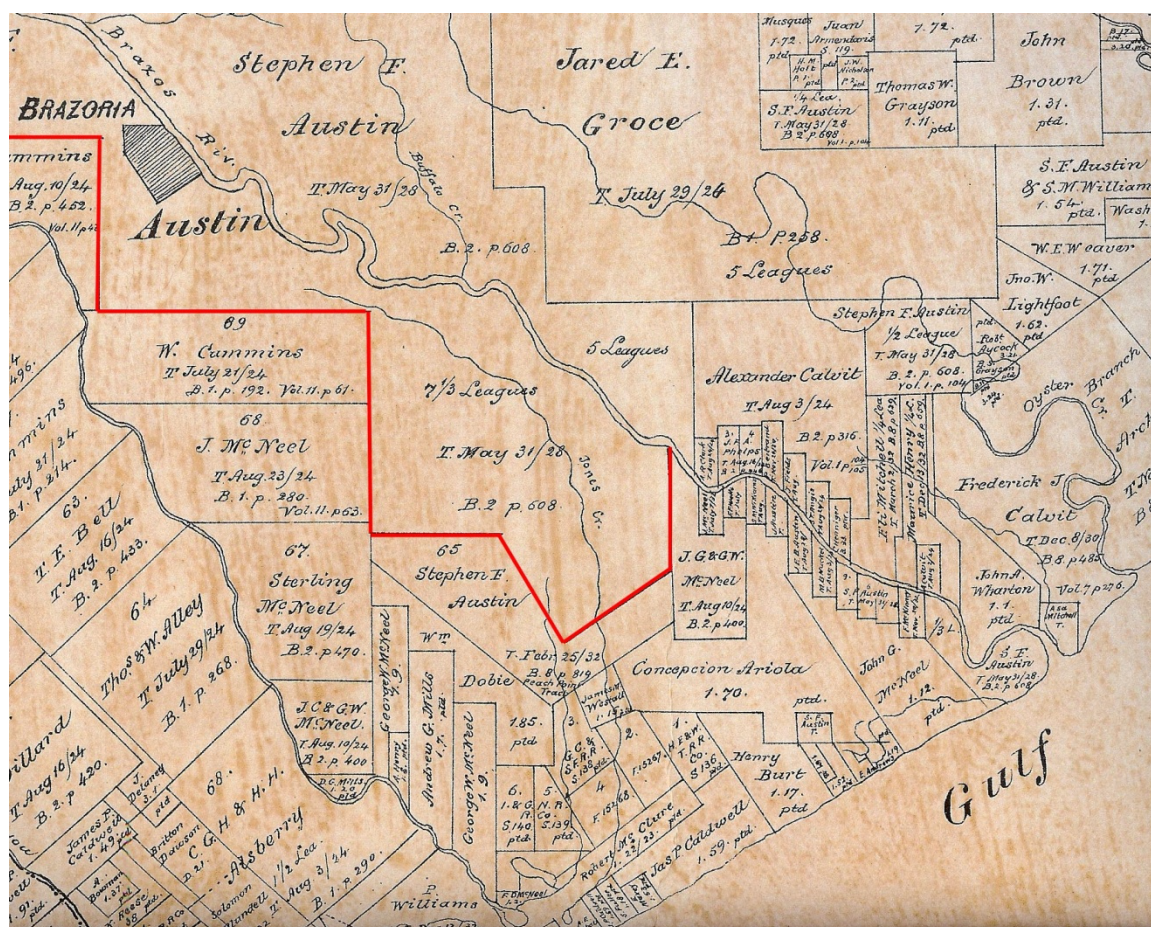


Robert & David G. Mills Low Wood Plantation
Brazosport Archaeological Society



Lower Portion of Stephen F. Austin 7 1/3 League Tract Below the Town of Brazoria

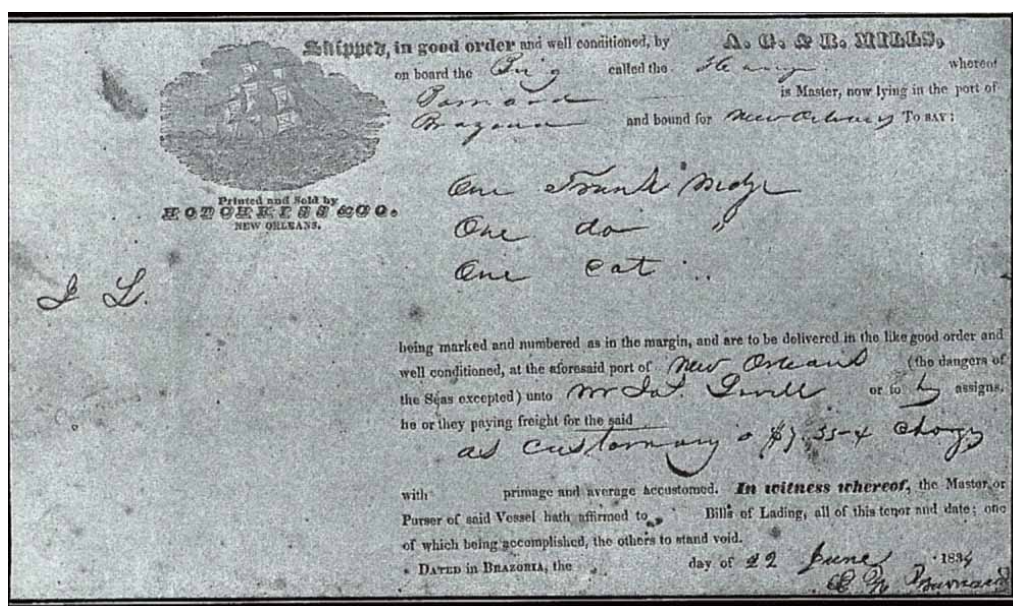
Low Wood Plantation was formed from five tracts of land from the Stephen F. Austin 7 1/3, William Cummings, and John McNeel Leagues west of the Brazos River below the town of Brazoria. From Kentucky, the Mills brothers under the style of R. & D. G. Mills of Galveston, Texas would make this 4527 acre sugar plantation the base for their Brazoria County operations. R. & D. G. Mills built an empire as commission merchants and cotton brokers in Galveston, Texas. During the early years of statehood, Robert Mills operated their business in Galveston while in Brazoria County David G. Mills managed Low Wood and Bynum as sugar plantations building Palo Alto into a cotton plantation. They also owned a half interest in Caney Place, another sugar plantation, with William G. Warren in Matagorda County. While Low Wood was just one of several plantations owned by the Mills brothers, based on a large slave labor force, Low Wood Plantation produced more hogsheads of sugar than any other plantation in Brazoria County during the 1850's. Although they owned hundreds of slaves, many tens of thousands of acres, and several ships to transport their merchandise before the Civil War, heavy mortgages

finally forced the Mills brothers into bankruptcy court after the war. Low Wood Plantation was sold to Moody, Jamison & Co. of Galveston, Texas December 1873. W. L. Moody and E. S. Jamison held the property for several years before it was bought by Sarah B. Perry the wife of Samuel S. Perry owners of the Peach Point Plantation in 1884. In 1896 Ben Campbell and E. W. Sewall became co-owners of 2575 acres of Low Wood. The Governor of Texas bought this portion of Low Wood Plantation in 1902 after the state had been leasing the property for the penitentiary system for the previous two years. It became part of the Clemens Prison Farm. A portion of the land where many of the old improvements was sold off and Scott and Laura Toms may now own the site.

Andrew G. Mills¹ came to Texas in 1827 from Kentucky and his brother Robert² joined him in January 1831 moving to Brazoria, Texas. Both brothers fought in the Battle of Velasco in 1832.

The Mills brothers were initially in the mercantile business in Brazoria where Robert Mills became known as the "Duke of Brazoria". One of their customers in November 1833 was William Barret Travis who entered in his diary:

28 November
 Bot of A. G. & R. Mills-1 pair pants \$9.
 Pair shirts & 2 pair drawers flannel 2.00
 3 pair socks 2.00³



¹ Andrew G. Mills born 1805 Todd County, Kentucky. Parents Adam and Jenett (Graham) Mills.

² Robert Mills born March 9, 1809 Todd County, Kentucky, attended Cumberland College 1826-1827. He opened a plantation in Madison Parish, Louisiana, but abandoned it when it was devastated by a flood and came to Texas.

³ Davis, Robert E., ed., *The Diary of William Barret Travis*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1966, p.75.

⁴ Allhands, J. L., *Gringo Builders*, Privately Printed, 1931, p. 230.

They dissolved their partnership, A. G. & R. Mills, in December 1834. The following newspaper article appeared in the *The Texas Republican* making the dissolution of their partnership public as well as noting the establishment of a new business between Robert Mills and his younger brother David G. Mills⁵:

DISSOLUTION

THE copartnership heretofore existing, in the name and style of A. G. & R. Mills is by mutual consent, this day dissolved, except in liquidation. Those having claims against them will please present them for payment and those indebted are requested to make immediate payment, or satisfactory arrangements—otherwise indulgence will not be given.

A.G. Mills

R. Mills

N.B. The business will in future be conducted by Robert Mills and David G. Mills in the name and style of Robert Mills & Co. and their goods will be sold at reasonable prices for cash, and on the usual credit, to punctual customers. Jan 1⁶

Robert Mills & Co. also went into partnership with Samuel B. Brigham of Matagorda, Texas. Goods were supplied to Brigham via a schooner the *Julius Caesar*, owned by the Mills brothers.

COPARTNERSHIP

THE undersigned, having associated themselves in the Mercantile business, at the Town of Matagorda, under the firm of S. B. Brigham & Co.—take this method of informing the public that they will constantly keep on hand a general assortment of seasonable and fresh goods.

R. MILLS & Co.

SAML. B. BRIGHAM

Matagorda, July 1st 1835

NEW GOODS

S. B. BRIGHAM, & Co. have just received by the Schr. Julius Caesar, a general assortment of DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, SADLERY, MEDICINES, & c. & c. which they offer to the public, wholesale or retail on accommodating terms.—

Matagorda July 15th, 1835⁷

While a Granville Mills is listed as a participant at San Jacinto in 1836 in Robert J. Calder's company from Brazoria County, it is not entirely certain that this was Andrew G. Mills who died at sea near Indonesia that same year. The land certificates issued by the Republic of Texas for military service to Granville Mills were never claimed by the Mills brothers.

During the fight for Texas independence R. Mills & Co. supplied their schooner the *Julius Caesar*⁸ to transport troops as well as purchased arms and supplies for the army using their credit in New Orleans.⁹

Robert Mills married Elizabeth G. McNeel, daughter of John McNeel who owned a plantation east of the San Bernard River near the town of Brazoria, on January 26, 1836 in a

⁵ David Graham Mills born 1812 Todd County, Kentucky.

⁶ *The Texas Republican*, July 25, 1835, Brazoria, Texas

⁷ *The Texas Republican*, November 14, 1835, Brazoria, Texas

⁸ The *Julius Caesar* carrying a cargo valued at \$30,000 was captured by the Mexican Navy off the coast of Texas April 12, 1837.

⁹ Republic of Texas Claims, Texas State Archives

bond ceremony, the bond at \$50,000. The contract stipulated that Robert McNeel would “live with, maintain, protect and kindly treat and consider the Elizabeth G. McNeel as his true and lawful wedded wife from the date of this instrument now henceforth forever until death shall separate them...the parties severally bind themselves each to the other, that they will have solemnized as soon as practicable by a Priest of the Church according to law...” Elizabeth died in childbirth along with their infant in 1837. Robert Mills never remarried.

Robert and David G. Mills were among the group of citizens that initiated The Brazoria Insurance Company in Brazoria, Texas incorporated by the legislature in 1837 with a capital stock of \$200,000. In 1839 Robert Mills acquired property and built a cotton compress on San Luis Island. This business venture fell through as the harbor for the island silted up in the early 1840's.

In 1842 David G. Mills served in Captain Gill's company under Col. C. S. Owen during the Vasquez campaign.¹⁰



In recognition of his financial backing and crucial aid, Stephen F. Austin had agreed to reserve land in his colony for Joseph H. and George Anne Hawkins of New Orleans.¹¹ Both Joseph Hawkins and his wife died of yellow fever in New Orleans before they were able to come to Texas.¹² Stephen F. Austin did deed their share over to their heirs. Joseph T. Hawkins received property west of the Brazos River below the town of Brazoria in a partition with his sister Mary Jane Davis in 1846. In early 1846 the Mills brothers purchased from Joseph T. Hawkins¹³ three tracts of land including the plantation on which Hawkins resided. The Hawkins Plantation was on the lower section of the property and become part of Low Wood. The next month they purchased another large tract of ~ 1200 acres along the Brazos River and a 400 acre tract next to

¹⁰ Ibid.

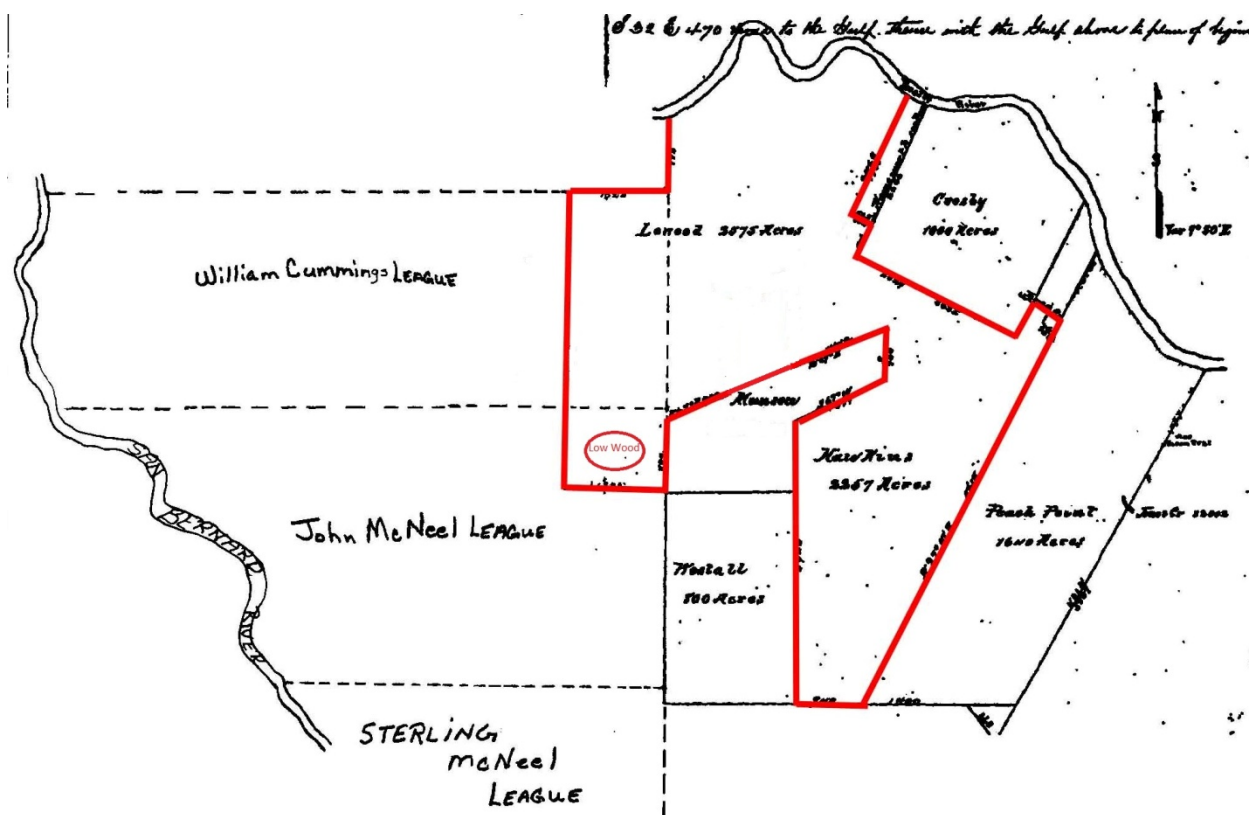
¹¹ Cantrell, Gregg, *Stephen F. Austin Empresario of Texas*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1999, pp.80-84.

¹² Joseph H. Hawkins died 1823 and George Anne Hawkins died 1829.

¹³ Joseph T. Hawkins was one of the Hawkins heirs. Stephen F. Austin had set aside 42,000 acres of land at different locations in his colony for their heirs. The Oakland Plantation owned by the Henry Munson family, the Westall Plantation, the Crosby Plantation, and Aycock's Landing or Ferry were also in this section of land with Low Wood Plantation.

Oakland Plantation, originally owned by the Henry Munson family.¹⁴ This gave their plantation access to the Brazos River to provided easy shipping.

A tract of ~1000 acres in the William Cummings League and another in the John McNeel League were also purchased making a total of 4527 acres for their Low Wood Plantation. They had been farming a portion of the land in the John McNeel League since 1837.



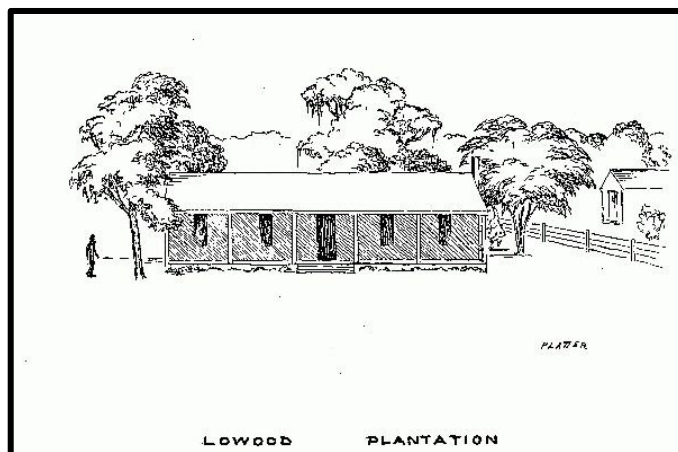
June 20, 1848 Robert and David G. Mills formed a new partnership under the name Robert and David G. Mills.¹⁵ Under the style of R. & D. G. Mills in 1849 their firm moved to Galveston, Texas. John W. Jockusch, Prussian Consul at Galveston, became a partner in their firm from the summer of 1850 until 1863. In Brazoria they were partners with Theodore Bennett in the mercantile business. They owned three large plantations in Brazoria County, Low Wood, Bynum, and Palo Alto and in Matagorda County were partners with William G. Warren in Caney Place. By 1852 Palo Alto was a cotton plantation while the other three were primarily sugar plantations.

David G. Mills, a bachelor, lived in a modest three room brick home on Low Wood Plantation on the west side of the Brazos River below the town of Brazoria while he over looked the agricultural portion of the business. A plank fence with a stile was between the yard of the plantation and the slave quarters. Each slave cabin had two rooms separated by a wall containing

¹⁴ BCDR: B 515/16, D 58/60, D 113/14, D 114/15 & D 540/43.

¹⁵ Brazoria County Deed Records: D 638/31 & D 631/34

a double fireplace, and two families lived in each building. A kitchen and a hospital were near the residence and the plantation had a large sugar house. All improvements were made of brick. On the Brazos River was Low Wood Landing, one of the largest landings on the river.



Robert Mills rode among the farmers and planters. He studied and observed so closely that he developed into one of the most proficient cotton men of early Texas. In fact, he studied the cotton of the Brazos and Colorado valleys so intently that he had developed an almost uncanny ability to recognize a particular customer's cotton, and seldom made a mistake in identifying a bale of cotton, although no two bales are alike. He delighted in assembling even-running lots and he knew to what mill each type could be best sold and when it should be sold.¹⁶ Robert Mills managed the merchandising, cotton brokerage, shipping, and financial enterprises later building a large plantation style home¹⁷ on ten acres in Galveston, Texas.

In the absence of trustworthy banks in the late 1840's and through the 1850's, between \$30,000 and \$300,000¹⁸ in notes on the Northern Bank of Mississippi at Holly Springs and some by The Mississippi and Alabama Railroad Company of Brandon, Mississippi, countersigned by R. and D. G. Mills, circulated as gold in Texas and Louisiana. March 20, 1848 an act had been passed by the Texas legislature which provided that:

"That any corporation, company, or association of individuals who shall use or exercise banking or discounting privileges in this State, or who shall issue any bill, check, promissory note, or other paper in this State, to circulate as money, without authority of law shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to a fine of not less than two thousand dollars, nor more than five thousand dollars, which may be recovered by a suit in the District Court, in the name of the State."¹⁹

R. & D. G. Mills found the loop hole in the law that though they were rigidly prohibited from the issue of bank notes, they were not prohibited from their *reissue*, much less the simple

¹⁶ Holbrook, Abigail Curlee, "Cotton Marketing in Antebellum Texas", *SWHQ*, Vol 73 No. 4, July 1969-April 1970 p. 452.

¹⁷ The home was torn down and later 5 acres became the site of the Garten Verein and Kempner Park in Galveston, Texas.

¹⁸ The total amount was more likely only \$30,000-\$40,000.

¹⁹ Gouge, William M., *The Fiscal History of Texas*, Lippincott, Grambo, and Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1852, p.233.

passing of notes issued by banks in another state. Neither did the law prohibit any citizen of Texas from indorsing such notes, although such endorsement might give them a currency in Texas they would not otherwise have had. R. & D. G. Mills circulated these notes, termed “Mills Money”, “not for the purpose of making money, but to facilitate the operations of their own business, by affording a convenient medium of circulation.”²⁰

Suspension of affiliated firms in New York and New Orleans in 1852 created a “paper money panic” which sent “Mills Money” below par for only one day as the stability of R. & D. G. Mills was confirmed. Robert Mills and their older brother William Mills²¹ of Holly Springs, Mississippi were also part owners of Mills, McDowell, & Company of New York and McDowell, Mills & Company of New Orleans. Another partner was James R. McDowell of New Orleans, their brother-in-law married to their sister Janet McKee Mills. The brother of James R. McDowell, Robert McDowell was another part owner.



Mills Money

In 1850 David G. Mills is listed in the Federal Census in Brazoria County and Robert Mills in Galveston County with William Mills' son Samuel living and working with him:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| David G. Mills (Planter) | 30M | Kentucky |
| William G. Warren (Overseer) | 40M | Tennessee |
| J. W. Hassell (Blacksmith) | 40M | Tennessee |
| Robert Mills (Merchant) | 40M | Kentucky |
| Samuel D. Mills (Merchant) | 23M | Mississippi |

²⁰ Ibid., p. 235.

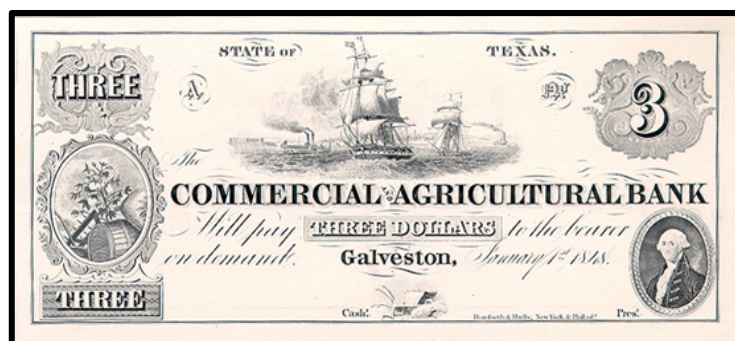
²¹ William Mills born 1800.

According to the 1850 Agricultural Census David G. Mills had 850 improved acres with another 100,000 acres unimproved and \$25,000 worth of farm machinery.²² He had 10 horses, 50 mules, 25 milch cows, 25 work oxen, 300 head of cattle, and 200 swine. In 1849 his plantations produced 6500 bushels of Indian corn, 1000 of Irish potatoes, 2000 of sweet potatoes, 350 pounds of butter, 4 tons of hay, 656 hogsheads of sugar, and 40,000 gallons of molasses.²³ The 1850 Federal Slave Census lists R. & D. G. Mills with 235 slaves.

During the 1850's using steam power, the sugar production for Low Wood Plantation was listed as:

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1852 | 780 Hogsheads |
| 1853 | 457 |
| 1854 | 670 600 Burnt |
| 1855 | 820 |
| 1858 | 450 |
| 1859 | 200 ²⁴ |

In 1852 the state attorney general Thomas J. Jennings brought suit against Samuel May Williams as one of the directors of "The Commercial and Agricultural Bank of Galveston" and another in kind, against Robert Mills, David G. Mills, and John W. Jockusch of R. & D. G. Mills for the exercising of banking or discounting privileges and the issuance of bills, checks, promissory notes, or other paper to circulate as money. This suit was put aside and Jennings brought another suit in March 1853 which also was dismissed in 1855.



The antibanking establishment planned another mode of attack. In a new suit on January 19, 1857 District Judge Peter W. Gray gave the following charge of the court:

...The law of Texas is to be construed and enforced with reference to the acts done within its territorial limits, without regard to the laws or policy of other States and if the defendants have violated the laws of Texas by acts done in Texas, they cannot protect themselves under color of

²² Production for the Low Wood and Bynum plantations is not separated in this census.

²³ Robert Mills is listed separate from David G. Mills and is probably the production for Palo Alto Plantation.

²⁴ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1852-53, With An Appendix, New Orleans, Champomier, P.A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1853-54, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1854. Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1854-55, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 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. Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1860-61, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1861.

authority of the laws of another State. The question then to be decided by you is; did the defendants issue the drafts or any of them described in the petition, to circulate as money, in Texas?

The term “issue,” as used in the act under which this prosecution originated, means to put out, or send forth among the people of the this State, for the first time; and it is not necessary that paper sent forth, should be made or signed by the party putting it out.

The *intention* with which such a sending or putting out, may have been done is to be determined by you from the evidence.

If, then, you believe from the evidence, that the defendants were associated together, and acting as a company in business in Galveston, and that they did, in said county, issue, or put forth, for the first time in Texas, the drafts described in the petition, or any of them; and that it was done by them, with the intent or purpose to circulate the drafts as money, then you will find guilty, and assess the penalty at not less than \$2000, nor more than \$5000, for each draft so issued; but if you believe otherwise from the evidence, then find not guilty.²⁵

Two of the witnesses for the defense were Mr. P. W. Lucas, President of the Northern Bank of Mississippi and a cashier, Mr. George West. Part of Mr. West’s answers were as follows:

1st Interrog—The notes of the Northern Bank of Mississippi are issued to circulate as money, in Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, or anywhere else where they have sufficient credit to circulate, by R. & D. G. Mills, or any body else who may choose to take them and give them circulation.

3rd Interrog—I know of no agreement between the stockholders of the Bank and the firm of R. & D. G. Mills, by which they bring the money to Texas and put it in circulation, or any agreement between them for any purpose.

4th Interrog—I am not prepared to say and cannot say to what extent the money of that Bank would be current in Texas, without the credit—given it by the name of R. & D. G. Mills. The only ground, upon which I could base an opinion touching that point, is the fact that as cashier, I have frequent application from emigrants and others, for the notes or checks of the Bank to be used in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas, they doubtless believing from information received, that it was the best money they could take with them, except gold or silver, or other Louisiana currency...

5th Interrog—This interrogatory pre-supposes the existence of an arrangement between the Bank and R. & D. G. Mills, under which that firm undertook to issue and circulate the money in Texas, and I am asked to state the object of such arrangement. There is no arrangement between the Bank and R. & D. G. Mills, or between the Bank and anybody else, to issue the notes or checks of this Bank. They are all issued by the Bank through its legally constituted officers. There was an arrangement between the firm of R. & D. G. Mills and the Board of Directors of the Bank, by which R. & D.G. Mills were to receive a certain amount of the issue of the bank from the Bank’s Agent in New Orleans, from time to time, as they might be in the hands of said Agent, for which the said R. & D. G. Mills gave the said Board of Directors security to the satisfaction of said Board, and for which the said R. & D. G. Mills paid a stipulated rate per cents per annum, *interest*, ... I suppose it was to borrow money to facilitate them in their business.²⁶

²⁵ *Galveston Daily News*, January 15, 1857

²⁶ *Galveston Daily News*, January 17, 1857

On January 19, Judge Peter W. Gray gave very explicit instructions to the jury to find Mills guilty, which they did. Gray set the fine at \$100,000, a very exorbitant amount. Two days later the jury in the trial of Samuel M. Williams failed to reach a verdict and a \$2000 judgment against his bank for passing a single dollar bill was agreed upon.²⁷ While waiting their appeal to the state supreme court both entities continued to conduct business as usual despite the adverse ruling; they did reduce their notes in circulation. Louisiana money as well as other paper notes began to circulate at much less than par value leading the local newspapers to come to the side of Williams and Mills.²⁸

The Panic of 1857 began in August on the east coast and by October 16 rumors from New Orleans created a run on Williams and Mills that continued for several days. Though Mills had to suspend specie payments for a brief time and Williams closed his bank early, when Williams resumed paying gold on demand, confidence was quickly restored. The Panic of 1857 insofar as Galveston was concerned soon subsided.²⁹

The Texas Supreme Court handed down an opinion on the Mills case February 28, 1859. The case against Robert Mills, John W. Jockusch, and David G. Mills was reversed and they were absolved of the \$100,000 fine imposed by the lower court.³⁰ Samuel May Williams, who had died the previous year, did not live to hear the fine against The Commercial and Agricultural Bank was upheld thus ending its viability.

During the 1850's R. & D. G. Mills did business in Galveston consigning planters' crops from the Trinity River down to the Colorado River in Matagorda County.

R. & D. G. MILLS, Galveston, Strand
McDowell Mills & Co., New Orleans, Gravier St 36
Attend to General Commission, Forwarding and Exchanging business.
Consignments to us of Cotton, Sugar, and other produce, for sale here or for reshipment, are
covered by Insurance, in open policy, at the current rate of Premium and at full valuation.
R. & D. G. MILLS³¹

R. & D. G. MILLS,
Cotton Factors & Commission Merchants,
AND DEALERS IN EXCHANGE,
GALVESTON, TEXAS.³²

Robert Mills acquired majority ownership of the *J. H. Bell*, a new steamer, 171 feet in length and 30 feet wide, operating on the lower Brazos between Columbia and Galveston. The

²⁷ Henson, Margaret Swett, Samuel May Williams, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1976, pp. 158-159

²⁸ *Galveston Daily News*, February 3, & 5, 1857

²⁹ Henson, Margaret Swett, Samuel May Williams, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1976, pp. 158-159.

³⁰ Moore, G. F. and R. S. Walker, Reports of Cases Argued and Decided in The Supreme Court of The State of Texas, During Part of the Galveston Session, 1859, Vol. XXIII, The Gilbert Book Company, St. Louis, Missouri, 1882, pp. 295-309.

³¹ *Democrat and Planter*, Columbia, Texas, February 20, 1855

³² The Texas Almanac 1857, Richardson & Co., Galveston, Texas, 1856.

412-ton sidewheeler arrived in Brazoria in December 1853. It was outfitted with a 450 hp. upright marine steam engine, powered by three boilers. The *Bell* was built of white oak timbers, with a V-bottom, deep-sea hull, and its bow was especially reinforced, perhaps outfitted with an iron prow.³³ The steamboat was described by the editor of the *Texas Planter* as a splendid boat, decidedly the best that ever made its appearance in the Brazos River and under the charge of Captain Fowler.³⁴ The *J. H. Bell* continued on up stream to Columbia where it was loaded with 547 bales of cotton, 42 Hghds of sugar, and 2 bales of moss. On her weekly trips it was calculated that she could carry 1000 bales of cotton over the bar at the mouth of the Brazos River.³⁵

COLUMBIA AND GALVESTON TRADE

THE SPLENDID new steamer J. H. Bell Capt Chas. Fowler has taken her place in this trade and will make regular trips from Galveston to Columbia and the intermediate landings, from the present time through the season. This boat has been built during the last summer expressly for this trade under the superintendence of the captain. Her capacity for freight as well as her passenger accommodations are superior to those of any boat in Texas. Her owners are confident that she will fully meet the wants of shippers and travelers between Galveston and the Brazos. Having been built since the new Steamboat Law was enacted she is completely provided with everything requisite to comply with the provisions of that Law. For freight or passage apply to the captain on board or in Galveston to.

R. & D. G. MILLS³⁶

In January 1854 the *Bell* was back in Columbia laden with sugar from Mill's plantation and about 100 bales of cotton.³⁷

In the fall a hurricane struck Matagorda County on the 18th & 19th of September. It was one of the severest storms to wreak havoc on the coast in many years. Many of the plantations along the San Bernard and Caney Creek were damaged along with a portion of the sugar houses of R. & D. G. Mills, on both their upper and lower plantations.³⁸ "The destruction of the timber has been immense. It is impossible to compute what portion of the forest trees have been blown down, but they have so blocked up the roads that they are almost impassable. In regard to the crops from the best information we are able to get, we do not think the Sugar will be more than one-third or one-half a crop, and the Cotton will not greatly, if any, exceed one-fourth the crop that would otherwise have been made."³⁹

In the fall of 1856 Robert Mills acquired the majority interest in the steamboat, *Fort Henry*. This elegant vessel ran the Brazos River as far north as Port Sullivan in Milam County and regularly made trips to Washington-on-the-Brazos. She was 157 tons, 153 feet long by 36

³³ Lasworth, E. J. and Virginia, "Texas Steamboat Register, 1829 to 1998," p. 84.

³⁴ *The Planter*, Brazoria, Texas, December 14, 1853

³⁵ *The Democrat and Planter*, Columbia, Texas, December 20, 1853

³⁶ *The Democrat and Planter*, Columbia, Texas, January 31, 1854

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ This reference may mean their plantation in ownership with Warren in Matagorda County and Low Wood on the Brazos River in Brazoria County as most of the damage reported from the other plantations was in this area.

³⁹ *The Planter*, Brazoria, Texas, September 27, 1854

feet in the beam, could accommodate 125 cabin passengers in her 29 staterooms and drew only 30 inches of water with 800 bales stacked upon her polished deck.⁴⁰ The *Josiah H. Bell*, which was sold by Robert Mills in 1855, in 1858 was working more on the Trinity River and was sold in 1859 to the Texas and New Orleans Railroad and later became part of the Confederate Navy.⁴¹

According to tax records by 1858 R. & D. G. Mills owned 21,826 acres in Brazoria County alone and another 82,672 acres scattered about the state. They also owned 294 slaves, 200 horses, and 3000 head of cattle in Brazoria County.

Abner Strobel described the Low Wood Plantation as well improved—"their improvements being of brick. The Mills brothers had the plantation bells cast for the Wharton plantation, the Retrieve, Lake Jackson, Darrington, as well as their own three plantations, at a foundry in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and while there dropped fifty silver Mexican silver dollars in each bell while being cast. You could hear these bells ring on a still morning for a distance of five miles. I have heard them ring many times at morn, noon and night."⁴²

By 1860 there were 193 slaves and 40 slave dwellings on Low Wood Plantation. The Mills brothers owned over 300 slaves⁴³ in Brazoria County with 20,189 acres of land according to the 1860 tax record. David G. Mills reported his real estate value at \$364,234 and value of his personal estate at \$250,000. In the 1860 Agricultural Census David G. Mills is listed as having 1300 improved acres with a total of 84617 acres unimproved valued at \$219,234 in the county with another \$20,000 worth of farm machinery. Livestock on Low Wood consisted of 7 horses, 80 mules, 25 milch cows, 60 working oxen, 200 head of cattle, and 250 swine. For the 1859 crop 15,000 bushels of Indian corn, 250 of peas and beans, 50 of Irish potatoes, 3000 of sweet potatoes, 250 pounds of butter, 10 tons of hay, 387 hogsheads of sugar, and 36720 gallons of molasses were produced.

While David G. Mills is listed as living alone in Brazoria County in the 1860 Federal Census Robert Mills was living in Galveston with other relatives and children of business friends. He valued his real estate at \$700,000 and his personal estate at \$9000. He held eight slaves as his own property according to the 1860 Slave Census.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Victor McMahan (Merchant) | 23 M | Alabama |
| John Mills (Clerk) | 26 M | Mississippi ⁴⁴ |
| Robert Mills (Merchant) | 50 M | Kentucky |
| Thomas Jack (Lawyer) | 30 M | Texas |
| Maria Jack | 23 F | Missouri |
| Louisa Jack | 3 F | Texas |
| David Jack | 8/12 M | Texas |

⁴⁰ Puryear, Pamela Ashworth and Nath Winfield, Jr., Sandbars and Sternwheelers Steam Navigation on the Brazos, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1976, pp. 84-87.

⁴¹ Block, W. T., "Requiem for a Confederate Gunboat" & *Galveston Weekly News*, Galveston, Texas, May 31, 1859

⁴² Strobel, Abner J., The Old Plantations and Their Owners of Brazoria County, Texas, Lake Jackson Historical Association, 2006, p.19.

⁴³ This made R. & D. G. Mills the largest slave owner in Texas.

⁴⁴ John Mills is in high probability the son of William Mills.

One of the few descriptions of Robert Mills is given by William Pitt Ballinger, a prominent lawyer from Galveston with close ties to Brazoria County: “An afternoon tea with the “urbane Robert Mills” meant “fine talk of homes, books and trade” and often playing dominoes until dinner time and even on into the evening.”⁴⁵



Robert Mills ?

In 1859 James R. McDowell died. The Mills brothers' sister Jane McDowell with her children and also their younger sister Mary Margaret Mills moved from New Orleans to Holly Springs, Mississippi to stay with their brother William Mills' family.

The Civil War brought different opportunities for those in the cotton and sugar business in Texas. While several of their ships were confiscated by the Confederate government Robert Mills was often in Cuba overseeing the blockade runners at Havana. R. & D. G. Mills were $\frac{3}{4}$ owner of the blockade runner *Rob Roy* before being bought out by Captain William Watson.⁴⁶ The captain found Robert Mills “a rather close customer to deal with”.⁴⁷ After making a run to Mexico with a cargo of cotton for sale and returning to Havana, Captain Watson had another transaction with Robert Mills. Robert Mills asked “what value I now placed upon the vessel. I said 5,000 dollars when repaired and ready for sea. He then said that his offer was that he would furnish a cargo equal in value to that amount, which cargo he would guarantee would satisfy the requirements of the Confederate Government as to inward cargo, and purchase much more cotton than the vessel could carry out, and the surplus would be invested in cotton bonds, which were still worth something in Havana. He would then become owner of half the vessel, and I would be owner of half the cargo...he would allow for my services as captain 500 dollars, to be paid in advance before sailing, and 7 dollars for every bale of cotton when landed in a neutral port...I then got a list of the cargo he proposed to furnish. It consisted of 200 Enfield rifles with bayonets and accoutrements, 400 Belgium muskets with bayonets, 400 cavalry swords, six cases of saddlery and accoutrements, twenty-five boxes of ammunition, a large box

⁴⁵ Fornell, Earl Wesley, *The Galveston Era*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1961, p.9.

⁴⁶ Watson, William, *The Civil War Adventures of a Blockade Runner*, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 2001, pp. 94 & 140-141.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p.140.

of cavalry currycombs and horse brushes, and several bales and cases of blankets, clothing, boots and shoes, hardware, and other goods... Besides this it was a good policy to have a good supply of some things which were much esteemed by the Southern people...tea, coffee, cheese, spices, thread, needles...all spirituous liquors were forbidden to be taken in, but they were received with great thankfulness if given as donations for the use of hospitals...”⁴⁸ Captain Watson again became a partner with Robert Mills. John R. Mills⁴⁹ was a representative of the firm in Galveston and Houston during the Civil War procuring cotton for shipment to usually Tampico or Vera Cruz, Mexico before a final destination in Havana, Cuba to pick up a shipment needed by the Confederacy for the return voyage.

After the Civil War Robert and David G. Mills tried to keep their plantations in production but were plagued as other Brazoria County planters by the shortage of dependable labor and several years of successive crop failures. They mortgaged the Low Wood Plantation for \$50,000 to Gardner, Bacon, & Co. of New York for \$50,000. The lands, sugar house, mills, and machinery were held as security.⁵⁰

With many creditors preparing to foreclose upon them the Robert & D. G. Mills started to sell off some of their assets and reduce their debt load. February 1872 for \$36,000 in notes to R. & D. G. Mills and another \$20,000 payable to Hennings & Gosling of New York City they conveyed the Bynum Plantation and their ½ interest in Caney Place to Andrew G. Mills, their nephew.⁵¹ In June 1872 R. & D. G. Mills sold all their cattle and cattle horses east of the Brazos River, reserving all work oxen and milch cows, for \$12,700 to William D. Hoskins and Charles R. Foster.⁵²

According to the 1870 Federal Census, Andrew G. Mills was back in Galveston living with Robert Mills as was the sister of Robert, Mary M. Mills. Julia Hayne, age 28 a white domestic servant, and her son were also listed in the household. In Brazoria County John Mills was living with David G. Mills as were Mathew Booth and John Lauchy both farm managers.

By December 1873 R. & D. G. Mills had to declare bankruptcy. February 1874 Branch T. Masterson and George Street were appointed assignees by the court and instructed to sell off all the property and personal assets of R. & D. G. Mills & Company, Robert, David G., and John R. Mills. The initial listing of debts amounted to over \$70,000.⁵³ Robert Mills, a man of unusual business integrity, declined to claim his homestead exemption and surrendered his mansion, his carriages, silver plate, and furniture along with his personal belongings to the auction block.⁵⁴ David G. Mills managed to claim 200 acres of Low Wood as his homestead exemption and continued to remain in Brazoria County trying to farm. The Low Wood Plantation and homestead was sold off to William L. Moody and Elbert S. Jamison of Galveston in December

⁴⁸ Ibid., pp. 148-149.

⁴⁹ John R. Mills was most likely a nephew and son of William Mills of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

⁵⁰ BCDR: L 128/29

⁵¹ BCDR: M 723/27, M 728/33 & M787/82

⁵² BCDR: N 181

⁵³ BCDR: O 656/62, P 131/32 & 42 609/10.

⁵⁴ Fornell, Earl Wesley, *The Galveston Era*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1961, pp. 48-49.

1873 for \$8,000.⁵⁵ In 1879 they acquired all the personal property and livestock still owned by the Mills brothers on Low Wood for \$2700.⁵⁶ David Mills would once again gain control of Palo Alto Plantation but would not be able continue farming and moved to Galveston in the early 1880's and died there February 27, 1885.⁵⁷

In the 1880 Federal Census Robert Mills still listed his occupation as commission merchant. Julia Ryan (cook) and her daughter Julia Hayne with a boarder Richard Mays are listed in the same household. Robert Mills would live out his life in Galveston, Texas in almost obscurity, never regaining his lost fortunes; he died April 13, 1888 due to senile atheroma.⁵⁸ In his last will and testament Robert Mills bequeathed "to my beloved niece Lucy Ballinger Mills...my picture of the Trial of John Hus."⁵⁹ All my other household furniture and household stuff I give to my faithful servant and friend Julia Ryan and appoint Julia Ryan my executrix..."⁶⁰ Their younger sister, Mary Margaret Mills, their older brother William Mills, and their nephew Samuel D. Mills all proceeded them in death. The family is buried in the Trinity Episcopal Cemetery at the corner of 4th & Avenue K in Galveston. Andrew G. Mills, their nephew, continued to live in Galveston with his family and died there in 1894.



Mills Family Burial Plot Trinity Episcopal Cemetery

The Low Wood Plantation became the property of Sarah B. Perry and her husband Samuel February 1884.⁶¹ They owned the Peach Point Plantation adjacent to some of the lands of Low Wood. Isaac B. Baker and E. W. Sewall acquired the northern part of Low Wood from the heirs of Samuel and Sarah Perry in December 1895. This was the 2575 acre tract along the Brazos River which held most of the improvements on the plantation.⁶²

⁵⁵ BCDR: P 233/35

⁵⁶ BCDR: 47: 294/95

⁵⁷ *Galveston Daily News*, Galveston, Texas, February 28, 1885.

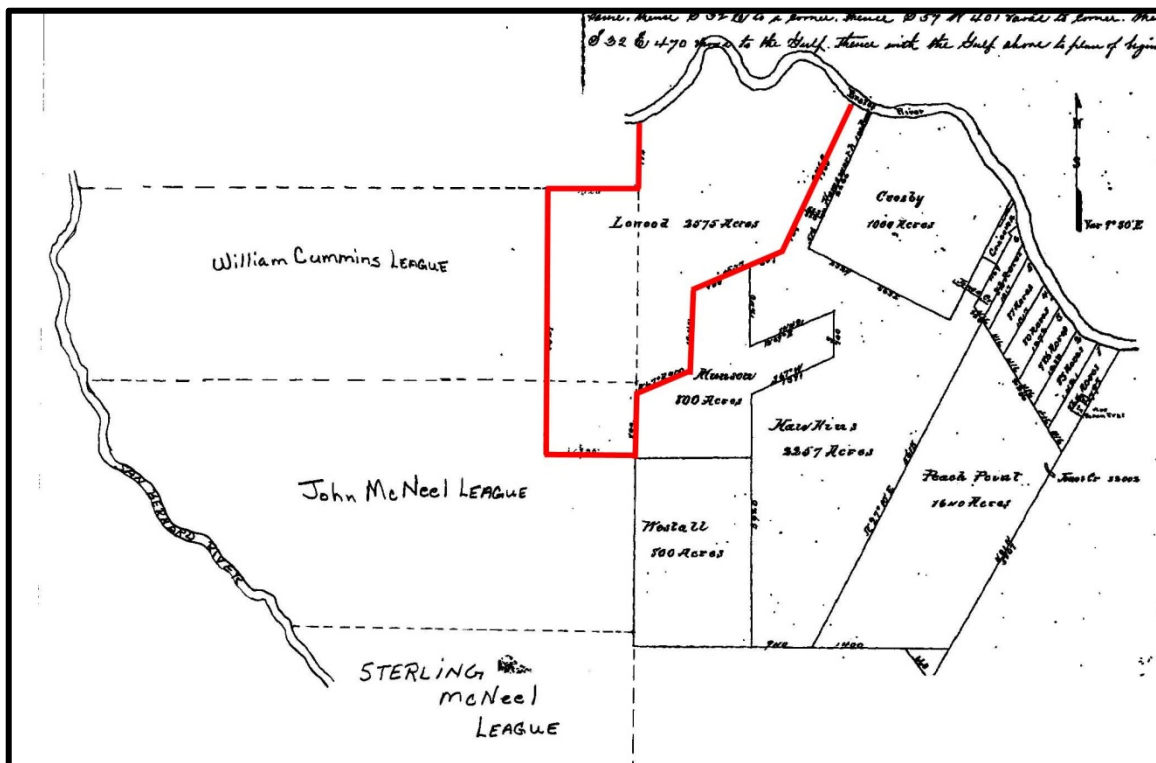
⁵⁸ *Galveston Daily News*, Galveston, Texas, April 14, 15, 19, 22, 1888.

⁵⁹ In Constance Hus was burned at the stake in 1415, with Wycliffe's manuscript Bibles used as kindling for the fire.

⁶⁰ BCDR: 18 1/2

⁶¹ BCDR: W 322/28

⁶² BCDR:



Ben Campbell bought out the Baker's interest in 1896.⁶³ From E. W. Sewall and Ben Campbell the Governor of Texas Joseph D. Sayer leased the Low Wood track to be used by the penitentiary system for 1900 and 1901 for \$2.00/acre/yr. with a right to purchase the property at \$12.31/acre.⁶⁴ In 1902 the land was purchased for \$33,045.40 and the acreage was added to the existing Clemens Prison Farm.⁶⁵

The location of the David G. Mills home and slave quarter area became Camp #1 of the prison farm. A new sugar mill and rail line were added to the Clemens Prison Farm. The prison system used the new mill for many years and even shipped cane from some of their other prison farms in Brazoria County to Clemens to have it processed.



Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum 1998.021p.0002

⁶³ BCDR: 36: 546/48

⁶⁴ BCDR: 50: 331/36

⁶⁵ BCDR: 55 625/28 The Clemens Prison Farm to be discussed in more detail in Leander and John McNeel Report.

Part of the property which contains the location of the David G. Mills home and slave quarters was sold and now may be owned by Scott and Laura Toms.

This part of Low Wood has not been surveyed archeologically although local relic hunters have been active in the area. It is not known if the sugar mill built for the Clemens Prison Farm was built at the same location as the Mills brothers' mill.

Appendix A Mills Family Genealogy

Adam Mills b. 1755 Ireland

d. Oct 1823 Todd County, Kentucky

m. 1798 Chester District, South Carolina

Jennett Graham b. 1777

d. 1817 Christian, Kentucky

1. William Mills b. March 11, 1800 Chester District, South Carolina

d. October 1, 1872 Galveston, Texas

m. 1st

Mary A. Rayburn b. 1809

d. 1832

a. Samuel D. Mills b. March 21, 1826 Franklin, Kentucky

d. March 22, 1866 Texas buried Galveston, Texas

m. 1858 Texas

Martha Bonner b. 1838

d. 1911

i. Robert S. Mills 1858-1911

ii. Mary Mills 1864-1930

b. Green R. Mills b. 1830 Kentucky

c. John R. Mills b. 1830-1831 Kentucky 1833-1834 Mississippi??

m. 2nd April 1835 Warren County, Mississippi

Minerva Hill b. 1807 Petersburg, Virginia

d. April 1870 Marshall, Mississippi

a. Andrew Graham Mills b. May 11, 1839 Mississippi

d. March 25, 1894 Galveston, Texas

m. February 13, 1878 Galveston, Texas

Lucy Ballinger b. July 24, 1852 Galveston, Texas

d. September 24, 1936 Galveston, Texas

i. Ballinger Mills 1879-1947

b. David Graham Mills b. 1848

2. Hannah Nancy Mills b. 1803 Union, South Carolina

d. June 24, 1845 Lincoln, Missouri

m. 1822 Christian, Kentucky

James Knox b. 1792

d. 1869

a. Mary Janet Knox 1824-1902

b. Virginia Knox 1824-1861

c. Ann Mills Knox 1832-1880

d. Minnie Knox 1836-1915

3. Andrew Granville Mills b. 1805
d. 1836 At Sea Sulawesi Tengah, Indonesia
4. Robert Mills b. March 9, 1809 Logan County, Kentucky
d. April 13, 1888 Galveston, Texas
m. January 26, 1836 Brazoria County, Texas
Elizabeth McNeel b. (John and Elizabeth McNeel)
d. 1837 (Childbirth) Brazoria County, Texas
a. Infant 1837-1837
5. David Graham Mills b. 1812 Logan County, Kentucky
d. February 27, 1885 Galveston, Texas
6. Janet McKee Mills b. September 1815 Logan County, Kentucky
d. May 24, 1904 Holly Springs, Mississippi
m. 1834 New Orleans, Louisiana
James R. McDowell b. 1811
d. 1859
a. Robert McDowell 1837-1846
b. Jennie McDowell 1838-1879
c. James R. McDowell 1840-1907
d. William McDowell 1844-
e. Rose McDowell 1845
f. Edward McDowell 1848
g. Mary McDowell 1850
h. Eliza McDowell 1853
i. David McDowell 1855
7. Mary Margaret Mills b. 1815 Logan County, Kentucky
d. March 5, 1878 Galveston, Texas
m. never married

Appendix B Deed Records

| GRANTORS | GRANTEES | Kind of Instrument | Book | Page | Month | Day | Year | Acres | Description |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------|---------|-------|-----|------|-------|---|
| Mexican Government | Stephen F. Austin | Deed | | | July | 8 | 1824 | | 7 1/3 Leagues west of the Brazos River |
| Stephen F. Austin | Hawkins Heirs | Deed | | | | | | | |
| Joseph T. Hawkins | Robert Mills | Deed | B | 515/16 | July | 3 | 1845 | 800+ | \$1500 cash & \$6500 note plantation on which he resides + crop growing in field +all farming utensils & buildings >800 acres |
| Joseph T. Hawkins | Robert & David G. Mills | Deed | D | 58/60 | Jan | 16 | 1846 | 800+ | \$6000 paid & \$2000 note for plantation of Joseph T. Hawkins on which he resided |
| Joseph T. Hawkins | Robert & David G. Mills | Deed | D | 120/22 | Feb | 6 | 1846 | 1200 | \$1500 his ½ interest in ~1200 acres comprising northern tract on the Brazos River |
| Joseph T. Hawkins Mary Jane Davis | Robert & David G. Mills | Deed | D | 113/114 | Feb | 10 | 1846 | 400 | \$2000 ½ tract or 200 acres 1856 went to James P. Caldwell/Oakland |
| Mary Jane Davis | Joseph T. Hawkins | Deed | D | 114/16 | Feb | 10 | 1846 | | Her half interest in lands sold by her brother to Mills |
| David & Nancy D. Randon | Robert Mills | Deed | D | 322/23 | May | 30 | 1846 | 500 | \$6000 Cummings League & corner of John McNeel League which had been cultivated since 1837 by Mills |
| Mary Jane Davis | Joseph T. Hawkins | Deed | D | 490/92 | July | 6 | 1847 | | Hawkins Heirs Partition of Lands included part of Low Wood Lands |
| Joseph T. Hawkins | Robert & David G. Mills | Deed | D | 540/43 | Feb | 21 | 1848 | ~1200 | \$1500 his sister's previous ½ interest in ~1200 acres comprising northern tract on the Brazos River |
| McNeel Brothers | Robert Mills | Release | E | 237/38 | June | 1 | 1849 | 500 | \$100 release all claim to the 500 acres |
| Joseph T. Hawkins | Thomas Hemsworth | Deed | E | 95/96 | Jan | 24 | 1849 | 100 | \$500 Next to Crobys's Tract on Brazos River |
| Samuel Cummings | Sterling McNeel Robert Mills | Deed | E | 339/40 | Jan | 23 | 1850 | 1000 | \$3000 |
| Robert & David G. Mills | McDowell Mills & Co. New Orleans | Mortgage | F | 172/78 | Dec | 16 | 1851 | 4527 | \$150,000 debt Plantation & 162 slaves as security along with all the livestock payable \$10,000/ month starting Jan. 1, 1853 |
| Robert & David G. Mills | James P. Caldwell | Deed | G | 716 | Sept | 13 | 1856 | 200 | Caldwell added this to the Oakland Plantation |
| McDowell Mills & Co. New Orleans | Southern Bank New Orleans | Mortgage | H | 510 | March | 31 | 1858 | | Last 6 notes transferred to Southern Bank Louisiana |
| Elia Dial Estate | David G. Mills | Deed | H | 607/10 | Sept | 27 | 1858 | 75 | \$1200 |
| Thomas Hemsworth | David G. Mills | Deed | J | 591/92 | April | 10 | 1860 | 100 | |

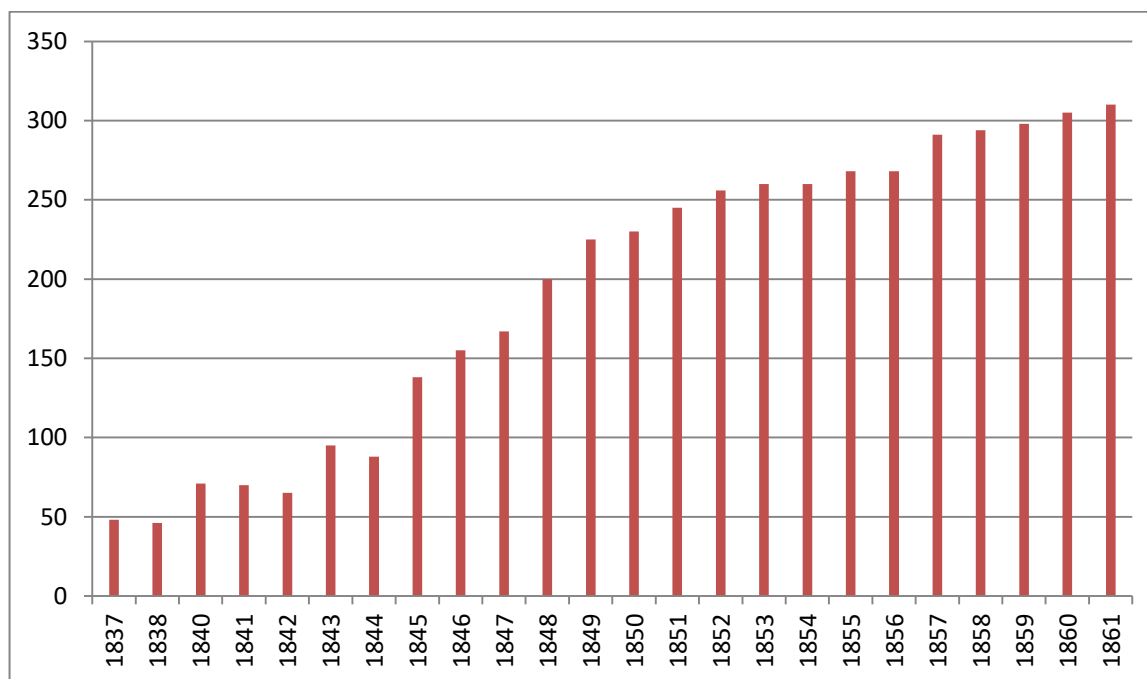
| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------|----|---------|-------|----|------|------|--|
| Robert & David G. Mills | Gardner, Bacon & Co. New York | DT | L | 128/29 | Jan | 8 | 1868 | | \$50,000 note Plantation Sugar House, Mills & machinery as security |
| Robert & David G. Mills | | Deed | O | 656/62 | | | | | Bankruptcy Dec. 22, 1873 Dec. 2, 1874 order to sell |
| Robert & David G. Mills | William L. Moody & Elbert S. Jamison Galveston | Mortgage | P | 233/35 | Dec | 1 | 1873 | 4527 | \$8000 Plantation 200 acre homestead included |
| Robert & David G. Mills | | | P | 131/35 | April | 22 | 1875 | | Bankruptcy List of Property seized |
| Robert & David G. Mills | | | 42 | 609/11 | | | | | Bankruptcy List of Creditors |
| William L. Moody & Elbert S. Jamison Galveston | William L. Moody | Deed | Q | 530/34 | Nov | 16 | 1877 | 4527 | \$25000 bought Low Wood |
| Robert & David G. Mills | William L. Moody & E. S. Jamison Galveston | Deed | 47 | 294 | Feb | 10 | 1879 | | \$2700 All personal property & livestock on Low Wood & Hawkins Plantations |
| William L. Moody | Moody & Jamison | Deed | S | 202/06 | Oct | 10 | 1879 | 4527 | \$27500 Transferred Low Wood mortgage over to company |
| David G. Mills | Moody & Jamison | Deed | V | 268/69 | Jan | 22 | 1883 | 75 | \$343 Eli Dial tract |
| Moody & Jamison | Sarah B. Perry | Deed | W | 322/28 | Feb | 1 | 1884 | 4527 | \$5000 + \$17500 note Low Wood Plantation |
| Emily & A. A. Moore E. L. Perry | Isaac B. Baker E. W. Sewall | Deed | | | Dec | 18 | 1895 | | Heirs of Sarah B. & Samuel S. Perry |
| I. B. Baker E. W. Sewall | Henry P. Drought | DT | 6 | 450/458 | Dec | 18 | 1895 | | \$17,142 note |
| Lizzie J. & I. B. Baker | Ben Campbell | Deed | 36 | 546/48 | Dec | 31 | 1896 | 2575 | Swap \$8500 land in other counties + pay ½ \$12,000 note by Baker + \$5000 |
| Louisa A. Jamison | Ben Campbell E. W. Sewall | Release | 44 | 608/09 | Dec | 28 | 1898 | 4527 | Release all her claim |
| E. W. Sewall Ben Campbell | Governor Joseph D. Sayer State of Texas | Lease | 50 | 331/36 | Dec | 8 | 1899 | 2575 | 2 Year Lease \$2.00/acre Right to purchase at \$12.3125/acre Purchased Gin Stand, Engine, Boilers for \$3500 |
| W. W. Addicks | Ben Campbell | Deed | 54 | 606/08 | Dec | 28 | 1901 | 2575 | Quick claim issued \$2000 note due Baker paid by Campbell |
| E. W. Sewall Ben Campbell | Joseph D. Sayer State of Texas | Deed | 55 | 625/28 | Jan | 10 | 1902 | 2683 | \$33,045.40 purchased for the penitentiary system |

Appendix C
Slaves on Low Wood 1851

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| William age 36 | Solomon aged 45 | Zecho aged 38 | Shop George aged 30 | women Patience 50 |
| wife Peggy 38 | Wife Sarah 40 | wife Sally 36 | wife Indy 28 | Dilly 32 |
| Children Alfred 19 | Henry aged 29 | Children John 7 | Child Virginia 5 | Caroline 17 |
| Martha 17 | wife Mary 26 | Henrietta 5 | Sam aged 28 | Nelly 15 |
| Mary 13 | Children Louisa 8 | Hannah aged 30 | wife Short Ann 37 | |
| Henry 10 | Lorenzo 4 | Child Jackson 14 | Children Jim Dosey 16 | |
| Julia 6 | Washington 1 | Toney aged 36 | Anderson 11 | |
| Zack Taylor 2 | Monroe aged 33 | wife Fanny 27 | Becky 3 | |
| Jordan age 28 | wife Clara 40 | Children Gabriel 8 | Peter Hamilton aged 29 | |
| wife Dilly 31 | Small Henry aged 20 | Susan 5 | wife Betty 26 | |
| Children Andrew 11 | wife Margaret 32 | Jim 3 mos. | Children Monday 6 | |
| Tom age 33 | Children Emma 14 | Lory Ann aged 26 | Jerry 2 | |
| wife Nancy 30 | Henry 12 | Child Ned 10 | Infant 1 mo. | |
| Children Betsy 8 | Dick 8 | Tucker aged 45 | Jack aged 28 | |
| Lucy 6 | Sophy 6 | wife Caroline 28 | wife Jenny 23 | |
| Nancy 2 | Infant 1 mo. | Will aged 30 | Lucy aged 17 | |
| Armstead age 50 | Mingo aged 37 | wife Lungr 40 | Child Adam 1 | |
| wife Phyllis 40 | wife Lucy 31 | Children Lucinda 10 | Sandy aged 45 | |
| Children Joshua 14 | Children Eliza 15 | Ellen 8 | wife Flora 36 | |
| Peter 13 | Sam 12 | Little George age 30 | Child Lib 6 | |
| Mary 12 | Nero 10 | wife Jane 38 | men Minor aged 50 | |
| William 8 | Jess aged 32 | Children Kate 15 | Isaac Reed 36 | |
| Foster age 45 | wife May 26 | Emily Jane 9 | Washington 26 | |
| wife Oney 30 | Children Sa 6 | Sam Houston 6 | Balaam 22 | |
| Children Matilda 10 | Sarah 2 | Charley aged 42 | Judge 32 | |
| Mary 9 | Peter aged 50 | wife Lizzy 28 | Isaac 43 | |
| John 7 | wife Ijind ? 40 | Big George aged 43 | Alleck 26 | |
| Mina 3 | Child Maria 20 | wife Yellow Ann 35 | Hampton 28 | |
| Bob aged 35 | Ethey aged 40 | Children Meldrid 14 | Frank 50 | |
| wife Venus 45 | wife Jane 35 | Amelia 6 | Daniel 30 | |
| Caesar aged 28 | Children Emily 15 | Adeline 3 | Cubly 37 | |
| wife Margaret 25 | Marty 12 | Melinda aged 40 | Bill 25 | |
| Child infant 3 mos. | Taylor 9 | Child Mary Jane 15 | Nelson 28 | |
| Peter aged 45 | Lewis aged 28 | Davy aged 38 | Big Peter 32 | |
| wife Martha 45 | Sancho aged 26 | wife Flora 35 | Yellow Harry 26 | |
| Children Jake 22 | wife Milly 36 | Children Maria 12 | Bear Davy 26 | |
| Marshall 19 | Child Wesley 3 | Abram 10 | Pretty George 50 | |
| Charles aged 30 | | Milly 7 | Ojo 35 | |
| wife Caroline 28 | | Elsy 10 mos. | Harry 26 | |
| Child Melisa 10 | | | Friday 60 | 66 |

⁶⁶ BCDR: F 172/78 The deed record indicated there should be 162 slaves with 22 men listed near the bottom but only 20 were listed which makes only 160 slaves.

Appendix D
R. & D. G. Mills Slave Population Based on Brazoria County Tax Records



In 1837 38 slaves were purchased with the Bynum Plantation. None of the deed records in Brazoria County list any large slave transactions associated with the Mills brothers after 1837. It is possible with their business connections in New Orleans that slaves were being purchased there and being delivered to Texas.

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

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1860 The State of Texas, Brazoria County
"Schedule 2—Slave Inhabitants in the County of Brazoria, Texas"

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