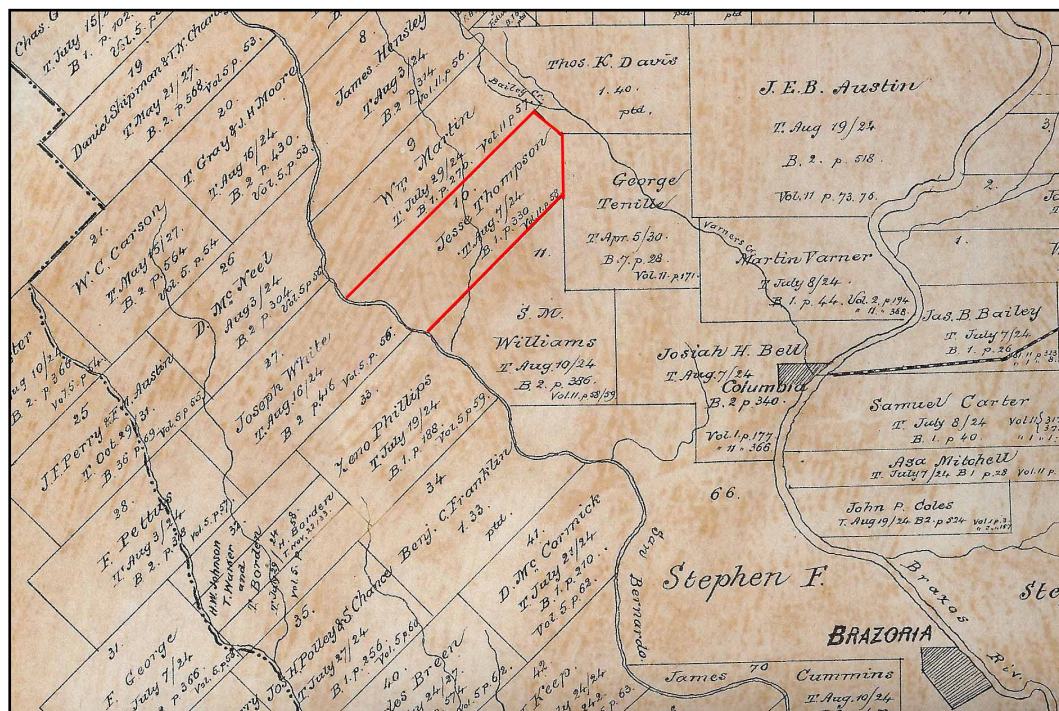


Monroe Edwards/William B. P. Gaines Plantation
Brazosport Archaeological Society

William Baxter Pendleton Gaines first settled in the Nacogdoches in 1835 but after serving in the Texas Army decided to make Brazoria County his home. William B. P. Gaines bought a working plantation of 3500 acres out of the Jesse Thompson League on the east bank of the San Bernard River west of Columbia in January 1838 from the notorious African slave runner and swindler Monroe Edwards. Edwards had originally purchased the land from Columbus R. Patton in 1836. The illegal African slave trade had been the source of most of Edwards' income but Gaines would be caught up in the swindler's new lucrative plans. It would take several years for Gaines to extricate himself from the dealings of Monroe Edwards and his partner Christopher Dart of Mississippi.

Through the 1840's William B. P. Gaines developed his cotton plantation with a large number of African slaves acquired from the shambles of Monroe Edwards & Company. He married Euginia Gratia Harris of North Carolina in 1850. They would have five children.

After having previously served in the Mexican War in 1846, William B. P. Gaines served the Confederacy during the Civil War and after the war resided on his plantation until 1868. The property was leased for many years as the Gaines family were owners in absentia. William B. P. Gaines would later move to Austin, Texas with his son William P. Gaines. The family controlled the plantation until almost the turn of the century. James S. Hogg and J. H. Robertson gained control of the greater part of the plantation in 1899 and the property remained in the Hogg estate for many years.



1879 Map Texas General Land Office

Monroe Edwards¹ was born in Danville, Kentucky. Financial reverses in Kentucky caused his father Moses Edwards to move his family to Redfish Bar, later Edwards Point, on the west side of Galveston Bay in ~1828-1830². James Morgan visited Texas in 1830³; he and his partner John Reed of New Orleans moved to Texas in 1831 and established a business at Anahuac on Galveston Bay⁴. Monroe's clerkship with Morgan at Anahuac helped him learn the means to establish credit, and how to buy and sell cotton on consignment, talents that would later develop in the hands of a swindler. The Mexican authorities imprisoned him with William Barrett Travis, Patrick C. Jack, and others in 1832 at Fort Anahuac.⁵ This disturbance led to the Battle of Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos River in June 1832.⁶

After the death of his father in 1832, the lucrative slave trade caught the attention of Monroe Edwards and in the spring of 1833 he and his partner Holcroft of New Orleans landed a shipment of African slaves at Edwards Point. At this time Edwards' brother-in-law Ritson⁷ Morris lived at Edwards Point. They had purchased 196 African slaves at \$25 each and sold them for \$600 each, realizing a profit of more than \$100,000. The event was acknowledged by the Convention of 1833. The convention noted that a vessel had arrived in Galveston Bay, "direct from the island of Cuba laden with negroes recently from the African coast," the convention resolved that, "we do hold in utter abhorrence all participation, whether direct or indirect, in the African Slave Trade; that we do concur the general indignation which has been manifested throughout the civilized world against that inhuman and unprincipled traffic; and we do therefore earnestly recommend to our constituents, the good people of Texas, that they will not only abstain from all concern in that abominable traffic, but that they will unite their efforts to prevent the evil from polluting our shores; and will aid and sustain the civil authorities in detecting and punishing any similar attempt for the future."⁸ Slaves could easily be purchased for \$200 or less in Cuba and sold for \$600-800 in Texas. Several "good" citizens of Brazoria County including General James Fannin⁹, Sterling McNeel¹⁰, and Benjamin Fort Smith along with Monroe Edwards continued to smuggle slaves into the county. A second cargo landed at Edwards Point in February 1834. This group of slaves was partially owned by Benjamin F. Smith¹¹.

¹ B. 1808 Danville, Kentucky D. 1847 Sing Sing Prison, New York.

² "Situating on the western shore of Galveston Bay at the place called "Jack Davis Point" and where the bar called Red Fish or "Red Fish Bar" begins..." Moses Edwards received one league of land November 30, 1830 [Brazoria County Deed Records, Spanish Records Translated, pp.105-107].

³ James Morgan Papers, 31-0103 Passport to Mexico signed in Tallahassee, Florida, November 1, 1830.

⁴ Bass, Jr., Feris A. and Brunson, B. R., Fragile Empires: The Texas Correspondence of Samuel Swartwout and James Morgan 1836-1856, Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., Austin, Texas, 1978., pp. xx-xxi.

⁵ Henson, Margaret Swett, Juan Davis Bradburn, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1982, pp.97-98.

⁶ Rowe, Edna, "THE DISTURBANCES AT ANAHUAC IN 1832", Volume 006, Number 4, Southwestern Historical Quarterly Online, Pages 265 - 299.

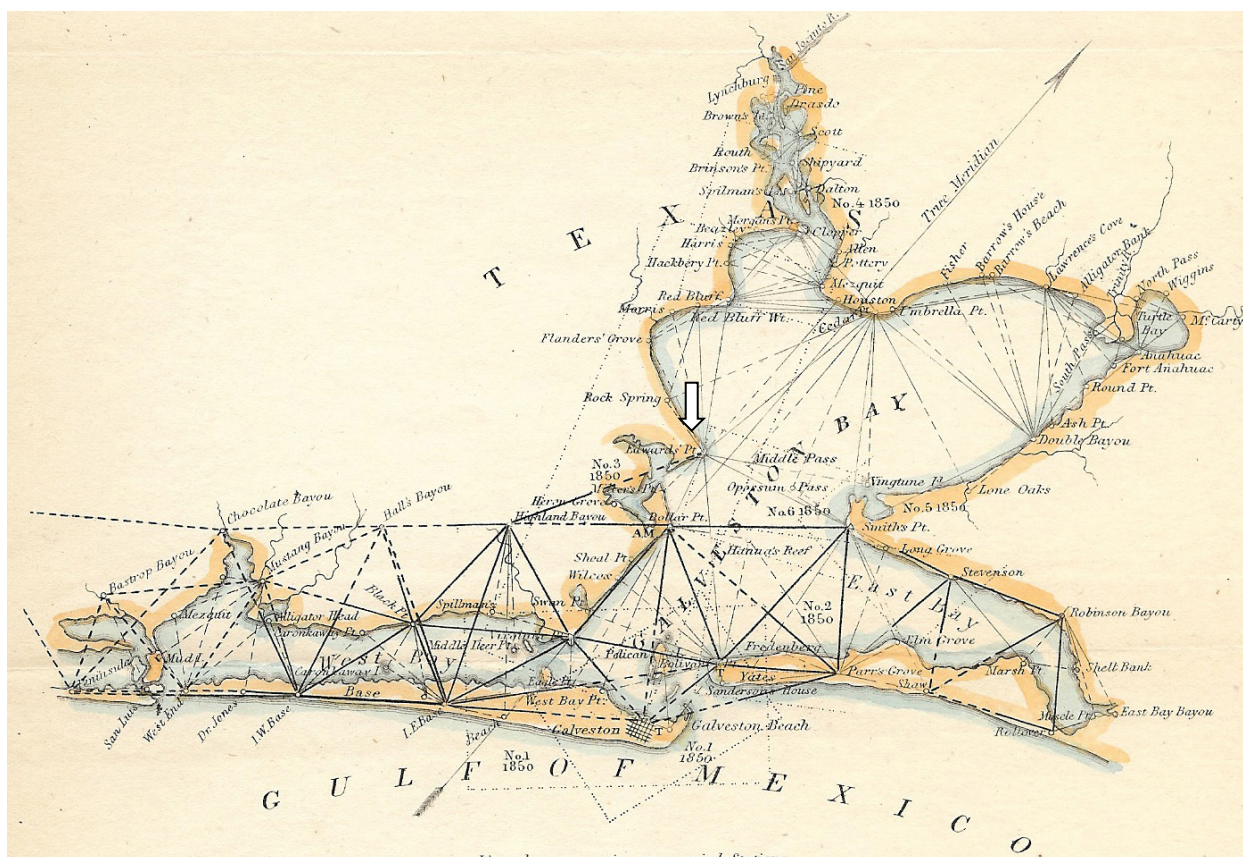
⁷ Sometimes spelled Reston Morris was nicknamed Jawbone Morris.

⁸ Barker, Eugene C., "The African Slave Trade in Texas," The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Vol. 6, Number 2, 1903, p.151.

⁹ Under date of Velasco, August 27, 1835, Col. James Fannin wrote to Major Frances Belton, U.S.A. at Mobile Point, a long letter concerning conditions in Texas, ending with "My last voyage from the island of Cuba (with 152) succeeded admirably". While engaged at San Antonio he wrote to the President of the convention at San Felipe empowering that body "to sell, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of all my property in Texas consisting of thirty-six negroes now on Caney Creek and Brazos River to purchase of war material." Ben C. Stuart Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

¹⁰ Plantation located on the lower San Bernard River.

¹¹ Barker, Eugene C., "The African Slave Trade in Texas," The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Vol. 6, Number 2, 1903, p. 158. Eugene C. Barker writing an article on the African slave trade in Texas noted three



1848-1850 Coastal Survey Galveston Bay Author's Collection

On March 2, 1836 the customs collector at Velasco, William S. Fisher, wrote Provisional Governor Smith:

The schooner *Shenandoah* entered this port on the 28th ult. and proceeded up the river, without reporting. I immediately pursued her... We overhauled the vessel that night, and found that the negroes had been landed—the negroes were, however, found during the night. The negroes I have given up to Mr. Edwards (the owner) on his giving bond and security to the amount of their value, to be held subject to the decision of the government. Sterling McNeal landed a cargo of negroes (Africans) on the coast. I endeavored to seize the vessel but was unsuccessful. This traffic in African Negroes is increasing daily...The number of negroes landed from the *Shenandoah* is 170.¹²

The schooner *Dart*¹³ sailed into Galveston Bay in March 1836 with 90 African slaves from Cuba. These were delivered to Ritson Morris, bringing to 122 the number of Negroes in his care. Shortly before the Battle of San Jacinto, at the approach of the Mexican army, the Texas war schooner *Flash* removed most of the slaves to Galveston Island. Two of these Africans were

prominent citizens landed this cargo in 1834 and at the time of his article in 1903 he still would not divulge the names out of respect to their families although we know Benjamin Fort Smith was one of them.

¹² Jenkins, John H., ed., *The Papers of the Texas Revolution 1835-1836*, Presidial Press, Austin, Texas, 1973, Exhibit 2221, Vol. IV, p.490.

¹³ Schooner *Dart* was owned by Christopher Dart of Natchez, Mississippi.

taken as far as Nacogdoches during this time as Morris advanced a claim to two Africans that had been held there, alleging that they, together with 120 more had been left in his charge by Monroe Edwards.¹⁴

Monroe Edwards had slaves scattered from the San Bernard River to Galveston Bay. William Fairfax Gray traveling through Texas arrived at Mr. Earle's home March 25, 1836 and noted:

...He has staying with him four young African Negroes, two males, two females. They were brought here from the West Indies by a Mr. Monroe Edwards. They are evidently native Africans, for they can speak not a word of English, French or Spanish. They look mild, gentle, docile, and have never been used to labor. They are delicately formed; the females in particular have straight, slender figures, and delicate arms and hands. They have the thick lips and negro features, and although understanding not a word of English, are quick of apprehension; have good ears, and repeat words that are spoken to them with remarkable accuracy...Their habits are beastly.¹⁵

Captain Robert J. Calder, writing of his trek from San Jacinto battlefield to Galveston to notify the inhabitants that Santa Anna had been defeated noted:

The party reached the Edwards place at "Red Fish Bar" about noon of the third day. Here they found some provisions and a box of fine Havana cigars. The only living thing they saw was a wild African negro, probably one introduced by Monroe Edwards.¹⁶

William F. Gray visited the home of Edwards on Galveston Bay April 30, 1836:

...Ran into a cove near Clear Creek, and landed at the home of Mr. Edwards, where we found Ashmore Edwards and his brother-in-law, Ritson Morris (Jaw Bone M.), a Mr. Aldridge, and Mr. Stanley...Edwards is the nephew of Colonel Edwards of Nacogdoches, and the brother of Monroe Edwards, who imported the Guinea Negroes from Cuba about a month ago. About fifty of those poor wretches are now here, living out doors, like cattle. They are all young, the oldest not 25, the youngest, perhaps, not more than 10; boys and girls huddled together. They are diminutive, feeble, spare, squalid, nasty, and beastly in habits. Very few exhibit traits of intellect. None seem ever to have been accustomed to work...One girl sat apart and held no converse with the crowd. She is said to belong to a different tribe from any of the rest, and to stand her dignity. There is a boy also among them, about 14 or 15, a runt, who is acknowledged to be a prince, and deference is shown him. He claims the prerogative of five wives, and flogs them at his pleasure. They are mostly cheerful, sing and dance of [at] nights; wear caps and blankets; will not wear close clothes willingly; some go stark naked. A beef was killed at Morris' home, 100 yards from Edwards', and the Africans wrangle and fought for the garbage like dogs or vultures; they saved all the blood they could get, in gourds, and feed on it. An old American negro stood over the beef with a whip, and lashed them off like so many dogs to prevent their pulling the raw meat to pieces. This is the nearest approach to cannibalism that I have ever seen.

Morris' family have gone to the United States in the *Kosciusko*.¹⁷

After the defeat of Santa Anna two groups of Monroe Edwards' slaves and Ashmore Edwards returned via the schooner *Kosciusko* in an agreement with its captain James Spilman

¹⁴ Ben C. Stuart Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

¹⁵ Young, Fletcher C., ed., *Diary of Col. Wm. Fairfax Gray From Virginia to Texas 1835-36*, The Fletcher Young Publishing Co., Houston, Texas, 1965, p147.

¹⁶ Platter, A. A., *Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas*, Doctorial Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1961, p. 203.

¹⁷ Young, Fletcher C., ed., *Diary of Col. Wm. Fairfax Gray From Virginia to Texas 1835-36*, The Fletcher Young Publishing Co., Houston, Texas, 1965, p.158-59.

with 40 returned from the mouth of the Sabine and 54 from Point Bolivar. The \$440 charged for the passage of the slaves and Ashmore Edwards from New Orleans would not be paid quickly by Monroe and would strain his relationship with James Morgan¹⁸.

The slaves landed in February 1836 by Monroe Edwards had been funded in partnership with Christopher Dart of Natchez, Mississippi. In a suit *George Knight & Co. vs. Monroe Edwards* it was stipulated that "December 1835 money was advanced for the purpose of buying slaves in Cuba to be introduced into Texas and for the purchasing of Cannon for the Government of Texas the last of which cost five hundred dollars... The negroes left Cuba in the winter of 1835-36, and arrived in Texas before the second day of March 1836...The demand charged is admitted by the plaintiffs, and their fifteen hundred dollars were used by Edwards for his intentional benefit"¹⁹. In a deposition by John E. Sumner of New Orleans for the suit *George Knight, Lambreto Fernandez and John Emilius Brylle*²⁰ vs. *Monroe Edwards* it was stipulated that Edwards pledged he was to receive mortgage money from the firm of McKinney and Williams of Galveston for \$500 per slave to pay the debt promptly and return to Cuba to purchase another group of slaves in a short period of time. Benjamin M. Steadman of Vickburg also gave a deposition stating that Edwards and Dart had arrived December 1835 in Havana with ~\$50,000 in cash and financed the purchase of 188 slaves at \$357 each for a total of \$67,116. Additional funds were needed for aiding Monroe Edwards to purchase "Brass cannon, Gun Powder, Cannon Balls, a Jolly boat, fuel, Peas, Beans, Grain, Bananas Oranges...& in saving Monroe Edwards from prison..."²¹ The slaves left Havana on the 17th and arrived the 28th of February. Having received *Power of Attorney* from Monroe Edwards May 16, 1836 in the city of Natchez, August 29, 1836 Christopher Dart signed a note for \$35,410 with George Knight & Co. to cover the purchase of these slaves²². In return, Edwards signed ½ ownership of his property and Negroes in the Republic of Texas to Dart April 18, 1837 in New Orleans²³.

In September 1836 using funds from the sale of his African slaves as down payment, Monroe Edwards bought the Point Pleasant Plantation(later Chenango Plantation), 17 African slaves, and the cotton & corn crop for \$35,000 from Benjamin F. Smith [BCDR A: 23/24]. Smith moved to Houston, where he built a hotel early in 1837 while his sister Sarah Terry and her children had previously moved north to a tract of land in the McFarland League to establish her plantation.

On the same day Monroe Edwards also purchased a plantation containing a quarter league on the San Bernard for \$5000 from Edwin Waller in the Samuel May Williams League.

¹⁸ James Morgan Papers, 31-0376 Invoice of Charges for Schooner *Kosciusko*, June 1836 & 31-0201 Letter James Reed to James Morgan, June 8, 1836, New Orleans.

¹⁹ Unknown Case No. filed in Austin, County October 28, 1841 on Internet Stephen F. Austin University, Texas Tides. It is not clear which shipment of slaves the \$35,000 covered. The 170 slaves (185 by some records) on the *Shenandoah* arrived at the end of February and the 90 on the *Dart* in March are very close together and could have been one purchase smuggled on two separate ships. Edwards declaration to the customs official may have been for the total. The slaves were delivered on two schooners according to one author. By a Texian, The Life of the Celebrated Munroe Edwards, William White & H. P. Lewis, Boston, Massachusetts, 1842, p. 7.

²⁰ Major owners of George Knight & Co. of Havana, Cuba. Case 680 Civil Court, Brazoria County Clerk's Office, Angleton, Texas.

²¹ Case 680 Civil Court, Brazoria County Clerk's Office, Angleton, Texas.

²² BCDR: A 183 & A 184/90

²³ BCDR: A 177/78

\$5,000 On or before the first day of
 April eighteen hundred and thirty
 six I Monroe Edwards do hereby
 give of Calvin Miller five thousand
 dollars value received Monroe Edwards
 Brazoria April 5th 1836

24

The next day Monroe Edwards purchased the Jesse Thompson League less 622 acres on the east bank of the San Bernard River from Columbus Patton for \$20,000 [BCDR C: 75/76]. This plantation would become Edwards' principal residence and plantation. Several more tracts were bought in co-ownership with Captain Peyton R. Splane in other counties in March 1837.²⁵

By this time Monroe Edwards was quite a figure in Brazoria County. November 1836 Mary Jane Harris was a passenger with her grandfather on the *Julius Ceasar* which landed at Quintana. Staying at a two story boarding house she peeped through a wide crack in the partition wall and watched Edwards as he sat at a table eating enormous quantities of baked sweet potatoes. She noted his rich and gaudy attire, his flashing diamonds, and his gaily caparisoned horse.²⁶ Edwards not only sold slaves but leased them out for terms. Peyton and Ann D. W. Splane contracted to split their cotton crop on "Gin Place"²⁷ on the west bank of the Brazos River with Edwards furnishing 20 slaves, ½ the teams, and ½ all other expenses for the year 1837²⁸.

At this time according to Brazoria County tax records for 1837 & 1838 Monroe Edwards owned:

4404 acres	On Galveston Bay (His father's league)	\$23,320
4000 acres	On Bernardo (Jesse Thompson League)	\$20,000
1111 acres	On Bernardo (Samuel May Williams League)	\$5,555
800 acres	Cedar Lake	\$4,000
1600 acres	On Brazos (Possible Chenango?)	\$8,000
92 Negroes		\$73,600
200 Head Cattle		
8 Oxen		
2 Horses		
1 mule		
Total value		\$139,500

²⁴ Case 492 *George Knight & Co. vs. Monroe Edwards*, Civil Court Records, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

²⁵ BCDR C: 164/67

²⁶ Looscan, Adele B., "Mrs. Mary Jane Briscoe", Volume 007, Number 1, Southwestern Historical Quarterly Online, Pages 65-71.

²⁷ "Gin Place" was originally owned by J. E. B. Austin, brother of Stephen F. Austin and later became the Maner Plantation.

²⁸ Record Book A, pp.131-136.

Although Abner Strobel claimed: “He was kind and generous to his slaves, and they all thought kindly of him, and thought there was no one his equal...”²⁹ the record seems to cast some doubt. Monroe Edwards was indicted by a grand jury investigating thefts by slaves. The Negroes were not censured, but Edwards was accused of their maltreatment:

Republic of Texas
County of Brazoria
1838

District Court
Spring Term

We the Grand Jurors upon our oath present, that the Negroes of Monroe Edwards have for some time past been guilty of numerous thefts, in the neighborhood of Columbia, and that from circumstances within our knowledge we believe that they have been impelled to such conduct from want of sufficient food and such treatment as common humanity requires should be extended to slaves, we therefore present the subject taken in consideration of the court.³⁰

In December 1837, Monroe Edwards decided to make plans for a trip to Europe. While traveling Edwards would leave his brother Ashmore in charge of his business. Being a prominent and highly respected plantation owner, and a man with elevated standards, Monroe intended to see the continent first class.

Edwards would need a considerable amount of cash. In addition to the revenues generated by slave sales and leases he liquidated some of his land holdings by selling his interest in the Jesse Thompson League to William B. P. Gaines for \$40,000 which was a nice profit in just over a year's time. Additionally he sold him an undivided 15th in the town of San Bernardo³¹ for \$5000 cash. This town was to be located on the east bank of the San Bernard in the Jesse Thompson League.³²

As a preliminary to his voyage, he took a trip to Washington. There the minister of the Republic of Texas to the United States agreed to help him. The minister obtained letters from some of the most outstanding men in the country introducing Monroe Edwards to high statesmen and noblemen of England. Monroe felt the need of a military title to lend dignity and weight to his reputation. Upon arriving on the continent he would choose the title of Colonel and began portraying a hero of the Battle of San Jacinto for his interested new acquaintances.³³

Before leaving, however, in New York City his past started to catch up to him for a while as he was accosted by J.P. Austin, a collector for the owners of the *Kosciusko* who Edwards had still neglected to pay. James Morgan had tried on several occasions to collect this debt and finally forwarded it to the owners of the vessel in New York. Monroe Edwards was irate with Morgan and wrote him an “insulting” letter from the Astor House in New York City, May 17, 1838. In Morgan's reply he denied any “malice-envy-nor persecution” on his part but that this was “business” and that since Edwards had not tried to make payment it was out of his hands³⁴.

²⁹ Strobel, Abner J., The Old Plantations and Their Owners of Brazoria County Texas, Revised Edition, The Union National Bank, Houston, Texas, 1930, p.38.

³⁰ Platter, A. A., Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas, Doctorial Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1961, p. 204. Case No. 29 could not be located in the District Clerk's Office, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

³¹ Only reference that I have seen noted for San Bernardo and probably only a scheme to raise cash.

³² BCDR: H 364/66.

³³ Wilkes, George, Life and Adventures of the Accomplished Forger and Swindler, Colonel Monroe Edwards, H. Long & Brother, New York, New York, 1848, pp.36-40.

³⁴ James Morgan Papers, 31-0474, Letter James Morgan to Monroe Edwards, New Washington, Texas, 21 June 1838, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

While Monroe Edwards was in Europe the note to George Knight & Co. had become due and Christopher Dart was left owing the note. He came to Texas and brought suit against Edwards and began to try to collect debts owed their partnership. On Edwards return he hired John C. Watrous, who had only recently retired as the Attorney General of the Republic of Texas and John W. Harris, outstanding Brazoria lawyer, to defend his claims.

Christopher Dart agreed to 5% on the amount of the judgment if satisfied in his favor to hire his attorneys William H. Jack, Patrick C. Jack, and Robert J. Townes using 10 slaves as collateral, August 18, 1838. Ten slaves were made part of a mortgage: Alfred (hired to F. W. Sawyer), Kitty (hired to Theodore Bennet) Prince, Juqua, Jock, Bob, Manola, Gasha, Ego and Charley.³⁵ The 1st of November Dart mortgaged all the slaves (91) that were in Edwards possession as well as turning over all the debts owed to Edwards to George Knight & Co. to secure his \$35410 note.³⁶

Public sympathy seemed to be on Monroe Edwards' side. Those suspicious about Monroe remembered a court suit brought by Robert Peebles in June 2, 1837, concerning an African slave named Fagbo. Peebles, incredible as it seems, had bought a slave boy named Fagbo from Edwards for \$1200, without having seen the boy. When Peebles' overseer received the slave, he discovered that he was dying of pulmonary consumption and was unable to do any sort of work. Peebles charged that Fagbo had consumption at the time of the sale and was "afflicted with a disease in its nature incurable...that the slave has been valueless ever since the purchase and that in nursing and attending the slave"³⁷ he had incurred an additional expense of \$100. Edwards had certified that the boy was in perfect health, and this certification of that condition was introduced in evidence in the trial. Dr. James B. Miller, who was called in to examine Fagbo, acknowledged that his illness was fatal. The court gave Peebles a judgment of \$1,200 plus interest from the date of sale.³⁸

By the 1839 tax records it was evident that most of Monroe Edwards' assets had been liquidated or held separate. The record is listed under Dart & Edwards with 1107 acres of land, 97 Negroes, and 200 head of cattle for a total worth \$76,235.³⁹

At his trial March 1839 in Brazoria a bill of sale signed by Christopher Dart for his interest in the slaves and property was produced which was proved to be a forgery. A letter written by Christopher Dart had the body of the letter chemically removed and the bill of sale inserted with Dart's original signature⁴⁰. Edwards was indicted for the capital offense of forgery but was able to post bond and flee Texas with two of his young slaves, Kitty Clover and her brother Henry.⁴¹ Their description by another stated "They strongly resembled each other, both having the Congo mark on their cheeks (three perpendicular marks on each side of about two inches in length), they both were

³⁵ BCDR: A 185/87.

³⁶ BCDR: A 184/90.

³⁷ Civil Case 8 *Robert Peebles vs. Monroe Edwards*, April 3, 1838, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

³⁸ Ward, Forrest E., *The Lower Brazos Region of Texas, 1820-1845*, Doctoral Dissertation, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, January 1962, p.514.

³⁹ Have not located sales for the bulk of his African slaves.

⁴⁰ Criminal Case 53 *Republic of Texas vs. Monroe Edwards* has been removed from the Brazoria County Courthouse records and to date has not been located.

⁴¹ Two slaves are in a list which match this description, Isha or Kate, twin 13 and Ogulina (twin) Henry 13. These ages would have been for 1836, Unknown, *The Life of Col. Monroe Edwards*, 1842, pp. 18-19.

very dark, with strong negro features.”⁴² Riding on horseback they proceeded by way of Nacogdoches before crossing into Louisiana.⁴³

In June 1839 James Treat in New York wrote to James Morgan including a passage about Edwards in his lengthy letter:

...You shall know all about Edwards suit, in my P S. It is not very improbable that he will get away from Jail. Jim Prentiss I have but little communion with and Willis Hall is now the Attorney General of the State and of course a very great man. I see but little of him now. I have apprised Henderson about this Edwards affair & c. and also Sam S. & Judge W. came to apprise me of Edwards arrest, and put me on my guard about writing to him & c. a pretty good joke indeed & Judge W. moreover told me he never like the man E. & ___ not be seen in the street with him even in Paris. A pretty fair story don't you think so?—I told Gen Hamilton of it a week since in Phila He had not then heard of it...⁴⁴

Upon arriving in Mississippi, Edwards was arrested for the illegal introduction of the two slaves into the United States, and held to bail, and upon trial was fined \$1500, which was subsequently remitted by President Van Buren.⁴⁵

Reaching New Orleans Kitty Clover was put aboard a ship to Liverpool, England with two Spaniards with whom he had done business with on his last shipment of slaves. These men were to be witnesses concerning the slaves which had been smuggled into Texas.⁴⁶

May 1840 Monroe Edwards wrote from New Orleans to President Mirabeau Lamar pleading his innocence in the form of a veiled threat: ...Said African negroes were imposed on me as slaves for life, when in fact they are only apprentices for five years. I was not fully in possession of the facts ...said negroes are of that description known at Havana as (Amancipados) freed, being captured by a British man of war & brought in as a prize...The facts of the whole case have already been forwarded Her Majesty's Ministers...I was the innocent instrument of bringing these Africans to Texas, and I am only doing my duty...⁴⁷ This letter and a similar one to Sam Houston imply that he might have been trying to use his slaves as a wedge between the Texas and English governments to possibly hinder the successful negotiations for the Texan loan which was currently being pursued by James Hamilton Envoy of the Republic of Texas.

Monroe Edwards and Henry traveled up the Mississippi to Cincinnati, Ohio where he began negotiations with the abolitionist community. An article published in the local newspaper proclaimed that Monroe Edwards, Esq., of Iberville, Louisiana had emancipated 163 slaves at Cincinnati. Through this bogus article probably written by Edwards he was able to negotiate a loan and proceed to New York.⁴⁸

Writing several letters to Lewis Tappan, a noted abolitionist in New York state, Edwards attempted to raise cash for his trip to England⁴⁹:

⁴² By a Texian, The Life of the Celebrated Munroe Edwards, William White & H. P. Lewis, Boston, Massachusetts, 1842, pp. 15-16.

⁴³ Ibid., p.11.

⁴⁴ James Morgan Papers, 31-0948 Letter James Treat to James Morgan, New York, June 3, 1839.

⁴⁵ By a Texian, The Life of the Celebrated Munroe Edwards, William White & H. P. Lewis, Boston, Massachusetts, 1842, p. 12.

⁴⁶ By a Texian, The Life of the Celebrated Munroe Edwards, William White & H. P. Lewis, Boston, Massachusetts, 1842, p. 12.

⁴⁷ Gulick, Charles Adams et al, eds., The Papers of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, 6 Volumes, Pemberton Press, Austin, Texas, 1968, M. Edwards, New Orleans to M. B. Lamar, Austin, Texas, 5 May 1840, Vol. III, p.387.

⁴⁸ Unknown, The Life of Col. Monroe Edwards, 1842, p. 21.

⁴⁹ Ibid. pp. 18-21.

City Hotel, June

27, 1840

LEWIS TAPPAN, Esq.

...I this morning commenced a circumstantial narration of all the facts connected with the 200 Africans now in Texas, upon whose liberation I am determined to hazard every thing. I this morning made an effort through a friend to raise ten per cent of its value upon some valuable real estate that I own in the city of Mobile, ...suggested a plan which if it meets the approbation of the friends of *universal emancipation* here will enable me to visit England...The plan is to raise \$5,000 on property in Mobile worth \$50,000...I have been led to believe that there are gentlemen here who are zealous in the cause I have now embarked in...I expect their co-operation to enable me to carry out what to me is now the paramount object of my life...My unalterable determination now is to go to England and in person represent the facts of this peculiar case...⁵⁰

Lewis Tappan, however, was very skeptical of Edwards' claims and found the legal documents of Edwards recorded in Ohio emancipated only two slaves, one in New Orleans and the other in Cincinnati, Kitty and Henry.⁵¹ Edwards, however, obtained another loan and proceeded to England 1st of November from Boston along with Henry and Col. J. S. Winfree (gambler).⁵²

Arriving in London Edwards presented a letter of introduction from no less than Daniel Webster to Lord Earl Spencer. This letter obtained a loan of £250 which, of course, was not recovered:

Marshfield, Oct. 29th,

1840

My Lord,

I have taken the liberty to introduce to the honor of your acquaintance, my valued friend Col. M. Edwards, a highly respectable and wealthy planter of Louisiana, who visits England with the view of conferring with H.M. Gov't. on the subject of 200 African captives, now illegally held as slaves in Texas...he with a magnanimity before unknown, attempted their restoration to freedom, by sending them to an English Colony, but was prevented from doing so by the direct interposition of the Gov't. of Texas...

Any service it may be in your Lordship's power to render Col. Edwards in promotion of his most praiseworthy object, will be properly appreciated...⁵³

Lord Spencer wrote to Daniel Webster warning him of Edwards's exploits and Webster published a letter warning the public:

...The accompanying letter, purporting to be written by me, is an entire forgery.

Of this Edwards I had some previous knowledge, as he attempted similar frauds, some time ago, upon the late President of the United States, and my predecessor in the Department of State...⁵⁴

In London James Hamilton found it necessary to expose Edwards:

No. 15 Cockspur Street, London, November

23, 1840

⁵⁰ Ibid., pp. 18-19, Letter Monroe Edwards to Lewis Tappan, July 7, 1840, City Hotel, (New York, New York).

⁵¹ Ibid., pp. 21-23, Letter Lewis Tappan to Monroe Edwards, July 8, 1840, New York, New York.

⁵² By a Texian, *The Life of the Celebrated Munroe Edwards*, William White & H. P. Lewis, Boston, Massachusetts, 1842, p. 13.

⁵³ Ibid., Letter Daniel Webster to RT. Hon. Earl Spencer, Oct 29, 1840, Forgery, pp. 25-26.

⁵⁴ Ibid., Letter by Daniel Webster, October 8, 1841, p. 24.

Sir: I have just been informed by Mr. Stevenson that you have presented to him a letter of introduction, asking his good offices, from the secretary of state of the United States, and that you have a similar letter to General Cass, the American minister at Paris. I beg leave to inform you that I have apprized Mr. Stevenson that you are a fugitive from the public justice of Texas, charged with the commission of an infamous crime. I shall feel it my duty to make a similar communication to General Cass.

I likewise understand that you propose making an application to Lord Palmerston for the aid of her majesty's government for the purpose of subserving some alleged objects of public justice in Texas. As the representative of the republic of Texas in Britain, I shall not fail to advise Lord Palmerston of the facts which I have communicated to the representatives of the United States at Paris and London.

I hope you will spare me the pain and necessity of a more detailed and public statement of your recent history in Texas.

I remain your obedient servant,
J. Hamilton, Envoy of the Republic of Texas⁵⁵

James Morgan heard from his friend Samuel Swartout shortly after, acknowledging that Monroe Edwards had left England and was headed to France:

London
31 March 1841

...I heard yesterday that Col Monroe Edwards had left England 6 or 8 weeks ago, after having borrowed about 500£ from his landlord at Long's Hotel & then forged a receipt to his Bill of upwards of 100£ to impose upon others—With these outfits he made his way for France; it is reputed he has got into some similar scrape & is now in jail—*But for God's sake don't say you hear this from me*—Keep my name out of the question. Say if you speak of it that you recd the news by way of N. York—I dare say you'll have accounts of his conduct, as plenty as black [berries]...⁵⁶

Monroe had left England putting Kitty, who was now pregnant⁵⁷, on a ship back to the east coast with Col. Winfree and Mary Moore (celebrated courtesan to put it nicely) while he went on to France.⁵⁸ Henry was put in school in England. As France also became too uncomfortable he joined them in New York. He and Kitty, who now had a child, moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Here he developed a most remarkable scheme of deception to defraud Brown Brothers & Co. and Fletcher Alexander & Co. of New York City for over \$25,000 each. By forging letters of credit from Maunsell, White & Co. of New Orleans he established his new identity John P. Caldwell. Caldwell had more than one thousand bales of cotton worth at least fifty thousand dollars in the hands of Maunsell, White & Co., that any advance predicated on such cotton would be perfectly safe, he and his family were amongst the very few planters of Louisiana who were entirely free from debt, he was solvent and a very

⁵⁵ Yoakum, Henderson K., History of Texas, Vol. II, The Steck Company, Austin, Texas, 1935, pp. 310-311.

⁵⁶ Bass, Jr., Feris A. and Brunson, B. R., Fragile Empires: The Texas Correspondence of Samuel Swartwout and James Morgan 1836-1856, Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., Austin, Texas, 1978, pp.126-127.

⁵⁷ Many have insinuated that Monroe Edwards had traveled the country with a girl disguised as boy and fathered her child but other references are distinct that there were two individuals. One author stated: "...the writer went to see her, and was fully satisfied she was not Henry. She also candidly confessed that one of the Spaniards who accompanied her from New Orleans to England, was the father of her child..." By a Texian, The Life of the Celebrated Munroe Edwards, William White & H. P. Lewis, Boston, Massachusetts, 1842, p. 16.

⁵⁸ Wilkes, George, Life and Adventures of the Accomplished Forger and Swindler, Colonel Monroe Edwards, H. Long & Brother, New York, New York, 1848, pp. 74-75.

wealthy gentleman, and requested that if it would suit their convenience they had authorized him to draw on them for not more than thirty thousand dollars. This ruse was perpetrated at both brokerage houses in August and September 1841.⁵⁹ After the fraud was discovered a \$10,000 reward was posted by Edgar Corrie, Jr. and Brown, Brothers & Co.:

Whereas a person representing himself to be John P. Caldwell, has by means of forged letters of credit obtained upwards of \$25,000 from each of the subscribers, notice is hereby given that the above reward will be paid on recovery of the money, or in proportion for any part of the same.⁶⁰

As the heat was on Monroe Edwards had an associate, Alexander Powell, who he tried to pin the fraud upon by sending the authorities a letter identifying him as someone of interest. Powell was to sail from Boston to Europe but was delayed and the authorities accosted him. The hand writing on the letter was Edwards' which he recognized. The police were informed that Monroe Edwards was their man and perhaps where to find him.⁶¹ Edwards had been delayed a day in Philadelphia trying to provide funds for Kitty while he would be traveling to the South. On October 2, 1841 he was arrested and his baggage confiscated. The first trunk opened contained in bank notes and gold, **\$44, 054.03**. The second trunk had nothing and the third:

One of Colt's revolving pistols	1 money belt
14 pair of pantaloons	1 pair of suspenders
1 bottle of hair dye	1 napkin
4 vests	1 bundle of type
3 coats	1 bundle of stamps
1 cloak	1 pair bullet moulds
1 blouse	1 box of cologne
1 stomach pump	1 powder box containing powder & bullets
1 book	

The stamps were most incriminating since one had "La." and "PAID". The next trunk contained:

16 shirts	1 stamp
16 handkerchiefs	letters M. E.
1 pair of kid gloves	1 seal with coat of arms
1 blue sash	4 vests
1 bag	gold watch & chain
4 pair boots	pair of spectacles with blue glasses

Another item of interest was a forged draft on Brown Brothers & Co. dated May 31, 1840 for £623 sterling which was used to pay his tailor in Paris.⁶²

Far from Texas, Monroe Edwards had lost his fortune, friends, and freedom. While he languished in jail even the faithful Kitty Clover deserted him. Converted by a religious

⁵⁹ Jenkins, John H., ed., The Celebrated and Extraordinary Trial of Col. Monroe Edwards, For Forgery and Swindling, The Pemberton Press, Austin and New York, 1970, p.3.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁶¹ Wilkes, George, Life and Adventures of the Accomplished Forger and Swindler, Colonel Monroe Edwards, H. Long & Brother, New York, New York, 1848, p. 105-108.

⁶² Jenkins, John H., ed., The Celebrated and Extraordinary Trial of Col. Monroe Edwards, For Forgery and Swindling, The Pemberton Press, Austin and New York, 1970, p. 3.

denomination of so-called saints, she was convinced that she would suffer damnation if she sent a single word of sympathy to her master. Edwards never heard from her after that time.⁶³

Monroe Edwards was caught almost red handed but retained some of the most respected lawyers on the east coast for his defense, U. S. Senator J. J. Crittenden and Congressman Thomas F. Marshall⁶⁴ both of Kentucky among them. His trial commenced on June 6, 1842 in New York amid an almost circus atmosphere. The court was completely packed and overflowing each day of the trial often with over a 100 young ladies wishing to see the infamous Colonel Monroe Edwards. Neatly attired Edwards entered the courtroom each day nonchalantly as if the proceedings around him had little to do with him and confident in their outcome.⁶⁵



COL. MONROE EDWARDS.]



As He Appeared at Trial in 1842 by Two Different Lithographers⁶⁶

Most of Monroe Edwards' defense stemmed from tampered hotel ledgers in cities on the same dates he was to have been instigating the fraud. A surprise deposition was given by Caroline Phillips, 18 years of age, who professed to be Edwards' fiancée swore that he had a large quantity of cash in hand before the dates of the fraud. The prosecution had eye witnesses to Mr. Edwards and Mr. Caldwell being one in the same person, hand writing comparisons, and a clerk who actually marked one of the bags of money given to Mr. Caldwell. This bag was found

⁶³ Wilkes, George, Life and Adventures of the Accomplished Forger and Swindler, Colonel Monroe Edwards, H. Long & Brother, New York, New York, 1848, p. 147.

⁶⁴ Hon. Thomas F. Marshall and Col. James Watson Webb, editor of the *Courier and Enquirer*, fought a duel June 25, 1842 over barbs printed in his paper criticizing Marshall for taking the case of such a notorious scoundrel. Webb was wounded in the left leg below the knee. [History of Delaware County, Chapter XXXVIII, pp.478-481 On Line]

⁶⁵ Jenkins, John H., ed., The Celebrated and Extraordinary Trial of Col. Monroe Edwards, For Forgery and Swindling, The Pemberton Press, Austin and New York, 1970, p.3-14.

⁶⁶ "His figure was what is called medium size, ranging from five feet seven to eight inches...His complexion light...thoughtful blue eyes...His hair, which was very fine and silken in texture, was of a dark rich brown, being slightly curled at the sides, but waiving plain along the front... His whiskers were of the same color, indeed a little darker through the aid of a dye..." Wilkes, George, Life and Adventures of the Accomplished Forger and Swindler, Colonel Monroe Edwards, H. Long & Brother, New York, New York, 1848, p. 37.

in one of Edwards' trunks. Another piece of evidence was the peculiarity in the spelling of the word "few". In the forged letter signed Maunsell, White & Co. to Messrs. Brown Brothers & Co. this word is spelt "feu". The same peculiarity was found in three letters written by Monroe Edwards to his friends. All of this in addition to the large amount of cash from an unknown origin.⁶⁷

June 13, 1842 Monroe Edwards was found guilty of two counts of forgery in the third degree. He was sentenced by Judge Kent to five years for each count. Edwards was sent to the state prison at Sing Sing. After trying several escape attempts he was severely beaten by his guards and died 1847. His epitaph as put by Abner Strobel: "Thus ended the career of a man who was gifted in many ways and should have devoted his talents to nobler purposes."⁶⁸ (See Appendix G for article on Monroe Edwards by Mary Beth Jones).

When Monroe Edwards had skipped out of Texas in 1839 he owed many but left Christopher Dart without title to the Chenango Plantation or his plantation on the San Bernard River since his court suit froze Edwards' assets as of April 18, 1837 [BCDR A: 96]. Edwards had actually sold the Chenango Plantation to Warren D. C. Hall⁶⁹ for \$35,500 just days after he purchased it September 1836 [BCDR A: 96]. Warren D. C. Hall quickly sold the property to Vincent A. Drouillard for \$40,000 the next month [BCDR A: 1/2].

Vincent Drouillard purchased 600 acres just east of the plantation from Joshua Abbott [BCDR A: 66/67] and shortly thereafter sold all his holdings to William Jarvis Russell⁷⁰ for \$66,940 December 1836 [BCDR A: 68/70]. Russell added another 1200 acres purchased from William Christy of New Orleans which was just north of the plantation in the Stephen Richardson League [BCDR A: 67]. The size of the plantation increased to ~3400 acres. William J. Russell lived on the property but was plagued by debts for which he was unable to generate cash to pay. He was forced to sell in 1839 to James Love of Galveston for ~\$72,000 with Love picking up \$52,000 of Russell's debt included in the price. This entitled Love to the ~3400 acres of land, 18 slaves from Russell's original purchase and another group of 8 Negro women with their children which Russell had purchased from Monroe Edwards although they were subject to litigation [BCDR C: 300/03].

Though William B. P. Gaines had purchased Monroe's Edwards' plantation on the San Bernard for a considerable sum (\$40,000)⁷¹, he was quickly assailed by Christopher Dart as having been in duplicity with Monroe Edwards in swindling him out of the plantation and slaves on the San Bernard River. This he took to the public by having a notice printed in several of the local newspapers:

CAUTION

THE undersigned feels it to be his directive duty to caution the public against the purchase of a certain tract of Land, of Col. William B. P. Gaines, situate of the San Bernard river, and known as the place formerly occupied by Monroe Edwards as a plantation, which said land purports to have been sold on the FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 1838, by said Monroe Edwards to said William B. P. Gaines, for the consideration of the sum of *forty thousand dollars cash*—Also, a part of the town of San Bernard, sold in like manner, for the consideration of the sum of *five*

⁶⁷ Ibid., 3-14.

⁶⁸ Strobel, Abner J., The Old Plantations and Their Owners of Brazoria County Texas, Revised Edition, The Union National Bank, Houston, Texas, 1930, p.38.

⁶⁹ Warren D. C. Hall owned China Grove Plantation just a few miles north of Chenango.

⁷⁰ William J. Russell was former seaman who had settled in Brazoria County by 1829. H was in command of the Schooner *Brazoria* at the Battle of Velasco in 1832. Later he fought at Goliad and Concepcion in 1835.

⁷¹ BCDR: H 364/66.

thousand dollars cash--Also, against the purchase of three certain notes of hand, purporting to have been made by said Monroe Edwards to said William B. P. Gaines, dated FIRST DAY OF January 1838, and payable at one, two and three years, each for the sum of *fifteen thousand three hundred and fifty dollars*—as the undersigned believes that the whole of the transaction made between said William B. P. Gaines and said Monroe Edwards, were for the purpose of defrauding him, if for no other purpose.

The undersigned also cautions the public against the said Monroe Edwards, that no person whomsoever purchase of him any property which he may pretend to claim in this Republic, of any description or kind whatever—that they pay him no money for any claim, nor receive, any transfer of any note or obligation purporting to be due him, as the undersigned will positively claim all that is his own under any circumstances whatever.

C. DART

Brazoria, Texas April 20, 1840

The New Orleans Commercial Bulletin, Austin City Gazette, Houston Telegraph, Galveston Civilian, and Red Lander, will publish the above until forbid, and forward their accounts to this office for collection.⁷²

William B. P. Gaines felt that he had been slandered by Christopher Dart as he had dealt with Monroe Edwards in a strictly honest fashion. It was the question of Dart's character that should be in doubt and not his:

Galveston June 2d 1840

Mr. Editor: For the information of those who may place confidence in the slanderous statements of C. Dart, I deem it a duty which I owe to myself and my friends to make a fair statement of the transactions which I had with Mr. Edwards.

About the first of January, 1838, I visited the house of Mr. Edwards, who was then living on the plantation which I afterwards purchased. I learned at that time that he (Mr. Edwards) wished to sell his plantation, and that he would exchange it for wild lands, as he was desirous to move his hands to the west.

He estimated the plantation at \$40,000, and agreed to take wild lands. I had at that time a large quantity of wild lands and told him that he might select from any that I had to the amount that I was willing to give him. He selected 4720 acres near San Augustine, which I purchased from Gen. Sam Houston and Philip A. Sublet, a part of the Goraro grant, and forty acres within the corporation of Mobile, Alabama. He estimated his plantation at \$40,000, and I estimated the two tracts at the same, which he agreed to take; and the writings were all passed before Judge Scott, of Brazoria, and the several deeds are on record in the counties where the land lies.

After the above trade, Mr. Edwards on examining my titles, discovered that I held Frost Thorn's bond of Nacogdoches, in a penalty of \$44,000 to make a title to me for five leagues of land on Red river and deeds to three other leagues of Red river: which deeds were made to me by Henry Raguet, administrator the estate of Wm. G. Logan, deceased. After a long conversation with his lawyers, Col. Bover and Maj. Sawyer, he came to me and proposed to purchase the above eight leagues of land on one, two, and three years credit, which I agreed to give provided he paid me one dollar and fifty cents per acre. He refused to give that price, but said he would give me on dollar and thirty cents per acre, & five shares in the town of Bernard—which after some time I agreed to take—and the writings were drawn by Judge Franklin as my lawyer, and F. A. Sawyer as his, and passed before Judge Scott in the town of Brazoria. Now the five leagues purchased from Thorn cost me one dollar per acre, and the other three leagues cost \$1500 per league, making these eight cost me and my friends about \$26,000, which I have the documents to prove. At that time Mr. Edwards stood very fair in Brazoria county as a man of wealth and business, and I had not the least idea that Dart was interested in the property, none of it appearing in his name on the records of the country. In fact he denied to Col. Austin that he had any interest in the property. I do not know how matters stood between Mr. Edwards and Dart. If there was

⁷² Open letter by Christopher Dart, *Brazos Courier*, Brazoria, Texas, April 21, 1840

swindling they have it between themselves, and I do not doubt Dart's capacity in that way: for some years ago, whilst he was in business at Natchez, he became indebted to the Planters Bank to the amount of \$300,000, and because the bank calculated the interest by Rowlett's table he plead usury and the case is still pending. Rowlett makes 360 days to the year. The man who will swindle the bank out of money and smuggle it into a foreign country, will do anything. I state this for the information of those who appear to take so much interest in Dart. I will submit all the transactions which I had with Mr. Edwards to any three disinterested men, and abide their decision. I will ask one favor of the good people of Brazoria county, & that is that they will not prejudice my case from what this malicious slanderer may say, but suspend their opinions[sic] until the same shall be tried and all the evidence brought to bear. I have suffered much from Dart on account of his family, but there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. //supposed to support him in any way whatever, and challenge them to cast a shade of suspicion on any one business transaction of mine through life. I shall say nothing more on the subject until the trial.

I have been induced to make a statement of the transaction which I had with Mr. Edwards on account of a publication of Dart's which I saw a short time since in some of the papers, and the false reports he is putting in circulation.

W. B. P. GAINES

June 23d, 1840⁷³

Christopher Dart thought that Monroe Edwards and William B. P. Gaines had too many friends in Brazoria County and had his suit moved to Fort Bend County. Christopher Dart won his civil suit, April 2, 1840 and was awarded \$89,088 with 5% interest from April 1, 1840 subject to debts against and amounts due their partnership, Edwards would be enjoined from selling or conveying any of the property of said firm, and their partnership would be dissolved⁷⁴. Dart would die before the transactions would be complete and his widow, Catherine B. Dart would be made part of the judgment⁷⁵. Gaines later sued the Edwards and Dart together in Fort Bend County finally winning his suit in 1843. William B. P. Gaines bought 34 slaves for his plantation at public auction using his credit against Edwards and Dart.⁷⁶ These were African slaves or their children brought to Texas by Monroe Edwards.

Born in South Carolina William B. P. Gaines entered Texas from Alabama and had built up a degree of wealth while in business in Nacogdoches before the Texas Revolution.⁷⁷ He enlisted in the Texas Army for three months duty starting October 15, 1835. General Thomas Rusk named him paymaster general of the Texas Army after the Battle of San Jacinto. He left the army in August 1836 and studied law under John B. Jones in Galveston being admitted to the bar in 1840. He also mortgaged his plantation for \$22,000 to Abner J. Lipscomb the same year.⁷⁸ After settling his legal affairs he moved to his plantation in Brazoria County in 1842. When the Mexican War began he joined the United States Army. He fought with distinction during the Battle of Monterey September 20-24th, 1846 and was awarded a sword for his gallantry.⁷⁹ That same year Rueben R. Brown had pooled some of his slaves with those of Gaines to cultivate a

⁷³ Open letter by W. B. P. Gaines. *Brazos Courier*, Brazoria, Texas, June 23, 1840

⁷⁴ BCDR: H 335/37.

⁷⁵ Civil Case 182 *Christopher Dart vs Monroe Edwards*, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas

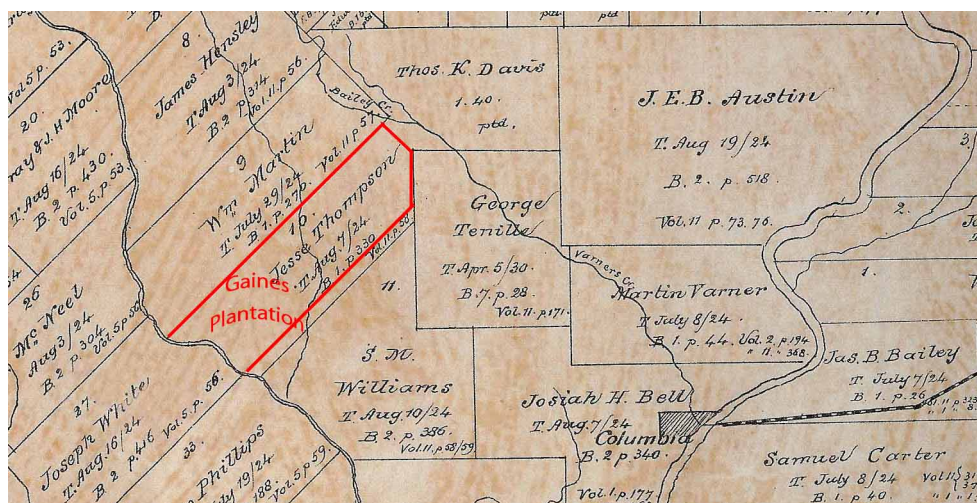
⁷⁶ BCDR: B 315/18

⁷⁷ Daniel, Lewis E., *Types of Successful Men of Texas*, Eugene Von Boeckmann Printer, Austin, Texas, 1890, pp. 417-420.

⁷⁸ BCDR: A 351/52

⁷⁹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v.," <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/GG/fgahk.html> (accessed March 2, 2009). (NOTE: "S.V." stands for sub verbo, "under the word.")

cotton crop on Gaines' plantation. He sold his interest back to Gaines for \$500 in October 1846.⁸⁰



Gaines Plantation in the Jesse Thompson League

After returning to Texas William B. P. Gaines by 1850 had 225 acres under cultivation.⁸¹ The 1850 Tax Roll list Gaines as owning 3500 acres, only 20 slaves⁸², 8 horses, and 75 head of cattle. The 1850 Census lists:

Wm. B. P. Gaines (Lawyer) 38 M North Carolina [South Carolina]
John N. Sample (Overseer) 26 M North Carolina

The same year William B. P. Gaines married Eugenia Gratia Harris of Charlotte, North Carolina. They would have five children during their marriage. Gaines mortgaged the plantation to Nash A. Ware of Galveston in 1851 for \$4000 to operate the plantation and increased his number of slaves. Gaines was elected to the House of Representatives in 1855 for Fort Bend and Brazoria counties. Sally Kennedy who owned the southern portion of the Jesse Thompson League passed away and part of her original tract was bought by William B. P. Gaines for back taxes (327 acres)⁸³ Eugenia also purchased slaves and several head of cattle from Sally Kennedy's estate as her own separate property in November 1856.⁸⁴

By 1860 the tax record shows William B. P. Gaines owned 3877 acres of the Jesse Thompson League, 46 slaves, 41 horses, and 1000 head of cattle. Sally Kennedy's homestead on the San Bernard River of 57 acres was purchased in March 1860.⁸⁵ The 1860 Slave Census lists 12 slave dwellings. The 1860 Census:

W. B. P. Gaines 50 M South Carolina

⁸⁰ BCDR: D 241

⁸¹ 1850 Agricultural Census of Texas

⁸² The 1851 tax record lists 36 slaves.

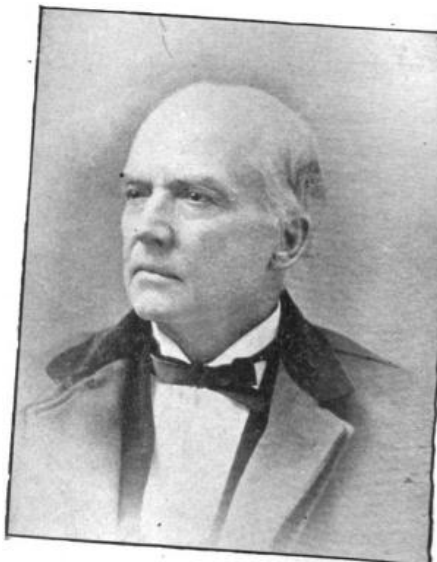
⁸³ BCDR: G 697/98

⁸⁴ BCDR: G 769/70

⁸⁵ BCDR: J 390

Eugenia G.	29 F	North Carolina
Wm. B.	8 M	Texas
Percy	3 M	Texas
Eugenia E.	2 F	Texas ⁸⁶
Delia Dunlap	45 F	North Carolina
Delia	12 F	Alabama

When the Civil War began William B. P. Gaines donated 200 bales of cotton to the Confederate loan.⁸⁷ He was elected colonel of the Second Regiment of the Sixteenth State Militia Brigade on August 31, 1861. After the Civil War, Gaines continued to live on the plantation with his family. In September 1868 he mortgaged the plantation less his 200 acre homestead along with 1500 head of cattle to his sons William P. and Beauregard P. Gaines for \$15805.⁸⁸ Some sources indicate that he started to become a cotton broker in Caldwell and Galveston shortly thereafter.⁸⁹ In 1870 he sold most the stock he had on the plantation which had been in charge of William Orr and was living in Robertson County,⁹⁰



William B. P. Gaines⁹¹

William P. Gaines was sent to Lafayette College at Easton, Pennsylvania for his education in January 1869. He graduated with both a BA and Masters Degree of Arts.⁹² In 1876

⁸⁶ Another son Beauregard Percy Gaines born ~1861 is listed in some records. Two daughters Aime and Celeste are listed among different family trees with no birth dates, however, Eugenia E. is not listed. This adds up to more than 5 children. Celeste born 1853 and died 1857 buried in old Columbia Cemetery.

⁸⁷ *Democrat and Planter*, August 13, 1861, Columbia, Texas

⁸⁸ BCDR: L 348/49

⁸⁹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v.," <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/GG/fgahk.html> (accessed March 2, 2009). (NOTE: "S.V." stands for sub verbo, "under the word.")

⁹⁰ BCDR: M 317 Unable to locate William B. P. Gaines in the 1870 Federal Census.

⁹¹ Daniel, Lewis E., *Types of Successful Men of Texas*, Eugene Von Boeckmann Printer, Austin, Texas, 1890, p. 417.

⁹² *Ibid.*, pp. 417- 420.

William B. P. Gaines gave the plantation to his son William P. Gaines which he valued at \$20,000.⁹³ By this time he was living with his son in Austin, Texas. Beauregard P. Gaines and William B. P. Gaines are listed as living together in the 1880 Census as father and son (student). William P. Gaines⁹⁴ became an owner in absentia leasing the property for several years. Finally in 1893 William P. Gaines lost the property due to a foreclosure and the property was auctioned off in 1896.⁹⁵

Governor James S. Hogg and J. H. Robertson acquired the property in 1899.⁹⁶ The plantation remained in the Hogg estate for many years. The exact location of the plantation ruins whether on the San Bernard River or Mound Creek is not known at this date. The burial places of Eugenia and possibly two of her children could also be located on the plantation. Also the 600+ acre plantation of Sally Kennedy which was established at an early date and later purchased by William B. P. Gaines would be located on the San Bernard River in the southern part of the Jesse Thompson League.

Appendix A Family Genealogy

William Baxter Pendleton Gaines b. September 12, 1808 (Dr. Benjamin Pendleton Gaines & Elizabeth Madison Gaines) Abbeville, South Carolina

d. May 19, 1891 Austin, Texas

m. 1850 Charlotte, North Carolina

Eugenia Gratia Harris b. 1831 North Carolina (Jonathan Harris)

d. December 1867

1. William Pendleton Gaines⁹⁷ b. November 20, 1851 Brazoria County

d. March 18, 1920 (heart attack) New York City

m. September 19, 1883

Augusta Evans

Daughter

2. Celeste Gaines b. Sunday October 23, 1853

d. Thursday October 8, 1857 (Buried Old Columbia Cemetery)

3. Percy Orville Gaines b. ~1857

4. Ainiee Gaines (Aime another spelling)(could be Eugenia in 1860 Census born ~ 1858)

5. Beauregard Percy Gaines b. ~1861

⁹³ BCDR: P 667/68

⁹⁴ William P. Gaines became an owner of the *Austin Daily Statesman* 1882-1887.

⁹⁵ BCDR 120: 1202/04 & 35: 146/49

⁹⁶ BCDR 47: 418/21

⁹⁷ By 1890 William P. Gaines was the only child still alive. He married Augusta Evans September 19, 1883.

Appendix B

Deed Record Gaines Plantation

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	Jesse Thompson	Deed			Aug	7	1824	4428	Jesse Thompson 1 League
Monroe Edwards	Christopher Dart Natchez, Miss	PA	A	183	May	16	1836		Full power to transact any business affairs
Monroe Edwards	Christopher Dart Natchez, Miss	Deed	A	177/78	April	18	1837		½ Interest in all slaves and lands in Republic of Texas
Columbus R. Patton	Monroe Edwards Harrisburg	Deed	C	75/76	Sept	6	1836	3800	\$20,000 Jesse Thompson League less 620 acres
Monroe Edwards	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	H	364/66	Jan	1	1838	3500	\$40,000 Jesse Thompson League
Monroe Edwards	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	H	366	Jan	1	1838		10 Shares \$5000 Town of San Bernard
William B. P. Gaines	Abner S. Lipscomb	Mortgage	A	351/52	Jan	3	1840	3500	\$22,000
William G. Hill & James Perry	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	6	191	March	2	1843		\$1333.33 Lots in San Luis
William McMaster Sheriff	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	B	315/18	Oct	29	1843		Group of slaves to satisfy judgment \$46050 + \$4707 Interest Gaines vs Edwards & Dart settled by Fort Bend County Court
William B. P. Gaines	North A. Ware	Deed	D	107/08	Dec	29	1845	3500	\$3000 ½ Interest
Peter W. Gautier	William B. P. Gaines	Mortgage	D	177/178	May	26	1846		\$1222.96 slaves & cotton crop as security
R. R. Brown	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	D	241	Oct	4	1846		\$500 his share of cotton crop raised on Gaines Place
William B. P. Gaines	Nash A. Ware Galveston	Mortgage	F	3/4	Jan	1	1851	3500	\$4000 note
William B. P. Gaines	Alfred T. James	DT	F	4/5	Jan	1	1851	3500	\$4000 note secured
Jarvis Dockrill Tax Collector	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	G	297/98	March	24	1851	324	\$12.32 taxes in Jesse Thompson League
Eugenia Gaines		Register	G	769/70	Nov	17	1856		Slaves bought of Sarah Kennedy registered as her separate property
John Estes	William B. P. Gaines	Deed	J	390	March	5	1860	57	\$285 SW Corner on the San Bernard River Sally Kennedy Place
William B. P. Gaines, Jr.	William P. & Beauregard P. Gaines	DT	L	348/49	Sept		1868		\$15,805 rights to plantation except 200 acre homestead & 1500 Head cattle + land
William B. P. Gaines	A. J. Morris	D	M	317	Oct	20	1870		\$1200 30 horses \$400 8 mules
William B. P. Gaines	Tony Edwards	D	Q	142/43	Jan	1	1874	50	\$400 SW corner on San Bernard River
William B. P. Gaines	William B. P. Gaines, Jr.	D	P	667/68	Oct	20	1876	4000	All his interest to his son
William B. P. Gaines	Brazos & Colorado Railway Co.	D	Q	352/53	Oct	9	1877		ROW Brazos & Colorado Railway Co.
William B. P. Gaines	E. M. Pease	DT	A	286/87	March	22	1883	4000	\$5000 note
A. S. Walker H. W. Terrell	William B. P. Gaines	Release	A	376/77	March	1	1885		Release note

William B. P. Gaines	E. M. Pease	DT	A	377/80	March	19	1885		\$10,500 note
Mrs. L. C. Pease	William B. P. Gaines	Release	A	774/75	July	12	1887		Paid \$7000 released land in Brazoria County
William B.P. Gaines	Land Mangement Bank of Texas	Decree	120	202/04	Sept	5	1893		Foreclosure \$21,849.77
William B. P. Gaines et al	J. B. Davis	Deed	35	146/49	April	7	1896	~4000	\$8000 at auction
J. B. Davis	F. B. Chilton	Deed	38	121/25	Dec	22	1896	~4000	\$30,000
F. B. Chilton	Land Management Bank of Texas	DT	48	18/19	Jan	25	1899		
Land Management Bank of Texas	J. S. Hogg J. H. Robertson	Deed	47	418/21	April	27	1899	~4000	\$15,784
J. S. Hogg Estate	Thomas Hogg	Deed	112	84/85	June	24	1911	~4000	½ interest
		Platt	2	105/06	Sept	29	1913	~4000	Partition of Hogg Estate
Mrs. Susie M. Robertson	Thomas E. Hogg	Partition	126	234/36	Oct	28	1913	~4000	Hogg Block 1 2023 acres Robertson Block 2 2240 acres
Thomas E. & Marie Willet Hogg	W. C. Hogg	Deed	131	223/24	Jan	15	1915	2023	Block 1
W. C. Hogg	Tom Hogg	Deed	173	244				2023	Block 1

Appendix B
 Republic of Texas Pension Application

Oath of Identity.

W.B.P. Gaines of the town of *Austin*
 county of *Branis* in the State of *Texas*
 on this *ninth* day of *June* one thousand eight
 hundred and *seventy four* personally appeared before me,
 the undersigned, a ~~Justice of the Peace for the county and~~
~~above mentioned,~~

who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is
 the identical *W.B.P. Gaines* who was ~~a~~
 in Captain *Thos J Rusks* Company of the

Regiment of _____ that he enlisted on the
15 day of *Oct* 183*5* for the term of *3 Months* and
 was discharged at *that he was Pay master* ~~on the~~
from day of May 1836 by reason of *To August*
1836 as shown by *Watches* on file in
 Comptrollers office a copy of which is *here*
attached.

W.B.P. Gaines

Sworn to and subscribed before me, at
Austin Texas this
ninth day of *June* 187*4*
Steph. H. Darden
 Comptroller

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Federal Population Schedule, Seventh Census of the United States.

1850 The State of Texas, Brazoria County

“Schedule 2—Slave Inhabitants in the County of Brazoria, Texas”

Federal Population Schedule, Eighth Census of the United States.

1860 The State of Texas, Brazoria County

“Schedule 2—Slave Inhabitants in the County of Brazoria, Texas”

Federal Population Schedule, Tenth Census of the United States.

1880

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