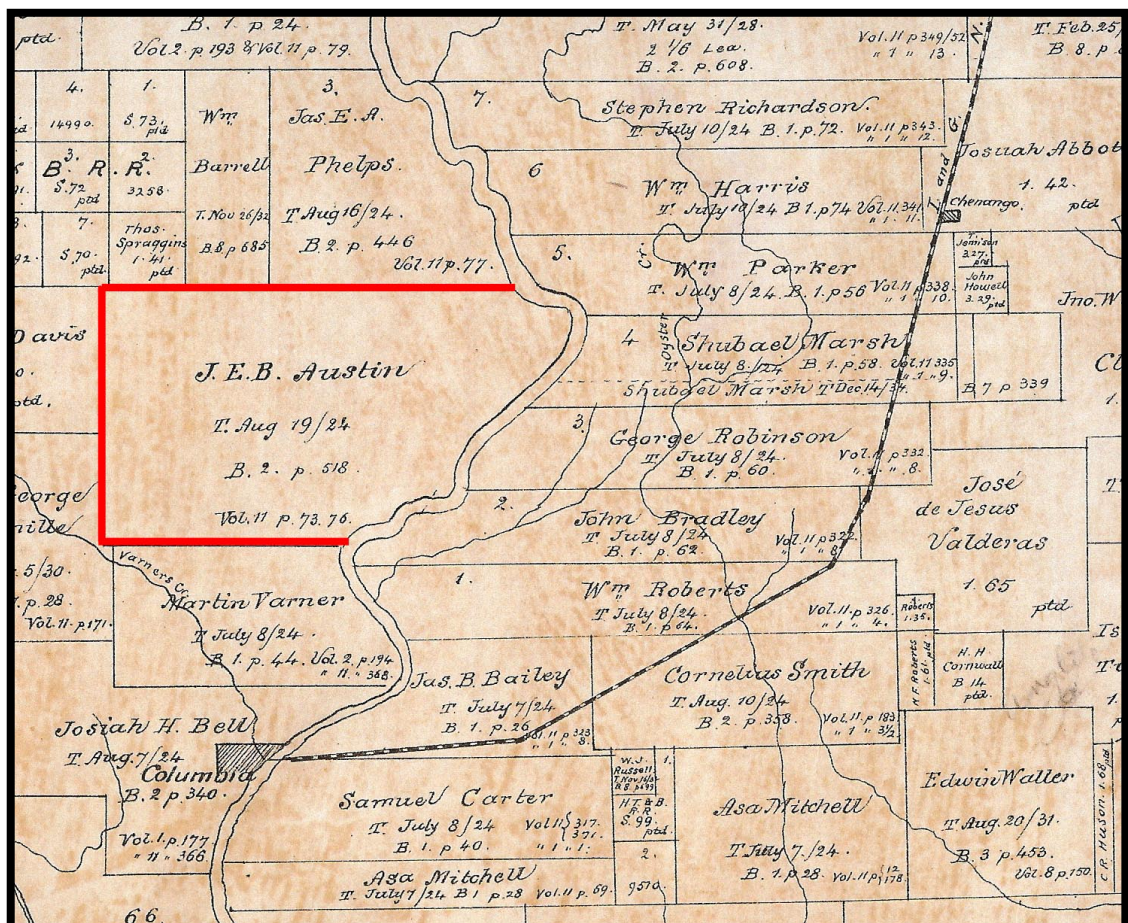


Brazosport Archeological Society

Waldeck Plantation was formed from lands purchased out of the southwest corner of the James E. B. Austin Three League tract on the west side of the Brazos River just a few miles north of Columbia in Brazoria County. Morgan L. Smith from New York initially purchased 1255 acres in May 1841 from William G. and Eliza Hill. The plantation was named for Count Ludwig Joseph von Boos Waldeck who visited the plantation while looking for lands to purchase in 1842 as a representative of the Adelsverein, an association of German noblemen. Although the plantation was not purchased by Count Waldeck the name stuck while John Adriance and Morgan L. Smith, local merchants held the property in partnership from May 1841 until March 1847. Both Adriance and Smith were New Yorkers who were able to prosper during the years of the Republic. The firm of Smith & Adriance located in Columbia sold family and plantation supplies while extending credit to planters and families secured by cotton crops, slaves, or land throughout Stephen F. Austin's old colony. Through a land foreclosure sale in 1841 Smith was able to purchase a large portion of East and West Columbia. The group of John Adriance, Morgan L. Smith, James W. Copes, and later John A. Wharton sold lots and acreage promoting Columbia. After Morgan L. Smith became the sole owner of Waldeck he added more land to Waldeck and built an immense sugar mill and refinery on the property completed by late 1849.



J.E.B. Austin 3 League Tract, Map Texas General Land Office 1879

In the early 1850's Smith increased the number of slaves on Waldeck to keep up with the demand to make more sugar. Smith attempted to divest himself of Waldeck and did move back to New York in 1857. While this business adventure fell thru in November 1859 he sold the property and slaves for an astounding \$187,589 to Hamblin Bass of Alabama. Hamblin Bass brought a large group of slaves with him from Alabama and produced crops through the Civil War. Morgan L. Smith returned after the Civil War from his new home in New Jersey to refinance the Waldeck mortgages with Hamblin Bass. By 1868 Smith transferred his mortgages over to Sessums & Company of Galveston, Texas. The next year Sessums & Company sold the property to Spofford Tileston & Company of New York. Paul N. Spofford and Thomas Tileston were the owners of one of the largest investment and mercantile houses on the east coast with banking and shipping lines at their disposal. They also purchased Osceola Plantation just north of Waldeck. In 1874 the properties were turned over to Mrs. Susan Spofford. While Susan Spofford leased the property to John Wells in the late 1870's and early 1880's convict labor was used on the property. After her death her estate sold the property to J. H. Burnett in 1890. Burnett sold off many tracts belonging to the Waldeck Plantation during the 1890's and finally sold off the homestead and mill property to J. W. Johnson of New York in 1895. The 1900 hurricane damaged the sugar mill while the home remained standing until the 1932 hurricane. In 1962 A. Henry Beal bought the property with only the original smokehouse still standing and a few underground cisterns left to mark the area of the home site. He built a brick home on the same location. The present owner Michael Wade Beal now operates the lands as a cattle ranch.



Waldeck Smokehouse & Underground Cistern July 2007

John Adriance¹ arrived in Columbia in November 1835 from New York. He entered into the mercantile business with C. Beardslee from 1836-1839. Another New York native, Morgan L. Smith² arrived in 1838 entering into business with Thomas J. Pilgrim. In early January 1840 Morgan L. Smith wrote John Adriance several letters hoping for a prompt reply on his proposal for Adriance to complete his current business transactions and to join him in a partnership: “I have written several times...Know from conversations with me the great importance of my making prompt remittances to N. York and particularly in Dec. & Jan.”³ Adriance did join Smith in partnership and the following article was issued to the public:

Dissolution

Columbia, Jan. 1st, 1840

The firm of SMITH & PILGRIM this day dissolved by mutual consent. As notes and accounts due said firm will be settled by Morgan L. Smith, who is fully authorized to collect the same.

MORGAN L. SMITH

THOS. J PILGRIM

Co-Partnership

Columbia, March 1, 1840

FROM and after the above date, Mr. JOHN ADRIANCE will be connected with MORGAN L. SMITH in business at Columbia, under the firm of

SMITH & ADRIANCE

R E M O V A L

SMITH & ADRIANCE

Have moved their store to Cole's Building at the lower end of the town of Columbia.

March 4, 1840⁴

The firm of Smith & Adriance located in Columbia sold family and plantation supplies while extending credit to planters and families secured by cotton crops, slaves, or land throughout Stephen F. Austin's old colony. Their advertisement in the local newspaper listed a wide assortment of goods:

<p>NEW GOODS Smith & Adriance HAVE just received per Schr Wm Bryan, from New York, a full cargo of assorted Merchandize, which, in addition to their former Stock, comprises in part the following articles:</p> <p>DRY GOODS 6 Cases Kerseys 2 do Satinets 10 do 3-4 7-8 4-4 5-4 Bleached Cot-</p>	<p>ALSO—A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF Mexican Goods: 30 cases Seasonable Clothing Consisting of every variety. 75 CASES BOOTS and SHOES, 35 “ HATS and CAPS 2 “ LEGHORN & TUS- CAN HATS, 11,500 yards INDIA and SCOTCH BAGGING 100 COILS BALE ROPE,</p>	<p>10 Baskets Sparkling Hock, 10 do Champaigne 150 Sacks Salt, 5 Tierces Rice, 50 Boxes of Soap, 30 do Sperm Candles, 30 do Patent Mould Candles, 5 Bags Pepper 3 do Pimento, 3 do Race Ginger, 5 Kegs Ground do,</p>
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¹ Born November 10, 1818 Troy, New York Died December 7, 1903 Columbia, Texas

² Born 1802 New York Died 1884 New Jersey, He served as a Colonel in the New York Seventh Regiment before 1838.

³ 2 Letters Morgan L. Smith to John Adriance, Columbia, Jan. 4, 1840, John Adriance Papers, Center of American History, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

⁴ *Brazos Courier*, October 20, 1840, Brazoria, Texas.

<p>ton</p> <p>2 do Apron Checks</p> <p>2 do Kentucky Jeans</p> <p>1 do Glenroy do</p> <p>15 Bales Lowel Cottons</p> <p>55 do 4-4 Brown Shirting's</p> <p>5 do 3-4 do Shirting's</p> <p>2 do Suffolk Drills</p> <p>2 do Mackinaw Blanket's</p> <p>2 do Whitney do</p> <p>2 do Rose do</p> <p>4 do Negro do</p> <p>2 do Linsey's do</p> <p>2 do Ticking's do</p> <p>2 do Red & White Flannel's</p> <p>1 Case Cauton Flannels</p> <p>1 do Irish Linens</p> <p>2 do Hamilton Dennims</p> <p>2 do Clarks Spool Thread</p> <p>1 do Coloured</p> <p>850 Pieces English French & American Prints,</p> <p>100 do ?letillas</p> <p>75 do Cottonades</p> <p>50 do Pongee Handkerchiefs</p> <p>200 Doz. assorted Cotton do</p> <p>120 do Woolen, Cotton, and Silk Hosiery</p> <p>French and English Merinos, Cirrassians, Moussiline de Laines, Camblets, Plain & Fig. Bombazines Plain and Fig. Silks, and Satins, Printed Muslins, Gingham, Linen Napkins and Diapers, Damask Table Covers. Jackonet Cambrics, Lawns, Plain and Fig. Swiss Muslins, Mull Muslin, Linen Cambrics, Checked do. Plain and Fig. Bobbinet Lace, Footings, thread Laces, Edgings, and Insertings, Silk and Tabby Velvets, Brown Linen, & Drills, Capes & Collars, Woolen Yarn, furniture, Dimity, Linen, Cambric Handkerchiefs, Gauze Veils, Corsets Clot'y Vestings, Taylors Trimmings Mit? Articles, Shawls Dress Hand-Kerchiefs, Gloves, Ribbons. &c. &c.</p>	<p>50 " MANILLA "</p> <p>800 lbs BAILING TWINE</p> <p>Hardware</p> <p>Trace, Ox, and Log Chains, Shovels And Spades, Corn Mills, Hoes, Grass And Bramble Scythes, Canes Knives, Guns, Anvils, Blacksmiths Bellows, Hammers and Tongs, Bright Staple Vices, Mill, X Cut, Pit, and Hand Saws</p> <p>Files assorted, Butts and Screws, Strap Hinges, Hooks and Staples, Latches, Bolts, Plate, Knob, Pad, Chest, Trunk, And Closet Locks, Carpenters & Smiths Tools generally, Hunt's Cast Steel Axes, Kentucky pattern, Huts Broad Hand Axes. With a general assortment of Cuttlery & Shelf Goods:</p> <p>NAILS,</p> <p>90 kegs Cut, Wrought and Horse-Shoe</p> <p>10 tons Iron & Steel,</p> <p>2 " Plough Moulds,</p> <p>900 lbs. Casings.</p> <p>SADDLERY</p> <p>Saddles, Bridles, Bridle Fillings, Martingales, Girths, Surcingles, Collars. Plough Bridles, & Hames, Drug, Wag-On, and Plough Harness, Carpet and Steel, Surb, Pelham and Snaffle Bitts, Stirups.&c. &c.</p> <p>GROCERIES</p> <p>15 Hhds Sugar,</p> <p>81 Sacks Coffee,</p> <p>10 Chests Teas,</p> <p>50 Boxes Tobacco,</p> <p>10 1,2 Pipes Brandy,</p> <p>2 do Gin</p> <p>5 1,2 do Jamaica Rum</p> <p>15 Bbbs. Whiskey</p> <p>10 Quarter Casks Teneriffe,</p> <p>Sherry & Malaga Wines,</p> <p>445 Cases Claret</p>	<p>5 Baskets Olive Oil,</p> <p>5 Boxes Pine Apple Cheese,</p> <p>6 do Pepper Sauce,</p> <p>5 do Tomato Catsup,</p> <p>12 Boxes Starch,</p> <p>Drugs & Medicines,</p> <p>Paints, Oil & Turpentine,</p> <p>BOOKS &</p> <p>Stationary,</p> <p>Fancy Goods, Jewelry and Perfumery,</p> <p>25 dozen Shaker Brooms,</p> <p>100 boxes assorted Window Glass,</p> <p>200 Window Sashes,</p> <p>150 Panel Doors,</p> <p>250 Window and Door Frames,</p> <p>20 dozen Windsor Chairs</p> <p>ALSO</p> <p>A large and complete assortment of China, Glass, Earthen, Stone, Wood, Willow, Tin, Iron, Plated, Britania, and Japanned</p> <p>WARE</p> <p>Building Utensils,</p> <p>House Furnishing Articles,</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Agricultural Tools.</p> <p>The highest market price will be given for Cotton, Hides and Pecan Nuts.</p> <p>Columbia, Oct 5, 1840</p>
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5

May 19, 1841 Morgan L. Smith purchased two tracts of land totaling 1255 acres in the southwest corner of the J. E. Brown Austin Three League tract just north of the town of Columbia west of the Brazos River[Brazoria County Deed Record: B 39/40⁶]. These lands purchased from William G. and Eliza M. Hill⁷ were part of Eliza's settlement with the other heirs of Stephen F. Austin. Her first husband Stephen's brother, J. E. B. Austin had died August 14, 1829 of yellow fever while in New Orleans⁸. Their only son Stephen F. Austin Jr. died in 1837. Eliza's second husband Zeno Phillips, an older wealthy planter whom she married after the death of Brown Austin died in 1835⁹ and she quickly married William G. Hill the next year¹⁰. Many in the county had felt that through her neglect her son by J. E. B. Austin had died and she was not

⁵Brazos Courier, October 27, 1840, Brazoria, Texas

⁶ Brazoria County Deed Record will be denoted as BCDR from this point forward.

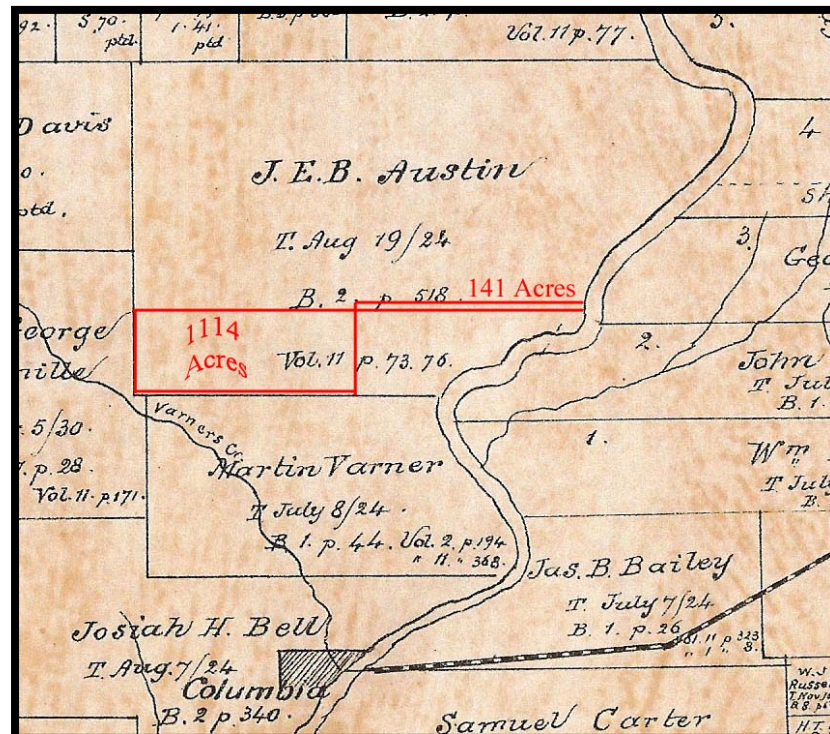
⁷ Eliza Martha Westall (b.1806-d.1852) married James E. B. Austin 1st, Zeno Phillips 2nd and William G. Hill 3rd.

⁸ Creighton, James A., *A Narrative History of Brazoria County*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1975, p.39.

⁹ Ibid., 37-38.

¹⁰ Many authors describe Eliza M. Westall as the biggest "gold digger" in the county at the time.

entitled to his and her first husband's estate but the courts decided otherwise¹¹. She and William G. Hill established Osceola Plantation in the northern part of the J.E.B. Austin Three League tract.



Waldeck Plantation 1841, Map Texas General Land Office 1879

Morgan L. Smith let John Adriance in on the land purchase for a $\frac{1}{4}$ interest. The plantation was named for Count Ludwig Joseph von Boos Waldeck¹² who visited the plantation while looking for lands to purchase in 1842 as a representative of the Adelsverein, an association of German noblemen at Biebrich on the Rhine. Although the Count and his associates purchased property in Fayette County the name for the plantation stuck. In its infancy Waldeck Plantation, according to some, was a self-sustaining recruiting camp to which Smith and Adriance sent slaves, work animals, or implements that had been taken for debt¹³. Tax records indicate that in 1844 eight slaves, in 1845 twenty-one slaves, and in 1846 thirty-five slaves were on the property. Morgan L. Smith had his attorney Henry Brewster purchase a 16 year old slave named Jim at Sheriff's auction in Matagorda January 1844 [BCDR: E 35/37] Andrew Phelps McCormick remembered his father, Joseph M. McCormick, doing business with Smith as they were close friends:

In the spring of 1844 the heavy rains came early, and made and kept the ground too wet to plow until cotton fields became overgrown with a carpet of weeds a little higher than the young cotton plant, making it difficult to work when the ground first got so it could be plowed, and threatening to soon make it impossible to save the cotton plants from the weeds. While things were in this

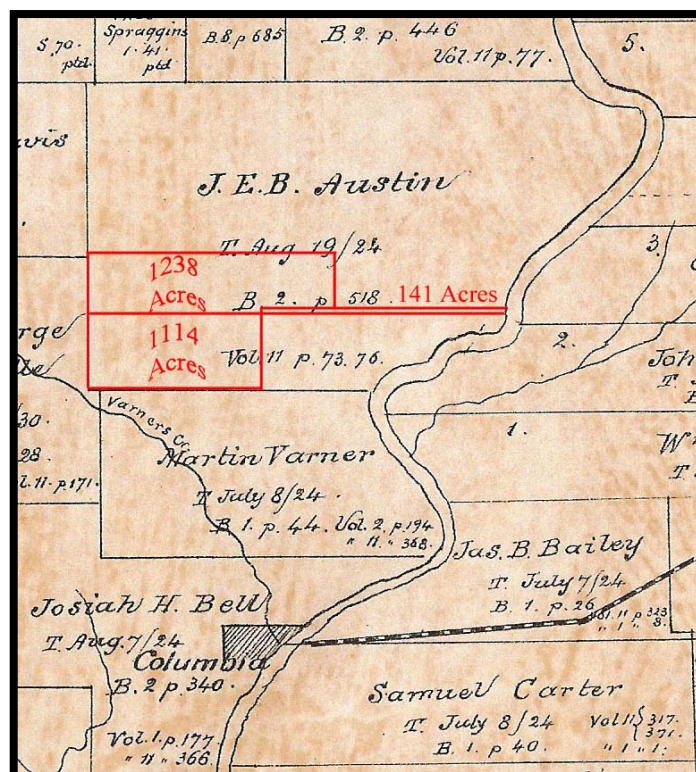
¹¹ Jones, Mary Beth, *Peach Point Plantation*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, pp.89-95.

¹² Calling card of Le Comte Joseph von Boos Waldeck in John Adriance Papers.

¹³ Waldeck Plantation, *The Handbook of Texas On-Line*, The Texas State Historical Association

condition and my father, with me and the servants, was fighting the weeds like one killing snakes or fighting fire, Colonel Smith, on his way from Matagorda, stopped by our house for dinner. He had with him a young negro man named Jim, whom he had bought in Matagorda at forced sale, on a debt he held against the owner. In slave-market phrase the negro was “very likely”. Colonel Smith took in the situation presented by our fight with weeds, and offered to sell Jim to my father at a price he name, which was not large or above the slave’s market value. My father declined the offer, with thanks, saying he was not prepared to buy property; that he was doing his best to save his cotton crop to meet his merchandise account. Colonel Smith said, “I will let you have the man at the price named, and charge it to the merchandise account; with his help you can save your cotton crop and meet your merchandise account.” This was as reasonable as kind, and the bargain was stuck.¹⁴

March 1847 Morgan L. Smith bought out John Adriance’s $\frac{1}{4}$ interest in Waldeck for \$24,800.50. Their friendship and respect for each other, still intact, would last for many more years. Smith’s interest in expanding Waldeck took on gigantic proportions as he increased the number of slaves on the property to seventy-five in 1847 and added another 1238 acres just north of his previous tracts to the plantation presumably from William G. and Eliza Hill once again¹⁵. With the conversion of Waldeck to large scale sugar production a large sugar mill complex with a double set of kettles and machinery for refining white loaf sugar was completed in late 1849¹⁶.



Waldeck Plantation 1848, Map Texas General Land Office 1879

¹⁴ McCormick, Andrew Phelps, “Scotch-Irish in Ireland and in America” Unpublished book distributed to relatives and friends of Andrew Phelps McCormick, 1897, p. 147.

¹⁵ Transaction for the addition of the 1238 acres not found in deed records though listed on tax records for 1848 and thereafter. The tract had once been given to Henson G. Westall, Eliza’s brother, but he sold it back to William G. Hill.

¹⁶ *State Gazette*, December 1, 1849, Austin, Texas ?.

According to Abner Strobel Waldeck was “the finest equipped sugar plantation in the county... The sugar house was of brick, an immense structure, and resembled more some tessellated castle than a building for the making of sugar”.¹⁷ The machinery for the mill and refinery process cost \$30,000.¹⁸ J. D. B. DeBow estimated \$50,000 for the total cost of the mill, \$60,000 for slaves, and \$4000 for 200 acres in cane production for a total value of \$114,000 and noted in his review:

SUGAR CULTURE IN TEXAS—There are at present twenty-nine sugar plantations in Brazoria County, each having substantial buildings and machinery for the preparation of the cane-juice market. Col. Morgan L. Smith’s establishment ranks highest in the scale of cost, as it does in estimable pretensions, to produce a refined article of the highest character, having in combination the latest improvements that genius and intellect have as yet devised for the fabrication of sugar. Col. Smith’s perseverance, enterprise and energy will, I have no doubt, surmount every difficulty that is likely to obstruct the progress of his great and laudable design, if at all practicable. His personal exertions and general character merit the enjoyment of a most brilliant success.¹⁹



Waldeck Sugar Mill Photo by John Adriance ~ 1870's
Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum

In 1852 Waldeck produced 520 hogsheads of sugar and in 1853 460 hgds. while the slave population increased from 76 to 99 during the same period.²⁰

¹⁷ Strobel, Abner J., The Old Plantations and Their Owners of Brazoria County Texas, The Union National Bank, Houston, Texas, 1930, p.19.

¹⁸ Curlee, Abigail, *A Study of Texas Slave Plantations 1822 to 1865*, Doctoral Thesis, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, June, 1932, p. 186.

State Gazette, December 1, 1849, Austin, Texas

¹⁹ DeBow, J.D.B., Industrial Resources of the Southern and Western States, Vol. III, Office of *DeBow's Review*, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1853, pp. 284-285.

²⁰ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1852-53, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1853 & Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1853-54, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1854. Brazoria County Tax Records on Microfilm Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas.

Col. Smith is making a prime article of sugar this year. We were at his mill when he was commencing. The machinery,-- which is doubtless the best in Texas, --was working well. A sample handed us a day or two since, that had been partially refined appeared of superior quality. The Colonel's sugar house is a curiosity, worth a day's travel to see. He has introduced into it all the useful improvements in sugar making, and from the cane cart to the box barrel and Hhd., of the article ready for market, everything speaks of the enterprise of the proprietor. The vacuum pan and the centrifugal desiccator are two interesting and peculiar features in this mill. They are both worth seeing.—The latter is driven by a beautiful little oscillating engine, an affair that you could almost put in your pocket, and yet with ample power for the purpose.²¹

In Brooklyn, New York, in 1853 Col. Morgan L. Smith married Elizabeth B. Brower²², a young lady less than half his age.²³ He and his new bride returned to Texas to make Waldeck Plantation their home. In 1854 and 1855 410 hghds. and 617 hghds. of sugar were produced making them very successful years.²⁴ Selling at \$91 per hgshd. in January 1856 the market was still low. In 1856 the Ethiopian Baptist Church was built on Waldeck with white ministers giving services on Sunday afternoons to the slaves who were required to be “nicely fixed”. White people often came along with the preacher.²⁵



“Ethiopian Baptist Church erected 1856” Above Door,
Circ. 1870’s Photo by John Adriance Courtesy of Brazoria County Historical Museum

²¹ *Columbia Democrat*, November 15, 1853, Columbia, Texas.

²² Elizabeth B. Brower born ~1834 New York.

²³ Morgan L. Smith, *The Handbook of Texas On-Line*, The Texas State Historical Association.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ Curlee, Abigail, *A Study of Texas Slave Plantations 1822 to 1865*, Doctoral Thesis, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, June, 1932, pp.284-85.



Stained Glass from Church Window Courtesy of Columbia Museum, West Columbia

In April 1856 Morgan L. Smith tried to divest his large investment by selling the property to William Joel and Guy M. Bryan. Their mortgages totaled \$132,000 entitled them to 101 slaves, the sugar house and machinery, 50 mules, ten yoke of oxen, and 600 head of cattle, also all the household furniture, wagons, carts, and farming utensils [BCDR G 572/76 & G 577/80]. Col. Morgan L. Smith and his wife Elizabeth moved to New York City.

The next two years were difficult for sugar producers in the county. The unprecedented cold weather of winter of 1855-1856 had killed most of the seed cane for the next season and 1857 was a very severe drought year. Although 2000 hgshds of sugar were produced in Texas in 1857 the individual production records were not reported.²⁶ This forced many individuals out of the sugar business. William Joel and Guy M. Bryan had purchased at the wrong time. November 1857 they sold the property back Col. Morgan L. Smith.

Morgan Smith and his wife returned to Texas where their daughter Maggie was born in 1858. The plantation was still in good condition as described by Abner Strobel: "Its well kept turn-rows and the park around its fine brick residence was ever a pleasant view...Mr. Smith had decorated the park around the residence with \$25,000 worth of statuary... The barns or cribs, of which there were several, were of brick, as were the slave cabins...In the ravine that ran through the plantation was made an immense cement reservoir, that held water for the use of the sugar house and refinery..."²⁷ Although there was a six months drought from March to September in 1858 Waldeck produced 300 hgshd. of sugar.²⁸ The sugar production the county for 1859 was again very low and no production was listed for Waldeck.²⁹

²⁶ Ibid., pp.193-94.

²⁷ Strobel, Abner J., The Old Plantations and Their Owners of Brazoria County Texas, The Union National Bank, Houston, Texas, 1930, pp.19-20.

²⁸ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1858-59, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1859.

²⁹ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1860-61, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1861.



Portion of Statuary Courtesy of Columbia Museum, West Columbia

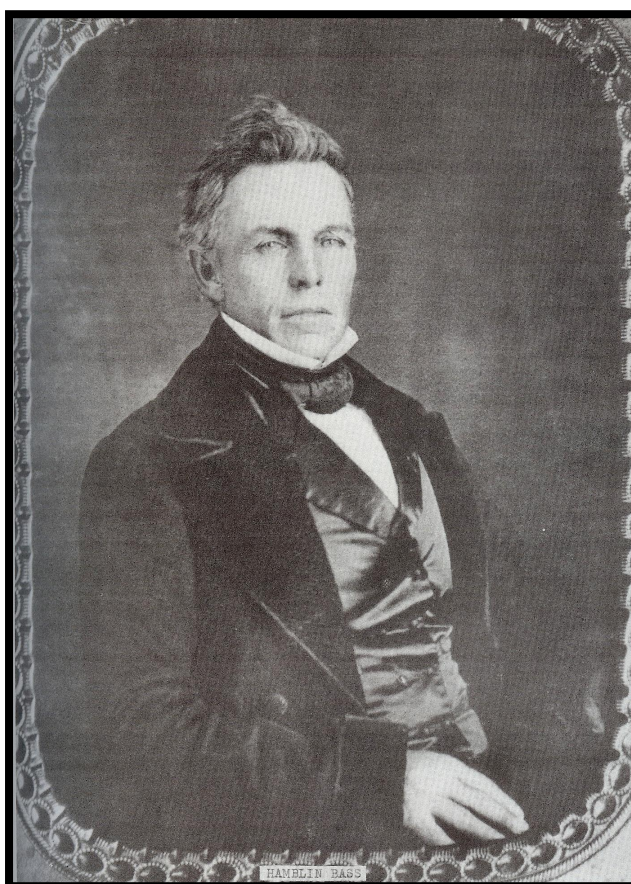


Waldeck Residence John Andriance and His son, Duncan, are seated on front steps Circa 1870's
Photo Courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum

November 1859 Hamblin Bass of Barbour County Alabama bought Waldeck from Col. Morgan L. Smith for the astounding price of \$187,589 while Smith and his family made plans to move back to New York City [BCDR: J 297/302]. Hamblin Bass wrote to his son-in-law Dr. Robert Adams in Georgia:

I wrote you on last Monday from Columbia, a little village on the Brazos river, giving you a full and detailed account of the large purchase I just made...today I am the owner of valuable property in Texas, whether I pay for it or not is another matter...I want you to make arrangements to move out with me...³⁰

Hamblin Bass had been widowed twice³¹ and was operating a large cotton plantation near Glenville, Alabama. His second wife had passed away only a year before he purchased Waldeck.



Hamblin Bass

³⁰ Wood, Gary Doyle ed., The Hicks-Adams-Bass-Floyd-Pattillo and Collateral Lines Together With Family Letters 1840-1868, The Anson Jones Press, Salado, Texas, 1963, Letter Hamblin Bass, Harrisburg, Texas, to Dr. Robert Adams, Eatonton, Georgia, November 18, 1859, p. 201.

³¹ Hamblin Bass married 1st Elizabeth Saunders Harris, a widow, December 15, 1825 (d. February 26, 1831 shortly after birth of their third child) 2nd Mary R. Trippe April 10, 1832 (d. September 31, 1858) 3rd ? 1870 in Houston, Texas.

³² Wood, Gary Doyle ed., The Hicks-Adams-Bass-Floyd-Pattillo and Collateral Lines Together With Family Letters 1840-1868, The Anson Jones Press, Salado, Texas, 1963, Photo Hamblin Bass p. 37+.

Leaving his oldest son by his second wife, John H. Bass and his family in Georgia Hamblin Bass set out for Texas. Suffering a long and tedious trip Hamblin Bass along with the Wiley Knowles family arrived in Texas December 1859 after first taking a very crowded mail boat with all his slaves from Mobile, Alabama to New Orleans, Louisiana where the weather was very cold, with ice an inch thick. He had to leave his daughter Rebecca and her husband Dr. Robert Adams in Mobile while she was expecting another child. From New Orleans they took an even more crowded steamship with twelve families and 238 slaves with most of the slaves having to stand all the way to Galveston, Texas and then traveled by boat up Buffalo Bayou to Houston. From Houston the train ran near Chenango Plantation which was a terminus for the Houston Tap and Brazoria Railway Company. Col. Sharpe, who owned the Chenango Plantation, hired his sugar carts to Bass to transport his slaves the rest of the way to Waldeck. He had brought ~100 slaves of his own and 50 slaves belonging to Dr. Robert Adams most of whom were immediately put to work.³³ By April 1860 Morgan L. Smith and his family had left the plantation for New York City. Dr. Adams and Rebecca joined the family later after the birth of their child. In July the 1860 Federal Census lists:

Hamblin Bass	54	Male	Georgia	Planter
George P.	17	Male	Georgia	
Edward F.	19	Male	Georgia	
Robert Adams	35	Male	Georgia	
Rebecca A. Adams	33	Female	Georgia	
Robert H. Adams	14	Male	Georgia	
Julia B. Adams	11	Female	Georgia	
David Adams	9	Male	Georgia	
Elizabeth Adams	6	Female	Georgia	(Mary Elizabeth)
Sallie L. Adams	4	Female	Georgia	(Sarah Louiza)
Rebecca A. Adams	2	Female	Georgia	(Anna Rebecca)
Georgia Adams	6/12	Female	Alabama	
W. R. Shuford	34	Male	North Carolina	Planter
Wiley Knowles	40	Male	Georgia	Planter
Martha Knowles	35	Female	Georgia	
Carrie Knowles	14	Female	Georgia	
Mittie Knowles	12	Female	Georgia	
C. B. Champin	25	Male	Georgia	Overseer

The 1860 Slave Census lists 212 slaves and 42 slave dwellings at Waldeck. By the fall of 1860 the Adams family moved to Fairfield, Texas which was considered somewhat of a more healthy climate for Rebecca.

³³ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, January 4, 1860, Columbia, Texas to Dr. Robert Adams, Mobile, Alabama, pp. 206-208.

Through 1860 and early 1861 mixed among the news of session letters indicate Hamblin Bass was barely able to hold off his creditors:

...I trust Pa will make a large crop of cotton this year. The truth is if he does not he is gone beyond a doubt. His creditors here are very restless now and will sue if another year passes without payment. He owes at least \$100,000 in Ala. and Georgia due this past Jan. and the next Jan. How he will meet it is more than I can possibly tell. None of them have commenced suit but several has come very near it. It will be impossible for me to get away from here with my property until all his debts for which I am security are paid.³⁴

Late 1860 into early 1861 Col. Morgan L. Smith was back in Texas winding up some loose ends preparing for his new life on the east coast:

Columbia Jany 14th 1861

Mr. J. Adriance

Dear Sir

Having closed my business or put it in such shape that I am about to leave for the purpose of travel and perhaps for a long period. It gives me pleasure to note that our acquaintance of twenty three years (a portion of which time in the intimate relation of partners is trade) has fully established in my mind your character for integrity as well as business capacity.

Yours truly,
Morgan L. Smith³⁵

In a letter to his daughter October 1861 Hamblin Bass informed her of sickness that had spread across the plantation during the summer:

...On the 10 day June George, one of the negro men I bought of Col. Smith had an attack of body flux, which continued to spread, until we had 142 cases, and five deaths. Mrs. Knowles is among the dead, both of her daughters had it but got well. Your brother George also had it but soon recovered. Mr. Knowles, Eddie, & myself escaped not feeling the slightest symptoms of it at any time. The deaths among the negroes are George of the Smith set, Joe & Jipe, & Clarrice. Dr. Morris was in attendance on the first 8 or 10 cases, and lost three patients. George & I then took the cases into our own hands and we only lost one out of about 130 cases. Mrs. Knowles was down 26 days. Dr. Morris with her twice every day...³⁶

By the end of the year Hamblin Bass was complaining about the high price of salt and his aborted efforts to obtain salt from the wells at the mouth of the San Bernard because of too much fresh water due to rain. His crops were doing fairly well:

...I got Mr. Patent to grind for me last week about three acres of my cane. He told me today that it made a good turn out, about six hogshead of sugar, and some ten or twelve barrels of sirrup. Enough sugar for both of us next year. We have just dug our potatoe crop, the yield tolerably fair. The weather good, we shall be through picking cotton by Christmas...³⁷

³⁴ Ibid., Letter John H. Bass, March 20, 1861, to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, p. 258.

³⁵ John Adriance Papers, Letter Morgan L. Smith to John Adriance, January 14, 1861

³⁶ Wood, Gary Doyle ed., The Hicks-Adams-Bass-Floyd-Pattillo and Collateral Lines Together With Family Letters 1840-1868, The Anson Jones Press, Salado, Texas, 1963, Photo Hamblin Bass, Letter Hamblin Bass, October 18, 1861, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 285-86.

³⁷ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, December 2, 1861, Columbia to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, p. 287.

By the middle of 1862 both of Hamblin Bass's sons, George P. and Edward F. Bass joined the Confederacy serving in units held in Texas. With the uncertainty of getting a cotton crop safely shipped Bass had elected to go with corn as his staple crop for the year:

...I am now all alone, Eddie and George both having gone to the war. Eddie joined Capt. Ridgely's company (at the mouth of the Caney) about the first of April, and which is now in Col. Brown's Regiment...George was about the first of April appointed by General Hebert second Lieutenant in Col. Roberson's Regiment at Houston...We must whip these abolitionists at any cost and at any sacrifice...I have a fine prospect for a crop of corn. I did not plant until the 20th March...I have a heavy crop of corn and but little cotton.³⁸

This little amount of cotton turned out to be 1200 acres though not as fully developed as it should have been. At a cost of \$1.20 a bushel Hamblin Bass was able to obtain 300 bushels of salt from Matagorda³⁹, but the articles for his family table were often not in keeping with his usual fair due to drought during the spring of the year:

...I have not had a vegetable of any kind this spring except roasting ears...I planted about five hundred bushels of potatoes of my own saving, the first of February and the usual variety of other garden seeds, but owing to the dry weather none of the seed came up. About March I sowed again, and all the seed I had, but met with the same fate. So I have made up my mind out of necessity, to do without vegetables this year...I never lived so poor in my life. True I have plenty of the solids, such as bacon, beef, pigs, chickens, lard, flour, milk and butter, but still I miss the vegetables. I still have plenty of sweet potatoes of last year's crops... I had some ladies to spend a day with me...I was hard put to it to get up a dinner for them...⁴⁰

Col. Morgan L. Smith entered Texas in 1862 to defend himself against claims by the Confederate government concerning his citizenship. The case heard in Houston, Texas in which Hamblin Bass was a witness in the case ended in a verdict in favor of Smith. Colonel Smith planned to leave Texas in late June by way of Matamoros to journey to Cuba. When he arrived in Cuba he hoped to send for his wife and return to Texas in September.⁴¹

The drought continued on through the summer of 1862 and the uncertainty of Hamblin Bass's crops and foodstuffs made for a "do with what you have" attitude:

...The last time I was in Houston I saw some very fine bacon...they were selling it at twenty-five cents per pound. I have not bought any this year. I have been feeding the negroes all this year on pickled beef, I put up last fall. I put up seventy-five beeves and did not lose the first piece. It is now sweet and good. I had an opportunity of buying five hundred goats, and two hundred mutton sheep from a Mexican about a month ago. I gave him a dollar for the goats per head and two dollars per head for the sheep. I have just began to feed the negroes upon the goats. I kill six every morning and the negroes like them, as they are very fat...About as cheap as anything I could get for them...We finished putting fodder about two weeks since and I never saved a better lot of fodder both in quality and quantity. My corn is much better than I thought it was...I have four hundred acres of corn and I believe it will average 35 to 40 bushels through the crop per acre...We have had but two rains since last September...My flag pond cotton is far the best I have, and stands the drought remarkably well...I expect to gather a fine crop of cotton from it...I was very fortunate in getting my salt at the time I did. It is now selling in Columbia at 12 1/2 cts. per pound. The blockade between Matagorda and Corpus Christi has cut off the salt trade to this part of the country...You ask me if I have sold any of my cotton. I sold about two months since, two hundred

³⁸ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, May 12, 1862, Waldeck to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 290-91.

³⁹ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, Date ?, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, (Incomplete) pp. 293/94.

⁴⁰ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, June 15, 1862, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 295-96.

⁴¹ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, June 22, 1862, Waldeck to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, p. 297.

bales at 8 cents...It was weighted at my gin house and I delivered it to Columbia where I received pay for it...I sold all of my old cast iron yesterday at three cents per pound delivered to Columbia...⁴²

This letter induced Dr. Adams to send a wagon with “two sacks of flour, barrel of lard, irish potatoes, jar of peach preserves & a bottle of tomatoes preserves, four pair of yarn sacks, and a bag of garden seeds, with a bag of apples” in September. All were very acceptable and quite a treat.⁴³



Dr. Robert Adams

Dr. Adams and his oldest son Robert H. Adams both joined the Confederacy by 1863 with Dr. Adams stationed in various camps throughout Brazoria County and Robert H. Bass serving mainly in east Texas. At 22 years of age, Edward Bass while serving in Captain Rugeley's command along the coast became ill and had to be transported back to Waldeck in January 1863:

It is with a broken and heavy heart that I communicate to you the same and mournful news of the death of my dear son, Eddie, who died last night...he was taken with a chill and a sore throat...he came home in an ambulance with the curtains all round it and a mattress to lie upon. As soon as he reached home I knew it was a bad case and sent for Dr. Morris and the next day for Dr. Antony. Both of them decided it to be a case of inflammatory sore throat, which continued its onward course without any check until his brain became affected...he was rational to the very last...His sufferings were intolerable. But bless God, he bore it with a Christian resignation...he called me and says Pa, I forgot to tell you where I want to be buried. Don't carry me from home, and if you think it a suitable place, I want to be buried back of the Church. I told him I thought it entirely suitable, then says he, Bury me there. The grave is now being dug at that place...tomorrow at eleven o'clock, the funeral services will be held, and will then deposit Eddie's remains in the dark and silent grave...⁴⁴

⁴² Letter Hamblin Bass, August 2, 1862, Waldeck to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 300-01.

⁴³ Letter Hamblin Bass, September 21, 1862, Waldeck to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 303-04.

⁴⁴ Letter Hamblin Bass, January 21, 1863, Waldeck to Dr. & Mrs. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 313-15.

At the end of January 1863 Col. Morgan L. Smith had reached Waldeck and took seriously ill. In relating news of his cotton crop for 1862 it is seen that Waldeck has shifted to cotton production and sugar has been replaced as the major source of revenue. The Confederacy had also conscripted hundreds of slaves for military construction on Galveston Island:

...My house has again been the scene of severe sickness in the person of Col. Smith. He reached here from Cuba the last days of Jan, in fine health as I ever saw him. He had been at my house three days, when he was suddenly taken sick with sore throat or quinsy...and in twenty four hours he came very near choking to death. He was for three hours he could not swallow any thing not even cold water. Before he lost the power of swallowing DR. Morris had given him a good tartarmutic, this with a free use of the lancet caused him to vomit which relieved him at the time. Next day a high grade of inflammatory fever set in and came very near taking him off. All who saw him thought he could not recover...Col. Smith requested me to have him buried under the pulpit in the Church on Waldeck, which is by the side of a friend of his put there several years ago. He remained in this state about four days when he began to rally and I am glad to say is now considered out of all danger...I shall leave home about the 2nd of March nothing to prevent for Alabama & Eatonton and will take money enough with me to pay every dollar I owe there...Confederate money is taken in payment of all debts...I have ginned & packed seven hundred bales, and I have about nine hundred more to gin & pack which will require to the middle of May to get through if not longer. In the sale the quantity of cotton was estimated at 1500 bales. The parties buying it have already paid me 75000 dollars and another 75000 due on the first day of March. The remainder whatever it is to be paid as soon as the cotton is ginned and baled. I deliver the cotton to the buyers at my gin house. I have nothing to do with it, only to gin, bale & weigh it. They took the risk from the day of sale, and it does not matter if the cotton should be destroyed in what way it is done whether by accident or by incendiary or by Military authority it is to be their loss... I have taken in no new land this winter from the fact that half my negroes men are now in Galveston and have been for five weeks, and I know not when I shall get them. I expect to go to Galveston this week to make an effort to get them...⁴⁵

Concerns for the welfare of his slaves impressed by the government and the spring planting delayed Hamblin Bass from his trip to his son's home in Alabama:

...my overseer on Waldeck has been conscripted and put into the army...I have concluded not until I get the crop planted and then Mr. Knowles can take charge of both sets of lands while I am gone...I wrote in my last about Col. Smith having a severe attack of sickness at my house. He is still with me, yesterday was the first time he has been out of his room. He is still very weak & feeble can hardly walk without help. He petitioned to me to let him remain with me during the war offering to pay me board for the same. Of course I could not, and would not, refuse him...

I think I mentioned in my last letter to the Dr. that thirty of my negro men were impressed by order of Gen. Magruder to go to Galveston to work upon the forts. Since I wrote I have been to Galveston and have just returned. I am sorry to say that I lost two by death while in Galveston to wit: Jeff & lee, and got one other badly hurt on the Rail Road and tow sent as teamsters to the State of Louisiana. The sending of these two to Louisiana was done without my knowledge and I regard it as an outrage. I succeeded in getting fifteen of them, leaving twelve behind, 8 in Galveston tow in Houston and the two gone to Louisiana. Two of those I brought home was very sick, one of which I fear I shall lose (to wit) Perry. Nearly all of them had been sick more or less. There was at one time about three thousand negroes at Galveston when in my opinion five hundred would have been quite sufficient. Great many died and dying every day.

⁴⁵ Letter Hamblin Bass, February 16, 1863, Waldeck to Dr. Robert Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 317-19.

They are cared no more for than so many pigs. All the negroes on the island are very anxious to get away. When I went after mine there was great rejoicing...⁴⁶

In another letter to his son-in-law Hamblin Bass was able to retrieve his slaves from the military authorities but leaves no doubt his contempt for those in charge of the situation:

...I am just from Houston again where I have been to look after my negroes in that place and Galveston and am glad to say that I got an order from Gen. Magruder releasing all of my negroes. I have two home with me that was at Houston both sick and the rest from Galveston will be at home this evening. The two that went to Louisiana I doubt whether I ever get them...I have since lost Harry. Ten of those I brought home are now sick. Mr. Mills has lost 13 out of the thirty he sent and Mr. Underwood three out of five. But few who sent hands but lost more or less. All by neglect of the _____ head military officers. When I get all of mine at home, they will never get any more of them...⁴⁷

In May 1863 Hamblin Bass set off on his trip to Alabama and visited his daughter Rebecca in Fairfield, Texas on the way. While his father was absent George P. Bass married Berte Williams⁴⁸ of Matagorda County in August 1863. Hamblin Bass returned to Texas November 1863:

...I never was gladder to see home in my life. Such rejoicing with the negroes when I got home. It would have made you wept to have seen them meet me. All had given me for lost. George & Col. Smith had come to the conclusion that something terrible had befallen me. When I got home I found George & Roberta, with her Ma & Sister, Col. Williams, Roberta's Pa having just before I arrived...I am perfectly delighted with Roberta...Col. Williams family is one of the first in Brazoria & Matagorda Counties. George is, I think, happily married, for I know of no young lady that would have suited him better. And while I think he was a little hasty about it yet I am glad he is married...⁴⁹

Dr. Robert Adams became Chief Surgeon for his regiment and from time to time was able to visit Waldeck as did his son, Robert H. Adams, and his nephew George Bass with his bride. During the first few months of 1864 George Bass was ill and his wife Bertie wrote letters for him as he slowly improved. In May he and Bertie journeyed to Sour Lake to receive benefit from its waters. By June 1864 Hamblin wrote from Waldeck:

...My crop stood the drought astonishingly and is improving fast. If I can get one more good season I will, owing to the breadth of land I have planted, make corn enough to do me three years. Mr. Knowles has tended it like a garden. I have had an abundance of vegetables notwithstanding the dry weather. I had more garden peas than I ever raised in my life and as fine beets and beans. All from the seed you gave me.

I have been eating roasting ears now for two weeks...I go up to Houston and from there to Hempstead tomorrow to get some looms and spinning wheels I bought more than a month ago. I have two dozen wheels and four looms and will as soon as I get them start about fifty women to spinning. I expect to have a time of it, but there is no other chance to clothe the negroes but to make the cloth at home. Col. Smith left me on the first of May and has gone to Europe...⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, March 2, 1863, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 319-21.

⁴⁷ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, March 16, 1863, Waldeck to Dr. Robert Adams, pp. 321-22.

⁴⁸ Roberta Williams born ~1845, Father Robert H. Williams, Mother Mary Lawson White.

⁴⁹ Wood, Gary Doyle ed., The Hicks-Adams-Bass-Floyd-Pattillo and Collateral Lines Together With Family Letters 1840-1868, The Anson Jones Press, Salado, Texas, 1963, Letter Hamblin Bass, December, 3, 1863, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 337-38.

⁵⁰ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, June 13, 1864, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 371-72.

Hamblin Bass gathered material to begin construction of some new slave quarters and wonders of his crop selection for the year;

...I have just put up a hill of four hundred thousand bricks and will be busy the summer putting up some negro cabins. I shall burn the lime out of ____ I have already hauled from Damons mound about 10 miles off...The Brazos is a this time fuller than I have seen it...I have the poorest crop I have had since I have been in the state. Still I shall make an abundance of corn owing to the breadth of land planted. I wish now that I had planted half of my corn land in cotton. I have never tended a crop with so much ease...⁵¹

George P. Bass and his wife returned to Waldeck in July and remain until the end of the year. He relates that Hamblin Bass' construction campaign is well under way:

He (Hamblin Bass) has put up one brick negro cabin, and nearly has completed one of the best smoke houses in Texas—it is twenty seven feet square inside the building—and intends putting up five more cabins. The smoke house is built near where the old hen house stood—at the farther end of Abba's and Hannah's rooms, on a line with the servants rooms and kitchen...⁵²

By the end 1864 Hamblin Bass relates to his daughter the need to butcher his hogs but had been waiting on the completion of his smokehouse (the only structure remaining standing from the Waldeck Plantation July 2007):

I regret to say we have not killed any (hogs) yet, we have had two as good spells of weather for killing as we usually have in this country, but I was not ready, My smokehouse not being finished. We completed the house last Saturday, and I will kill the first cold spell...I have about 250 to kill...I have built one of the best smokehouses I ever saw. It is thirty feet square, and twenty feet high. It will cost me, in gold about \$125 besides my own labor. I made the brick, burnt the lime, from rock got at Damons mound, ten miles distant, hired a brick mason, and put in three of my own hands with him to do the inside work. I have a square roof on it, and it is quite an ornament to the yard. I have dug a vault, five feet high, in which I will salt my meat, then cover close, so as to exclude the air as much as possible...

...The inspecting officer came to my house last August, and I agreed to let him have one half of my cotton, he or the Government to furnish the rope and bagging enough for 108 bales. I let him have fifty four bales of it, I keeping the other fifty four, but I have never been able to get any more rope and bagging although applied at several times...I have now made arrangements to get rope and bagging from Matagorda to bale all of my cotton, and I intend to sell it as soon as I get it baled...I suppose I have about 500 bales on hand not ginned. I find it difficult to keep my cotton from rotting and I have lost a good deal in this way...The price is bout ten cents for low middling cotton...⁵³

George and Bertie Bass had a son during the spring and after the fall of the Confederacy Hamblin Bass considered his alternatives and a path to follow for the future:

...What terrible and sad reverses has overtaken our armies since I last wrote you, on the first of April...Today we have no army. Like spaniels we have laid down and taken the lash. After so much treasure spent, and rivers of blood shed, is it possible, we have to submit to such

⁵¹ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, June 21, 1864, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 373-74.

⁵² Ibid., Letter George P. Bass, December 11, 1864, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, p. 388.

⁵³ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, December 27, 1864, Waldeck to Dr. & Mrs. Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 389-390 & 347-349 (This letter not edited properly and pp. 347-49 included in 1863 instead of 1864).

degradation. Sooner than to submit to this, I had rather see the last dollar spent, and every man, woman, child, and the Confederacy sunk in the Gulf. We will be scoffed, sneered and jeered by all the nations of the earth...If I was twenty years younger, I never would remain in such a country. We are disgraced forever...George and Bertie left here for Matagorda on the 15th of April...George wrote me that Bertie had given birth to a fine son...I hope never to see such another winter and spring. The slough running through my yard, has several times been up in the smoke house, and in my gin house. Every bridge on it was overflowed, and we were completely blockaded from the negro quarter, until I raised the bridge⁵⁴

...It seems that we are to be under Military rule. How long, God only knows. We will know in a short time, I suppose upon what terms we will be allowed to keep our negroes upon our plantations which I reckon will not vary much, if any, from those adopted in the State of Louisiana, which I presume you have seen in the Papers. I said to you in my last that if I was twenty years younger I would leave the country, but I have since given the matter a grate deal of reflection, and my second conclusion is to remain where I am if my land is not confiscated, and hire my negroes and work the plantation. I have meat & bread plenty where I am, and if I was to go away, I am sure I could not even get that. So I have on the whole concluded to make the best of it, and submit to the powers that be. Cotton is obliged to be high for the next several years an if the negroes can be contracted under the new arrangement (which I very much doubt) we can make a living...I have 1250 acres in cotton, and the prospect is better than any I have had at this time of the year...⁵⁵

By November 1865 Morgan L. Smith had returned to Texas to refinance his mortgage with Hamblin Bass. At the end of the war Hamblin Bass still owed Smith \$161,245.57 with interest at 8%. Amazingly Bass was able to pay \$30,000 in gold and refinance his mortgage for \$92,205.58 to be paid out by January 1869 [BCDR K 548/50 & 551/55]. His decision to stay and work the plantation would be very costly.

Bertie Bass died only a short time after her son Edward⁵⁶ was born and George P. Bass moved to San Antonio with the infant staying with his grandfather at Waldeck for a short time. The work on the plantation was often brought to a stand still in want of labor:

The Dr. has told you no doubt that all of my negroes left me except Ellin, Abbia, Nace, & Emaline. I would have been glad to have got clear of Abba and Ellin but could not do so without driving them off...I know Emaline will stay without them. Nace is all that he ever was, and if any change he is more attentive. Fifteen or twenty of my of negroes came over last Saturday to see me and from what I learned were anxious to come back, but advised them to remain where they were. In fact, I doubt the policy of letting them come back, for I am of the opinion that strange negroes will do better than the old ones. I have about 100 hands that go the field. Have planted 1000 acres in cotton and 150 in corn, leaving 450 acres of land out. But I have little hope of cultivating what I have planted, for they will not work more than 7 hours in the day nor more than five days in a week.⁵⁷

...I have pretty well come to the conclusion that any business a man is capable of doing is better than planting with free negroes. I am clearly of the opinion that if I had of sold all of my property, stock & tools I would have made more money than by planting. It is generally the opinion of the planters in the County that there will be a failure this year. While they are respectful, they are indolent, lazy, and wasteful...⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, May 25, 1865, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 394-95.

⁵⁵ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, June 5, 1865, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 396-97.

⁵⁶ Edward Bass died of measles.

⁵⁷ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, April 7, 1866, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 400-01.

⁵⁸ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, 1866, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, p. 401.

By July Hamblin Bass had lost most of his labor force and the insects were attacking his cotton crop:

...He (Hamblin Bass) tells me that the negroes quit work in the field about the first of July and have only gathered a little fodder since that time. The army worm has attacked his cotton, but they advance slowly—if they increase and become general his crop will be an entire failure. With the best I doubt his getting more than 3 bales to the hand—one half of which goes to the negroes...I am glad to find that the negroes here seem to have respect for Mr. Bass, though they do not always obey him. He is very much disposed to send by Afleck for white hands—either Scotch or French. There is a planter in this county working laborers from South France. They have done well and are healthy. Men, women and children all work in the field—prices the same as for negroes and they take the best care of every thing...⁵⁹

The insect infestation continued through the summer affecting the whole county:

...I have almost failed in a crop this year. Will not have more than a hundred bales of cotton and not more corn than will do me to March. I am all alone—no white person with me... We have had rain here nearly every day for the last six weeks. The worms have completely destroyed the cotton crop of this County...⁶⁰

The weather also compounded the troubles for Brazoria County planters and the effects were far reaching to all as Hamblin Bass starts to realize the financial burden he is under:

...We have had the worst spell of weather I ever saw in my life. The very oldest settlers in this county say they never witnessed anything like it before. We have had a great deal of rain for the last two months but the last two weeks the rain has been almost continuous and fell in such torrents as to flood this whole lower country... The cotton crop of this lower country is ruined, what the worms left has been destroyed by the continual wet weather. There cannot probably be seed saved to plant another crop as the seed are all sprouted in the boll. I have picked out only about thirty bales and I have no idea that I shall get as many more. The destruction is complete...

CONFIDENTIAL

I now approach a subject that gives me great pain. My loss on the cotton shipped to Liverpool last winter and my failure to make a crop this year, will prove my utter ruin, and not only mine, but my Dear Son John's. O, how my heart sinks within me at this thought. If it was only myself I might possibly bear it, but to think John is ruined on my account is more than I can bear.

Had I have realized from my cotton last winter as I fully expected I could have relieved John entirely, and the failure of making a crop this year would only have fallen upon me. I have lived, my dear children, longer than life is worth living for, and if I could only relieve John I would not desire to live any longer.

After having paid seventy thousand dollars in gold for the place I live on (which in considering the change in times is all it is worth) it is hard to have to give it up. Col. Smith is here doing me for money. I have told him it was out of the question to pay him a dollar. I do not know whether he will attempt to foreclose the mortgage or not, which he cannot before January, as I have paid all the notes due up to January next. If he attempts it I will endeavor to throw it into the Supreme Court where I can keep it for several years. Great pity that I had not of given up the place last winter and kept the thirty thousand dollars...⁶¹

The prospects for 1867 don't appear to improve as the shortage of labor is still acute:

⁵⁹Ibid., Letter Dr. Robert Adams, July 30, 1866, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 403-04.

⁶⁰Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, September 3, 1866, Waldeck to Rebecca Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 405-06.

⁶¹Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, September 20, 1866, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Houston, Texas, pp. 407-08.

...The planters in this county are running crazy on the negro hire, offering fifteen and eighteen, and some as high as twenty dollars per month. Others are offering one-half of all they make and furnishing everything, the negroe at no expense whatever but his labor. But few negroes will even enter into contract at these high prices, wanting still higher. It is the height of folly to attempt to farm at such ruinous wages...⁶²

Searching for a new solution Hamblin Bass decided to experiment by hiring Scotch laborers who arrived in February 1867:

My Scotch laborers reached Columbia Friday evening about dark in the midst of the severest Norther we have had during the winter. They came on board the steamer Bay City...There are twenty men, one boy about fifteen years of age, four women and two small children making 27 in all.

Mr. Creighton the head man tells me that five men of his deserted him at Galveston, one of whom was a good mechanic who I need and regret losing him above all the others. They are all busy today washing their clothes, fixing up their homes, making mattresses...

They seem and express themselves delighted and move with great briskness. How long this will continue I don't know. You know a new broom sweeps clean...⁶³

Though not overly optimistic Hamblin Bass is at first satisfied with the initial results from Scottish workers:

...Two of white laborers have left, the Irish Sailer, who was a very bad man, and one Scotch woman he carried off with him. This Sailer was the meanest looking man I ever saw, and the other Scotchmen were glad to get clear of him, but hated to losing the woman. I am glad to say that the rest of them are all content and working very well indeed, and their deportment towards me is all I could ask...

The work regularly ten hours per day by the watch never varying five minutes and taking good care of their team. So far I am very well pleased with them, and as it is an experiment, I intend to use my best efforts in every way I can to make it a success...⁶⁴

By the spring Rebecca Adams and her children moved to Waldeck while her husband Dr. Robert Adams worked in Houston, Texas. She and Dr. Adams had three children born during the Civil War. Her health was not good and with the many children (10 children though not all at home) to care for Hamblin Bass hoped the open spaces of plantation life would help her improve. By August the family had to move back to Fairfield, Texas because of Rebecca's failing health. Most of Bass's Scottish workers had also left the plantation and while in Houston Bass had the following waybill printed for circulation:

...after you left I went up to Houston & to Galveston & returned home Friday evening. I did not stay in Galveston more than four hours. Great panic there is consequence of yellow fever, and the Citizens were leaving in all directions, although it was not an Epidemic, from five to eight deaths a day, but mostly in the Hospital...The week after you left the worms reappeared, and eat up all my cotton in about four days, not leaving a leaf on the place, and I suppose from all accounts there is not a leaf of cotton in Brazoria Cty. I have no idea that Brazoria will make 100 bales of cotton. What a terrible disaster. All the planters who are paying monthly wages are discharging their Freedmen. The twenty-two I discharged before you left have got no employment to this time. Hundreds are going about hunting for a home. Since you left here the Scotchmen that

⁶²Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, December 3, 1866, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Houston, Texas, pp. 412-13.

⁶³ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, February 11, 1867, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Houston, Texas, pp. 415-16.

⁶⁴ Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, February 25, 1867, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Houston, Texas, pp. 418-19.

left me have sent me word that they would come back and work for five dollars per month until the end of the year. I declined to hire them at any price...

I do not know that I shall remain here another year or not, but still I feel it to be my duty to make as far as I can, all necessary arrangements to stock the place with labor provided I can do it without much expense. When in Houston the other day I had printed a few hand bills...⁶⁵

Waldeck Plantation, Near Columbia
Brazoria County, State of Texas
July 20th, 1867

TO FARM LABORERS WITHOUT CAPITAL I OFFER THE FOLLOWING INDUCEMENTS:

I propose to furnish as much open land as each laborer can cultivate, with comfortable houses to live in, permission to get fire wood, team, and all necessary tools to cultivate the crop, free of charge, and will give one-half the crop to the laborer making it.

The laborer will be required to furnish all the provisions, both for himself and team, and to put and keep the fence in good repair, and cultivate the crop well. The provisions, both for the laborer and the team, can be furnished on the place by the proprietor, at the market price, and paid for out the laborer's portion of the crop, at the end of the year, So there will be no money really needed on the part of the laborer to carry this plan in to operation; and if desired by the parties so contracting this plan can continue for one, two, three, or five years.

This tract of land contains 2,512 acres, 1700 acres of which is now in a high state of cultivation; well drained by a large number of ditches, well located; lies in Brazoria county, State of Texas, west of the Brazos river, and three miles above the town of Columbia, to which place steamboats are now running at all seasons of the year from Galveston. There is also a Railroad from Galveston by the way of Houston, to Columbia, making it very convenient to get to and from market.

There is on this place two settlements, each having accommodations sufficient for 75 hands, well supplied with an abundance of cistern water. On the place, is a large fine brick gin-house, with three stands of 80-saw Gins, capable of ginning 25 bales of cotton in a day; a good grist mill, that can grind 300 bushels of corn per day; a saw mill, a bark mill, all propelled by steam. There is also a Tannery on the place.

The lands on this plantation are equal to any on the Brazos river, and with its locality and convenience to market, and the comforts surrounding it, make it one of the most desirable plantations in the Southern country.

In point of productiveness, there can be, with fair average seasons, and a thorough cultivation, from fifty to seventy-five bushels of corn and one bale of cotton made to the acre. It will require about 125 laborers to cultivate this plantation, and I would prefer to make an arrangement with one or two energetic gentlemen, to put the laborers on the place and take charge of them. As I expect to remain on the place, I will give the parties (if desired) all the aid and assistance I can, in directing how to plant and cultivate the crop. I have spent all my life in planting and profess to know something about it.

Parties desiring to go into this arrangement should be on the place, with the labor, by the first of December, or sooner if possible.

H. Bass

P. S.—There is a neat brick church on the place, in which divine service can be had every Sabbath, and which can be used as a school house.⁶⁶

In October the news of Rebecca's death due to tuberculosis reached Hamblin Bass. His letter expressing his grief and condolences was one of a very grieving and affectionate father:

...I received two letters from you...the latter containing the sad, melancholy, & mournful news of the death of my first born, my dear darling daughter Rebecca, one who had the strongest

⁶⁵Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, August 5, 1867, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 427-428.

⁶⁶Ibid., Hand Bill, July 20, 1867, pp. 426-27.

hold upon my affections than any other being upon this earth. Is it possible, Oh is it possible that Rebecca is dead, and that I shall never, never, never see her again this side of Eternity. Oh how heart rending is the thought...My heart sickens, and my inmost soul is stirred at the idea of so sad and mournful an event...I can truly say that there never was a daughter more beloved by a Father than I loved Rebecca. Being my first born & oldest child & the only one living by my first wife, I always felt & had a closest attachment for her. A deep & tender affection that took hold of the very depths of my soul, and affection & love that is undescrivable...

I say is it possible that I shall never see her loving face again. God give me grace and fortitude to bear up under this sore trial with a Christian resignation...

I do deeply sympathize with you my Dear Dr. for I was once left in the same situation when I lost Rebecca's Mother, but not with half the responsibility as you have...⁶⁷

Hamblin Bass remained on Waldeck and in February 1868 entered into an agreement with Morgan L. Smith to operate the plantation for four years. Morgan L. Smith would have 2/3 interest while Bass would have 1/3 in the annual proceeds from crops raised on the plantation. Hamblin Bass would have sole management authority for 1868. After 1868 there would be dual management with Smith or his duly authorized agent [BCDR: L 202/04]. The business transactions for the plantation for 1868 are unknown but by November 1868 Morgan L. Smith turned over all his mortgages on the property to Sessums & Company of Galveston. Alexander Sessums and Josiah C. Massie of Galveston bought out Smith's interest for \$5000 cash and \$13,000 in notes [BCDR: L 355/57 & L 372/74]. Morgan L. Smith would make a new home with his wife in Newark, New Jersey. He continued to finance the mortgages of some of his friends in Texas into the 1880's. Smith died 1884 in New Jersey⁶⁸. After staying on to manage the plantation until ~1870 Hamblin Bass moved to Houston, Texas and possibly married for the 3rd time. He died in Houston ~1873.



March 1869 Sessums & Co. was in need of cash to keep the plantation going. They entered into contract with Paul N. Spofford of Spofford, Tileston & Co. on New York, New York. For \$50,000 Spofford acquired a ½ interest to the three tract of land making 2493 acres, 90 mules, 1500 head of cattle, and 35 yoke of work oxen. The outstanding liabilities against the

⁶⁷Ibid., Letter Hamblin Bass, October 21, 1867, Waldeck to Dr. Adams, Fairfield, Texas, pp. 429-430.

⁶⁸ In Abner Strobel's article on Waldeck he states that Morgan L. Smith sold Waldeck to Prince Waldeck after the Civil War, returned east and committed suicide in Boston, Massachusetts which is in error.

plantation amounted to \$17,691.14 which were split 50/50 by the two companies [BCDR: L 440/44]. Spofford, Tileston & Company of New York were a large merchantile and banking business that including shipping lines. At this same time they acquired the Osceola Plantation just north of Waldeck. There is nothing mentioned in the deed records about the sugar mill. During the Civil War it may have laid idle due to Hamblin Bass's concentration on cotton farming or from the want of parts or the expertise to run the immense mill and refinery.

Sessums & Co. had an option to buy back portions of the plantation in five years time but they did not repay their mortgage and Paul N. Spofford took control and transferred Waldeck to Mrs. Susan Spofford March 1874 and in February 1875 Osceola Plantation was also mortgaged by Paul N. Spofford to her for \$25000 [BCDR: O 233/35 O 611/13].

John Wells of Galveston became the legal representative of Mrs. Susan Spofford and Spofford Bros. & Company. In 1878 he mortgaged the cane and corn crops for \$10,000 operating capital to S. H. Kimble of Galveston [BCDR: R304/05]. Sugar cane had now replaced cotton as the cash crop on Waldeck. The next year John Wells signed a contract to rent Waldeck from Susan Spofford for 3 years at \$500 per year. Wells was required to "carry on and work the said plantation during the said term as a sugar plantation in a husband like manner and use at all times during said term at his own cost and expense keep the buildings and machinery & other improvements upon said premises in as good order and condition as the same are in now" [BCDR: R 667/69]. The Texas Package & Insurance Company took a lien against his crops of sugar cane and corn for the year 1879 to supply operating capital [BCDR: S 194]. In 1880 and 1881 John Wells entered into contract with Marx & Kempner of Galveston for operating capital with a lien against the cane sugar, molasses, and corn produced for each year [BCDR: S 500 & T 75/76].

Whereas Hamblin Bass had been unable to procure a stable work force, John Wells was able to obtain labor from the Texas Prison Commission. In the years 1880 and 1881 he had 38 and 41 convicts respectively working in Brazoria County.⁶⁹ In 1881 John Wells and Mrs. Susan Spofford signed a five year contract to commence in March 1882 under almost the same terms as their previous contract [BCDR: U 83/84]. From May 16, 1883 to October 31, 1884 Wells had an average of 47 convicts in Brazoria County used as farm hands which cost him \$4865.⁷⁰

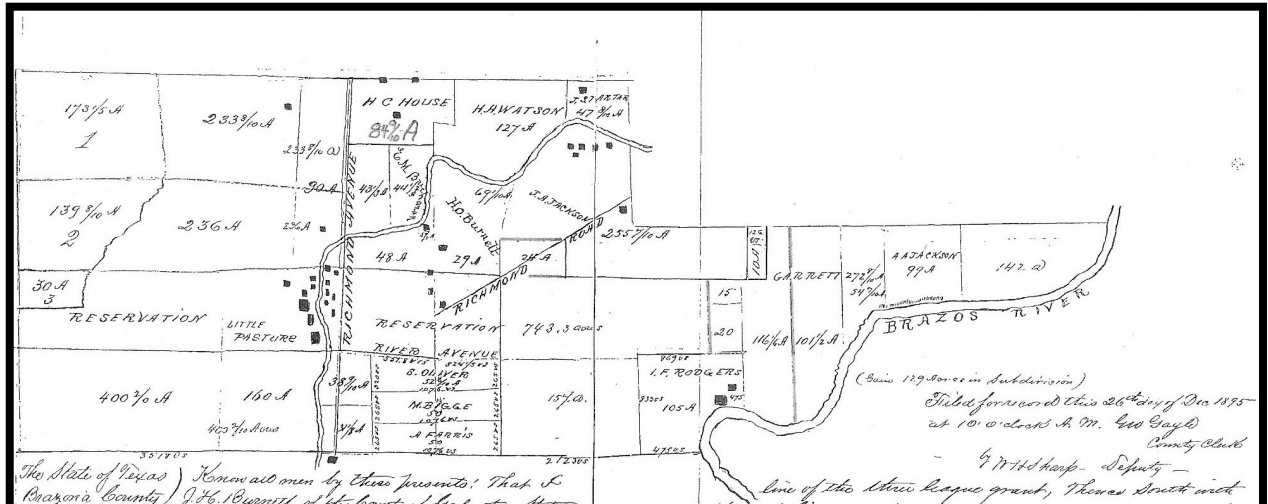
John Wells owed Marx & Kempner \$2553.17 for operating cost in 1882 and entered a deed of trust for operating capital for the year 1883. He was required to put up his personal property on the plantation as security: 12 mules, 4 wagons, 1 boiler, and 1 pump and in addition 53 mules, 4 cane wagons, 1 steam pan, and 1 boiler in which he had 3/8 interest [Deed of Trust: A 130/32].

Mrs. Susan Spofford died 1885-1887 leaving a large estate. John H. Burnett of Galveston contended that Susan Spofford had entered into agreement with him in February 1885 to sell the Waldeck Plantation lands which now amounted to 2943 acres to him for \$5000 and an exchange of 6000 acres located in Houston County. Though contested by her estate J. H. Burnett completed the transaction in November 1890 [BCDR: 5 570/80].

⁶⁹ Biennial Reports of the Directors and Superintendent of the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville, Texas with The Report of the Prison Physician, Commencing December 1, A.D. 1878, and terminating October 31, A.D. 1880, News Book and Job Office, Galveston, Texas, 1881, p. 51. & Biennial Reports of the Penitentiary Board and Superintendent of the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville, Texas, with Reports of Physician and Chaplain, November 1, 1880 to October 31, 1882, E. W. Swindells, State Printer, Austin, Texas, 1882, p. 36.

⁷⁰ Reports of the Superintendent and Financial Agent of the Texas State Penitentiaries, Years Ending October 31, 1884, E. W. Swindells, State Printer, Austin, Texas, 1885, p. 60.

John H. Burnett started to sell off various tracts financing the mortgages himself. In November 1895 he sold the remaining property and outstanding mortgages to J. W. Johnson of New York for \$25,000 [BCDR: 34 40/45 & 35 8/11]. This included the Waldeck Plantation site located on both sides of the slough running through the property.



Plat of Waldeck & Hunt Properties December 26, 1895 [BCDR: 35 8/9]

Tenant farmers were living on Waldeck during the 1890's according to an article in *The Facts* which also included details of the 1900 hurricane:

In the 1890's, several months after her brother and her fiance came to Brazoria County and began farming on the Waldeck Plantation, Miss. M. A. Jones traveled to the area by train, taking the Columbia Tap on the last leg of the trip.

"It was slow, but I got here," Mrs. T. L. Downing said...

When she arrived at Waldeck, more than 40 people live there.

She and her husband were married in the main house, and many of the Waldeck farmers and their families attend.

She proudly showed a faded clipping of the wedding story that was printed in a local newspaper about that event:

"August 8th, 1894, was a notable day for old Waldeck.

As old as this farm is, and as long as this country has been settled, that night was the first time that a white couple marched out on the floor to have the matrimonial knot tied.

The happy couple are Mr. T. L. Downing and Miss M.A. Jones. The wedding was at J. A. Jackson's..."

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Downing lived in a cottage at Waldeck and he farmed there that year and part of the next.

By 1900, they had moved to the adjacent Patton Plantation and were living there when the hurricane struck that fall.

The eye of that storm passed over the area, and during the lull, Downing and another man rode to Waldeck to see how the people there had fared.

They found the beautiful Waldeck sugar house destroyed, leaving only piles of rubble nearby. Fortunately, though, huge, heavy-gauge iron pipes that served the sugar-making process apparently had been in place so long that they had settled partially into the ground.

Rachel Lane, who was living at Waldeck during the storm, later told Mrs. Downing that she and some of the other people who had sought shelter in the sugar house before it began to disintegrate had crawled into a pipe to keep from blowing away...

Many of the Waldeck buildings were destroyed in the 1900 storm, but Mrs. Downing could not remember whether the church was one of them.

She described the church as a long, narrow, brick building...

Bricks from the buildings that were blown down by the storm later were cleaned and either sold or used for rebuilding other structures on that property.

After remaining at the Patton Place for a few years, the Downings returned to Waldeck, where Downing served as the plantation overseer ...

...J. R. Smith of Sweeny, who recalled having delivered replacement parts for farm machinery to the plantation in the early 1900's. At that time, he said, a family named Johnson was using the property for rice farming...⁷¹

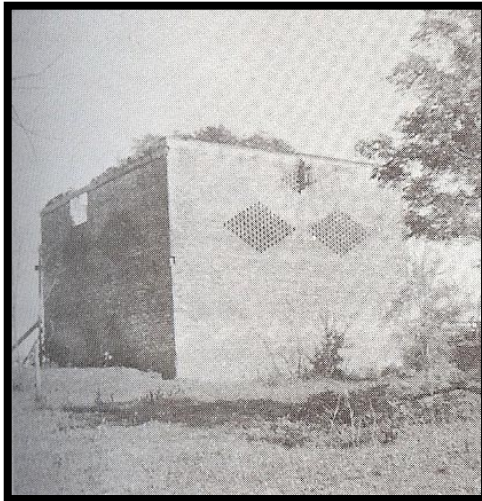
J. W. and Susan Johnson owned the property through the early 1900's and in May 1907 deeded the property over as a gift to Loula Belle Black (daughter) of Illinois [BCDR: 73 594/95]. C. Williard and Loula Belle Black immediately sold the property for \$30,000 to John Spevak [BCDR: 73 597/600]. The Producers Oil Company bought the property for \$37,565 in the same month gaining Spevak a quick profit [BCDR: 73 605/07].

While the Producers Oil Company transferred title over to The Texas Company in November 1917 the ownership was still with the same group of investors which according to most was raising cattle after clearing all the oil leases. They owned the property for many years:

...The big house still stood in the 1920's. Ed Stokely of Lake Jackson, who grew up around West Columbia, remembers how it looked when he was a boy, he hunted in the area.

He says the structure below the verandah, instead of being open, was closed in with little cubicles about seven or eight feet wide which he assumed were slave quarters...⁷²

The 1932 hurricane probably destroyed the home as when Gary Doyle Woods visited Waldeck in 1938 he noted that the only structure standing was the smokehouse without a roof with many cisterns marking the area of the slave quarters and house site.



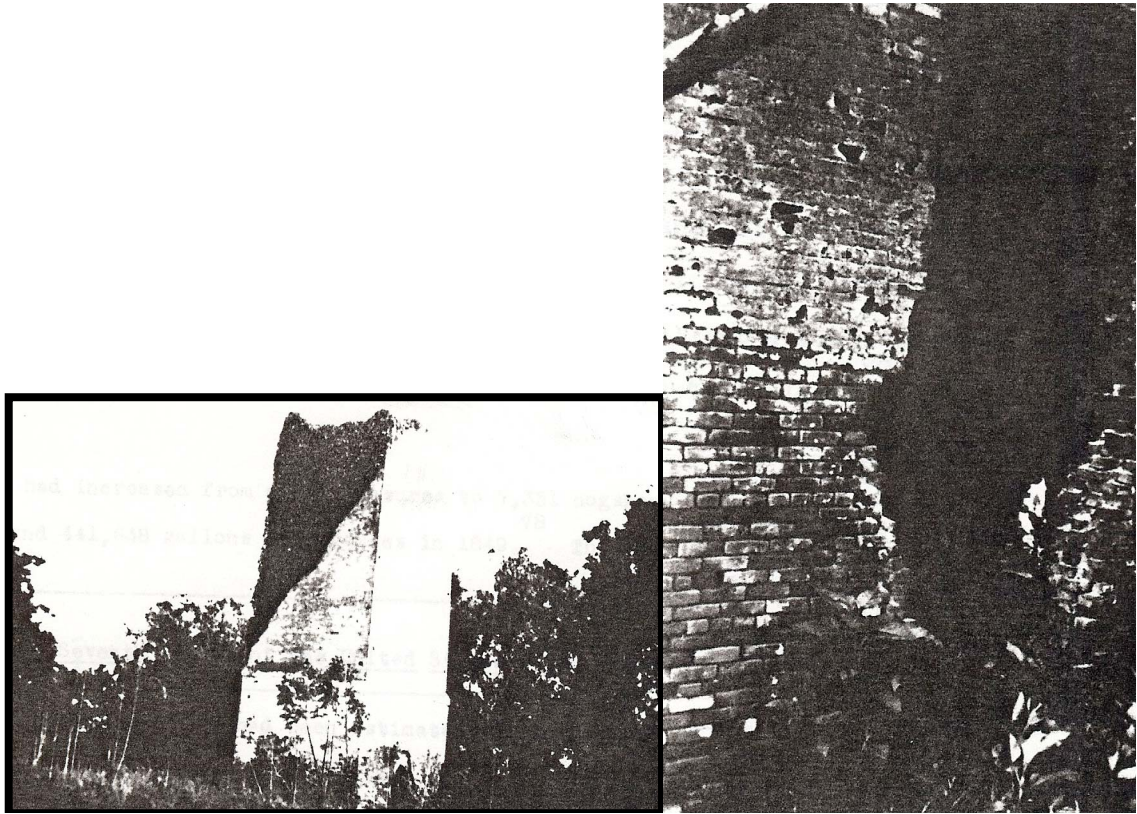
73

⁷¹ Jones, Marie Beth, *The Facts*, May 15, 2006.

⁷² Case, Peggy, *The Brazosport Facts*, July 17, 1974.

⁷³ Wood, Gary Doyle ed., *The Hicks-Adams-Bass-Floyd-Pattillo and Collateral Lines Together With Family Letters 1840-1868*, The Anson Jones Press, Salado, Texas, 1963, p.74+.

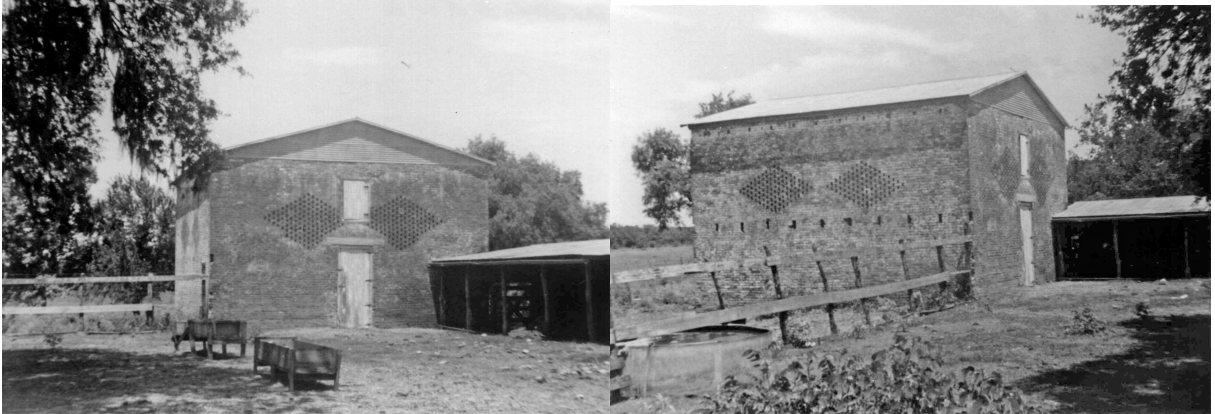
Abigail Curlee took pictures circa 1932 of the Sugar Mill which was in ruin.



Waldeck Sugar Mill Circa 1932⁷⁴

C. F. Mann of Harris County purchased the property containing 2988 acres from The Texas Company for \$60,000 August 1949 [BCDR: 457 212/14 & 469 634]. The next year it was purchased by John and Alma L. Otto [BCDR: 473 34/35]. In December 1962 A. H. Beal purchased 1386 acres from John W. Otto Jr. [BCDR: 837 401/04]. The property has remained in the Beal family since that time. The Beal family built a new home in the area of the old home site and has re-roofed the smokehouse which still stands today. Michael Wade Beal, the present owner, operates the property as a cattle ranch.

⁷⁴ Curlee, Abigail, *A Study of Texas Slave Plantations 1822 to 1865*, Doctoral Thesis, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, June, 1932, p. 186+.



Smokehouse Photos by A. A. Platter ~1960 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum



Foundations Photos by A. A. Platter ~1960 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum



Sugar Mill Photos by A. A. Platter ~1960 Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum



Waldeck Smokehouse July 2007



Appendix A
Slaves Sold April 8, 1856

Dan Ogle 20	Tom 5	Cely 13
Alfred bricklayer 40	Abram 3	Little Susan 12
Charley 26	Tommy 1	Jane 11
Milton 50	Gabriel 8	Louisa 11
Clem 35	Shadrick 6	Ducky 9
Burrill 30	Alfred 8	Amelia 7
Sam 36	Racheal 45	Little Ellen 3
John Brown 38	Little Mary 38	Lissy 7
Old John 60	Big Mary 42	Cindy 8
Joe 60	Sophie 20	Lindy 3
Perry 32	Milly 28	Martha 6
Jeff 25	Mira 28	Jinney 4
Norris 21	Elen 20	Adeline 7
Milburn 21	Hannah Hardiman 38	Winney 5
Turner 35	Maria 32	Kitty 3
Aleck 32	Ann 25	Molly 1
Dennis 35	Mary Jule 35	Garney 6
Henry 28	Rose 18	Raphy 1
Dick 40	Peggy 38	Hillard 8
Jim 25	Big Esther 22	Armstead 8
Nelson 14	Little Esther 10	Aleck 13
George 16	Eliza 40	Infant Child of Mary, Jule
Bill 19	Susan 20	
Randel 35	Hannah 38	98 Slaves
Moses 28	Mary Minard 15	
Paris 35	Josephine 20	
Albert 37	Sarah 20	
Davy 60	Old Susan 35	
Hazard 16	Annie 18	
Matt 12	Elizabeth 20	
Lee 11	Becky 29	
Jake 9	Caroline 21	
Albert 2	Mary Ann 21	
Will 6	Lucy 21	
Perry 6	Viney 35	
Jim 7	Dily Ann 14	
Dave 9	Emily 14	
Moses 28		
Charley 7		

Appendix B
Slaves Sold November 16, 1859

Alfred 40	Louisa 14	Uncle John 55
Peggy 36	Sophie 12	Bora Ann 21
Sophy 19	Aunt Susan 45	Moses 28
Cely 17	Dick 35	Mary Minard 18
Little Alfred 13	Hannah 32	Yellow Susan 21
Shadrack 8	Emiline 18	Allen 6 months
Jim Cummings 28	Dan 13	Jeff 22
Mary Jule 37	Albert 36	Hazzard 19
Matt 15	Ellen 21	Hilliard 12
Jake 20	Jacob 6months	Little Aleck 13
Will 9	Burrill 32	John Brown 27
Jinney 8	Lucy 25	Jim 30
Job 18 months	Kitty 6	George 19
Dennis 32	Raphy 4	Bill 21
Hannah Hardiman 35	Sallie 18 months	Joe 29
Little Sue 16 & her child Harriet	Norris 25	Sam 23
Genney 12	Caroline 21	Sam Blacksmith 42
Lee 13	Molly 5	Harry 20
Jim 8	Little Norris 8 months	Turner 42
An infant child of Hannah Hardiman 4wks	Henry 27	Clark 35
Aleck 32	Josephine 21	Uncle Dan 70
Becky 32	Peter 18 months	Nelly 14
Dicky 12	Clem 26	Milburn 23
Dinkey 11	Mira 30	Mary Ann 21
Soloman 9	Mary Elizabeth 2	Fred Cooper 25
Milly 32	Randall 38	Ann 48
Lyfie 12	Sarah 26	Jane 40
Isaac 6	Lindy 7	Dan Ogle 22
Joshua 3	Maria 6 months	Becky 18
Maria 40	Preston 30	Viney 35
Nelson 15	Caroline 18	Cindy 11
Adeline 12	Paris 40	
Winney 9	Annie 20	
Perry 42	Uncle Charley 52	
Esther 30	Eliza 48	

Appendix C
Bass & Adams Family Records

Hamblin Bass married 1st Elizabeth Saunders Harris (widow) December 15, 1825
Elizabeth Saunders Harris died February 26, 1831
Hamblin Bass died ~1873 Houston, Texas

Rebecca Ann Patillo Bass Born December 11, 1826
Married Robert Adams January 15, 1845
James Augustus Bass Born August 27, 1828 Died 1855
Married Adela J. Branham 1851
Mary Elizabeth Bass Born February 11, 1831 Died December 29, 1853
Married Robert P. Root June 14, 1853

Hamblin Bass married 2nd Mary R. Trippe April 10, 1833
Mary R. Trippe Died September 31, 1858 Glenville, Alabama

John Hamblin Bass Born May 19, 1833 (stayed in Alabama and served in Confederacy)
Married Mittie Persons
Nathan Henry Bass Born January 20, 1836 Died January 31, 1837
Edward Francis Bass Born May 1, 1841 Died January 1863 at Waldeck (served in Confederacy)
George Pleasant Bass Born June 2, 1843 (came to Texas and served in Confederacy)
Married Roberta Williams August 1863

Rebecca Ann Patillo Bass married Robert Adams January 15, 1845

Robert Hamblin Adams February 3, 1846-1871
Frances Elizabeth Adams July 28, 1847-September 19, 1849
Julia Adams June 8, 1849- March 1, 1939
David Adams March 23, 1851-
Mary Elizabeth Adams July 9, 1854-November 9, 1909
Sarah Louiza Adams April 7, 1856-1896
Anna Rebecca Adams April 4, 1858-
Georgia Adams December 14, 1859-1874
Jane Adams June 8, 1861-July 5, 1904
Frances Hudson Adams May 23, 1863-1899
Jefferson Adams December 10, 1864-November 18, 1918

Appendix D Deed Records

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	James E.B. Austin	Deed	SR		July	10	1824		J.E.B. Austin 3 League Tract
William G. & Eliza M. Hill	Morgan L. Smith	Deed	B	39/40	May	19	1841	1255	1114 & 141 acre tracts Lower SW Corner JEB Austin 3 league tract \$5408.00
Morgan L. Smith	John Adriance	Deed	B	39	May	19	1841	1255	\$2459.14 an undivided interest in lands
William G. & Elliza Hill	Henson G. Westall	Deed	B	263	May	22	1843	1107	Acreage just above Initial Waldeck purchase
Henson G. Westall	William G. Westall	Deed	B	263/64				1107	Same \$5000
John Adriance	Morgan L. Smith	Deed	D	327/29	Mar	15	1847	1255	\$24,800.50 charged against Morgan L. Smith's account partnership Smith Adriance & Co. ¼ of Waldeck Plantation, slaves & stock
Morgan L. & Elizabeth B. Smith	William Joel Bryan & Guy M. Bryan	Deed	G	572/76	April	8	1856	2493	3 tracts Waldeck Plantation & slaves & stock & sugar house
William Joel Bryan & Guy M. Bryan	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	G	577/80	April	8	1856	2493	Mortgage on above \$132,000
William Joel Bryan & Guy M. Bryan	Morgan L. Smith of New York	Deed	H	309/11	Nov	24	1857	2493	\$132,000 sold back to Smith
Morgan L. & Elizabeth B. Smith	Hamblin Bass of Barbour County Alabama	Mortgage	J	297/302	Nov	16	1859	2493	\$187,589 Land & Slaves & sugar house
Hamblin Bass	John H. (son) & John H. & R. S. Bass(nephews)	Mortgage	K	811/14	Feb	28	1867	2493	2 notes \$8409 & \$6210 by Hamblin Bass during the Civil War using son & nephews as security mortgage to them
Hamblin Bass	Robert Adams	Mortgage	J	602/04	Nov	20	1860		Mortgage Slaves for note 1 Feb 1852 \$19562.00 to Thomas R. Lumsden
Hamblin Bass	Robert Adams	Mortgage	J	605/08	Nov	22	1860		Mortgage Slaves for note 1 Nov 1857 \$1368.20 to Edmond McGehee
Hamblin Bass	Morgan L. Smith of Brazoria County	Agreement	K	548/50	Nov	4	1865	2493	Hamblin Bass to resume his financial payment to Morgan L. Smith after Civil War
Hamblin Bass	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	K	551/55	Nov	6	1865	2493	\$161,245.57 initial note will settle for \$30,000 Gold Coin down & \$92,205.58 in notes
Morgan L. Smith	Hamblin Bass	Agreement	I	202/04	Feb	19	1868		Agreement of operate plantation for 4 years as partners 2/3 Smith 1/3 Bass
Morgan L. Smith of New Jersey	Alexander Sessums & Josiah C. Massie	Mortgage Transfer	L	355/57	Nov	3	1868		Transferred mortgage for \$18,000 to Sessums & Co.
A. Sessums & J. C. Massie	Morgan L. Smith	Deed Trust	L	372/73	Nov	3	1868		Deed of Trust for transfer of mortgage
A. Sessums & J. C. Massie	P.N. Spofford of New York	Deed	L	440/43	Mar	6	1869		\$30,000 Spofford Tileston & Co. ½ interest Waldeck Plantation & take on ½ debt of \$17,691 5 yrs to pay back

Paul N. Spofford	Mrs. Susan Spofford	Deed	O	233/35	Mar	17	1874	2493	Transfer ownership Waldeck Plantation
Spofford Tileston & Co.	Mrs. Susan Spofford	Deed	O	356/57	Aug	18	1874		Transfer of ownership
John Wells for Susan Spofford	S. H. Kimball	Mortgage	R	304/05	Sept	28	1878		Mortgage crops of sugar cane and corn for \$10,000 working capital
Susan Spofford	John Wells	Agreement	R	667/69	Mar	3	1879		\$500 for 3 years rent the plantation
John Wells	Texas Package & Insurance Co.	Mortgage	S	194	Mar	21	1879		Mortgage crops of sugar cane & corn for 1879
John Wells	Marx & Kempner	Mortgage	S	500	Mar	14	1880		Mortgage crops sugar cane, molasses, corn for 1880 for operating capital.
John Wells	Marx & Kempner	Mortgage	T	75/76	Mar	23	1881		Mortgage crops sugar cane molasses, corn & farm products 1881 for operating capital
Susan Spofford	John Wells	Lease	U	83/84	Aug	5	1881		Lease for 5 years/\$500/year
John Wells	Marx & Kempner	Deed of Trust	A	130/32	April	30	1883		Mortgage all crops and his personal property on Waldeck operating capital 1883
Estate of Susan Spofford	John H. Burnett	Deed	5	570/80	Nov	21	1890	2943	\$5000 and 6000 acres in Houston County
John H. Burnett	J. W. Johnson of New York, NY	Deed	34	40/45	Nov	5	1895		Mortgage transfer parts of Waldeck & Hunt Plantations
John H. Burnett	J. W. Johnson of New York, N.Y.	Deed	35	8/11	Nov	5	1895		~1800 acres Homestead area \$25,000
J. W. & Susan Johnson	Loula Belle Black of Illinois	Deed	73	594/95	May	17	1907		~3021 acres gift
C. Willard & Loula Belle Black	John Spevak	Deed	73	597/600	May	17	1907	3021	\$30,000
John Spevak	Producers Oil Co.	Deed	73	605/07	May	31	1907	3415	\$37,565 2/3 1/3 to G.H.Hermann
Estate of J. H. Burnett	Albert J. Bond	Deed	73	617/19	May	30	1907	393.9	\$3000 part of Waldeck
Albert J. Bond	W.D. Bates Trustee	Mortgage	79	52/55	Mar	30	1908		\$2500 note of John Spevack transferred
Producers Oil Col	The Texas Company	Deed	143	222/25	Nov	13	1917		Transfer ownership
The Texas Company	C. F. Mann	Deed	457	212/14	Aug	1	1949		\$60,000
The Texas Company	C. F. Mann	Deed	469	634	Dec	10	1949	29881/2	\$60,000
C. F. & Chestene Mann	John & Alma Louise Otto	Deed	473	34/35	Mar	15	1950		Waldeck
John & Alma L. Otto	John W. Otto Jr.	Deed	679	96/97	June	15	1956		1386 acres
John Wesley Otto Jr.	A. H. Beal	Deed	837	401/04	Dec	12	1962		\$242,579.75 1386 acres Waldeck
Michael Wade Beal									Current Owner
Smith Adriance & Co.									
Joseph J. George	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	64	June	9	1841		All cotton crop on 2 plantations to pay acct.
Rueben R. Brown	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	231/32	Mar	7	1843		\$1000 5 slaves as security
Joseph J. George	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	257	April	20	1843		\$279.21 note at store several slaves to secure note
Francis & Catherine Early	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	258	May	3	1843		\$582 note slave to secure note
M. W. McKinney	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	308	Oct	5	1843		\$429.97 Crop of Cotton, Corn, Potatoes
Joseph J. George	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	332	Dec	30	1843		2 Notes \$152.00 & \$85.00 secured by his cotton crop
Morgan L. Smith	James Wilson	Deed	B	369	Feb	14	1844	Lots	5 Lots Blk 17 East Columbia \$100

Henry Smith	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	379/80	Feb	19	1844	1 slave to secure note \$286.00
Casper Escher	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	422/23	April	11	1844	Several slaves to secure note \$142.00
William S. Orr	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	457	Nov	6	1844	256 acres to secure note \$656.00
William G. Hill	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	B	486	Mar	25	1845	Note \$454.56 secured by cotton on his place
D. Hardeman	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	D	88/89	Feb	9	1846	Note \$1937.84 957 acres on Buffalo Camp
William K. Huey	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	D	261/62	Dec	2	1846	Note \$800.00 slaves as security
Henson G. Westall	M. Smith	Mortgage	D	356/57	April	24	1847	Note \$1235.18 730 acres secure note
Leander H. McNeel	M. Smith	Mortgage	D	359/61	May	1	1847	Note \$5353.01 Slaves & ¼ 2 Leagues
James W. & Elizabeth L. Copes	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	D	386/87	April	4	1848	Note \$2200 secured by 400 acres
James & Elizabeth Copes & Thaddeus & Mary Bell	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Deed	D	586/87	April	4	1848	400 Acres \$2200
Sheriff Auction	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Deed	E	35/37	Jan	2	1844	\$300.00 bought slave "Jim"
Daniel H. Yeiser	M. Smith & J. Adriance	Mortgage	E	194/95	April	23	1847	3 Notes to Smith, Adriance & Townes ¼ Samuel M. Williams League East San Bernard
Henson G. Westall	M. Smith	Mortgage	E	371	Mar	9	1850	Note \$1600 400 acres on Bell's Creek
Morgan L. Smith	Henson G. Westall	Deed	E	415/16	Mar	9	1850	\$2400 400 acres on Bell's Creek
Morgan L. Smith	Leander H. McNeel	Release	E	466/67	May	15	1850	Release mortgage D359/61
Morgan L. Smith	John P. Carson	Deed	E	495/96	Feb	6	1849	15 acres in Columbia
Townes Knight by Morgan Smith	Phillip A. Davenport	Deed	F	531	Mar	31	1853	1/12 Interest in Columbia
Morgan Smith	Elija T. Barstow	Deed	G	120/21	April	3	1854	\$100 where now resides Columbia
Morgan L. and John Adriance	George Nash	Deed	H	97/80	April	8	1856	\$75.00 Lots 2,3 Block 16 East Columbia
Morgan L. Smith of Brazoria County	D. H. Armour	Deed	H	379	Feb	1	1858	½ Interest in Columbia
William J. Bryan	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	J	65/69	Jan	1	1859	Note \$13,899 note Duranzo as security
Morgan L. Smith	John A. Wharton	Deed	J	155/57	April	30	1859	1/6 Interest In E. W. Columbia
Smith, Adriance, Copes, Wharton	Thomas Brooks	Deed	J	160/61	April	1	1858	\$300.00 Columbia Town Tract
Joseph M. W. McCormick	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	J	290/92	Oct	27	1859	Note \$4400 Plantation & Slaves West side of San Bernard
Smith, Adriance, Copes, Wharton	John O'Brian	Deed	J	357	Mar	4	1857	Tract in Columbia
A. P. McCormick	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	J	472/74	May	28	1860	Note on Lands west of San Bernard
Morgan L. Smith of New York	A.P. McCormick	Release	K	59	Jan	10	1861	Release J 472/74
A. P. McCormick	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	K	132/33	Jan	1	1861	\$4000 8000-12000 acres on San Bernard
Smith, Adriance, Copes, Wharton	Josiah Shepard	Deed	K	162/63	June	5	1860	\$400.0 Tract in East Columbia
Morgan L. Smith	John Adriance	Deed	K	206/07	Jan	10	1861	½ 16 acres in Columbia
			K	505	Nov6		1865	½ Interest in Town Tract Columbia \$1800
Morgan L. Smith	John Adriance	Deed	K	506/07	Nov	6	1865	\$480 ½ 16 acres in Columbia

Sheriff R. J. Calder	Morgan L. Smith	Deed	K	825/27	Dec	8	1841		Bought \$4770 Foreclosure auction large portion of Columbia
Smith, Adriance, Copes, Wharton	H.J.B.Cash	Deed	M	712/13	Feb	15	1861		\$266.75 Lots in Columbia
Smith, Adriance, Copes, Wharton	F.W.T. Harrison	Deed	P	200/01	Feb	20	1861		\$348.92 Lots in East Columbia
Morgan L. Smith of New Jersey	George W. Sampson of Washington D,C.	Deed	M	104/06	Mar	3	1870		\$320.00 for 320 acres of land east of the San Bernard bought in 1857 from Samuel Damon
Morgan L. Smith of New Jersey	A.P. McCormick	Release	M	354	Jan	4	1871		\$4400 pd Mortgage J 290/92.
Morgan L. Smith of New Jersey	A.P. McCormick	Release	M	354/55	Jan	4	1871		Release Mortgage K 132/34
Morgan L. Smith of New Jersey	William Joel Bryan	Release	M	355	Jan	5	1871		Release Mortgage \$13899.87 pd J 65/67
A. P. McCormick	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	S	421/22	Feb	1	1880		
Morgan L. Smith	Andrew McCormick	Release	V	765	Jan	5	1884		Release Mortgage S- 421/22.

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