. Austin in His Buckskin Suit

At Brazoria on August 9, 1835, Alexander Calvit signed resolutions recommending the calling of the Consultation. He contracted pneumonia while in charge of a supply camp for the Texas army and died at his home in Brazoria County on January 7, 1836.<sup>9</sup> He was buried in the family cemetery possibly in a crypt near a small lake on his Evergreen Plantation.

October 25, 1836 Sarah Jane Wharton Calvit married John Sharp. They would make their home in Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos River. Sharp had arrived in Texas 1833-1835 and had participated in the Battle of Bexar and was a captain in R. J. Calder's company at San Jacinto. Sharp was in the mercantile business and also a member of the Velasco Association which was trying to influence investors in the fledgling port. John Sharp operated under the partnership of Sharp & Company whose silent partner was John A. Wharton until Wharton's death in 1838.

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<sup>5</sup> BCDR: ST 265/68

<sup>6</sup> BCDR: ST 269/70

<sup>7</sup> Boddie, Mary Delaney, *Thunder on the Brazos*, Taylor Publishing Company, 1978, p. 39.

<sup>8</sup> Cantrell, Gregg, *Stephen F. Austin Empresario of Texas*, Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1999, pp. 290-291.

<sup>9</sup> "Calvit, Alexander," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fea22>), accessed January 13, 2015



Mary Austin Holly visited the neighborhood of the lower Brazos River in 1838 and while visiting Sarah A. Wharton at Eagle Island Plantation she wrote:

26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

...Mrs. Calvet & her daughter<sup>10</sup> of the neighborhood, with Mrs. Long the widow of the famous Gen. Long came to see us. Several gentlemen visitors were at the house.

27<sup>th</sup>

Dined with Mrs. Calvet & had an agreeable time...The turkey was delicious—pig—pheasant [?] specially [?]-& other nice things made an excellent dinner. Can see Velasco—6 miles from the place.<sup>11</sup>

After a lingering illness February 1839 Jared E. Groce III died at Pleasant Hill Plantation leaving Mary Ann Groce a widow with two young children (See Appendix A). As part of his will “in consideration of the love and affection which I entertain for my wife Mary Ann Groce, as well as from a great desire to see her comfortably provided for in this life, and placed beyond the wants of this world, and in further consideration of her renouncing the benefits of the community of accord and gains subsisting of her renouncing the benefits of the community of accord and gains subsisting between us and renouncing all right, title, claim or interest which she may have either in law or otherwise to Estate of my children in case of their decease I and bequeath to her the sum of \$8,000 either to paid in money or property at her option...and in further proof of my love and affection and for the consideration for the above named, I give and bequeath to my said wife the sum of \$400 as an annuity to be paid at the end of each year and the annuity is to continue until the death of my wife or until she contracts another marriage...be given the services of such servants as necessary for attending to her household affairs, cooking, etc. and they shall obey her as mistress of the place as in my own lifetime...She shall have a good carriage and horses and servants to attend she and my children whenever she desires of traveling.”<sup>12</sup> Leonard W. Groce would be the executor of her husband’s estate and followed his brother’s wishes. Mary Ann and her two children would be more than well cared for.

August 27, 1839 Barbara Mackall Wilkinson Calvit, the youngest daughter of Alexander and Barbara Mackall Calvit, married John Hunter Herndon at Velasco. John H. Herndon was born near Georgetown, Kentucky in 1813. After graduating from Transylvania College in both arts and law, he left Kentucky and arrived in Galveston, Texas, on January 18, 1838. Both of his parents had died before his departure and he brought several thousand dollars in cash from their estate with him. During most of that year he lived in Houston, where he continued to study law. On April 12, 1838, he was elected engrossing clerk of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas. He moved to Richmond, Texas in Fort Bend County where he was admitted to the bar on November 23, 1838. Herndon was described five feet eleven inches in height, had dark hair and eyes and a swarthy complexion. He was social in disposition, pleasant in address... always maintaining the air of a dignified and cultured gentleman.<sup>13</sup> John and Barbara Herndon would reside in Richmond while raising a large family (See Appendix A).<sup>14</sup>

In January, 1840, a curious traveler, William C. Sheridan, an English diplomat visited Velasco and recorded in his travel diary the intimate detail of the social life of the port before the financial disasters of the year. This provides an insight into the everyday life of many of the

<sup>10</sup> Barbara Mackall Calvit would have been her daughter living at home at this time.

<sup>11</sup> Bryan, J. P. ed., *Mary Austin Holley The Texas Diary, 1835-1838*, The University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1965, pp. 61-63.

<sup>12</sup>Woodrick, James V., *Bernardo*, 2011, pp. 137-138.

<sup>13</sup> *History of Texas Together with a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston*, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1885, pp. 601-603.

<sup>14</sup>Muir, Andrew Forest ed., “Diary of A Young Man in Houston, 1838”, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Volume LIII, July 1949-April, 1950, pp. 276-307.

citizens of Velasco rarely found, though it paints Sarah Jane Sharp in somewhat unflattering terms:

Jan.

20<sup>th</sup>...We are now in sight of land—houses are to be seen & a schooner at anchor...The boat arrived in due course of time & proved to contain no less personages than the Harbour Master & Pilot M<sup>r</sup> Thompson & his friend a M<sup>r</sup> Metcalfe...they acquainted us with a very curious fact i.e. that we were not at Galveston—the place of our destination, & we supposed we were, but off a small town called Velasco, having a population of about 300 souls..."The Hardy Pilot" took the ship to about three miles from shore, nearer than w<sup>h</sup> we could not approach, and the anchor being dropped & sails furled amid the usual & general discharge of "damns" & "Blasts"...

23<sup>rd</sup> This was a most beautiful day, & after Breakfast Seymour & I put to sea in the jolly boat. After an animated pull of 3 miles or so & having passed the wreck of a vessel that had bumped on the Bar we got into smooth water & the Mouth of the river Brazos. On landing we were received by the whole male population of Velasco headed by the cheerful Thomson with his coat off & a cigar in his mouth. By him we were introduced to General Green a man of very respectable appearance and intelligent phiz...The General shook us warmly by the hand, as also Mess<sup>rs</sup> Sharp (the Actg American Agent) Potter &c—gentlemen moving in the first circles of Velasco. At the suggestion of our gallant friend, we adjourned to his mansion, where to my intense delight we were speedily roasting before an immense wood fire...M<sup>r</sup> Sharpe was so urgent in his solicitations for our society at his house to dine, that the General who had killed a fatted calf for the like ceremony, waived his claim, & agreed with us to feast at M<sup>r</sup> S's at half past one—such being the approved feeding hour of Velasco.

Accordingly, after a stroll on the beach, we presented ourselves at Sharpe's dinner table. There were present M<sup>rs</sup> Sharpe—a young lady, with beautiful eyes & an agreeable expression of countenance, but with a mouth of such dimensions, as entitles it to be compared only with the orifice thr' w<sup>h</sup> Harlequin jumps in the Pantomimes. With her was associated Miss Warner,—a moderately beautiful maid—with good appetite & a red face—who we afterwards discovered to be the school mistress of the town...The dinner, w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Sharpe with her own hands, assisted the servants to place on the table, consisted of some fat pork, a wild Turkey, fried liver, turnips, sweet potatoes, pickles, peach jam & other dainties. Everything was very good particularly the wild Turkey. The practise here--& a very dangerous one—is to feed oneself chiefly with the knife. The size of M<sup>rs</sup> Sharpe's mouth made me easy enough about her but I trembled for the rest of the company. However practise had made perfect & the repast concluded without an accident. Our drink was water & a wine w<sup>h</sup> they called Sherry, but w<sup>h</sup> tasted something like Chilli vinegar & Bilge water—however it is not fortunately for us the custom to imbibe after dinner—coffee being instantly brought & the table cleared...

Velasco is by no means a gigantic town, as it numbers no more than between 20 & 30 irregularly built huts & houses. Nor does it afford much gratification to a lover of the Picturesque situated as it is on a low sandy beach w<sup>h</sup> soon merges into a flat shrubless, prairie extending as far as the eye can reach. There are a few houses on the left side of the river, one of w<sup>h</sup> is tenanted by no less a person than my friend Thomson, but the greater part locate on the right. Green's dwelling being by far the best. No church as yet "with silent finger points to heaven"...As some sort of recompence there is a Court House, on the top of w<sup>h</sup> floated the Yankee Colors as well as those of Texas. In front of this is "the Battery" as they think fit to term it, consisting of an old brass 18 pounder with a touch-hole equivalent in circumference to the mouth of M<sup>rs</sup> Sharpe--& 3 other small ones whose united ages amount to a greater number, than my arithmetic will permit me to calculate...

24<sup>th</sup> Friday being a propitious day, Ramsey & I went on shore—and having introduced him to the Velasconians & accepted the Generals invitation to dinner, (as also did Hamilton & Walcot) we fell to at the fashionable hour. The feast at w<sup>h</sup> also my friend Sharpe & a D<sup>r</sup> Smith (with a most horrible twang) was precisely similar to that of w<sup>h</sup> we had partaken at Sharpes—viz.—Pork & Turkey—the drinkables being no better than at that gentlemen house.

There were oysters also...a huge, long, ill-shaped shell-fish--a gigantic species of the Mangrove oysters of the W. Indies... The evening however was destined to be productive of

intense diversion to me, for lo! & behold the hospitable Green had invited all the elite of Velasco to his house.

Before 9 o'clock there were about a dozen women, many of them very pretty & all well-dressed, vulgar & awkward; and about the same quantity of men, with better manners & conversation than I could have anticipated. To every one of the ladies separately were we introduced, after w<sup>h</sup> everybody sat in a circle around the room, the women on one side & the gents on the other. However after a few light pleasantries...The chill was thrown off, & all parties got on very well. And now, after a little pressing, the fair Miss Warner was led to the Piano by the gallant General, & amidst a profound silence performed, & not very badly...Merited applause followed w<sup>h</sup> stimulated Miss W. to further exertion & a duet on the instrument between herself & a dear little German woman named Seffield—(the dancing mistress of Velasco) ensued. Vocal music then took the lead...the Beloved Seffield afterwards sat down & sung two or three songs remarkably well, besides w<sup>h</sup> she rejoices in the possession of a very good voice...

...active exercise was recommended by the General, & various strange quadrilles, cotillions &c were performed. In a moment of temporary insanity I consented, on condition M<sup>rs</sup> Seffield taught me, to be instructed in the mysteries of a Kentuckee Reel—w<sup>h</sup> I at length accomplished amid the roar of laughter of the whole company...At half-past one this agreeable party dispersed, & I discovered that Beds were among the scarcities of Velasco, as I had to share mine with Walcott, who snored like an asthmatic Walruss.

August 17, 1840 John Sharp passed away at Velasco. His obituary:

Died at Velasco, 17<sup>th</sup> ult. John Sharp, Esq, Notary Public and U.S. Consular Agent of that Port.

Mr. Sharp emigrated to Texas in 1833, and had since been a resident of this county. He served with credit in the Campaign of 1836, and shared in the perils and honors of the memorable day of San Jacinto. On the year following he was a passenger on board the schooner Julius Caesar when she was captured by the Mexican squadron, and in consequence was taken to Matamoros where he was for some time the prison companion of the late Hon. Wm. H. Wharton. The deceased was well known to the inhabitants of this vicinity, many of whom have witnessed the firm and honorable course he ever pursued through the trials incident both to the early settlement of the country and its struggle for independence; and from the stand he maintained throughout, he claims our remembrance as a specimen of the TRUE TEXIAN, a character well known and abounding at home, but never yet duly appreciated abroad.<sup>15</sup>

As a brigade major John H. Herndon was a member of the Somervell Expedition in 1842 and with many others turned back at the Rio Grande and escaped the Black Bean Episode.

March 8, 1843 Mary Ann Calvit Groce married Dr. Richard Rogers Peebles. They would raise a large family together and remain at Pleasant Hill Plantation (See Appendix A). The next year, May 15, 1844 Sarah Jane Calvit Sharp married Robert S. Herndon, the brother of John H. Herndon. He had come to Texas in the winter of 1838-1839. During the Somervell Expedition he served in Capt. W. Ryan's and Capt. L. Owen's companies. On January 8, 1845, the Senate confirmed his appointment as collector of customs for the District of Brazos, and in February, 1846, as surveyor and inspector of revenue for the Port of Velasco.<sup>16</sup>

During the 1840's Barbara M. Calvit was the guiding force at Evergreen Plantation but her brother-in-law Frederick J. Calvit was near at hand for support. Barbara sold her half interest in 17 slaves to Frederick for \$3800 in 1841.<sup>17</sup> It is not known if these funds were needed for the

<sup>15</sup> *Brazos Courier*, September 1, 1840, Brazoria, Texas- Begs the question was he buried at Velasco or at Evergreen Plantation.

<sup>16</sup> Muir, Andrew Forest ed., "Diary of A Young Man in Houston, 1838", *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Volume LIII, July 1949-April, 1950, p. 306.

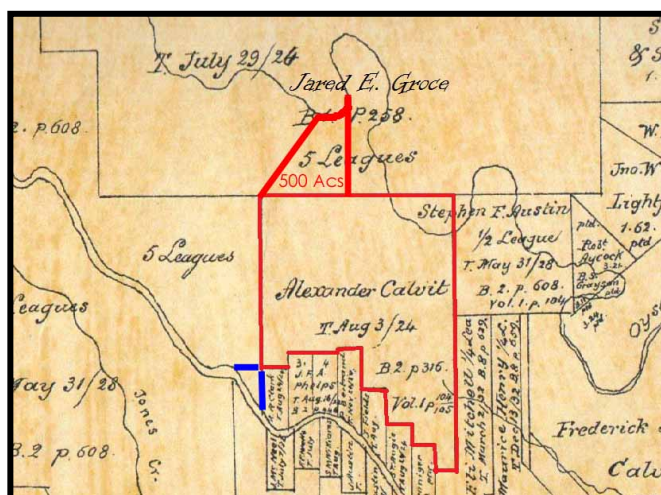
<sup>17</sup> BCDR: B 40

daily operation of the plantation or perhaps for farm machinery-a sugar mill. Later the same year Frederick J. Calvit as trustee transferred ownership of the Alexander Calvit League to the three daughters, Mary Ann, Sarah Jane, and Barbara Mackall.<sup>18</sup> Through the tax records the property still remained in the name of their mother.<sup>19</sup>

April 1845 Frederick Joseph Calvit purchased 500 acres from Sarah A. Wharton their neighbor and gave the property to his niece Barbara M. Herndon.<sup>20</sup> Frederick was close to the families of his sister's children. A story recounted by William Groce occurred about 1842 when Groce was only five years old. "Joseph Calvit of Brazoria was living at Pleasant Hill with his niece Mary Ann Groce. Unknown to William, Calvit was bald and wore a wig. Calvit challenged William to a hair pulling contest. Both grabbed the other's hair and pulled. William tumbled backward, carrying Calvit's hair with him. William screamed thinking he had scalped him as he had heard described done by Indians. His mother explained what had happened, but not before he had received the scare of his life!"<sup>21</sup>

Joseph T. Hawkins had previously sold to Calvit 70 acres of Labor 1 which gave the Calvit family access to a landing on the Brazos River. His sister and her husband W. B. and Mary Jane Victor quick claimed this land over to Barbara M. Calvit March 26, 1846.<sup>22</sup> Evidently the plantation was doing well and Barbara M. Calvit bought back the slaves previously sold to Frederick J. Calvit for \$3500 in 1847.<sup>23</sup> She also maintained a residence at Velasco in Block 28 near Gen. Thomas J. Green's home.

January 5, 1847 Robert S. Herndon died leaving Sarah Jane Herndon a widow once again. She would live with her mother for the next ten years.<sup>24</sup>



500 Acre Tract Just North of Alexander Calvit League

The 1850 Federal Census lists only Barbara M. Calvit and her daughter Sarah living at Evergreen:

Barbara M. Calvit	Planter	66F	Maryland
Sarah J. Herndon		30F	Mississippi

<sup>18</sup> BCDR: B 45

<sup>19</sup> A deed from the Barker Texas History Center files in which John H. Herndon bought Barbara M. Calvit's 1/2 interest in the plantation for \$2000 September 9, 1841 does not appear to have been filed in Brazoria County.

<sup>20</sup> BCDR: B 388/89 & B 389/90

<sup>21</sup> Woodrick, James V., *Bernardo*, 2011, p.89.

<sup>22</sup> BCDR: F 439

<sup>23</sup> BCDR: D 439

<sup>24</sup> Though he lived at Velasco was he also buried at Evergreen Plantation?

In the 1850 Agricultural Census there are listed 120 acres improved and 4325 acres unimproved with \$2226 worth of farm machinery on the property. There were 13 horses, 11 mules, 150 milch cows, 20 work oxen, 1000 head of cattle, 17 sheep, and 70 hogs on the property. The plantation produced 2000 bushels of corn, 400 of sweet potatoes, 7 gallons of wine, 650 lbs. of butter, 4 tons of hay, 64 hogsheads of sugar, and 2484 gallons of molasses in 1849. The 1850 slave census lists 22 slaves on the property. Most of the improvements on the plantation were located around a small lake (Now called Shanks Lake).

The 1850 census indicates the John H. Herndon family was living in Richmond, Fort Bend County. Herndon owned real estate valued at \$100,000 at this time:

John H. Herndon	Attorney at Law	36M	Kentucky
Mackall Herndon		29F	Louisiana
Joseph Herndon		7M	Texas
Boswell Herndon		6M	Texas
Alexander Herndon		4M	Texas
Robert Herndon		3M	Texas
An Infant	[Cornelia]	6/12F	Texas
Caroline Boone		21F	Georgia

The Richard R. Peebles family was living at Pleasant Hill Plantation in Austin County:

Richard R. Peebles	Farmer	40M	Ohio
Mary A. Peebles		34F	Mississippi
Gared [Groce]		13M	Texas
Barbara [Groce]		12F	Texas
Margaritte Peebles		6F	Texas
Rachel Peebles		4F	Texas
Sarah Peebles		3F	Texas
Mary Peebles		3F	Texas
John Peebles		3/12M	Texas
(???????)	Overseer	34M	Mississippi

Evergreen Plantation was a consistent producer of sugar during the 1850's using only horse power to run the mill:

1852	70 hogsheads-Mrs. B. M. Calvit
1853	55
1854	65
1855	47
1858	85
1859	90 Burnt-The only year John H. Herndon is listed as the producer <sup>25</sup>

According to an affidavit by Alexander C. Herndon given in 1918 his father moved to Velasco in 1853 though he may have been mistaken as the family may have been at Evergreen Plantation for a short while.<sup>26</sup> John H. Herndon purchased the "Archer House" at auction for

<sup>25</sup> Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1852-53, With An Appendix, New Orleans. Champomier, P.A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1853-54, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1854. Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1854-55, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1855 & Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1855-56, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1856. Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1858-59, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1859. Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1860-61, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1861.

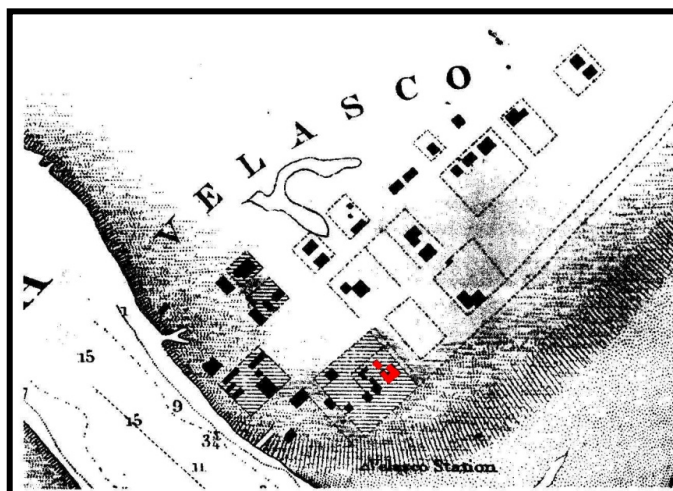
<sup>26</sup> BCDR: 224 189/90



\$480 in 1855. During this transaction A. G. Key is noted as keeping the Archer House as a hotel. Key must have leased or operated the hotel for the various owners 1845 until 1855.<sup>27</sup> Herndon turned the hotel into his main residence. Mary Austin Holley visited Velasco January 27, 1838, and left us this description of the Archer House in 1838:

27th

We crossed over to Velasco. Went shopping (they have one store), visited the Archer House, a fine hotel. Large 2 story with gallery painted, white, looks well. Had a commanding view.<sup>28</sup>



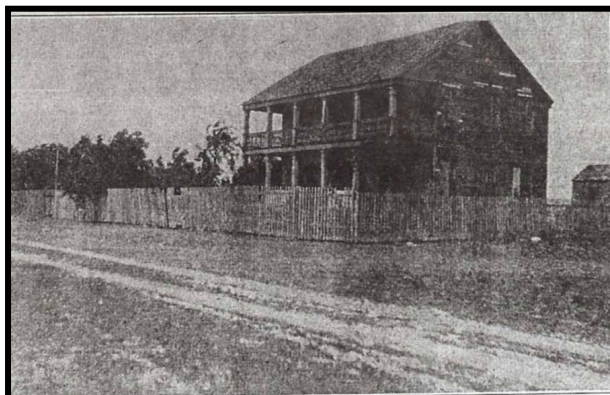
Portion of “Preliminary Chart of Entrance to Brazos River” topography drawn 1852 (Bache 1858) with location of the Archer House

Many more of the town lots of Velasco were accumulated by John H. Herndon through continued purchases in the 1840's and 1850's. He also had a school building erected in Velasco for his children and his neighbors to attend. Herndon helped operate the Evergreen Plantation and maintained his beach home at Velasco.

In an article “Capitols of the Lone Star”, *National Republic*, September 1932, is a photograph with the title “Former Capitol of Texas at Old Velasco”, which curiously matches the description of the Herndon mansion. No date is given with the photo.

<sup>27</sup> BCDR: G 398/400 & H 409/11

<sup>28</sup> Bryan, J. P., ed., *Mary Austin Holley The Texas Diary 1835-1838*, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1965, pp. 53-54.



It is curious, however, that Barbara M. Calvit had to take out a \$2000 mortgage with her half ownership in the plantation as security with Samuel Mason of Fort Bend, County in 1857.<sup>29</sup> Were these funds for operating capital for the plantation or perhaps the building of a new home?

December 12, 1858 Barbara Mackall Wilkinson Calvit died at her home. She was buried in the family cemetery next to her husband at Evergreen Plantation.

#### Obituary

Mrs. Barbara Mackall Calvit.

Died on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>, at her residence in Brazoria County, Mrs. B. M. Calvit, aged 74 years. Mrs. Calvit was a native of Maryland, but removed at the very early day to Texas, being one of Austin's Three Hundred. Another old Texan has gone; the gallant little band of pioneers, is daily becoming fewer and fewer, and we shall ere long be called upon to mourn the death of its last member.

Mrs. Calvit has left three daughters, Mrs. Peebles, wife of Dr. R. R. Peebles, of Austin County, Mrs. B. M. Herndon, wife of our esteemed fellow citizen, John H. Herndon; her widowed daughter who has resided with and nursed her aged mother for the last ten years. But few more energetic and enterprising ladies ever existed, that Mrs. Calvit. She was eminently calculated to succeed in a new country, for she had a spirit to overcome rather than succumb to difficulties. As a friend and neighbor, Mrs. Calvit was universally beloved and esteemed. Her numerous acts of kindness to the sick and suffering, will long be remembered by those of her acquaintances. Her death bed was that of the dying Christian, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and friends of thirty years standing. She was a member of the Episcopal Church, and died in that faith. Her funeral was attended by all of her friends and neighbors, who evinced no ordinary sorrow at the death of one so long and dearly loved. The Rev. Mr. Sproul of Velasco, preached upon the occasion, a most touching funeral sermon.

"Truly in the midst of life we are in death," and whilst we bow in respectful submission to the expressed will of Providence, we sincerely sympathize with the mourning relations, in their great affliction."

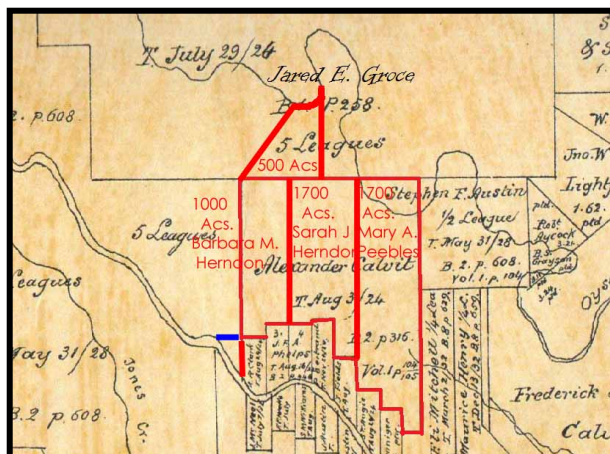
W.

Eagle Island, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1858

John H. Herndon was named executor of her estate. Barbara M. Herndon received 1000 acres which contained the home and plantation improvements.<sup>30</sup> Mary Ann Peebles and Sarah Jane Herndon each received 1700 acres adjacent to each other.

<sup>29</sup> BCDR: H 24/25

<sup>30</sup> Barbara M. Herndon still owned the 500 acres that her Uncle Frederick J. Calvit had given her.



John H. Herndon also owned vast acres of land in Fort Bend, Matagorda, Guadalupe, and Medina Counties. Herndon was able to acquire a great number of acres via his law work. People wanting to locate land certificates would contract Herndon for his services and his usual charge was 1/3 to 1/2 of the land which might be patented by virtue of any particular land certificate in question.<sup>31</sup> In the 1860 Census he listed his real-estate value at \$1,605,000 and personal estate at \$106,050:

Jno. H. Herndon	46 M Ky.
Barbara M.	39 F La.
James C. [should be Joseph]	17 M Tx.
Alex C.	14 M Tx.
Robt. S.	12 M Tx.
Camellia	10 F Tx.
Florence	8 F Tx.
Sarah J. (Herndon sister of Barbara)	41 F Miss
F. J. Calvit (uncle of Barbara)	72 M Miss

According to the 1860 Agricultural Census John H. Herndon listed 710 acres improved and 310,000<sup>32</sup> acres unimproved with farm machinery listed at \$20,000. This \$20,000 must indicate that he upgraded his sugar mill to steam power.<sup>33</sup> There were 400 head of horses, 50 mules, 150 milch cows, 40 work oxen, 9000 head of cattle.<sup>34</sup> The Evergreen Plantation produced 2500 bushels of corn, 50 of Irish potatoes, 200 of sweet potatoes, 90 hogsheads of sugar, and 7200 gallons of molasses for 1859. These 90 hogsheads of sugar may have been lost due to fire as previously noted by P. A. Champomier. There were 30 slaves listed in the 1860 Slave Census in 6 dwellings at Evergreen. Herndon also owned 12 more slaves in Fort Bend and Matagorda counties where according to family history he owned stock ranches.

<sup>31</sup> BCDR: 224 189/90

<sup>32</sup> Tax records for 1859 verify that he owned over 300,000 acres with the vast amount of the acreage outside of Brazoria County.

<sup>33</sup> Strobel, Abner J., *The Old Plantations and Their Owners of Brazoria County, Texas*, Lake Jackson Historical Association, 2006, p. 46. Strobel mentions that the sugar house was made of brick and that "in excavating for the foundation of the sugar house on this plantation the hull of an ocean boat was found, showing that at some remote period in the past, a hurricane had driven it inland that far, a distance of ten miles from the Gulf."

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, Strobel relates that "the Herndons had a large stock of cattle and fine stock Arabian horses. Shanghai Pierce, in later years, became the owner of the cattle".

The sugar house was made of brick. The main dwelling at Evergreen was described by Abner J. Strobel as “a large frame residence, and what was called an office in the yard. The residence was two-story and contained some ten or twelve rooms.”<sup>35</sup>

During the Civil War John H. Herndon saw limited service in a local militia from Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties receiving the rank of Colonel April 15, 1862 by Governor J. R. Lubbock. Commodore H. H. Bell, U.S. Steam Sloop *Brooklyn*, wrote in his private diary June 1, 1863: *Saw in the river at Velasco one steamer and one schooner. A newly built fort on the Quintana side, and 100 tents adjacent.....On the Velasco side the battery is not so prominent; situated near the water and to the south of the white house with colonnades, some 40 or 50 men were assembled there in the rear of the fort..*<sup>36</sup> This because of its proximity to the Civil War era fort was the Herndon home at Velasco.

Joseph C. Herndon joined Terry’s Texas Rangers and in 1864 he was an aid-de-camp as a lieutenant on General John A. Wharton’s staff.<sup>37</sup> At the beginning of the Civil War Alexander C. Herndon was sent to Europe to complete his education. He spent two years in Brussels, Belgium and at the end of that time returned home joining the Confederacy.<sup>38</sup> During the Civil War John H. Herndon bought the 1700 acre tract owned by Mary and Richard R. Peebles for \$6666.<sup>39</sup>

After the Civil War John H. Herndon was still the executor of Barbara M. Calvit’s estate but he repeatedly missed court dates citing his poor health.

In 1870 the Herndon family was living at Velasco:

John H. Herndon	farmer	57M	Kentucky
Barbara Herndon	Keep House	49F	Louisiana
Cornelia Herndon		20F	Texas
Florence Herndon		18F	Texas
Oliver Herndon??	Manager of Farm	27	Texas

In order to keep the plantation running John H. Herndon was forced to borrow \$2000 from Moritz Kopperl of Galveston in September 1870 using the plantation as security.<sup>40</sup> Another mortgage had been issued earlier in the year to Mrs. A. G. Tyler for \$3500 also using the plantation as security.<sup>41</sup> Kopperl loaned Herndon \$3100 in 1871 and \$2800 in 1872 each year to keep the plantation running. Also each year Herndon consigned his crops of corn, cotton, sugar, and molasses to be sold by Kopperl.<sup>42</sup>

While John H. Herndon had to been able to maintain a good business relationship with Moritz Kopperl, Mrs. A. G. Tyler was trying to foreclose on Herndon to collect on her \$3500 note although he had made partially payments. In July 1873 Mrs. A. G. Tyler sold her mortgage to Moritz Kopperl.<sup>43</sup> Barbara M. and John H. Herndon sold the plantation to Moritz Kopperl for

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. Of course, this brings the question of when this home was built and by Alexander Calvit or John H. Herndon.

<sup>36</sup> *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. 20, p. 758.

<sup>37</sup> Cutrer, Thomas W., ed., *Our Trust Is in the God of Battles*, The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2006, p.248.

<sup>38</sup> *History of Texas Together with a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston*, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1885, pp. 617-618.

<sup>39</sup> BCDR: K 305/06

<sup>40</sup> BCDR: M 152/54, M 155/57 & M 164/67

<sup>41</sup> BCDR: M 138/41 & N 731/34

<sup>42</sup> BCDR: M 414/17, M 417/19, & N 292/93

<sup>43</sup> BCDR: N725/27



\$5700 January 11, 1875.<sup>44</sup> Alexander Calvit Herndon then paid \$1000 to lease the plantation for the year 1875 from Kopperl.<sup>45</sup>

April 28, 1874 Frederick Joseph Calvit died at the residence of John H. Herndon at Velasco. It is presumed that he would have been buried with his brother at Evergreen Plantation.

### DEATH OF ANOTHER OLD TEXAN

Frederick Joseph Calvit.

Mr. Frederick Joseph Calvit, who came to Texas in 1823, died on the twenty-eighth of April, at the residence of Col. J. H. Herndon, in Velasco. Mr. Calvit was of French descent, and was born in the limits of the present state of Mississippi on April 11, 1788, and thirty-seven years old when he came to Texas. He passed through the various trials, perils, and vicissitudes of life, meeting the various phases of fortune with composure and firmness, always cheerful, social and genial, attaching to his person all who came into intercourse with him, and everywhere welcomed as counselor and friend. Though endowed with qualities that would have enabled him to figure conspicuously in public affairs, he always preferred a life of quiet, and social intercourse with genial spirits, without regard to political differences, rather than the collisions and rivalries of men in, or seeking, office and power. He enjoyed the devoted affections of a large number of relatives and the respect and esteem of all who knew him, to whom he was endeared by his cheerful and pleasant manners and genuine goodness of heart. He was as fine a specimen as one would wish to meet of a gentleman of the old school and retained both his mental and social powers unimpaired to the last.

From the Bible of Mrs. Mary Peebles:

Frederick Joseph Calvit died April 25, 1874, aged 86 years 17 days. The last of his family of seven. Four brothers and three sisters. Peace to his soul, and a blessed immortality.

In the fall of 1875 the Herndon home in Velasco was destroyed by a hurricane. Sometime prior to this the family may have moved to Hempstead. Because of his health John H. Herndon later moved to Boerne, Texas where he died in 1878. He was buried in the Hempstead Cemetery.

### Death of Col. John H. Herndon

Col. John H. Herndon died at Boerne, Kendall County, on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. He had been an invalid for a long time, and was sojourning in western Texas in the hope of benefitting his health. He died without pain and was conscious to the last. His wife and son, A. C. Herndon, were with him when he died. He lacked but two days of being 65 years old when he died. He was born and reared in Scott County, Kentucky, came to Texas in 1837; settled at Richmond, Fort Bend County, and was many years engaged in the practice of law. He was an extensive dealer in lands, one of the large proprietors in the town of Richmond, was largely engaged in planting, and a man of wealth before the war; but like many others, suffered great reverses with the changes brought on by the war. He resided for many years at Velasco; but his mansion was destroyed by the hurricane of 1875, and his home has of late been near Hempstead, in Waller County. His wife, formerly Miss Calvit, two sons and two daughters survive him. He was a gentleman of pleasing manners and presented many fine traits of character, which endeared him to an unusually large host of friends in central and western Texas, besides the more immediate companions of his social circle. Many old Texans will see this account of his death with surprise and pain.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> BCDR: O 487/89

<sup>45</sup> BCDR: O 547/48

<sup>46</sup> *Galveston News*, July 1, 1878, Galveston, Texas



Hempstead Cemetery

Moritz Kopperl sold the plantation to Solomon Clute, a northerner, for \$3700 in April 1877.<sup>47</sup> Clute, a bachelor, was able to acquire the 1700 acre tract once owned by the Peebles family in 1878 at auction for back taxes and then swapped it for the 1700 acres owned by Sarah J. Herndon in 1881.<sup>48</sup>

For several years Solomon Clute it appears farmed the land and as the opportunity existed he would purchase different tracts of land in the neighborhood. In 1886 he sold out all his land, livestock, and farm utensils to his brother George Clute of Iowa.<sup>49</sup> George Clute most likely never came to Texas. Solomon ran the business in Texas. Two years later George Clute sold out all his interest to Hennell Stevens and the land was sold by Stevens then divided up for sale. W. S. Shanks bought a lot of the property around the small lake. The town of Clute now covers much of Evergreen Plantation.

<sup>47</sup> BCDR: Q 90/91

<sup>48</sup> BCDR: Q 759/61, Q 761/63, & T 120/21

<sup>49</sup> BCDR: Y 159/60 & Y 161/62





After the 1900 hurricane what was left of the old home and sugar mill were torn down. Remnants of the plantation often turn up as the area of the home and sugar mill have been developed. The Calvit slave cemetery is still in use today.

From the recollections of Mrs. Willie Mae Maddox Shanks when her family first arrived in Clute the area was “an old plantation during the war with large underground cisterns of concrete and brick. Old syrup pans were left, also a small graveyard, 1 vault and signs of graves not worked...It seems near the lake under the ground was a solid layer of brick...”<sup>51</sup>

Now begins the convoluted tail of the Calvit graveyard. In 1929 some boys were digging out bricks to use in flues, when they dug into a caved in brick vault: “Two skeletons, one of huge frame and the other of a much smaller size, were discovered under a pile of bricks on the W. S. Shanks farm near Clute. The two skeletons, which were lying with their heads together forming a right angle figure, were found by three young men, Francis Shanks, Elmer Long and John Crowley, as they dug up brick from the ruins of an old sugar mill operated years ago. One of the skeletons had false teeth and the other natural teeth. Both sets of teeth were in good state of preservation. The false teeth were on a plate of solid gold with a flower design molded in the plate. The gold plate is a fine piece of dental work and must have cost quite a sum. One of the skeleton’s skulls had become dissectioned but the other was intact. Buttons which had been on the shirts of the two skeletons were found and were in sound condition. The skeleton of one of the persons was lying face downward, which fact points to the theory that the two persons had met foul play. No person had been buried in this locality since the Civil War, according to W. S. Shanks, therefore the theory has been created that these two people were buried beneath a brick wall which collapsed while they were near it.”<sup>52</sup>

Variations of this story are repeated for many years thereafter. In 1952: “The old cemetery was on the west side of the lake in the back of the present C. V. Naill Lumber yard. In 1927 some boys were digging out bricks to use in flues, when they dug into a caved-in vault and found the skeletons of a man and woman and a set of false teeth. Fran Shanks was one of the boys. He said the teeth were of ivory and were set in pure gold plates. Dentists who inspected them said they were a masterpiece of craftsmanship. Arrangements were made to have them put in a museum, but it was decided to bury them on the property. The bones were placed in a box and buried. No one knows whom the teeth belonged to, but the workmanship indicated the owner must have been a wealthy person.”<sup>53</sup>

August 30, 2009 another article in *The Brazosport Facts*, reprinted the 1929 article. This brought a response: “...my father was Elmer Long. I grew up on this story. First it was Elmer Long and G. M. “Rusty” Shanks who dug up the skeleton. Francis (Fran) M. Shanks and John Crowley were boyhood friends, and I’m sure they were on the scene. W. S. Shanks hired my dad and Rusty to “dig bricks.” They dug into a grave around the lake in Clute. Secondly, it was only one skeleton, not two. It was a brick lined grave. My dad said a cemetery was on the lake’s east end. The dentures were given to Mr. Shanks to show a dentist. My dad never saw them again. Thirdly, W.H. “Sonny” Shanks, son of F. M. Shanks, confirms his dad said Elmer Long found the dentures. Also, it was a tobacco leaf imprinted in the gold, not a flower. Elmer Long, born in 1913 was a young boy when this occurred. Thus it was more like 80 years ago, than 70 years...”<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>“Memoir of Mrs. Willie Mae Maddox Shanks” Calvit Plantation File, Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas Her solid layer of brick would have been the sugar mill area.

<sup>52</sup> “Two Skeletons Found in Brick Pile Near Clute”, *The Freeport Facts*, September 6, 1929, Freeport, Texas

<sup>53</sup> Kramig, Kathy Lee, “History of Eagle Island & Calvit Herndon Plantations of Brazoria County, Texas”, May 1, 1967, Manuscript In Calvit-Herndon Plantation File, Brazoria County Historical Museum, p. 3. Kramig gives as one of her references for this story as “Clute’s Future Still Bright”, *Lake Jackson Times[News]*, November 13, 1952. The author of this report talked to Fran Shanks before his death and he related that after being chastised a bit for digging in the grave the teeth were given to an uncle who was supposed to rebury them in the vault, but he always wondered if that was what really happened. The author also walked the area of the sugar mill and where the crypt was supposedly located with the property owner several years ago. The area of the sugar mill is now part of a trailer park next to the lake, but there were indications of several underground cisterns in an open area nearby. No indication of the crypt could be seen but the area on the bank west of the lake was open.

<sup>54</sup> “Voice of the People”, *The Brazosport Facts*, November 23, 2009, Clute, Texas



In 1952 an old well and brick pillars from the homestead were still on the property owned by Dr. John H. Swanson.<sup>55</sup>

Mrs. Leroy Hobbs lived at 138 W. Pecan Street in Clute in the 1960's and discovered a large cistern on her property as well as many artifacts. School children even came to help dig in her yard. Her property would have been in the area of the main house.<sup>56</sup>

There was some interest several years ago by one of the land owners to have an historical marker placed in the area but that project was never consummated. No archeological work has been done on the plantation site although there should be a wealth of material located all around the lake and at the home site. The crypt has never been relocated or the other graves associated with the family cemetery. Of course, there is the discrepancy on whether the cemetery is on the east or west side of Shanks Lake. It is possible that all of the following could be buried there:

Alexander Calvit d. 1836  
 Barbara M. Calvit d. 1858  
 Frederick J. Calvit d. 1874  
 Robert S. Herndon d. 1847  
 Boswell H. Herndon d. 1859  
 Robert S. Herndon d. 1863  
 Barbara M. Herndon d. 1863  
 Twin infants Herndon d. 1854  
 John Sharp d. 1840



1944 Aerial with Approximate Location of Calvit Home Site

<sup>55</sup> "Clute the Future Still Bright", *Lake Jackson News*, November 13, 1952, Lake Jackson, Texas

<sup>56</sup> "Ready Made Bomb Shelter", *The Brazosport Facts*, May 28, 1962 2<sup>nd</sup> article at approximately the same time period with no date in Calvit Plantation File, Brazoria County Historical Museum. The author remembers another article from the 1970's or 80's, which he was not able to locate, in which a large cistern was discovered under the street in same area by city workers.

## Appendix A Alexander Calvit Family

- Alexander Calvit b. June 17, 1784 Natchez, Mississippi (Frederick Calvit & Mary Montford)  
     d. January 7, 1836 Evergreen Plantation, Brazoria County, Texas  
     m. December 18, 1814 Washington, Adams County, Mississippi
- Barbara Mackall Wilkinson b. June 25, 1786 Maryland (William Mackall Wilkinson & Ann Herbert Dent)  
     d. December 12, 1858 Brazoria County, Texas buried at Evergreen
- A. Mary Ann Calvit b. January 4, 1816 Washington, Adams County, Mississippi  
     d. December 31, 1877 Waller County, Texas  
     m. 1<sup>st</sup> October 1, 1833 by bond Brazoria County, Texas
- Jared Ellison Groce Jr. b. September 2, 1812 South Carolina  
     d. February 3, 1839 near Hempstead, Texas
1. Frances Ann Groce b. October 23, 1834 Evergreen Plantation  
     d. August 31, 1836
  2. Jared Ellison Groce III b. May 28, 1837 Evergreen Plantation  
     d. July 22, 1872
  3. Barbara Mackall Groce b. July 7, 1838 Pleasant Hill Plantation  
     d. September 18, 1887 Hempstead, Texas
  4. Sharon Anne Groce
- m. 2<sup>nd</sup> March 8, 1843
- Richard Rogers Peebles b. January 10, 1810 Ross County, Ohio  
     d. July 8, 1893 Hempstead, Texas
1. Margaret Elizabeth Hempstead Peebles b. March 20, 1844 Austin Co., Texas  
     d. May 10, 1893 Hempstead, Texas
  2. Rachel Hamilton Peebles b. March 3, 1846  
     d.
  3. Mary Montfort Peebles b. October 8, 1847  
     d. March 1851
  4. Sarah Herndon Peebles b. October 8, 1847  
     d. September 2, 1869 Pleasant Hill
  5. John Peebles b. March 5, 1850  
     d.
  6. Martha Jane Peebles b. December 25, 1851  
     d. August 20, 1854 Baton Rouge, Louisiana
  7. Joseph Alexander Peebles b. December 26, 1854  
     d.
  8. Rebecca Peebles b. October 19, 1857  
     d.
  9. Richard R. Peebles b. December 2, 1859  
     d. October 24, 1867 Hempstead, Texas
- B. William Frederick Calvit b. June 25, 1817  
     d. Infant
- C. Sarah Jane Wharton Calvit b. January 14, 1819 Adams County, Mississippi  
     d. February 12, 1897 Waller County, Texas  
     m. 1<sup>st</sup> October 25, 1836<sup>57</sup>
- John Sharpe b. 1810 Rothney, Aberdeenshire, Scotland  
     d. August 17, 1840 Velasco, Texas  
     m. 2<sup>nd</sup> May 15, 1844 Brazoria County, Texas
- Robert S. Herndon b. 1810 Kentucky (Boswell Hansford Herndon & Mary Polly Hunter)  
     d. January 5, 1847

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<sup>57</sup> *The Telegraph and Texas Register*, November 2, 1836, Houston, Texas

- D. Barbara Mackall Wilkinson Calvit b. April 5, 1821 Alexandria, Louisiana  
d. March 31, 1887 Fort Bend, Texas  
m. August 27, 1839 Velasco, Texas
- John Hunter Herndon b. July 8, 1813 near Georgetown, Kentucky (Boswell Hansford Herndon)  
d. July 6, 1878 Boerne, Texas Buried in Hempstead, Texas
1. Mary Jane Herndon b. November 27, 1840 Richmond, Texas  
d. October 7, 1841 Richmond, Texas
  2. Joseph Calvit Herndon b. July 15, 1842 Richmond, Texas  
d. October 12, 1894
  3. Boswell Hansford Herndon b. July 19, 1844 Richmond, Texas  
d. July 1859 Velasco, Texas
  4. Alexander Calvit Herndon b. December 15, 1845 Richmond, Texas  
d. September 14, 1919 Houston, Texas  
m. 1<sup>st</sup> November 11, 1865 Houston
- Mary Robinson b. 1848  
d. March 1870 Richmond, Texas  
m. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Unknown  
m. 3<sup>rd</sup> November 16, 1881 Richmond, Texas
- Sarah Elizabeth Weston b. February 27, 1857 Richmond, Texas  
d. March 25, 1944 Houston, Texas
5. Robert Scott Herndon b. January 28, 1848 Richmond, Texas  
d. April 3, 1863
  6. Cornelia Herndon b. November 6, 1849 Richmond, Texas  
d. November 4, 1915 Matagorda, Texas  
m. ~1871
- Dr. John Crutcher Mayfield b. February 2, 1850 LaGrange, Texas  
d. December 18, 1901 San Antonio, Texas
7. Florence Herndon b. October 26, 1851 Richmond, Texas  
d. October 2, 1925 Hempstead, Texas  
m. December 29, 1873 Velasco, Texas
- Leonard Waller Groce Jr.  
8/9. Twins Herndon b. 1854  
d. 1854
10. Barbara Mackall Herndon b. September 12, 1861 Richmond, Texas  
d. March 24, 1863 Richmond, Texas

**Appendix B**  
**Deed Record Alexander Calvit-John H. Herndon Plantation**

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	Alexander Calvit	Deed	ST	263/65	Aug	3	1824	4428	Alexander Calvit 1 League
Joseph White Alcalde	Hosea H. League	Deed	ST	265/68	March	7	1829	4428	\$100 paid for league suit for \$124 by R. S. Brink
Hosea H. League	Frederick J. Calvit	Deed	St	269/70	May	9	1829	4428	\$292.43 land in trust for Alexander's children
Barbara Mackall Calvit	Frederick J. Calvit	Deed	B	40	Feb	8	1841		\$3800 Her ½ Interest in 17 slaves
Frederick J. Calvit Trustee	Mary Anne Groce Sarah Jane Sharp Barbara M. Herndon	Deed	B	45	June	2	1841	4428	Plantation land to children
Sarah A. Wharton	Frederick J. Calvit	Deed	B	488/89	April	24	1845	500	\$2500 acreage out of Jared Groce 5 Leagues
Frederick J. Calvit	Barbara Mackall Herndon	Deed	B	489/90	April	25	1845	500	Gift to his niece
Frederick J. Calvit	John Sharp	Deed	C	214	Sept	18	1838	1	1 acre out of his league
Frederick J. Calvit	Barbara Mackall Calvit	Deed	D	439	July	28	1847	Slaves	\$3500 18 slaves back to B. M. Calvit
W.B. & Mary Jane Victor	Barbara M. Calvit	Deed	F	439	March	26	1846	70 30	Quick claim acreage on river previously sold by Joseph T. Hawkins.
Barbara M. Calvit	Samuel Mason Fort Bend Co.	Mortgage	H	24/25	Feb	3	1857	4428	\$2000 note ½ interest league as security
Mary Ann Richard R. Peebles	John H. Herndon	Deed	K	305/06	Sept	1	1862	1700	\$6666 Her interest in Calvit league + 2 tracts on the Brazos-100 acres
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	John W. Brooks	DT	M	138/41	March	29	1870	1000 500	\$3500 note to Mrs. A.G. Tyler land as security
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Isadore Dyer	DT	M	152/54	May	7	1870	1000 500	\$2000 note to M Kopperl both land tracts as security
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Moritz Kopperl Galveston	Mortgage	M	155/57	May	7	1870	1000 500	\$2000 consigned their 1870 crop sugar, molasses, cotton to be sold by Kopperl
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Isadore Dyer	DT	M	164/67	May	7	1870	1000 500	\$2000 same as B 152/54
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Isadore Dyer	DT	M	389/92	Feb	21	1871	1000 500	\$3100 note to M Kopperl both land tracts as security
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Isadore Dyer	DT	M	405/08	Feb	21	1871	1000 500	\$3100 Same as B 389/92
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Moritz Kopperl	Mortgage	M	408/09	Feb	21	1871	1000 500	\$3100 consigned their 1871 crop sugar, molasses, cotton to be sold by Kopperl
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Isadore Dyer Trustee	DT	M	414/17	Feb	25	1871	1000 500	\$3100 note to M. Kopperl excluded her homestead
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon J. Calvit Herndon	Moritz Kopperl Galveston	Mortgage	M	417/19	Feb	21	1871		Consigned their sugar crop to pay \$3100 debt
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Moritz Kopperl Galveston	Mortgage	N	292/93	Aug	1	1872	1000 500	Also consigned 1872 sugar crop & molasses \$2800
Mrs. A.G. Tyler	Joshua H. Shapard	PA	N	706/07	June	3	1873		J.W. Brooks deceased- Appointed J. H. Shapard to foreclose
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	John W. Brooks	DT	N	731/34	March	29	1870	1000 500	\$3500 owed to Mrs. A.G. Tyler same B138/41
Mrs. A.G. Tyler	Moritz Kopperl	Deed	N	725/27	July	18	1873		Sold mortgage \$3193.70



Moritz Kopperl Galveston	J. H. Shapard	PA	O	472/74	Dec	19	1874		Power to foreclose on mortgage
Barbara Mackall & John H. Herndon	Moritz Kopperl	Deed	O	487/89	Jan	11	1875	1000 500	\$5700 sold to Kopperl
Isadore Dyer	Moritz Kopperl	Deed	O	489/91	Jan	11	1875	1000 500	Foreclosure \$2000 at auction plantation sold
Moritz Kopperl	Alexander C. Herndon	Lease	O	547/48	Feb	11	1875		\$1000 Lease plantation for the year
Moritz Kopperl	Solomon T. Clute	Deed	Q	90/91	April	30	1877	1000 500	\$3700
Sheriff	Solomon T. Clute	Deed	Q	759/61	May	8	1878		\$31 Back Taxes
Sheriff	Solomon T. Clute		Q	761/63	May	8	40.36	1700	\$40.36 Back Taxes appears to be Peebles tract
Sarah J. Herndon	Solomon Clute	Deed	T	17/18	Feb	3	1881	1700	Acreage next to his 1000 acre tract
Solomon Clute	Mrs. Sarah J. Herndon	Deed	T	120/21	Feb	3	1881	1700	Swapped acreage bought at tax auction for land next to his 1000 acre tract
Solomon Clute	Moritz Kopperl	Deed	U	177	Feb	7	1882	70	\$200 tract on river
Solomon Clute	George Clute Iowa	Deed	Y	159/60	March	17	1886	1539 1700	\$6000 Plantation lands plus many other lots
Solomon Clute	George Clute	Deed	Y	161/62	March	17	1886		\$800 All the livestock & farming utensils on the property
George & Susan Clute	Hennell Stevens	Deed	Z	798/800	Feb	18	1888	1530	\$8000
Hennell Stevens									

## Appendix C

## 17 Slaves owned by Barbara Mackall Wilkinson Calvit 1841

Tom Taylor	aged 40yrs
Big Tom	47
Nace	45
Alegany	30
Charles	28
Abram	20
Slater(cripple)	41
John	62
Dennis	15
Henry	12
Charity	56
Fanny	36
Mira	36
Her children	
Jane	4
Reuben	1
Priscilla	12
Jack	2 <sup>58</sup>

## Appendix C

## 27 Slaves owned by Barbara Mackall Wilkinson Calvit at her death 1858

Allegany	aged 48	\$800
Lewis	21	1400
Seneca	25	1000(deceased by next inventory)
Fanny	56	250
Eliza	23	1000
Dave Anna	4	400
Celig	infant	100
Frances	25	1000
Little Mary	12	800
Myra	50	250
Mary	22	1000
Rhody	1	150
Judy	20	1100
Charity	70	nothing
Tom Taylor	47	800
Dennis	30	1400
Spencer	22	1400
Big Tom	64	250
Rose	33	900
Theresa	42	800
Alice	9	600
Zach	1	150
Charles	46	800
Henry	27	1400
Reuben	19	1300
Charlotte	2	200

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<sup>58</sup> Brazoria County Deed Record: B 40

Charity                      Infant<sup>59</sup>                      100  
 Appendix D  
 Estate of Barbara Mackall Calvit

Slaves from above	\$19350
Undivided half of the league of land & 90 acres adjoining with improvements	9000
300 head of cattle at \$6 per head	1800
160 “ “ hogs at \$2.50	450
8 yoke of oxen	380
4 carts-2 at \$50 each & 2 at \$37.50 each	175
Farming utensils	100
Set of blacksmith tools	25
Lot of iron \$12-Old horse wagon \$15	27
Rifle gun \$15-Hand cart \$1	16
Household & Kitchen furniture	100
42 head of sheep at \$3	126
Old carriage	65
800 bushels corn at \$4	400
4 stacks fodder at \$10	40
4000 lbs. port at 6 cents	240
125 bushels of potatoes	62.50
14 Beehives at \$1.25	17.50
16 head of stock horses at	390
3 mules 3 years old at \$50 each	150
2 small mules 3 years old at \$25 each	50
9 plantation horses at	415
7 “ mules at	355
Poultry	75
2250 H hds staves at \$40 per	40
1400 Bl staves at \$22 per	30.80
350 feet plank at \$25 per	8.75
83 hghds sugar at \$60	4980
100 barrels of molasses at \$10	1000
Claim vs. estate of J. R. Jones about	5000
“ vs. Thos. J. Green	500
“ vs. Austin & Bertrand	500
	<u>500</u>
	\$36,666.55
Omitted in adding on ? pay	<u>9250</u>
	\$45916.55

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<sup>59</sup> Barbara Mackall Calvit Probate Case 715

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