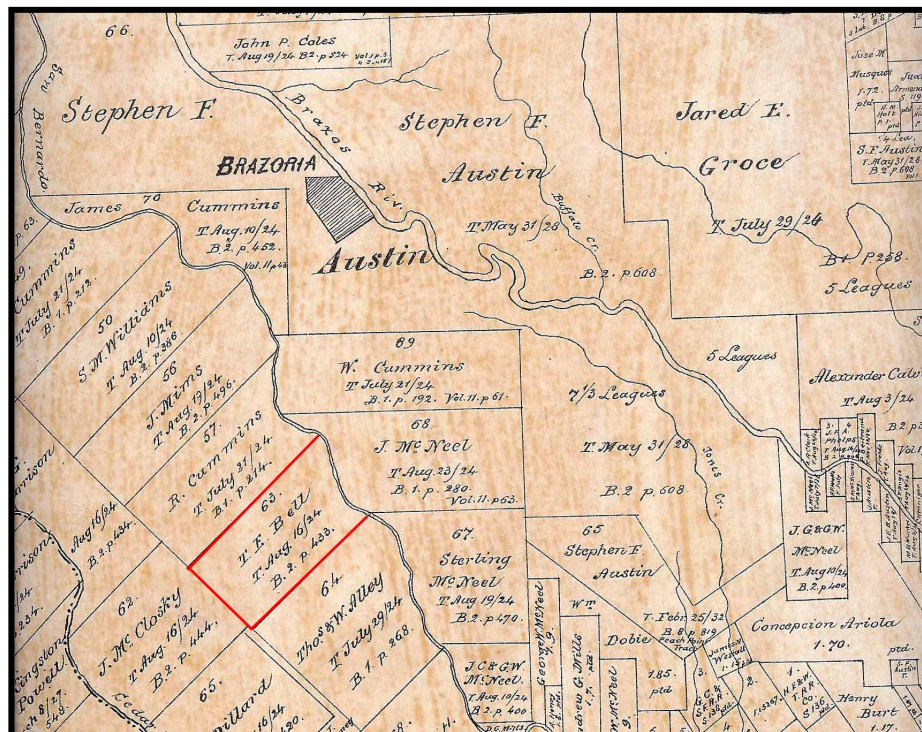


Shadrack Rowe Plantation
Brazosport Archaeological Society

Shadrack Rowe and his wife Sarah F. Trippe Rowe brought a large family from Mississippi to settle in Texas in ~1848-1849. Shadrack contracted to buy 715 acres out the west end of the Thomas B. Bell League from Willis C. Bell in the spring of 1849. During the next decade Shadrack Rowe doubled his land purchases from the Bell family and built a cotton and sugar plantation. Using slave labor during the mid to late 1850's Rowe was a consistent producer of sugar using horse power and by 1859 Rowe converted his sugar mill to steam power. After the Civil War the plantation was sold to two brothers, James C. and Charles P. McNeill and the Rowe family moved to the Brenham area in Washington County, Texas. James Calvin and Charles Philip McNeill were part of the Levi Jordan-James C. McNeill family that had moved to Brazoria County about the same time as the Rowe family. James C. McNeill and his wife Sarah Emma Reese McNeill lived on the plantation after their marriage in 1875 while Charles P. McNeill and his wife Ella Hinkle McNeill settled at Hinkle's Ferry on the San Bernard River. James C. McNeill turned his half ownership over to his wife in 1881. At the end of the same year the two brothers decided to partition the property they held together. As part of this partition the McNeill Plantation became the property of Charles P. McNeill. The McNeill family held ownership of the plantation for all of the 1900's. The Trust for Public Land was given the greater part of the acreage in 2000 by the Minnie Reese McNeill Estate. Robert Andrew McNeill and his wife now own a tract of land south of FM 2611 on which the ruins of the sugar mill are located. It is presumed that the greater part of the old plantation improvements would also be located near by although the exact locations are not known at this time.



Thomas B. Bell League Map 1879 The General Land Office of the State of Texas

Shadrack Manly Rowe and Sarah F. Trippe Rowe were married in Alabama in 1824 and their first three children were born there (See Appendix A). According to the birth places of their children by 1835 they had moved to Mississippi. 1848-1849 Shadrack Rowe brought his large family from Mississippi to Texas and settled in the western part of the Thomas B. Bell League west of the San Bernard River in Brazoria County. Shadrack Rowe entered a contract with Willis C. Bell to purchase 715 acres in the northwest corner of the Bell League in February 1849.¹ Willis C. Bell had just recently received the tract of land from his father's estate.²

The 1850 Federal Census lists the Shadrack Rowe family:

Shadrack Rowe(Farmer)	48M	Georgia
Sarah F. Rowe	42 F	Georgia
Sarah Grip [Trippe]	69 F	North Carolina (Mother-in-Law)
John T. Rowe	22M	Alabama
Viginia Rowe	16 F	Alabama
William H. Rowe	17M	Alabama
Mary E. Rowe	15 F	Mississippi
Louisa A. Rowe	14 F	Mississippi
Benjamin F. Rowe	12M	Mississippi
Napolion Rowe	10M	Mississippi
Shadrack M., Jr. Rowe	8M	Mississippi
Rozela A. Rowe	6 F	Mississippi
Fanny A. Rowe	4 F	Mississippi

Shadrack Rowe had 30 slaves on his plantation and had evidently begun to work the property as a cotton plantation as by the 1850 Agricultural Census he had 170 acres improved and his plantation valued at \$5000 with \$1100 worth of farm machinery. The livestock on the property consisted of 4 horses, 4 mules, 30 milch cows, 4 working oxen, 170 head of cattle, and 150 swine. In 1849 he had produced 1000 bushels of Indian corn, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, 600 bushels of sweet potatoes, 300 pounds of butter, 6 tons of hay, and 24 bales of cotton.

During the 1850's several of the Rowe children were married. Three of the sons, Benjamin (Frank), Napoleon (Pobe), and Shadrack (Manly), and one daughter Rozella (Emma), attended Baylor at Independence.³

Shadrack Rowe started to cultivate sugar cane in the middle 1850's using horse power in his sugar mill:

1854	100 Hogsheads
1855	95 Hghds
1858	105 Hghds ⁴

¹ Brazoria County Deed Records: H 402/03

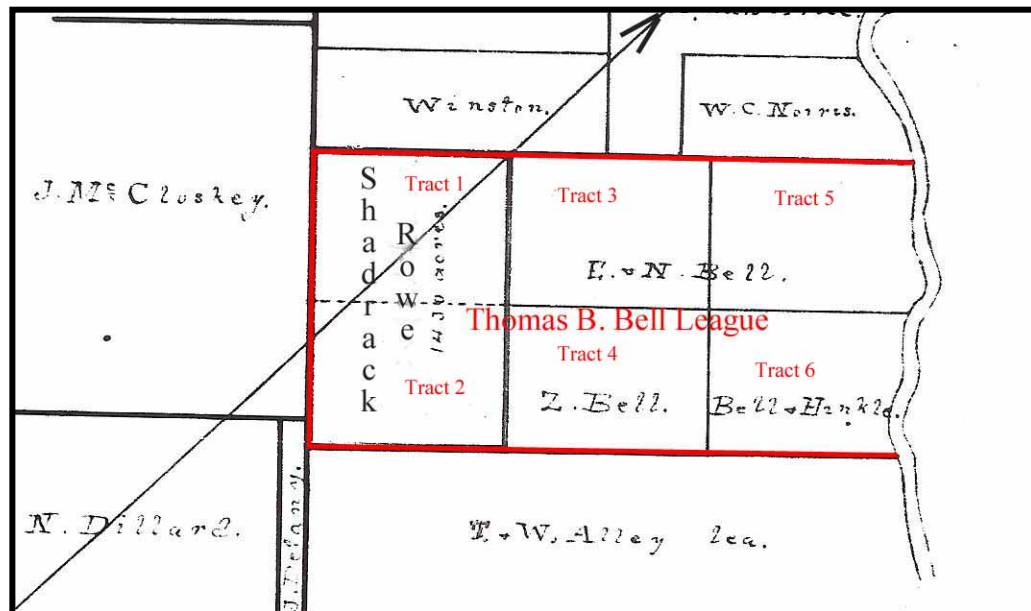
² BCDR: H 414/18

³ Raska, Ginny McNeill and Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, The Uncompromising Diary of Sallie McNeill 1858-1867, Texas A & M University Press, College Station , Texas, 2009. pp. 12 & 20.

⁴ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1854-55, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1855 & Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1855-56, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1856, Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1858-59, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1859.

In 1859 P. A. Champomier lists Shadrack Rowe as having converted to steam power but does not list his production for that year.⁵ In the 1860 Agricultural Census which would have been the production for 1859 Rowe listed 74 hogsheads and 8000 gallons of molasses.

In March 1858 Shadrack Rowe received clear title to the 715 acres he had originally purchased from Willis C. Bell and in September 1858 Shadrack Rowe bought Tract 2 of the Thomas B. Bell League from Christopher C. Bell which made him the owner of ~1430 acres on the west end of the league.⁶ He borrowed an additional \$10,800 from Levi Jordan, a local planter who lived just north of him that same year.⁷ These could have been the funds necessary to convert his sugar mill to steam power. By November 1860 he was able to pay his debt to Christopher C. Bell for the additional 715 acres by borrowing more money from Levi Jordan.⁸ Levi Jordan held the mortgages on all of Rowe's land and the majority of his slaves. The Jordan-McNeill and Rowe families were not only bound by a business relationship but the two families were often together in a social atmosphere with members from both families often visiting each other.



Thomas B. Bell League

Shadrack Rowe had built his plantation along a slough that fed into what is now called Cocklebur Slough very near the southern boarder of Tract 1. The road from Hinkle's Ferry to Cedar Lake ran along the ridge of the old slough and lay just south of his improvements. By 1860 he had 300 improved acres owned another 1115 acres and valued his plantation at \$25000 with \$8000 worth of farm equipment (Sugar Mill, Cotton Gin, Cotton Compress, and Saw Mill) on the property. Livestock on the plantation consisted of 10 horses, 12 mules, 25 milch cows, 16 working oxen, 600 head of cattle, and 100 swine. In addition to the 74 hgshds sugar and 8000

⁵ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1860-61, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1861.

⁶ BCDR: H 587/88

⁷ BCDR: H 526/28

⁸ BCDR: J 609 & K 61/64

gallons of molasses, Rowe produced 3000 bushels Indian corn, 30 bushels Irish potatoes, 600 bushels sweet potatoes, 400 pounds of butter, 10 tons of hay, and 62 bales of cotton in 1859. The 1860 Slave Census lists 39 slaves with 7 slave dwellings. The 1860 Federal Census lists the Rowe family:

Shadrack Rowe (Planter)	59M	Georgia
Sarah F. Rowe	53 F	Georgia
Wm. Rowe	27M	Alabama
B. F. Rowe	22M	Mississippi
N. B. Rowe	20M	Mississippi
Shad. M. Rowe	18M	Mississippi
Rosella E. Rowe	16 F	Mississippi
Fanny A. Rowe	14 F	Mississippi



Presumed to be Shadrack M. and Sarah F. Trippe Rowe Courtesy of Rowe Family Descendants

By 1860 Shadrack Rowe's older brother William Rowe⁹ who had moved to Texas was living in close proximity of Shadrack:

William Rowe	75M (Planter)	North Carolina
Mary Rowe	23 F	Alabama
Mollie Rowe	5 F	Alabama
Oliver Rowe	4M	Texas

There is very little record of the Rowe family during the Civil War. Pobe (Napolean B.) and Frank (Benjamin F.) Rowe joined the Confederate companies guarding the local gulf coast

⁹ William Rowe died September 12, 1863.

and managed to obtain leave at opportune times to be married in 1862.¹⁰ Manly (Shadrack M.) Rowe was also stationed locally.¹¹

After the Civil War Shadrack Rowe's debts to Levi Jordan remained but being unable to secure a stable labor force for the plantation he and his wife sold out their interests to James C. and Charles P. McNeill in April 1866. For \$17,000 Rowe deeded over ~1430 acres less 2 acres in the northwest corner of his tract which "embrace the church & graveyard known as Cedar Lake Church¹²". They also conveyed all the improvements on the plantation including "Sugar House, Gin House, Cotton Press, Residence, & all out Houses, Saw Mill & c. & c."¹³ All the livestock on the plantation, amounting to 800 head of cattle, was sold to Levi Jordan for \$3000.¹⁴ At the end of 1866 the Rowe family moved to the Brenham area in Washington County, Texas.¹⁵ Frank Rowe and his wife Sarah Mims Rowe remained in Brazoria County and bought property north of the old plantation in the Mims League while many of the other married children left the county and scattered through Texas.

Calvin (James C.) McNeill went to the Wharton area to secure freedmen to perform the labor on the old Rowe Plantation for 1867. According to Calvin's sister Sallie McNeill "nearly every building on the place will have to be rebuilt. I wish the Rowe's could have kept their own place."¹⁶ Calvin moved to the new McNeill Plantation as his brother Charles went to school in North Carolina.¹⁷

Charles P. McNeill married Ella Byrne Hinkle (daughter of William B. Hinkle) in October 1874 and James C. McNeill married Sarah Emma Reese in January 1875. Calvin and Sarah McNeill resided at the old Rowe Plantation then known as the McNeill Plantation. Charles and Ella McNeill made the old Hinkle home on the San Bernard River their home and according to family recollection built a new two story wood frame house on the location ~1877.

¹⁰ Raska, Ginny McNeill and Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, The Uncompromising Diary of Sallie McNeill 1858-1867, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 2009. pp. 117 & 120.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 121.

¹² This graveyard contains 25 headstones documenting graves from the 1840's-1880's including Levi Jordan and James Calvin McNeill Sr.

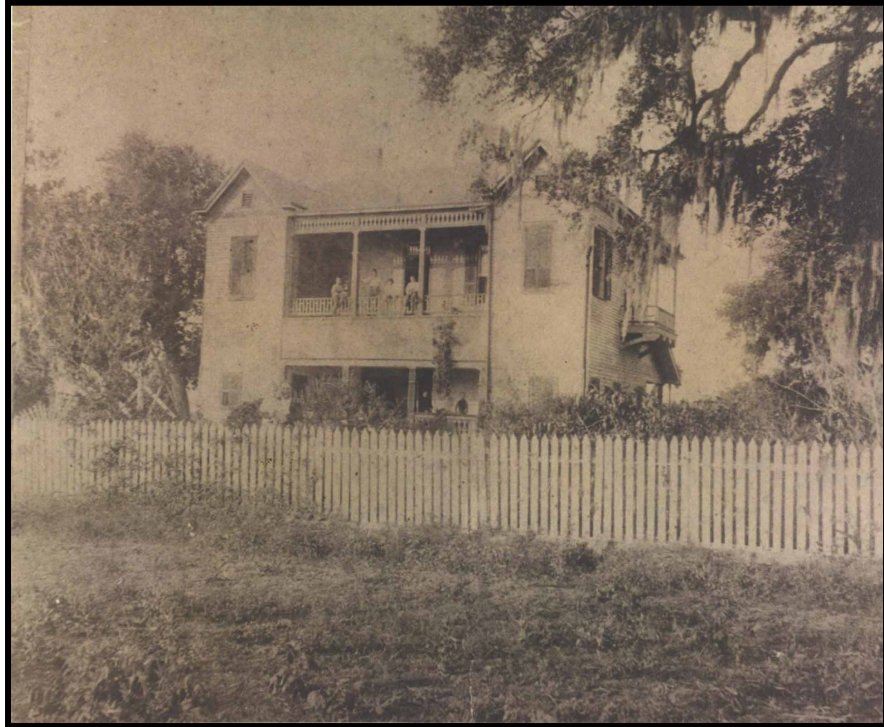
¹³ BCDR: K 267/69

¹⁴ BCDR: K 630/31

¹⁵ Raska, Ginny McNeill and Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, The Uncompromising Diary of Sallie McNeill 1858-1867, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 2009. pp. 135-136.

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 136.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 126.



The Charles P. McNeill Home Facing the Prairie Courtesy of the Brazoria Historical Museum

Early in 1880 the plantation home of Calvin McNeill burned down. At this time a large part of the McNeill family had been living with him after they had lost possession of the Levi Jordan Plantation. The whole family then moved to stay at the home of Charles P. McNeill.¹⁸



Calvin and Charles McNeill Playing Chess Courtesy Brazoria Historical Museum

Calvin McNeill transferred ownership of his half interest in the McNeill Plantation to his wife Sarah in September 1881.¹⁹ By the end of the year Calvin and Sarah McNeill had bought the Mims Plantation north of Hinkle's Ferry on the San Bernard River. Calvin and Charles

¹⁸ Raska, Ginny McNeill and Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, The Uncompromising Diary of Sallie McNeill 1858-1867, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 2009. p. 156.

¹⁹ BCDR: T 419/23

death put the bulk of the old plantation lands in a trust for the public in 2000.²⁴ These tracts are now managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Department. Her grandson Robert Andrew McNeill and his wife now own the greater part of the old 230 acre tract south of FM 2611. Ruins of the sugar mill are located on this tract and it presumed that the greater part of the old plantation improvements would also be located near by although the exact locations are not known at this time. The lands managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Department contain old home sites of tenant farmers. The old Cedar Lake Cemetery is still designated as a cemetery in the northwest corner of the Thomas B. Bell League.

²⁴ BCDR: 2000041590

Appendix A Rowe Family Genealogy

Shadrack Manley Rowe b. 1801 Georgia (John Rowe II 1749-1827 & Chloe Speight 1763-1845)
d. 1882 Washington County, Texas

m. April 24, 1824 Clarke County, Alabama

Sarah F. Trippe b. 1804 Georgia

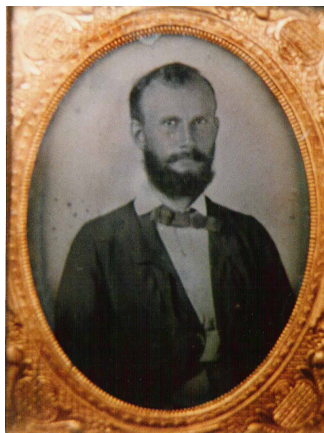
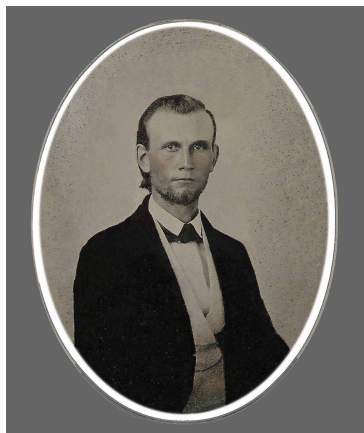
d. 1874 Washington County, Texas

1. John Thomas Jefferson Rowe b. 1828 Alabama d.
m. 1852

Josephine B. Hill

2. William Henry Rowe b. 1833 Clarke County, Alabama

d. May 11, 1883 Lawrence Chapel, Taylor, Texas

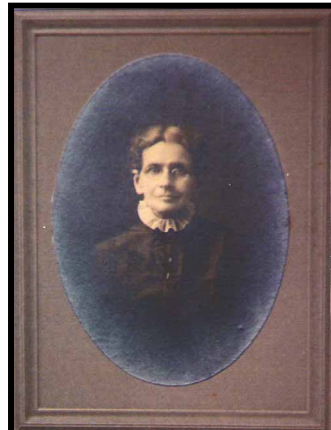


Circa 1858

William Henry Rowe courtesy of Rowe family descendants

m. 1862

Martha Ellen "Nell" Cooper b. January 15, 1842 Austin, Texas



Martha Ellen Cooper Rowe 2nd Photo ~1890 courtesy of Rowe family descendants

d. December 9, 1918 Williamson County, Texas

a. William Shadrack (Shady) Rowe b. 1863

- b. Stella Annette Rowe b. 1865
- c. Sarah Irene (Polly) Rowe b. 1868
- d. Manley Meggerson Rowe b. 1876
- e. Clyde E. Rowe b. 1880

3. Virginia Rowe b. 1834 Alabama d.
m. September 16, 1854
William B. Wilson b.
a. Jennie Wilson b. ~1859
b. Louisa Wilson b. ~1861
4. Mary Elizabeth (Mamie) Rowe b. 1835 Mississippi d.



Mary Elizabeth Rowe Jones Courtesy of Rowe family descendants

- m. May 22, 1856 Brazoria County, Texas
Henry B. Jones b.



Henry Bradley Jones Courtesy of Rowe family descendants

5. Louisa A. Rowe b. 1836 Mississippi d.

6 .Benjamin Franklin Rowe b. 1838 Mississippi d.
 m. November 25, 1862 Brazoria County, Texas
 Sarah Jose Mims b. ~1844 Texas
 a. Frank D. Rowe
 b. Pinkney Rowe
 c. Annette Rowe
 d. William Rowe

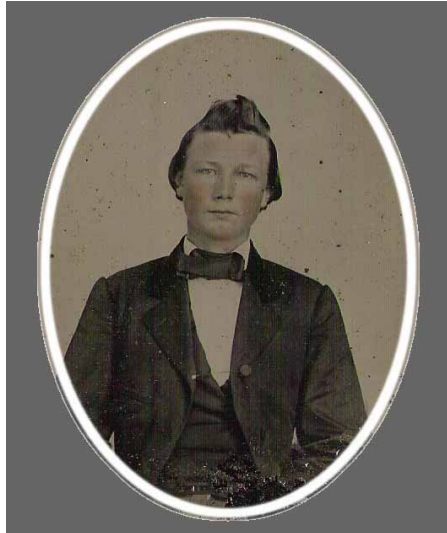
7. Napoleon B. Rowe b. 1840 Kemper County, Mississippi
 d. June 24, 1890 Waco, Texas
 m. June 29, 1862 Brazoria County, Texas
 Virginia (Ginnie) Anne Cleveland b. 1844
 d. 1916



Napolean B.(Pobe) and Virginia Cleveland Rowe courtesy of Rowe family descendants

- a. Carrie Inez Rowe
- b. Thomas Cleveland Rowe
- c. Robert Armstead Rowe
- d. Earnest Rowe
- e. Willis S. Rowe
- f. Benjamin Franklin Rowe
- g. Annie Lee Rowe
- h. Lula Pearl Rowe
- i. Mabel Clair Rowe
- j. Charles Ross Rowe

8. Shadrack Manly Rowe b. 1842 Mississippi
d. September 30, 1900 Georgetown, Texas



Shadrack Manly Rowe Courtesy of the Rowe family descendants

m.
Martha L. George

9. Rosella E. Rowe b. 1844 Kemper County, Mississippi d.

10. Fanny A. Rowe b. 1846 Kemper County, Mississippi d.
m.
John W. Goode

Appendix B
James Calvin McNeill Family

James C. McNeill b. April 21, 1809-d. 1854 (Archibald McNeill & Barbara Patterson)
m. January 31, 1838 Dallas County, Alabama

Emily Jordan b. May 24, 1819 Georgia- d. 1885 (Levi Jordan 1793-1873 & Sarah Stone 1793-1882)

A. Sarah S. McNeill b. 1840-d. 1867

B. Annie Royal McNeill b. 1842-d. 1877

m.

Robert Furniss Martin b. 1837-d. 1894

C. James Calvin McNeill b. November 4, 1844 –d. December 17, 1933

m. January 1, 1875

Sarah Emma Reese b. 1854- d. 1890

D. Charles Philip McNeill b. June 21, 1847-d. March 8, 1926

m. October 22, 1874

Ella Byrne Hinkle b. January 19, 1855-d. December 10, 1930

a. Charles Philip McNeill Jr. b. June 7, 1876-d. April 8, 1943

m. September 23, 1903

Mary Randolph Reese b. July 9, 1882-d. June 3, 1972

b. Archibald Bryan McNeill 1881-

c. Andrew Byrne McNeill b. December 17, 1883-d. 1943

m. June 12, 1912

Minnie Perry Reese b. 1885-d. 1977

ii. Andrew Byrne McNeill Jr. b. October 28, 1918-d. October 22, 1980

m. May 25, 1952

Evelyn Herman b. August 14, 1925-d.

1. Robert Andrew McNeill b. July 28, 1962

2. Nancy Lee McNeill b. October 31, 1965

d. Cornelia Hinkle McNeill 1886-1975

e. Samuel Varian McNeill 1892-

E. Emily J. McNeill b. 1848-d.1861

F. Mary Emily McNeill b. 1852-d. 1861

G. William Archibald McNeill b. 1855-d. 1879

Appendix C Deed Record

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	Thomas B. Bell	Deed			Aug	16	1824		1 League west side of San Bernard River
Andrew Churchill John James John S. McNeel	Heirs of Thomas B. Bell	Court Decree	H	414/18	Feb	27	1849		Thomas B. Bell Estate Partition wife Nancy M. Bell, Zerilda Bell, Laura D. Hinkle, Willis C., Emily A. F. Bell, and Christopher C. Bell surviving children into 6 parts
Willis C. Bell	Shadrack Rowe	Bond	H	402/03	March	8	1849	715	Bond to sell to Shadrack Rowe NW corner of league 715 acres Tract 1
Samuel Hinkle	Heirs of Thomas B. Bell	Court Decree	J	267/68	Oct	9	1856		Samuel Hinkle after death of his wife Laura to retain the upper portion of Tract 6 with all the improvements Heirs received lower half
Christopher C. Bell guardian Willis C. Bell	Shadrack Rowe	Deed	H	474/75	March	19	1858	715	Rowe had paid off his notes and clear title was given Tract 1
Shadrack & Sarah F. Rowe	John B. Jones Trustee	DT	H	526/28	June	8	1858	715	\$10,800 note to Levi Jordan Tract 1 & 19 slaves held as security
Christopher C. Bell	Shadrack Rowe	Deed	H	587/88	Sept	1	1858	715	\$7015 Tract 2 land inherited by C.C. Bell these two tracts make up Rowe's sugar plantation
Shadrack Rowe	Abner J. Lathrop Trustee	DT	H	588/91	Sept	1	1858	715	\$10,889.28 note to C. C. Bell Tract 2 & 8 slaves as security
C. C. Bell	Shadrack Rowe	Release	J	609	Nov	29	1860	715	Shadrack Rowe had paid his notes release DT
Shadrack & Sarah F. Rowe	John B. Jones Trustee	DT	K	61/64	Dec	27	1860	715	\$8579.90 note to Levi Jordan Tract 2 & 8 slaves as security
Shadrack Rowe	Thomas Dwyer	Deed	K	119	May	12	1861		\$2119.79 note consigned 40 bales of cotton to Dwyer
Shadrack & Sarah F. Rowe	James Calvin & Charles Philip McNeill	Deed	K	627/29	April	10	1866	1430	\$17,000 Sugar House, Gin House, Cotton Press, Residence, Saw Mill, etc reserved 2 acres for Cedar Lake Church & graveyard
James Calvin McNeill	Sarah Emma McNeill	Deed	T	419/23	Sept	1	1881		Several tracts transferred ownership to his wife his ½ interest
Sarah Emma McNeill	Charles P. McNeill	Deed	U	21/28	Dec	19	1881	1428	Brothers partitioned their ½ interests & Charles P. received the plantation
Charles P. McNeill	Sam Prince	Deed	184	63/64	Jan	1	1923	30	30 acres NW corner surrounding graveyard
Charles P. McNeill	Andrew B. McNeill	Deed	154	362/63	June	9	1919	230	\$4400 to his son
Minnie Reese McNeill	Andrew B. McNeill Jr.	Deed	763	13/14	March	24	1960	1.25	Tract 1A-1 Her home lot
Minnie Reese McNeill	Andrew B. McNeill Jr.	Deed	883	254/53	June	18	1964	210.7	To her son ~211 acres except her home lot
Minnie Reese McNeill	Andrew B. McNeill Jr.	Deed	1362	119/25	Sept	22	1977	286	286 + 1 acre upon her death to her son
McNeill Estate	Trust Public Land	Deed	2000	041590	Sept	27	2000		Several Tracts

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1870

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1880

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