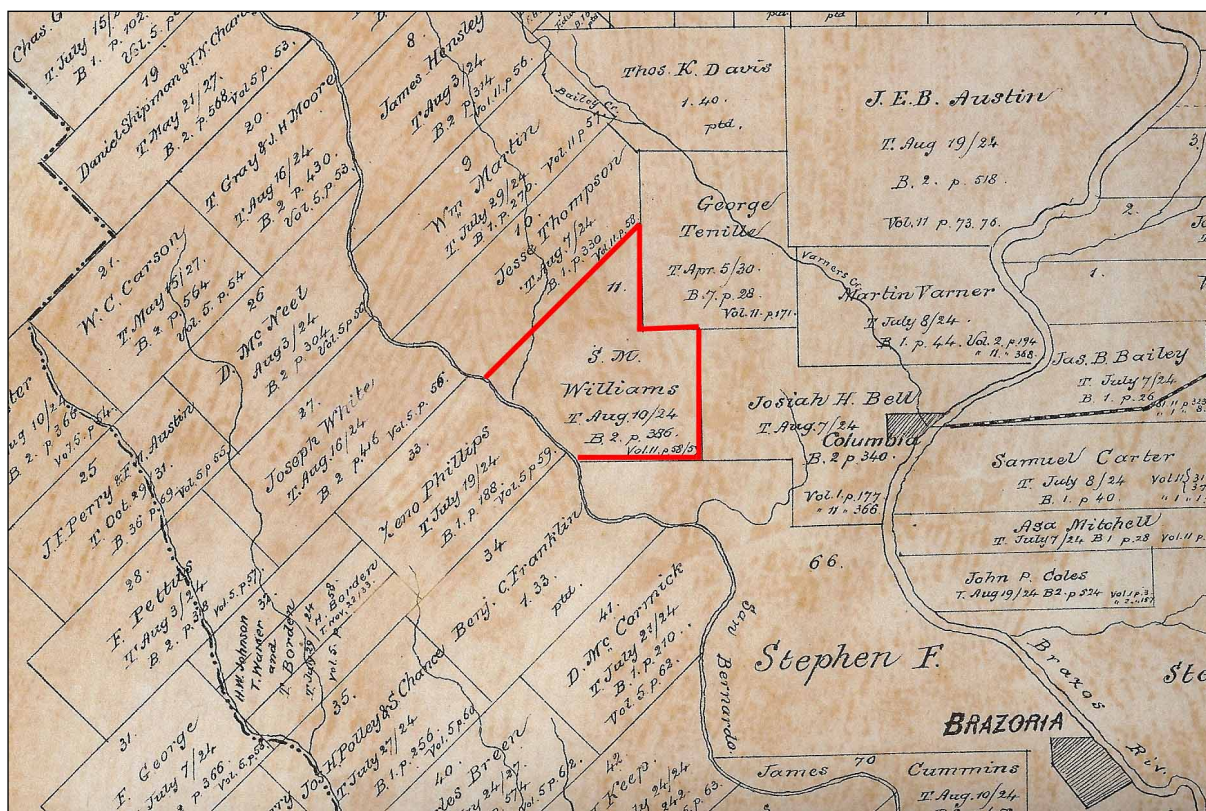


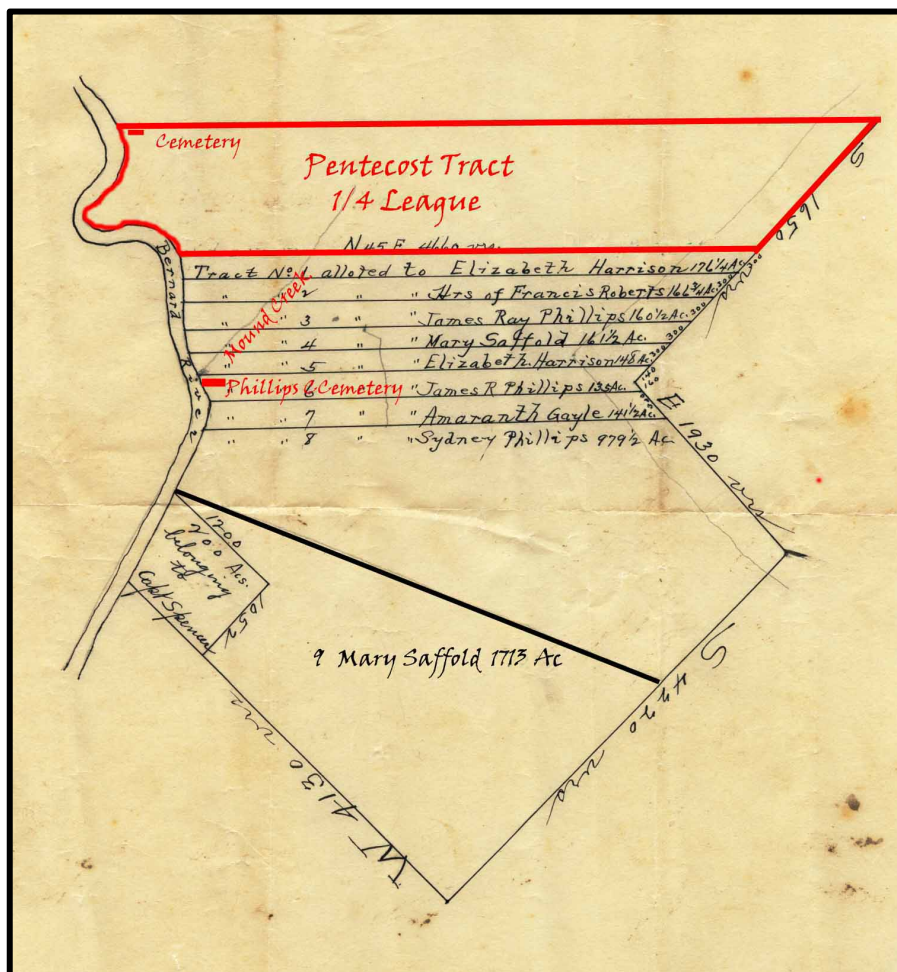
George S. Pentecost-Joab H. Banton-Robert G. Salmon Plantation
Brazosport Archaeological Society



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 Joab H. Banton bought part of the property in 1849. Joab H. and Lucy G. Banton sold out their interest in the plantation to Robert G. Salmon but continued to live on the property which was developed into a modest sugar plantation, producing sugar through the middle 1850's. Robert G. Salmon sold the plantation in 1854 to Mordacai Abrams of New Orleans to reduce his debt. John A. Quitman, former governor of Mississippi, acquired the property the next year. Both of these owners probably never set foot upon the plantation. William H. Masterson bought the property at a sheriff's auction for only \$40 in 1882.

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)



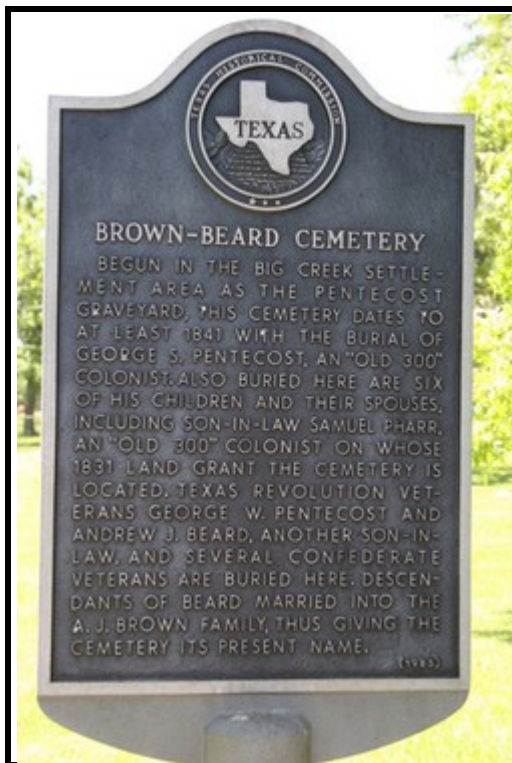
Samuel May Williams League Zeno Phillips Heirs Partition 1851 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum
1988.070c.0166

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.

¹ Spanish Translation : 23/24

² ST: 305/07

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.



Fort Bend County

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.

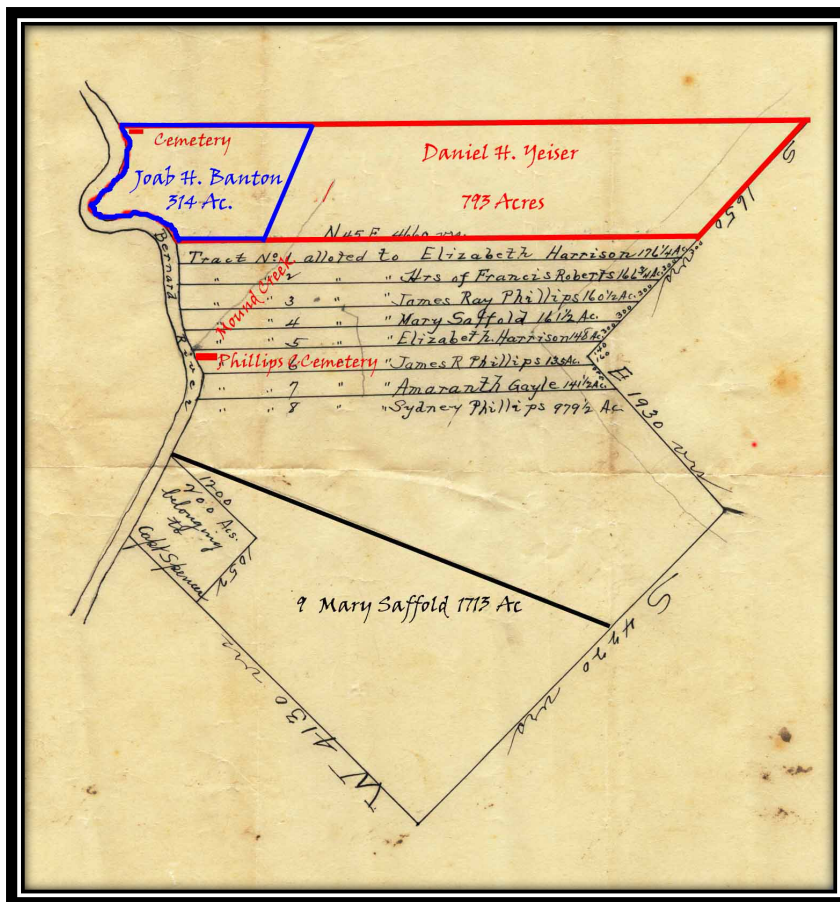
Robert J. Townes, a lawyer living in Brazoria, bought the quarter league at public auction in July 1840 for \$1500.⁵ Townes was often speculating on various properties and may have rented the land during his ownership. He sold off 314 acres out of his ¼ league which fronted on the San Bernard River to John W. Brooks, a local merchant in East Columbia, for \$2235 March 19, 1849.⁶ This would have included the improvements made by George S. Pentecost and his family graveyard.

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

⁶ BCDR: F 149



Samuel May Williams League Zeno Phillips Heirs Partition 1851 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum
1988.070c.0166

Joab H. Banton bought the plantation for \$3150 January 1850.⁷ Little information is available about Banton before his arrival in Brazoria County.⁸ Joab H. and his wife Lucy G. Banton were listed in the 1850 Census:

Joab H. Banton	59M	Farmer	North Carolina
Lucy G. Banton	48F		Virginia

According to the 1850 Agricultural Census Joab H. Banton had 160 acres under cultivation and 160 acres unimproved with \$4300 worth of farm equipment on the property. This machinery would have included a horse powered sugar mill. Banton owned 3 horses, 11 mules, 20 milch cows, 16 work oxen, 35 head of cattle, and 80 hogs. The plantation produced 2000 bushels of corn, 110 of Irish potatoes, 100 of sweet potatoes, 31 hogsheads of sugar, and 800 gallons of molasses during 1849. There were five slaves on the property in the census records but

⁷ BCDR: E 133/35

⁸ Joab H. Banton listed in the 1840 Census in Hinds, Mississippi. May not be the same family. Sometimes listed as Major Joab H. Banton.

18 were recorded in the tax records for 1850. Banton may have rented the property from John W. Brooks before he purchased it in 1850.

Shortly after purchasing the property Joab H. and Lucy G. Banton realized that at their age they did not want to continue planting. The burden of their mortgages also was weighing upon them. Banton owed Doswell Hill & Co. of New Orleans \$2500, William B. P. Gaines \$2000, J. W. Brooks \$1100, Underwood & Copes \$700, and Robert G. Salmon \$2577.45.

July 1850, they sold the plantation and 18 slaves to Robert G. Salmon with the understanding that Salmon would pay off all the mortgages against the plantation within two years (See Appendix B). Salmon for his part would “present the said Banton and wife during their joint live, and the survivor during his or her life to reside upon said plantation and to have the exclusive and undisturbed possession of suitable and comfortable dwelling and other houses, garden, & c. and a sufficient number of said negro slaves such as they or the survivor may select to attend and wait on them and the exclusive use of at least two horses such as they may select, that he will furnish them with all necessary supplies and clothing and support them and the survivor in the manner they have been accustomed to live. That he will treat them kindly and affectionately and that he will pay them during their joint lives and the survivor during his or her life the sum of five hundred dollars annually, and that he will not sell or dispose of any of said property or the increase of the slaves during the life time of the said Joab H. Banton or Lucy G. Banton...”⁹ Born in New York state Robert G. Salmon would have been ~29 years old at this time and it is unclear if he was related to the Banton’s.

In order to consolidate all his debts, January 1853, Robert G. Salmon obtained a mortgage from Nash, Barstow & Co. of Brazoria¹⁰ for a total of \$8257.70.¹¹ The production from the plantation was not, however, keeping up with Robert G. Salmon’s debt load. Salmon bought the 23 acre tract just below the plantation from Elizabeth Harrison in 1853 adding a little more to his debt. He had been living on this tract before his purchase.¹² By November 1853 he added a second mortgage of \$1950.76 with Nash, Barstow & Co. He put the plantation lands and slaves up as security for his note along with all the farming utensils, all the corn, fodder, hay & millet growing, 75 head of cattle and milch cows, 18 head of work oxen, 11 mules, 6 horses, and 60 hogs.¹³

According to records compiled by P. A. Champomier of Louisiana the plantation produced sugar during the following years using horse power:

1852	12 hogsheads of sugar
1853	20
1854	27 ¹⁴

⁹ BCDR: E 503/06

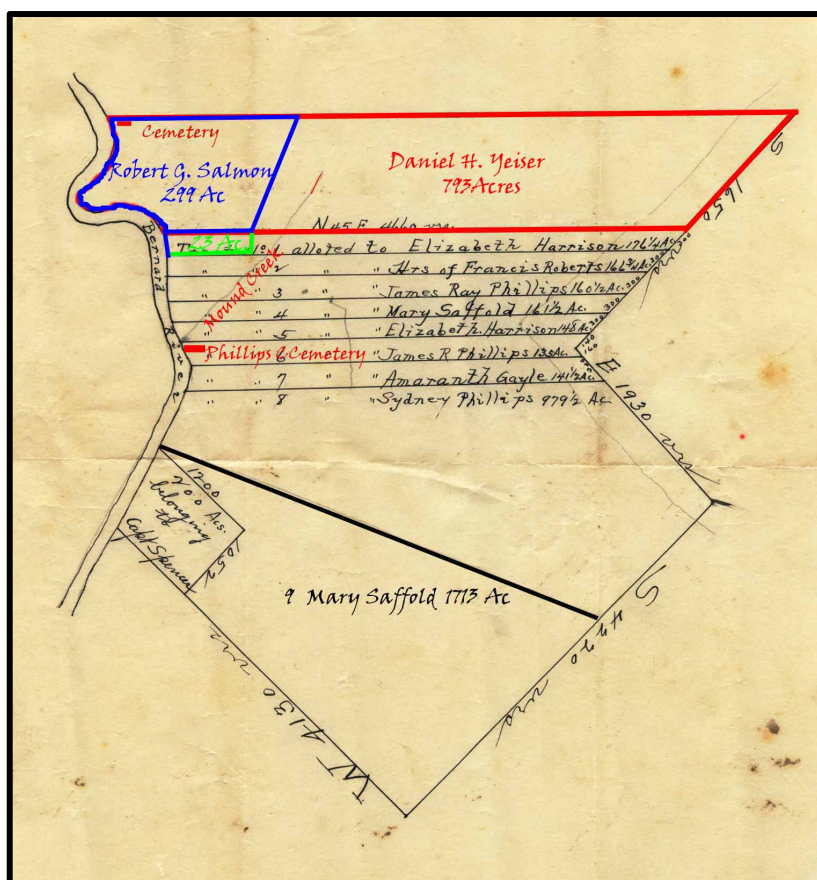
¹⁰ Nash Barstow & Co. was made up of E. D. Nash, E. T. Barstow, M. B. Browning, George Williams, and John Adriance.

¹¹ BCDR: F 436/39

¹² BCDR: F 575/78 & G 138/39

¹³ BCDR: F 617/19

¹⁴ 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



Samuel May Williams League Zeno Phillips Heirs Partition 1851 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum
1988.070c.0166

The loan owed to Doswell, Hill & Co. of New Orleans was due. Robert G. Salmon, Joab and Lucy Banton obtained a new mortgage from Nash, Barstow & Co. Their liens against their land were released so that the land could be sold to pay off some of their debt. The lien would be henceforth secured by their slaves and other property.¹⁵ Robert G. Salmon then negotiated a sale with Mordacai Abrams of New Orleans for \$5668.76 which included both tracts of the plantation lands, December 27, 1854.¹⁶ The next year Abrams sold the plantation to John A. Quitman of Natchez, Mississippi.¹⁷ John A. Quitman died at his home, Monmouth, in Natchez, Mississippi July 7, 1858. The lands would remain in his estate for many years.

It was not long after the sale of the land that a suit was brought to recover the funds owed to Nash, Barstow & Co. Before the time settlement was reached February 27, 1857, Joab H. Banton passed away December 1856. Nash, Barstow & Co. received ownership of 18 slaves. It

¹⁵ BCDR: G 151/52

¹⁶ BCDR: G 152/54

¹⁷ BCDR: N 570/72 John A. Quitman had been a former governor of Mississippi and rose to the rank of Major General during the Mexican War 1846-1848. He had originally raised a small number of troops and traveled to Texas in 1836 but arrived at San Jacinto two days after the battle.

was noted that this group of slaves had actually been leased out to S. L. S. Ballowe for the last year and were not on the plantation.¹⁸ Three of the slaves, Margaret 27 and her two children, Ephraim 3, and Ann 10, were deeded back to Lucy G. Banton.¹⁹ Robert G. Salmon would marry Kate Seymour December 14, 1858. By 1860 their family was living in Brazoria. It is unclear as to what became of Lucy G. Banton. She is not listed as being in the county by 1860.

After John A. Quitman became owner it is unknown if the plantation was under cultivation or who might have rented the land. Harris Masterson bought the property at a sheriff's auction for only \$40 in 1882.²⁰ Roughly by 1900 Robert and Molly Donley became owners of the lower ½ of the original plantation and their heirs have owned most of the property since that time.²¹

The property has not been surveyed archeologically. There should be the very early homestead of the Pentecost family as well as their cemetery on the property. There should be a sugar house near the San Bernard River also. During the 1850's the Banton's moved to a home on the 23 acres tract.

¹⁸ BCDR: H 75/77

¹⁹ BCDR: H 77/79

²⁰ BCDR: U 271/72

²¹ BCDR: 62 204/06 & 62 293/95

Appendix A
Deed Record George S. Pentecost Joab Banton Robert G. Salmon 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	145	March	19	1849	314	\$2245 Tract along the San Bernard
John W. Brooks	Joab H. Banton	Deed	E	133/34	Jan	4	1849	314	\$3150 Tract along the San Bernard included graveyard
Joab H. Banton	John W. Brooks	Mortgage	E	125/27	Jan	4	1849	314	Land as security
Joab H. Lucy G. Banton	Robert G. Salmon	Deed	E	503/06	July	15	1850	299	R. G. Salmon was to pay off all debts against the plantation & allow Banton's to live on plantation
Robert G. Salmon	Nash Barstow & Co.	Mortgage	F	436/39	Jan	18	1853	299	\$8257.70 in notes Land & slaves as security
Elizabeth Harrison Alabama	Robert G. Salmon	Deed	F	575/76	June	7	1853	23	\$231 Land on which Robert G. Salmon was living
Robert G. Salmon	Elizabeth Harrison Alabama	Mortgage	G	138/39	June	7	1853	23	
Robert G. Salmon	Nash Barstow & Co.	Mortgage	F	617/19	Nov	24	1853	299 23	Additional \$1950.76 note
Nash Barstow & Co.	Robert G. Salmon	Release	G	151/52	Dec	26	1854	299 23	Release lien against land only
Robert G. Salmon	Mordacai Abrams Louisiana	Deed	G	152/54	Dec	27	1854	299 23	\$5668.76 Banton's were living on 23 acre tract
M. Abrams	John A. Quitman Natchez, Miss	Deed	N	570/72	March	22	1855	299 23	\$5000
Robert G. Salmon Lucy G. Banton	Nash, Barstow & Co.	Agreement	H	75/77	Feb	25	1857		18 slaves to Barstow & Co. to settle debt-suit
Nash Barstow & Co.	Lucy G. Banton	Quick Claim	H	77/79	Feb	25	1857		Margaret 27 Ephraim 3 Ann 10/12 Back to Lucy G. Banton
Sheriff Auction	Harris Masterson	Deed	U	271/72	June	6	1882	299 23	\$40
R. M. Chamberlin	Harris Masterson John Estes	Deed	W	207/09	March	24	1884	299 21	H. Masterson top ½ John Estes btm 1/2
George W. & Ida Phillips	Robert Donley	Deed	62	293/95	Jan	18	1901	299 21	½ of ½ lower half
Mrs. Sallie J. Karstendick	Robert Donley	Deed	62	204/06	Jan	22	1903	299 21	½ of ½ lower half

Appendix B
Slaves Originally Separate Property of Lucy G. Banton

July 15, 1850	January 18, 1853	February 25, 1857
Ben 55	Ben 57	Ben 60
Rachael 50	Rachel 52	Rachel 55-wife
James 16	Jim 18	Jim 23
George 40	George 42	George 47
Silvia 52	Silvia 54	Silvey 60-wife
Thornton 27	Thornton 29	Thornton 33
Jesse 25	Jesse 27	Jesse 28
Angelina 18	Angelina 20	Angelina 25 Magnolia 9 Lucy 6 Hastens 2-boy Infant 5 wks-girl
Eliza 12	Liza 14	Eliza 20
Washington 9	Wash 11	Washington 16
Tamar 40	Tamar 42-woman	
Margaret 20	Margaret 22	
Richard 18	Richard 20	Richard 23
Araminta 10	Araminta 12	Araminta 16 Ralph Infant 3 mo.
Dallas 6	Dallas 8	Dallas 11
Magnolia 2	Magnolia 4	
Jack 2		
John-Infant		
	Milly 2	Milly 5
	Lucy 2	
	Sarah-Infant	
18 slaves ²²	19 slaves ²³	19 slaves ²⁴

²² BCDR: E 503/06

²³ BCDR: E 436/39

²⁴ BCDR: H 75/77 & H 77/79 Margaret aged 27 and her two children Ephraim aged 2 and Ann aged 10 months were returned to Lucy G. Banton, February 25, 1857.

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“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

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