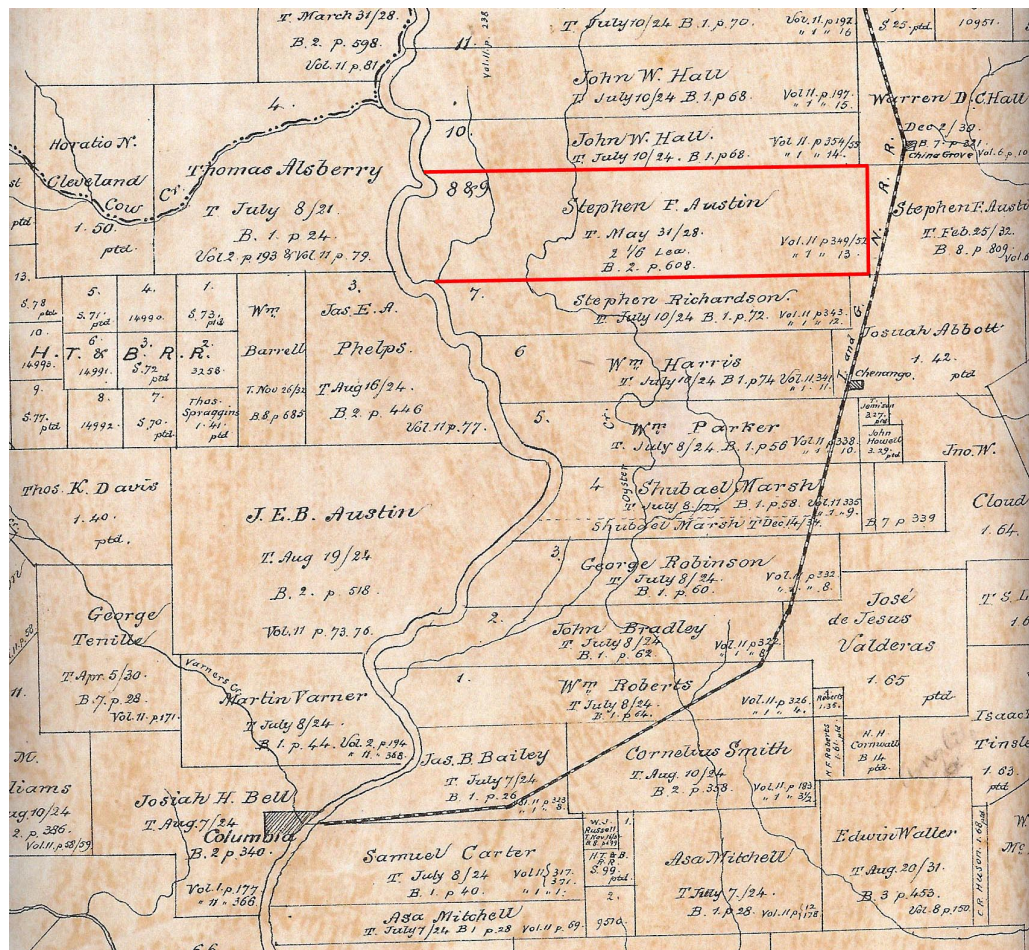


## Quarles Plantation Brazosport Archeological Society

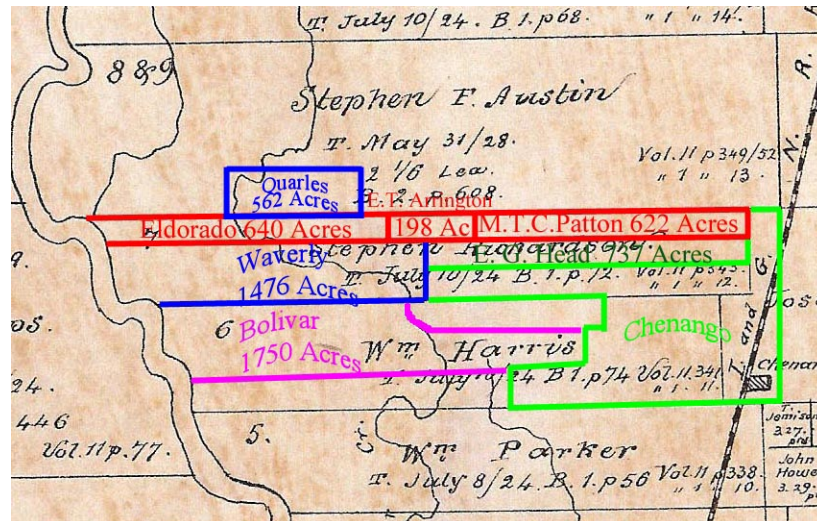
The Quarles Plantation was located above Columbia east of the Brazos River on both sides of Oyster Creek in the Stephen F. Austin 2 1/6 League. Located in the lower league (No. 8) it was originally purchased by William W. and Emaline M. Williams in June 1842 from Moses Austin Bryan. By 1850 William W. Williams had developed a small cotton plantation. David W. and his wife Emily A. Quarles arrived from Alabama that same year and in 1851 purchased the plantation from Williams. Within a year David W. Quarles would die leaving his widow Emily to raise their family and run the cotton plantation. Emily A. Quarles would maintain control of the plantation through the Civil War. After her death in 1867 Emily A. Quarles' heirs would continue to manage the plantation until the mid 1870's when the estate was broken up. By the mid 1880's A.C. Barnes had gained ownership of the Quarles Plantation and Eldorado Plantation just to the south in the Stephen Richardson League. After the turn of the century Bassett Blakely acquired both plantations for the Chenango Plantation Company. The Chenango Plantation Company sold the property along with several other tracts to the Texas Prison Commission February 1908 to establish the nucleus for the Ramsey Prison Farm which is in operation today.



Stephen F. Austin 2 1/6 Leagues, Map 1879 The General Land Office of the State of Texas

The heirs of Stephen F. Austin received ownership of the lower league in the Stephen F. Austin 2 1/6 League grant while the heirs of Joseph and Hawkins received title to the northern league. William Joel Bryan and Moses Austin Bryan received ownership from their mother Emily Perry, Stephen F. Austin's sister. William Joel sold his brother his interest August 1840 [BCDR: A 328/29].

Moses Austin Bryan sold 827 acres located in the lower half of the league on both sides of Oyster Creek to William and Emaline Williams in June 1842. In 1844 Williams sold 265 acres off the east end of their tract back to Moses Austin Bryan. The remaining 562 acres still located on both sides of Oyster Creek would be built into a small cotton plantation.



Tax records indicate 10-15 slaves on the property from 1842-1850. The 1850 Slave Census lists 20 slaves while the tax record only lists 11. The 1850 Census lists the William W. Williams family:

William W. Williams (Farmer)	39 Male	North Carolina
Emeline Williams	36 Female	Louisiana
Henry Williams	10 Male	Texas
Samuel D. Williams	8 Male	Texas
Pugh L. Williams	6 Male	Texas
Solomon Williams	3 Male	Texas
Ben Gass	1 Male	Texas

During the same year David W. and Emily A. Quarles recently arrived from Alabama lived adjacent to the Williams family:

David W. Quarles (Farmer)	29 Male	South Carolina
Emily A. Quarles	26 Female	Georgia
Samuel W. Quarles	7 Male	Alabama
David W. Quarles	5 Male	Alabama
Cornelia J. Quarles	3 Female	Alabama
Anna W. Quarles	1 Female	Alabama

In June 1851 David and Emily A. Quarles purchased the plantation from William and Emaline Williams for \$4000 cash and \$3000 in notes. According to the 1850 Slave Census David W. Quarles had 33 slaves listed whereas the 1851 Tax Record lists 20 slaves. Another daughter Josephine Wade Quarles was born into the family June 1851. In September 1851 David W. Quarles would die leaving Emily to raise their young children and run the cotton plantation. Josephine would also die young, August 1853 (See Appendix Quarles Cemetery).

Very few records exist for the plantation operation during the years leading up to the Civil War. Tax records list 15-18 slaves on the plantation for the 1852-1854. From 1855 until 1860 William B. Bohannon<sup>1</sup> was the legal agent for Emily Quarles. Bohannon listed 18-25 slaves, 10 head of horses, and 30-40 head of cattle on tax returns during the later 1850's

The family prospered on the modest cotton plantation prior to the Civil War. Five slave quarters and 22 slaves are listed in the 1860 Slave Census. The tax record for 1860 lists 28 slaves, 10 horses, and 40 head of cattle. The 1860 Census lists:

Emily Quarles	37 Female	Georgia
W. B. Bohannon	34 Male	Georgia
David W. Quarles	14 Male	Alabama
Amelia (Cornelia) Quarles	12 Female	Alabama
Anna Quarles	10 Female	Alabama
T. L. Cash (Overseer)	25 Male	Alabama
B. Bohannon	76 Male	Virginia

August 1866 David W. Quarles (Jr.) bought the John Adriance lot and warehouse in Columbia for \$6000. John Adriance also sold him ½ interest in the "Columbia ferry including all boats and other property to said ferry(\$1000)...Also all drays, wagons, teams and fixtures now used...in the business of draying (\$5000). The terms of this agreement indicate that during the years of the Civil War that the Quarles family had built up \$8000 in credit with John Adriance [BCDR: L 335/36]. Also during the war the plantation was doing well enough that Mrs. Emily A. Quarles bought an additional 250 acres out of the same league just northwest of her plantation for \$3000 from Moses Austin Bryan [BCDR O: 179/80]. The children's grandfather Samuel T. Quarles died during the Civil War but they were never successful in realizing anything from his considerable estate [Probate Case 773,774,775]

Mrs. Emily A. Quarles died in 1867. Her estate was administered initially by her son David and later by Edward Kennedy of Waverly Plantation just to the south:

850	Acres of land Brazoria County	\$5000.00
14	Mules uses on said place	700.00
150	Head of Stock cattle	450.00
75	Head of Stock hogs	75.00
2	Yoke work oxen 40\$ ea	80.00
2	Waggons (plantation)	100.00
1	Lot Farming implements	50.00
1	Carriage	250.00
1	Cotton Gin	60.00
1	Grist Mill	<u>25.00</u>
		\$6790.00 <sup>2</sup>

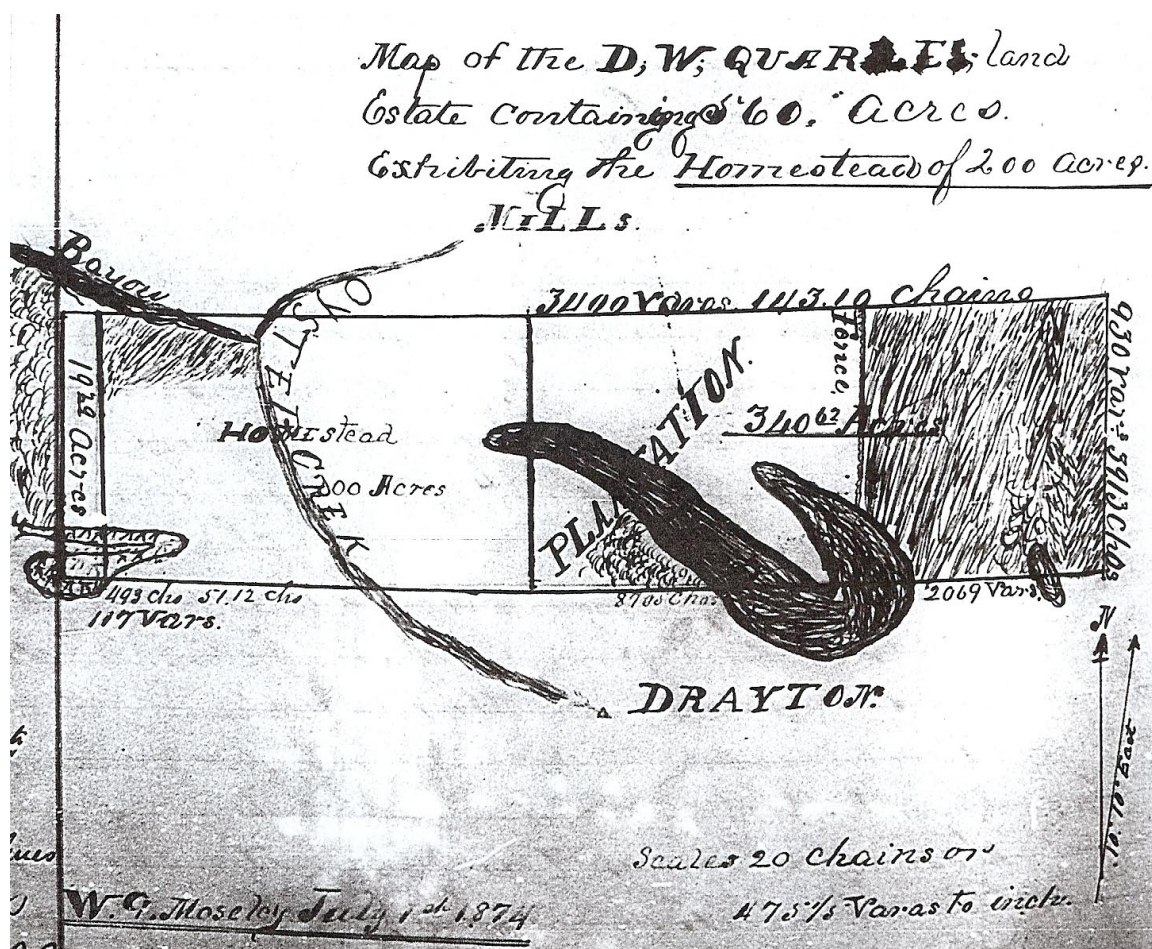
<sup>1</sup> W. B. Bohannon and B. Bohannon may possibly be Emily A. Quarles' brother and father??

<sup>2</sup> Record of Wills, Book D, p.303.



She also owned 1/5 interest in 1500 head of cattle on the Patton Plantation valued at \$1200 along with 1/2 interest in the ferry and the warehouse in Columbia.

David W. Quarles Jr. and his wife Isabella<sup>3</sup> made the Quarles Plantation their home. They would have three sons, Samuel P., David W., and Curtis B. For the years 1873 and 1874 David mortgaged his 1/3 interest in the plantation to John S. Speed and W. H. Young for cash advances and supplies to run the plantation [BCDR: O 149/51]. Speed and Young of Galveston ran a store<sup>4</sup> in Oyster Creek Station<sup>5</sup> which supplied many of the local population. Ball, Hutchings & Company of Galveston also held claims against the estate of Mrs. Emily A. Quarles and in May 1874 won a suit against the estate. All the property belonging to the estate was then sold October 1874 except for a two hundred acre homestead. A. C. Barnes bought 340 acres out of the plantation just east of the homestead. The property was surveyed in July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1874 by W. G. Moseley [Record of Wills E 615/20]:



Record of Wills Book E 620

<sup>3</sup> Father Peter Reynaud age 66 and Gertrude Reynaud born England age 41 in 1870 Census.

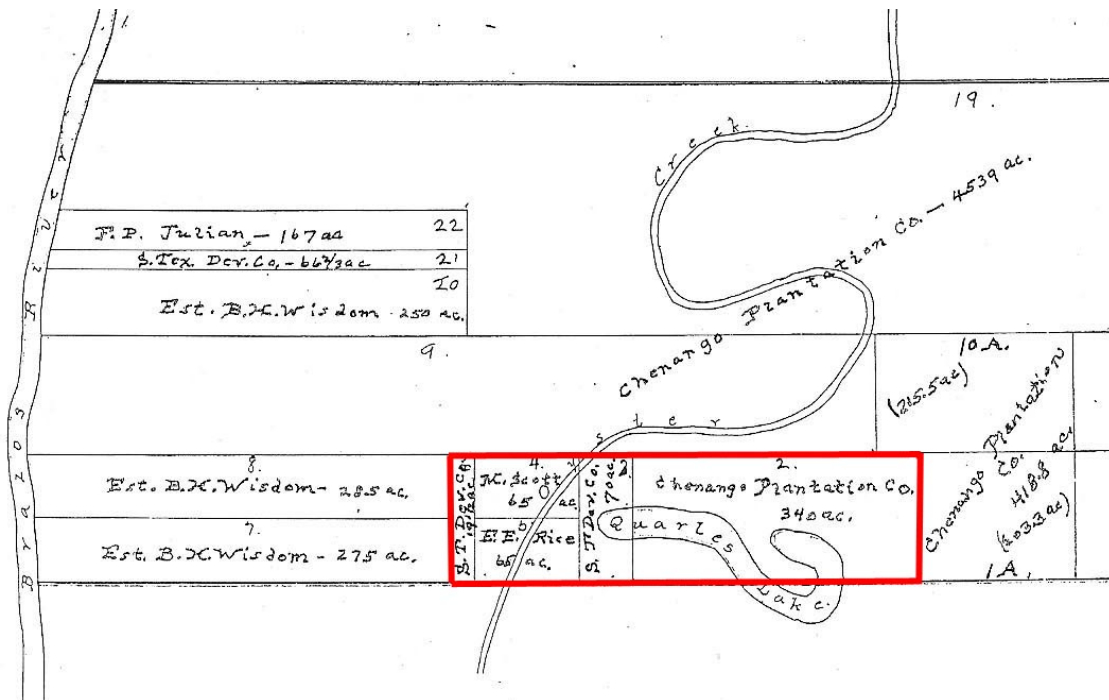
<sup>4</sup> Store was sold by Speed and Young to A. C. Barnes in December 1876 [BCDR: P 687/88].

<sup>5</sup> This station on the old Columbia Tap Railroad was about a mile and three-quarters below Anchor which was at the junction of the I. & G. N. and Velasco Terminal Railroads.



Anna Quarles had married Edward Kennedy whose father owned Waverly Plantation and Cornelia J. Quarles had married Edwin E. Rice of Galveston. A. C. Barnes started to acquire the homestead from the heirs with David W. and Isabella selling their 65 acres in January 1875<sup>6</sup> Anna and Edward selling their 70 acres in February 1875 [BCDR: P 245 & O 519]. In 1884 Edwin and Cornelia sold their 65 acres to A. C. Barnes [BCDR: W 633/34].

By 1886 A. C. Barnes was not able to keep up his notes on the property and had to deed the southern 65 acres back to Cornelia and Edwin Rice [BCDR: Y 599/601]. The joint owners of A. C. Barnes and Cornelia Rice sold the northern 65 acres to Milburn Scott, a freedman [BCDR: Y 601/03]. Hiram Scott and Calvin Taylor, also freedmen, bought the southern 65 acres in December 1887 [BCDR: 3 97].



Map 94.05.34 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum Circa 1905

While A. C. Barnes was not able to hold on to the homestead area he did sell the acreage he held in both the Drayton Plantation to the south and the Quarles Plantation to John Walker and Walter Kennedy of Waverly Plantation in 1889 [BCDR 8 19/23]. Benjamin Graham of New York State bought the plantations and other tracts amounting to 5557 acres at a foreclosure sale in October 1892 for \$25000 [BCDR 18 301/04]. H. P. Drought of San Antonio and Francis Smith of Marion County Indiana may have leased the property until December 1897 when they purchased 3850 acres including the two plantations [BCDR: 43 521/23]. Bassett Blakely, the President of the Chenango Plantation Company, purchased the property in December 1905 who transferred it over to the company [BCDR 68 391/95 & 69 191]. The Texas Prison Commission purchased 7772 acres for \$107,005.25 from the Chenango Plantation Company February 1908 starting the Ramsey Prison Farm [BCDR: 85 501/05].

<sup>6</sup> By the \$1240 price this is the location of the home and possible improvements.

The 200 acre homestead was not among the initial purchases by the prison commission in 1908. Milburn Scott who owned the northern 65 acres died in 1893 leaving it to his widow Henrietta Scott. This is the acreage that may contain the family home and does contain the family cemetery. Located on a high point of land on the east bank of Oyster Creek across from a bayou that enters Oyster Creek at the same point this graveyard contains the resting place for Quarles family members before the Civil War and possibly freedmen from near the turn of the century (See APPENDIX). It is also down stream of the Ramsey Prison Cemetery for inmates from 1913-1918?. The prison unit has acquired many more thousands of acres and is still in operation today.





Appendix A  
Quarles Family Cemetery on Ramsey Prison Farm

In Memory of  
DAVID WILLIAM  
QUARLES  
Who Died  
September 1, 1851  
Aged  
31 Years 3 Months  
And 2 Days  
He has gone, it is enough \_ \_  
Mine eye no more of joy or splendor \_  
I go since earth its flower hath gone to  
Join the bright & fair & call to \_  
A lovely place since my husband  
Thou art there.



In Memory of  
JOSEPHINE WADE  
QUARLES  
Who Died  
August 21, 1853  
Aged  
2 Years 2 Months  
And 1 Days.  
For Jesus said suffer little  
Children to come unto me,  
And forbid them not; for of such  
Is the kingdom of heaven.





In Memory of  
SAMUEL WILLIAM  
QUARLES  
Who Died  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1855  
Aged  
11 Years 8 mon's & 23d  
Tis heaven that whispers, dry your tears  
The pure in heart shall meet again.



Sarah J. Barns  
Born  
Sept. 1844  
Died  
June 26, 1890  
Thou are gone but not  
Forgotten.



It is probable that Emily A. Quarles (d. 1867) is buried next to her husband. Also B. Bohannon who may have been Emily's father who was 76 years old in 1860 probably died in the 1860's. David W. Quarles Jr. died 1875-1880. Freedman Wilburn Scott who later bought the property died in 1893. Was Sarah J. Barns kin to him? There is a high probability of many more unmarked graves in the Quarles Cemetery.



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Emily A. Quarles	Case No.	880

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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

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

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1870

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