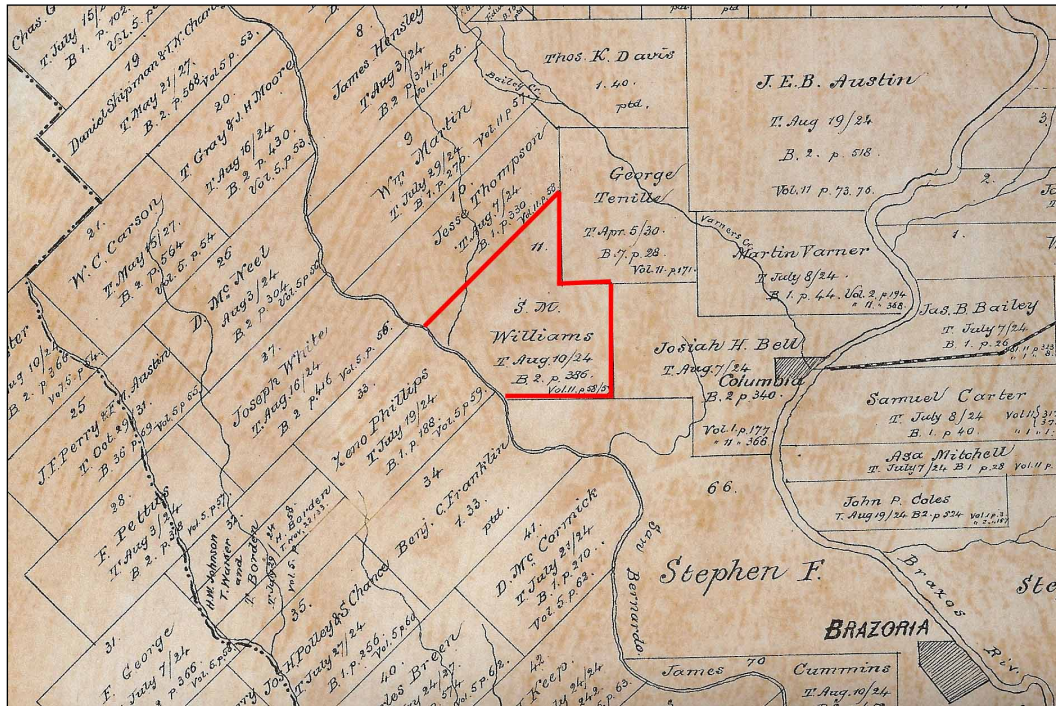


George S. Pentecost Daniel H. Yeiser James W. Dance Plantation
Brazosport Archaeological Society



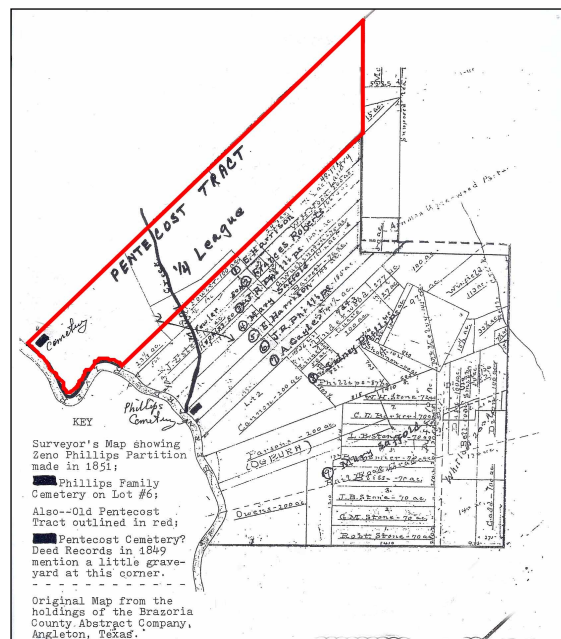
Samuel M. Williams League Map 1879 Texas General Land Office

George S. Pentecost initially developed his farm from the upper quarter of the Samuel May Williams League on the east side of the San Bernard River along Mound Creek west of the town of Columbia buying the property in 1832. Monroe Edwards, the notorious African slave runner, acquired the property in 1836 as it adjoined his plantation in the Jesse Thompson League. Since Monroe Edwards had to flee the Republic of Texas his property was auctioned off to pay his debts; Robert J. Townes bought the land at auction in 1840. Several years later Daniel H. Yeiser bought part of the property and developed a modest sugar plantation, producing sugar and cotton through the middle 1850's. Recently married, James W. Dance decided to branch out from the rest of his family living at their Cedar Brake Plantation and bought the plantation from the Daniel H. Yeiser estate in 1858 initially turning it into a cotton plantation. His family and descendants would continue to own portions of the plantation through the Civil War, Reconstruction, and even till now.

Samuel May Williams, born in Rhode Island, met Stephen F. Austin in New Orleans. Departing for Texas in 1822, Williams would be employed by Austin as translator and clerk. For the next thirteen years he wrote deeds, kept records and directed the business of the colony for Stephen F. Austin. For his services he received eleven leagues of land. One of his leagues of land, which he received August 10, 1824, was located on the east side of the San Bernard River a few miles west of the town of Columbia. The upper half of the league was purchased by Zeno Phillips and Jesse Thompson March 28, 1829. Zeno had already acquired the bottom half of the

league in 1825 building his plantation home near the mouth of Mound Creek as it emptied into the San Bernard River.¹ (See Waverly Place Plantation)

George Samuel Pentecost purchased the northern quarter of the Samuel May Williams League from Zeno Phillips and Jesse Thompson December 1832 for \$300.² Originally from Alabama, Pentecost had married Martha Ellen Denley in 1816. He received a league of land in Matagorda County August 1824. In November 1825 he was living on the San Bernard River. The census of 1826 classified him as a farmer and stock raiser aged between twenty-five and forty. His household consisted of his wife, four sons, a daughter and one slave.³ George S. Pentecost lost his wife, Martha, and possibly one child while living at this location. They were buried in a small cemetery near the northern boundary of the league on the San Bernard River. Shortly thereafter Pentecost moved on Big Creek in Fort Bend County. He died in Fort Bend County in 1841. His son George Washington Pentecost fought at San Jacinto in Captain Thomas H. McIntire's Company.



Samuel May Williams League with Zeno Phillips Heirs Partition

Monroe Edwards, who had purchased most of the Jesse Thompson League, acquired the quarter league from Edwin Waller in 1836 for \$5000. His plantation was the location of many of the illegal African slaves which he had smuggled into Brazoria County from Cuba. Monroe Edwards was charged with forgery⁴ and fled the Republic of Texas in 1839.

Robert J. Townes, a lawyer living in Brazoria, bought the quarter league at public auction in July 1840 for \$1500.⁵ Townes was often speculating on various properties and may have rented the land during his ownership. He sold off 314 acres of his land which fronted on the San

¹ Spanish Translation : 23/24

² ST: 305/07

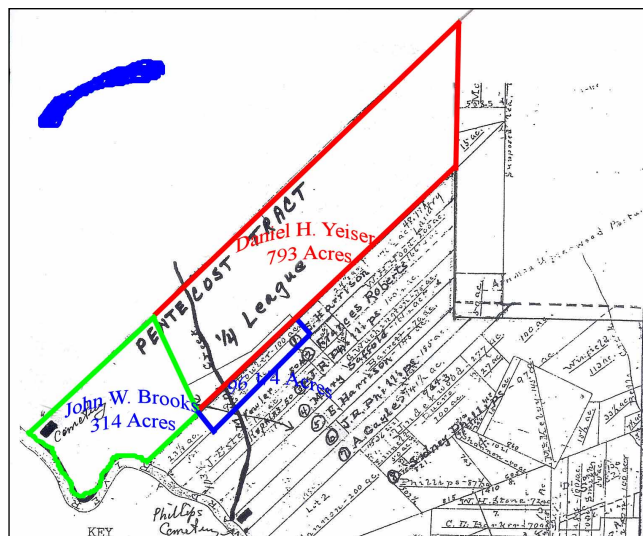
³ "PENTECOST, GEORGE SAMUEL," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpe31>), accessed February 24, 2013

⁴ Forgery was actually a capital offense in the Republic of Texas.

⁵ Brazoria County Deed Record: B 260/61

Bernard River to John W. Brooks, a local merchant in East Columbia, for \$2235 in 1849.⁶ This would have included the improvements made by George S. Pentecost.

In June 1845 Daniel H. Yeiser purchased of Robert J. Townes the remaining part of the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ league comprising ~800 acres.⁷



Daniel Holliday Yeiser from Hinds County, Mississippi married Charlotte White Wolcott of Warren County, Mississippi May 1837. Daniel H. Yeiser came to Texas without his family in 1840⁸ and in July 1840 a letter was posted for delivery to D. H. Yeiser at Velasco indicating Daniel was in Brazoria County at this early date.⁹ Daniel was listed in the tax rolls of 1842 as the owner of 1107 acres or $\frac{1}{4}$ league at an unknown location with 14 slaves over 10 years of age and 6 slaves under 10 years of age. As his daughter Ann was born in Mississippi in 1843, he may have been preparing a home for his wife and children or his wife Charlotte had traveled to her parents' home to have her children. Mrs. C. Yeiser was listed as a new member of the "Association of Columbia for the Preservation of Temperance" in August 1845.¹⁰ The Yeiser household 1850:

Daniel H. Yeiser	Planter	41M	Maryland
Charlotte Yeiser		32F	New York
Felicia H. Yeiser ¹¹		10F	Mississippi
Ann E. Yeiser		7F	Mississippi
Laura Yeiser		4F	Texas
Robert Hickley	Cooper	72M	Virginia
John Johnson	Carpenter	27M	Germany
John Hand		28M	New Jersey

⁶ BCDR: F 149

⁷ BCDR: E 149X

⁸ Civil Suit # 1721 *Charlotte Yeiser vs Daniel H. Yeiser*, District Clerk's Office, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas

⁹ *Brazos Courier*, July 28, 1840, Brazoria, Texas

¹⁰ *The Planter*, August 19, 1845, Brazoria, Texas

¹¹ Felicia Yeiser was attending the Galveston Seminary in Galveston, Texas at this time.

By 1850 Daniel H. Yeiser had turned his land into a cotton and sugar plantation. According to the agricultural census of 1850 he had 225 acres cultivated out of 1310 acres he owned.¹² He had 10 horses, 16 mules, 75 milch cows, 28 oxen, 125 head of cattle, and 300 hogs. The plantation produced 1750 bushels of corn, 50 of Irish potatoes, 2000 of sweet potatoes, 408 lbs. of butter, 2 tons of hay, 22 hogheads of sugar, and 400 gallons of molasses in 1849. Tax records indicate Yeiser owned 22 slaves. Using horse powered equipment Daniel H. Yeiser produced 60 hghds of sugar in 1852 and 60 hghds in 1853.

In 1851 Daniel H. Yeiser purchased two large tracts in the Wiley Martin and James Hensley leagues east of the San Bernard north of his plantation.¹³ May 1854 he purchased a 96 ½ acre tract adjacent to the south of his property making his plantation roughly 903 acres.¹⁴

In the spring of 1854 Charlotte Yeiser sued Daniel H. Yeiser for divorce requesting support for herself and her four minor children. She declared that "...as his lawful wife has resided with him until a short time prior to this period and as such has at all times endeavored faithfully to discharge all the duties which a loving obedient affectionate and faithful wife should do..." and "...Daniel H. Yeiser has been guilty of such excesses such course and outrageous treatment to your petitioner that instead of protecting cherishing and defending her as he had undertaken to do...has assailed her character and her person has borne the marks of his ill will and that by his usage her life has been made a burden rather than a blessing..." Daniel H. Yeiser in his defense claimed that "...no particular acts of cruelty or outrageous treatment are set forth..." and "...Charlotte has at various times during the last few years, to wit, the year 1848 and in the year 1849, and in the year 1850 and in the years 1851 and 1852 and 1853 left the house...and has lived separately...at the town of West Columbia and at the houses of neighbors, much against the wishes of the defendant, and unmindful of the repeated invitations of this defendant to return to his bed and board. And this defendant says that he has supported the said Charlotte, when so absent from his bed and board, liberally, and that he has done all in his power to make her condition in life comfortable—that he has always treated her with respect and affection..."¹⁵

With the death of Daniel H. Yeiser¹⁶ in late July 1854 the divorce was dropped. Robert Love was hired as overseer for the plantation the remainder of the year and produced 35 hghds of sugar in 1854.¹⁷ James C. Girand was hired for 1855, 1856, and 1857. He received \$475 per year for 1855 and 1856. In 1855 the plantation produced 35 bales of cotton, 42 hghds of sugar, and 11 barrels of molasses. There wasn't a sugar crop in 1856 for Brazoria County but there were at least 51 bales of cotton sold through R. & D.G. Mills of Galveston for the year accredited to the Daniel H. Yeiser estate. For 1857 Girand was to receive \$400 and an additional \$5.00 for every hoghead of sugar over sixty. He received \$507.45 for his services January 1, 1857-March 1, 1858. The plantation was shortly thereafter auctioned off.¹⁸

In Daniel H. Yeiser's will he had stipulated that he desired his debts paid as soon as possible but hoped the plantation could be held together long enough so that the production from the plantation could eliminate his debts. Benjamin Gass of New Orleans was the holder of his major mortgage and Yeiser still owed \$3795.77. Daniel H. Yeiser's estate was valued at

¹² Tax records indicate he only owned 807 acres.

¹³ BCDR:F 204/05

¹⁴ BCDR: G 39/40

¹⁵ Civil Suit # 1721 *Charlotte Yeiser vs Daniel H. Yeiser*, District Clerk's Office, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas

¹⁶ Daniel H. Yeiser is buried in the Columbia Cemetery and inscribed on his tombstone "interred with a son who died in youth". His son William was still alive in 1860.

¹⁷ 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

¹⁸ Daniel H. Yeiser Probate Case # 579, Brazoria County Clerk's Office, Angleton, Texas

\$29,783, which included his plantation, another two large tracts of land, livestock, and 22 slaves. (See Appendix E) Total claims against the estate amounted ~ \$10,000 which included a second mortgage of \$1619.54 to the estate of F. W. Smith on his second large tract on land. Luckily Benjamin Gass agreed not to foreclose on the plantation property.¹⁹

Daniel H. Yeiser also stipulated in his will “I wish the Yellow Boy Jim now about Eight Years of age the son of Rose to be taken into the possession of my Executor and by him raised to the age of sixteen years, then to be put to some trade until he is Twenty One Years old, at which time it is my desire he shall have his freedom...I will and bequeath to my Niece Mary Ellen Raney, who is at present living at my place, my Negro Woman Rose...” This indicates that the boy Jim was in all probability his son by Rose. This could have been the outrageous behavior his wife eluded to in her divorce petition. His brother-in-law William Holeman was to be appointed his executor. However, James H. Bell became executor of Daniel H. Yeiser’s estate. He proposed to give Mrs. Mary Rainey the slaves Rose and her son Jim to equal her \$1500 portion of the estate.²⁰

April 1858 James H. Bell sold the plantation of 903 acres, livestock, agricultural produce, and eleven slaves to James W. Dance for a total of \$15,000.²¹ Charlotte Yeiser would move with her children to the property in the Wiley Martin and James Hensley leagues.

In 1848 James Watkins Dance and his 1st cousin James H. Dance came to Texas on horseback from Alabama. They made several trips back home to persuade the rest of the family to move to Texas. By the later part of November 1850 according to the census several males of the family were living with John Sweeney west of Columbia and probably preparing land and a home for the rest of the family:

H. Dance	32M	Carpenter	North Carolina	[Harrison Perry Dance]
Spencer Dance	27M	Carpenter	North Carolina	[John Spencer Dance]
James H. Dance	27M	Carpenter	North Carolina	[James Henry Dance]
James Dance	25M	Carpenter	North Carolina	[James Watkins Dance]

In the earlier part of November 1850 they were also listed with the family in Greene County Alabama:

Henry Dance	52M	Farmer	North Carolina	[John Henry Dance]
Della Dance	54F		North Carolina	[Delilah Watkins Dance]
James H. Dance	27M	Mechanic	North Carolina	[James Henry Dance]
Melvina Dance	20M		North Carolina	[Malvina Elizabeth Dance]
George P. Dance	21M	Mechanic	North Carolina	[George Perry Dance]
David E. Dance	17M	Farmer	North Carolina	[David Etheldred Dance]
Isaac C. Dance	15M	Farmer	Alabama	[Isaac Claudius Dance]
Eloise D. Dance	12F		Alabama	[Elouise Della Dance]
Harrison P. Dance	32M	Mechanic	North Carolina	[Harrison Perry Dance]
John S. Dance	29M	Mechanic	North Carolina	[John Spencer Dance]
James W. Dance	27M	Mechanic	North Carolina	[James Watkins Dance]

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Daniel H. Yeiser Probate Case # 579, Brazoria County Clerk’s Office, Angleton, Texas

²¹ BCDR: H 617/21

John Henry and Delilah Watkins Dance had eight children. John Henry Dance's brother, James and his wife Elizabeth Watkins Dance had died young leaving several children. Five of their children were also raised by John and Delilah Dance. The last three men on the census list above are John and Delilah's nephews. Their niece Lourian "Lucy" Dance who had married John Balsam Culpepper in 1839 died in 1842. John married her sister Nancy Henry Dance in 1844. Nancy and her husband raised a family in Alabama but later came to Texas as she and a child are listed in the home of her brother Spencer Dance in 1860 after the death of her husband. John and Delilah had lost a daughter Sally Ann Dance in 1836 and their son Joseph John Dance had joined the California gold rush where he died in 1852 of smallpox.

In February 1852 Spencer and James W. Dance bought 426 acres out of the Daniel McNeel league twelve miles west of Columbia on the west side of the San Bernard River from William and Harriet A. Crenshaw. Harriet McNeel Crenshaw had actually inherited 1/6 league of land from her father's estate which should have been over 700 acres.²² In 1853 the extended Dance family moved from Alabama to Texas to this property, which they called Cedar Break.

The brothers and cousins were skilled carpenters and machinists. By 1854 James H. and George P. Dance had started a business at the plantation site making portable horse mills selling to planters in Brazoria, Wharton, Matagorda, and Fort Bend counties:

PORTABLE HORSE MILLS,

The subscribers have commenced the manufacture of Portable Horse Mills at their place, 12 miles west of Columbia. From their long experience in this business they are able to warrant their mills to perform equal to any made in the United States. All they ask is a fair trial, and if their mills fail to give satisfaction, they will take them back at their own expense.

TERMS

For 18 to 20 inch stones	\$125.00
" 20 to 22 " "	130.00
" 22 to 24 " "	135.00

A deduction of 25 per cent will be made from these terms for cash.

J. H. & G. P. DANCE

*Columbia, Brazoria Co., Nov. '54*²³

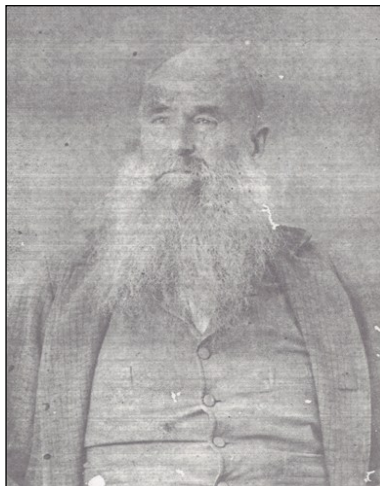
Several planters in the area gave a testimonial about the Dance brothers' horse mills: "believe them to be the most simple, most durable, easiest kept in order, and will do more work with the same power, than any mills we have ever seen."²⁴

John Spencer Dance built a home at the Cedar Break Plantation and June 1858 he married Columbia Ewell Slade. John Henry and Delilah Dance also continued to live at the small cotton plantation on equal amounts of land. The families were not large slave owners. Henry owned 5 slaves living in two dwellings while Spencer owned 8 slaves living in two dwellings according to the 1860 Slave Census. According to the 1860 Agricultural Census they each had 55 improved acres of land with Henry producing 22 bales of cotton and Spencer 30 bales in 1859.

²² BCDR: F 243/46

²³ *The Democrat and Planter*, October 9, 1855. Columbia, Texas

²⁴ Ibid.



John Spencer Dance

James Watkins Dance married Temperance Cook in 1857 and the next year bought the 900 acre sugar plantation and 11 slaves from the estate of Daniel H. Yeiser for \$15,000.²⁵ Then he went into business with Gabriel P. Davis giving up sugar and concentrating on cotton production. January 1859 Dance and Davis bought the 200 acre “Cone Place” which was south of Dance’s plantation on Bell Creek.²⁶ Gabriel P. and Laura Davis with their children would live on the “Cone Place”.

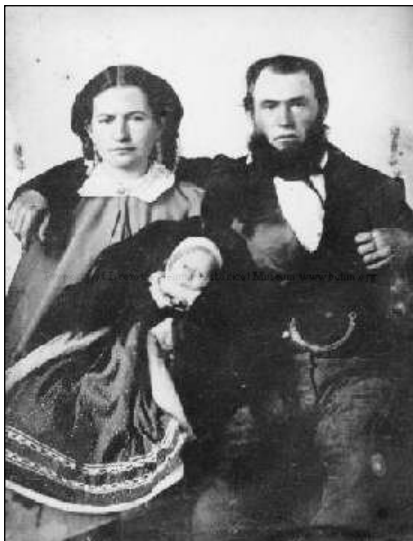
By 1860 James W. Dance and Gabriel P. Davis had 240 acres under cultivation with only \$250 worth of farm machinery on the property according to the 1860 agricultural census. This would indicate that they had quit producing sugar. They had 5 horses, 14 mules, 5 milch cows, 6 oxen, 70 sheep, and 100 hogs on the property. The plantation produced 1000 bushels of corn and 30 of Irish potatoes, 80 lbs. of wool, and 93 bales of cotton for 1859. There were 19 slaves on the property in 6 dwellings listed under Davis in the 1860 slave census. Tax records indicate they had only 12 slaves together.

The families of both James W. Dance and Gabriel P. Davis were listed in the 1860 census:

James W. Dance	37M	Planter	North Carolina	
Tempe Dance	25F		Alabama	[Temperance]
James E. Dance	2M		Texas	
Gabriel P. Davis	47M	Planter	South Carolina	
J. L. Davis	41F		South Carolina	[Jane Laura?]
M. A. Davis	18F		Alabama	
Julia Davis	15F		Alabama	
J. S. Davis	13M		Alabama	
M. A. Davis	6M		Texas	
Frank E. Davis	3M		Texas	

²⁵ BCDR: H 617/21

²⁶ BCDR: J 36/38



James Watkins and Temperance Cook Dance
 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum 1988.002p.0015

For \$7500 May 1861 James W. Dance sold half interest in his plantation and slaves to Gabriel P. Davis.²⁷ Before the end of the year, however, Davis sold out all his holdings in Brazoria County to James W. Dance.²⁸ Evidently Davis may have left the county. According to family members the old home on the Dance property burned down and it may have been that the Dance family needed a new home to live in at this time. The James W. Dance family was still living at the “Cone Place” in February 1866.

During the early part of the Civil War James W. Dance pledged 30 bales of cotton to the Confederate cause but remained at home.²⁹ During which time three more children were born into the family. Dance also entered into an agreement to sell R. J. Boykin of Louisiana 600 acres out of his plantation not to include his improvements for \$7000 in 1863.³⁰

After the end of the Civil War, R. J. Boykin released the property back to James W. Dance.³¹ James W. Dance was forced by the probate court to issue a deed of trust on his plantation lands to George W. Duff at the same time to secure the debts he owed the minor children Almira and William Reynolds for whom he had been guardian for many years. He now owed \$5094 to Almira and \$5836 to William.³² These two children aged 11 and 8 actually were listed in the household of Spencer Dance in the 1860 census.³³ Almira was attending school in Independence while William was attending school in West Columbia with Mrs. Samuel T. Angier in 1865.³⁴

Temperance Cook Dance died in September 1865 and was buried in the Columbia Cemetery. James W. Dance was now the legal guardian of his two living children, James Edwin and Kate Ophelia Dance.

²⁷ BCDR: K 196/98

²⁸ BCDR: K 237/39 & K 363/64

²⁹ *The Weekly Telegraph*, July 31, 1861, Houston, Texas

³⁰ BCDR: K 363/364 & K 364

³¹ BCDR: K 588/90

³² BCDR: K 571/73

³³ The 1860 census taker spelled their last name as Runnels.

³⁴ Record of Wills: D 100-02

In order to decrease the debt due the minor Reynolds children and others George W. Duff as trustee sold the “Cone Place” for \$2000 in March 1868.³⁵ A new home had been built by the Dance brothers and cousins on the James W. Dance plantation by this date.³⁶

After the death of his wife James W. Dance’s widowed sister Nancy Culpepper moved into his home to help with his young children. The 1870 census lists the household:

James Dance	48M	Farmer	North Carolina
Nancy Culpepper	51F		North Carolina
Edward Dance	12M		Texas [James Edwin]
Kate Dance	7F		Texas
Susan Brown	16F		Virginia

In 1871 land was also given to the Blue Run Colored Baptist Church.³⁷ Beginning slowly in 1872, small tracts were sold to raise cash for the family.³⁸ Most of these parcels were taken at the north eastern end of the quarter league. An additional deed of trust was secured by the plantation for ~\$800 owed by James W. Dance to his minor children for their funds used by him to pay off a civil suit.³⁹ By 1877 his cotton crop was consigned to J. G. Smith & Bros. of East Columbia for past debts.⁴⁰ Though struggling financially, Dance managed to hold on to the greater part of his plantation lands.

By 1880 the James W. Dance household consisted of:

James W. Dance	56M	North Carolina
Nancy Culpepper	59F	North Carolina [61]
James E. Dance	21M	Texas
Kate Dance	17F	Texas
William Runnels	21M	North Carolina [Reynolds-Cousin]

James W. Dance continued to sell small tracts from his plantation in the early 1880’s.⁴¹ A small one acre tract was given to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in May 1883.⁴² In April 1886 he gave ~425 acres to his children Kate Ophelia Dance and James Edwin Dance to cover the \$3663 which he still owed them as their guardian. He reserved 200 acres which included his homestead for himself.⁴³

In 1887 James Edwin Farmer passed away. His widow, Elizabeth V. Dance would later move to Fort Bend County. The next year March 1888 Kate Ophelia Dance married Robert Ruffin Farmer. They would reside at the James W. Dance plantation and raise their family there.

In 1889 James W. Dance, Elizabeth V. Dance, Kate O. Farmer, and Robert R. Farmer borrowed \$1000 with the total remaining lands of the plantation as security.⁴⁴

³⁵ BCDR: M 236/39

³⁶ The ruins of this home are still standing though it is very deteriorated.

³⁷ BCDR: M 522/23

³⁸ BCDR: M 670/71 Q 621/22 & S 200/01

³⁹ BCDR: N 37/39

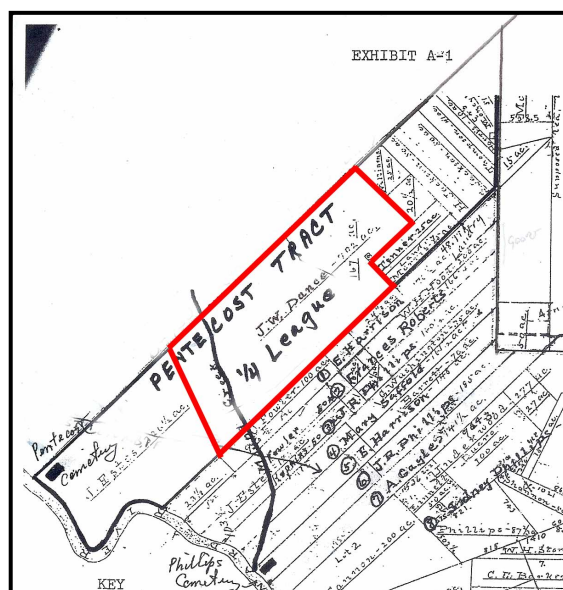
⁴⁰ BCDR: Q 278/79

⁴¹ BCDR: V 68/69 V 436 V 563/64 Y 312/13 & Y 115/17

⁴² BCDR: 54 542/44

⁴³ BCDR: Z 37/40

⁴⁴ Deed of Trust: B 337



James W. Dance Plantation Mid-1880's Before Partition to His Children⁴⁵

The Robert R. Farmer extended family is listed in the 1900 census:

Ruffin R. Farmer	40M	Texas
Kate O. Farmer	37F	Texas
James E. Farmer	10M	Texas
Mary E. Farmer	8F	Texas
Jordan R. Farmer	5M	Texas
Henry H. Farmer	1M [F]	Texas
James W. Dance	76M	North Carolina
Nancy H. Culpepper	80F	North Carolina

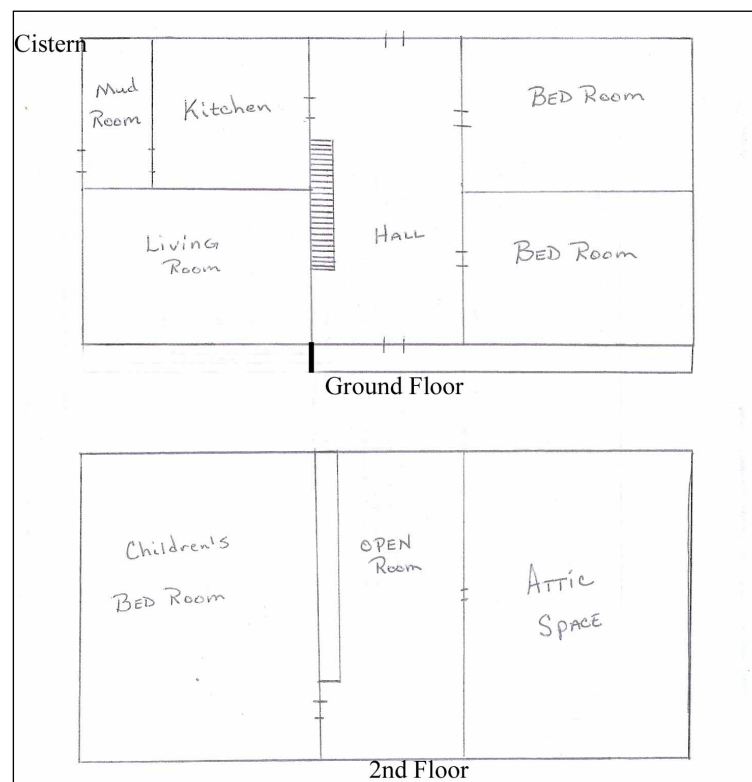
With the passing of James W. Dance in 1904, Kate O. Farmer and Elizabeth V. Dance became sole owners of the plantation lands. Robert R. and Kate O. Farmer continued to live on the property with their children. The 1910 census lists:

Robert R. Farmer	50M	Texas
Kate O. Farmer	46F	Texas
Edwin J. Farmer	20M	Texas
Mary E. Farmer	18M	Texas
Jordan R. Farmer	15M	Texas
Henry H. Farmer	11F	Texas (Helen)
Nannie D. Farmer	9F	Texas
Ado L. Farmer	7F	Texas (Katie)
Robert R. Farmer Jr.	3M	Texas
Eliza J. McConnell	59F	Virginia (Servant)

⁴⁵ Some of the tracts at the northeast end of the plantation were sold off in the early 1890's.



James W. Dance Home ~1970 with Front Porch Enclosed
Photo Courtesy of Bob Kingrea



Appendix A George S. Pentecost Genealogy

George Samuel Pentecost b. 1790 Williamsburg, South Carolina (England ?)
 d. August 1841 Big Creek, Fort Bend County, Texas
 m. 1814 Alabama

Martha Ellen Denley b. 1794 Washington County, Alabama
 d. April 1833 Brazoria County, Texas

1. Lucy Ellen Pentecost b. 1815 Alabama
 d. 1865
2. Gracie Elizabeth Pentecost b. 1818 Alabama
 d. 1898
3. George Washington Pentecost b. 1822 Mississippi
 d. December 1853 San Saba, Texas
4. Mary Jane Pentecost b. 1824 Alabama
 d. 1861
5. James Denley Pentecost b. December 22, 1825 Fort Bend County, Texas
 d. August 12, 1857
6. Sarah Jane Pentecost b. 1827
 d. 1857
7. Susan Evelyn Pentecost b. March 10, 1829 Matagorda County, Texas
 d. September 11, 1829
8. William Walter Pentecost b. 1832 Brazoria County, Texas
 d. 1885

Appendix B Daniel Holliday Yeiser Family

Daniel Holliday Yeiser b. September 6, 1806 Baltimore, Maryland
 d. July-October 1854 Brazoria County, Texas
 m. May 18, 1837 Warren County, Mississippi

Charlotte White Walcott b. 1816 Mississippi
 d.

1. Felicia H. Yeiser b. 1840 Mississippi
 m. August 11, 1864 Brazoria County, Texas
 William Benson
2. Ann E. Yeiser b. 1843 Mississippi
3. Laura Jack Yeiser b. 1846 Brazoria County, Texas
 m. July 16, 1868 Brazoria County, Texas
 Livingston Black b. 1831 Mississippi
4. William b. 1851 Brazoria County, Texas

Appendix C

James Woodward Dance Genealogy

James Woodward Dance b. 1794 Nash County, North Carolina
d. 1823

m. 1815 Nash County, North Carolina

Elizabeth Watkins b. 1789
d. 1832

1. Harrison Perry Dance b. 1815 Nash County, North Carolina
d. 1879

2. Lourian A. E. Dance b. 1816 Nash County, North Carolina
d. 1842

m. February 21, 1839

John Balsam Culpepper, Jr.

A. Martha A. "Mattie" Culpepper b. February 24, 1841 Greene County, Alabama d. June 19, 1927

3. Nancy Henry Dance b. 1819 Nash County, North Carolina
d. 1912

m. April 1, 1844

John Balsam Culpepper Jr. d. August 4, 1852

A. Laura Epps Culpepper b. 1848 Alabama

4. John Spencer Dance b. May 11, 1821 Nash County, North Carolina
d. June 8, 1906

m. June 24, 1858 Brazoria County, Texas

Columbia Ewell Slade b. 1840

d. 1876 Osceola Plantation, Brazoria County, Texas

A. Rhoda Talbot Dance b. 1860 d. 1931

B. Charlotte Ewell Dance b. 1861 d. 1862

C. Nancy Elizabeth Dance b. 1863 d. 1863

D. Nannie Elizabeth Dance b. 1864 d. 1891

E. Nora Almira Dance b. 1866 d. 1869

F. John Spencer Dance b. 1868 d. 1870

G. Harrison Perry Dance b. 1871 d. 1957

H. Della Louise Dance b. 1872 d. 1962

I. Cora Bell Dance b. 1875 d. 1935

J. Claude Dance b. 1876 d. 1877

5. James Watkins Dance b. August 28, 1823 Nash County, North Carolina
d. October 9, 1904 Brazoria County, Texas

m. January 22, 1857 Greene County, Alabama

Temperance Cook b. September 9, 1833 Greene County, Alabama
d. September 14, 1865 Brazoria County, Texas

A. Martha Ann Dance b. November 27, 1857 d. July 23, 1858

B. James Edwin Dance b. 1859 d. April 29, 1887

m.

Elizabeth Vandusen Farmer b. June 26, 1862

d. April 18, 1952

C. John Henry Dance b. March 12, 1861 d. May 20, 1863

D. Kate Ophelia Dance b. April 7, 1863

d. June 1, 1955

m. March 21, 1888 Brazoria County

Robert Ruffin Farmer b. December 26, 1859 Fort Bend County, Texas

d. October 13, 1949 Brazoria County, Texas

a. James Edwin Farmer August 1889-1941

b. Mary Elizabeth Farmer June 1891-1983

c. Jordan "Jordie" Rhesa Farmer July 1894-1960

- d. Helen Henry Farmer December 1898-1993
- e. Nannie Della Farmer October 5, 1900- April 16, 1978
 - m.
 - James Roland Slaughter February 5, 1898- December 21, 1961
- f. Katie Lee Farmer 1902-1996
 - m.
 - Newton George Brand 1900-1971
- g. Robert Ruffin Farmer Jr. 1906-1990
- E. Melvina Elizabeth Dance b. March 26, 1865 d. August 1867

Appendix D

Daniel H. Yeiser Last Will & Testament

Whereas looking into consideration the uncertainty of Life and being indisposed in body but of sound mind and disposing memory—I make this my last Will and Testament (viz)—

I wish all my just debts paid so soon as it can be done out of the procedes of my Estate—and in order to do this with a little injury to what I Shall leave as possible and to afford a Home for my Family I request that the Plantation and property shall (except what is hereafter named) be kept together and be carried on until the debts are paid, but if Creditors become importunate so that it is necessary to sell property, or my wife Should marry before the debts of my Estate be Settled and paid, or Should my Executor herein after named think it best for the interest of my family. Then in either of those events I fully empower and Authorize him to sell at private or public Sale any Real Estate which I owne at my death, Should my Executor realize out of Such Sale or Sales more means than will pay my debts then he is authorized to purchase other Real Estate Elsewhere with the surplus the creation of which he may deem more Suitable to the health and residence of my Family.

I wish the Yellow Boy Jim now about eight years of age the son of Rose to be taken into the possession of my Executor and by him raised to the age of Sixteen years, then to be put to Some trade until he is Twenty One years old, at which time it is my desire he shall have his freedom.

I will and bequeath to my Niece Mary Raney, who is at present living at my place, My Negro Woman Rose before mentioned, I likewise will to the Said Mary Ellen Raney so soon as it can be spared from the Estate without interfering with the payment of Debts or so Soon as a distribution among the Heirs Shall take place a Sum which with the value of Rose taken in shall amount to Fifteen hundred dollars.—The remainder of the one fourth part of my Estate which the Law authorizes me to dispose of as I may desire, and which I have not before in this Instrument disposed of I will to my two youngest children (viz) Laura and William, to be divided equally between them, this bequest is to be in addition and independent of their proper shares of the balance of my Estate.

The remaining three fourths of my Estate I will and bequeath to my wife and children (viz) Felicia, Ann, Eliza, Laura and William to be divided between them at the proper time, as now provided by the Statute Laws of the State of Texas, and I desire that the property and My Family be kept together until the children are raised & educated unless my wife Should in the mean time Marry, in that event it is my wish that my Executor cause the Estate to be divided and for him to take the guardianship of the property of my children until such time as they may become of Lawful age or marry.

My Executor is requested and authorized is hereby conferred on him to appoint S. W. Perkins or some other trust worthy person to act for him in the matters appertaining to my Estate at Such time or times as he may be absent or unable to attend to it in person.

It is my will and desire that William Holeman (my Brother in Law) now of San Augustine in the State of Texas be appointed and take charge of my Estate as the Executor thereof to carry out the provisions of this my Last Will and which request that the County Court will not require any Security from him as Executor thereof.

I also desire that no other action shall be had in the County Court in relation to the settlement of my Estate than the Probate and Registration of my Will and the return of an Inventory of the Estate.

In the case of death or refusal to act of the aforesaid William Holeman as my Executor, then and in that case, I appoint and request S. W. Perkins of Brazoria County and State of Texas to act under this Will as my Said Executor granting to him the same powers privileges and exemptions as were granted to him the said William Holeman as Executor hereof

In testimony whereof I here unto sign by name and affix my (scrawl) per Seal this 14th day of July 1854

In presence of

D. H. Yeiser

Horace Cone

E. Stevens

In addition to the above gifts I will to the Revd M. C. Connelly Ten Cows with calves—I will to my Executor William Holmes my gold watch—I will to S. W. Perkins my horse Ned.

D. H. Yeiser

Appendix E
Estimative Inventory of Property Belonging to D. H. Yeiser

The following is believed to be Community Property

Plantation Tract of Land containing about 807 Acres @10\$	8070.00
Tract of land purchased of J. A. Phillips about 96 Acres @ 8\$	768.00
Balance of Two Tracts purchased from F. W. Smith Estate about 1660acre all situated on the East side of the Bernard in Brazoria County	3320.00
Stock of Hogs	100.00
Farming Utensils	100.00
About 250 Head of Stock Cattle @ 5\$	1250.00
14 Mules @ 40\$	560.00
About 10 head of Stock Horses	200.00
2 Work Horses	100.00
2 Saddle Horses	200.00
About 30 Bales Cotton	945.00
38 Hghds of Sugar	950.00
20 Bbls of Sugar	200.00
About 40Bbls Molasses	120.00
Household & Kitchen Furniture	200.00
Total Community Property	\$17,233.00

The following List contains the Special property of D. H. Yeiser

Frank aged about 43 yrs	600.00
Jim 30	850.00
Eliza a woman 39	550.00
Aylsy " 38	600.00
Rose " 28	800.00
Cynthia " 22	850.00
Emiline " 15	750.00
Emily a girl 9	450.00
Charles a boy 6	400.00
Henrietta a girl 4	250.00
Giles a boy 1	100.00
Dave 37	750.00
Darkey a woman 40	600.00
Martha " 38	650.00
Julia " 30	750.00
Rachel " 24	800.00
Louisa " 20	800.00
Dennis a boy 16	750.00
Delila 7	400.00
Jim 7	450.00
Mary a girl 4	250.00
Ellen " 2	150.00
Total Separate Property	\$12550.00
Total Inventory	\$29783.00 ⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Daniel H. Yeiser Probate Case # Brazoria County Clerk's Office, Angleton, Texas

Appendix F
Deed Record George S. Pentecost Daniel H. Yeiser /James W. Dance Plantation

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	Samuel May Williams	Deed			Aug	10	1824		Samuel M. Williams 1 League
Samuel May Williams	Williams S. Brown	Deed	SR Trans	18/19	Nov	16	1825		\$100 South ½ of League (Joseph Mims lived at the mouth of Mound Creek at this time)
William S. Brown	Zeno Phillips	Deed	SR Trans	23/24	June	5	1826		\$385 South ½ of S.M. Williams League
Samuel May Williams	Zeno Phillips & Jesse Thompson	Deed		378/79	Mar	28	1829		Upper ½ of S. M. Williams League
Zeno Phillips & Jesse Thompson	George S. Pentecost	Deed	SR Trans	305/07	Dec	14	1832		\$300 1/4 League upper portion of S. M. Williams League with improvements
George S. Pentecost	Edwin Waller	Deed							
Edwin Waller	Monroe Edwards	Deed			Sept	5	1836		\$5000 from note from Edwards to Waller
Robert J. Calder Sheriff	Robert J. Townes	Deed	B	260/61	July	7	1840		\$1500 Monroe Edwards Estate to settle law suit ¼ league
Robert J. Townes	Daniel H. Yeiser	Deed	E	149X	June	4	1845	793	\$1500 Part of upper ¼ of Samuel M. Williams League
Robert J. Townes	John W. Brooks	Deed	E	149	March	19	1849	314	\$2245 Tract along the San Bernard
Daniel H. Yeiser	Alexander Dunn	DT	E	160	April	1	1849	Slave	\$583.42 note Jim aged 30 Eliza aged 30 as security
Robert J. Townes	Daniel H. Yeiser	Mortgage	E	194/95	April	23	1849	~800	\$825.67 Morgan L. Smith \$275.22 John Adriance \$614.43 Robert J. Townes + \$500 cash Property bought March 24, 1847
Phillip Davenport	Daniel H. Yeiser	Deed	F	204/05	March	7	1851		2 tracts other leagues
Robert J. Townes	Daniel H. Yeiser	Release	F	321/22	May	11	1852	~800	Release of mortgage PAID
Daniel H. Yeiser	Dowsell, Hill & Co.	DT	F	381/82	Aug	30	1852	~800	\$4417.13 note
Elizabeth Harrison	Daniel H. Yeiser	Deed	G	39/40	May	22	1854	96	\$579 upper Tract 1
Elizabeth Harrison	R. G. Salmon	Deed	G	138/39	June	12	1853	73	\$157. part of Tract 1
Daniel H. Yeiser Estate	James W. Dance	Deed	H	617/21	April	15	1858	807 96	\$15,000 Livestock, 11 slaves, & farm equipment 2 Tracts
George Williams Gassard Kentucky	Gabriel P. Davis James W. Dance	Deed	J	36/38	Jan	25	1859	200	\$2500 Cone Place on Bell Creek
James W. Dance	Gabriel Davis	Deed	K	196/98	May	29	1861	807 96	\$7500 ½ interest in Yeiser Plantation Lands & slaves
Gabriel P. Jane L. Davis	James W. Dance	Deed	K	237/39	Nov	21	1861	200 903	\$3750 Homestead of Davis + interest in Yeiser Plantation
Gabriel P. Davis Laura A. Davis	James W. G. P. Dance	Deed	K	264/66	July	12	1861		\$2200 ½ Thomas K. Davis League
James W. Dance	R. J. Boykin Louisiana	Deed	K	363/64	June	3	1863	600	\$7000 600 acres of Yeiser lands
R. J. Boykin	James W. Dance	Misc	K	364	June	3	1863	600	Agreement as how to pay in specie or Confederate money
James W. Dance	George W. Duff	DT	K	571/73	Feb	1	1866		Debts Almira Reynolds \$5094.10 William Reynolds \$5835.95 A. T. Morris \$300 J. Spencer Dance \$200 Mrs. Nancy Culpepper \$200 3 Tracts security
R. J. Boykin	James W. Dance	Release	K	588/90	Feb	1	1866	600	\$8000 debt of Boykin released land returned

George. W. Duff Trustee	Oscar Fowler	Deed	L	680/81	July	29	1869	100	\$500 Tract out of Plantation
George. W. Duff Trustee	H. G. Mason	Deed	M	236/39	March	21	1868	200	\$2000 "Cone Place" James W. Dance had resided in 1866
James W. Dance	Blue Run Colored Baptist Church	Deed	M	522/23	Aug	26	1871		Land given to church
James W. Dance	George W. Duff	Deed	M	670/71	Jan	4	1872	100	\$500 acres out of plantation
James W. Dance	George W. Duff Trustee	DT	N	37/39	April	27	1872		\$840 debt to Edwin & Kate Dance minors estate plantation as security
James W. Dance	J. H. Shapard Trustee	DT	Q	278/79	July	19	1872		\$200 debt to J. G. Smith & Bros. Cotton crop security
George W. Duff	Henry & Squire Jackson	Deed	Q	621/22	Dec	13	1875	100	\$300 out of plantation
James W. Dance	George A. Madill	Deed	Q	343/44	June	14	1877	50	\$10 Acreage to Brazos & Colorado Railroad Co.
James W. Dance	Ned Thompson	Deed	S	200/01	Sept	3	1879	50	\$250 out of plantation
James W. Dance	William Williams	Deed	V	68/69	April	9	1883	25	\$100 out of plantation
James W. Dance	Andrew Tiner	Deed	V	436	April	9	1883	25	\$100 out of plantation
O. Landry A. V. Landry	James W. Dance	Deed	Y	119/20	April	9	1883	24	Swap land Cone Tract
James W. Dance	A.V. Landry	Deed	Z	437/38	April	9	1883	25	Swap land out of plantation
James W. Dance	A. & J. P. Underwood	Deed	V	563/64	Nov	12	1883	25	\$100 out of Plantation
James W. Dance	Oscar Fowler	Deed	Y	312/13	Jan	2	1885		To Correct previous deed location of land
James W. Dance	Patterson Moneyhan	Deed	Y	107/08	Feb	24	1886	54	\$110 N E. Corner of Plantation Tract
James W. Dance	J. Spencer Dance	Deed	Y	115/17	Feb	16	1886	24	Out of Cone Tract
James W. Dance Guardian	James E. Dance Kate O. Dance	Deed	Z	37/40	April	6	1886	925	As guardian he owed the estate of his wife \$3663 gave remaining ~425 unsold acres of the plantation to his children exempt 200 acre homestead for himself
James W. Dance E. V. Dance K. O. Farmer R. R. Farmer	H. Masterson	DT	B	337/42	April	28	1889		\$1000 open ended note with plantation less amounts already sold as security
James W. Dance	Patterson Moneyhan	Deed	32	463/64	July	23	1892	152	\$150 Northeast corner
James W. Dance	Richard H. Barrow	Deed	35	262/63	July	25	1896	10	For surveying land ? Contract May 11, 1889
James W. Dance	African Methodist Episcopal Church	Deed	54	542/44	Dec	21	1901		Gave the church 1 acre for \$5.00 which had actually been done May 26, 1883 but deed lost
E. V. Dance	Robert R. & Kate O. Farmer	Deed	159	186/87	Jan	16	1920	240	Widow of James E. Dance Given to Kate
Robert R. & Kate O. Farmer		Affadavit	159	187/88	July	27	1918	200	Set boundaries of their homestead
Kate O. Farmer	Katie Lee Brand	Deed	502	534/35	March	30	1951	66	Gift to daughter
Kate O. Farmer	R. R. Farmer Jr.	Deed	502	530/31	March	30	1951	25	Gift to son
Kate O. Farmer	J. R. Farmer	Deed	502	532/33	March	30	1951	20	Gift to son
Heirs of Kate O. Farmer		Partition	791	405/21	April	20	1961	448	Partition among heirs

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