

Reterio Plantation
Brazosport Archaeological Society

The Reterio Plantation was established by Moses Austin Bryan on 1 ½ leagues out of the eastern section of the Jared E. Groce 5 League grant that had been given to him by his mother, Emily Austin Bryan Perry, the sister of Stephen F. Austin. The plantation was located east of the Brazos River along Oyster Creek in the southern part of Brazoria County. Moses Austin Bryan, called “Austin” by his family, had come to Texas from Missouri in 1831 ahead of his mother and stepfather James F. Perry. He later served in the Republic of Texas Army and was present at the Battle of San Jacinto. He moved from Brazoria County after his first marriage to Adaline L. LaMothe in 1840 to Washington County in 1844. The family moved back to Brazoria County to build Reterio Plantation in ~ 1847. After the death of Adaline in 1855, M. Austin Bryan married Cora Lewis in 1856 and the family continued to reside at Reterio. Reterio was built into a modest cotton plantation with only a minimal number of slaves. Austin sometimes hired slaves from family members to help with his agricultural production and funneled his main efforts into the cattle business. With the beginning of the Civil War, M. Austin Bryan enlisted and became a major in the Confederate Army serving in Texas. Having moved his family to Washington County during the Civil War for safety, after the war M. Austin Bryan and his family remained in Washington County near Independence until his death in 1895.



Jared E. Groce 5 Leagues Map 1879 The General Land Office of the State of Texas

At public auction William Joel Bryan bought the Reterio Plantation in 1876 after M. Austin Bryan had lost a civil suit and his property had been seized. The plantation was given to his daughter Lavinia Perry Bryan who married James Thomas Stratton in 1873. James T. Stratton later married Minnie Clemens Dewey after the death of his first wife. A large two story structure was built to replace the original single story home. This home burned in 1896. The area of the old plantation became known as Stratton Ridge (ridge formed by a large underground salt dome). Their daughter, Carrie Stratton, married Fred A. Brock in 1897. The Brock family ranches the lands for many years with oil and gas also being discovered in the area in 1918. The Dow Chemical Company has purchased and leased much of Stratton Ridge since the 1940's because of the vast underground salt mining and storage potential for the area. Though they have been gone from Brazoria County for many years the Brock family ranch home still stands upstream of the bridge crossing on County Road 226 on the east side of Oyster Creek.

The third son of James and Emily Margaret Austin Bryan, Moses Austin Bryan was born September 25, 1817 at Bryan's Mines on the Hazel Run River in the Missouri territory.¹ Emily was the daughter of Moses Austin and sister of Stephen F. Austin. July 16, 1822 James Bryan died at Herculaneum on the Mississippi River. Emily M. Bryan later married James F. Perry, a merchant from Potosi, Missouri September 23, 1824.²

Moses Austin Bryan, known as "Austin Bryan" to his family, attended school in Potosi until he was eleven years of age. He was employed as a clerk in James F. Perry & W.W. Hunter's store about a year before it was determined that the business would move to Texas. Accompanying W. W. Hunter with goods they traveled down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, and entered the mouth of the Brazos River aboard the schooner *Maria* on January 2, 1831. Three days later they landed at Brazoria and proceeded by land to San Felipe de Austin, where they opened Perry & Hunter's store with Austin being employed as a clerk. On the way north he spent a few days with his Aunt Eliza Westall Austin Phillips hoping to see his new cousin Stephen F. Austin II. After the death of her husband J. E. B. Austin, Eliza Westall Austin married Zeno Phillips. The couple was living at Zeno Phillips' plantation on the San Bernard River west of Columbia when Moses Austin Bryan visited his aunt in January 1831:

...went to my Aunts about five miles from Mr. Bells they were extremely glad to see me and I am very much pleased with her & Col Phillips. I stayed their 10 days and then I came hear and stayed with Mr. Williams 7 or 8 days...I didnt have pleasure of seeing my Uncle nor my little cousin my uncle started 3 weeks before we got hear and my cousin was down at Mr Westales [Westall] my Aunt wanted me to wait & she would go down and fetch him up but I was very anxious to get up hear that I could not wait...³

In June of 1831 Austin boarded with "Uncle Jimmy" and "Aunt Betsy" Whitesides. Ira Randolph Lewis, with his wife and two young daughters, Cora and Stella, arrived in San Felipe de Austin at this time and boarded at the same house. Cora Lewis only two and a half years old at the time, in after years, would become the second wife of Austin Bryan.⁴

¹ The first son of James and Emily Bryan, Stephen Austin Bryan, born in 1814 died an infant. William Joel Bryan born 1815 and Guy Morrison Bryan born 1821 would reach maturity along with Moses Austin Bryan and immigrate to Texas.

² "Reminiscences of M. A. Bryan" copy Brazoria County Historical Museum

³ James F. Perry and Stephen S. Perry Papers, Letter Moses Austin Bryan to William Joel Bryan, San Felipe, February 5, 1831.

⁴ "Reminiscences of M. A. Bryan"

Stephen F. Austin invited Austin Bryan to be his personal secretary and travel with him to the city of Saltillo, capital of Coahuila and Texas, where they arrived April 1832. Austin Bryan was left in Saltillo as Stephen F. Austin had to return to Texas unexpectedly due to the hostilities which took place at Anahuac and Velasco June 1832. While in Saltillo Austin Bryan learned to converse in Spanish while at the home of Don Jesus de la Grande. In October he returned to Texas via Matamoros with a Mexican guide to Goliad where he was forced to hire another guide to complete his trip to San Felipe de Austin. Afterward he visited his mother Emily Perry, who initially failed to recognize him in his new Mexican suit and broad brimmed hat, at the Perry home on Chocolate Bayou in the eastern part of Brazoria County. In December 1832 the Perry family moved to Peach Point Plantation west of the Brazos River a few miles below Brazoria. Austin Bryan took a clerk's job in Richardson & Austin's store in Brazoria until June of 1833. He returned to San Felipe de Austin to work in James F. Perry & Alexander Somervell's mercantile store.⁵ His uncle Stephen F. Austin wrote to James F. Perry in 1834 expressing his expectations for the Bryan brothers: "Joe must be a good "planter", Austin a good "merchant", and Guy a good "lawyer". Let them bear this in mind."⁶

After Stephen F. Austin was elected Commander-in-Chief of the army in October 1835 at Gonzales, Austin Bryan went with him to San Antonio as his private secretary once again. As the siege of San Antonio continued into November, Stephen F. Austin was appointed commissioner to the United States. Leaving the army November 25, 1835, Stephen F. Austin and Austin Bryan started for San Felipe de Austin and were not present a few days later December 5, 1835, when Benjamin R. Milam and Francis W. Johnson in command of the Texas Army stormed San Antonio.⁷

January 1836 Sterling C. Robertson appointed Austin Bryan as his personal secretary. Bryan was present at the convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos March 1, 1836 where the Texas Declaration of Independence was written. Sam Houston was elected as Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army and proceeded to Gonzales. On their retreat from Gonzales on March 17 the army crossed the Colorado River and Austin Bryan rejoined the army being elected Third Sergeant of Captain Mosley Baker's Company.⁸

At San Jacinto Austin Bryan was in Colonel Edward Burleson's regiment in the center of the Texan line of attack. As the regiment advanced on the Mexican cannon emplacement Bryan had three shots pass through his frock coat before he reached their breastworks: "...They fired at us twice and it was filled with the third load when captured. About sixteen Mexicans were killed around it, which was a twelve-pound brass piece. The most awful slaughter I ever saw was when the Texans pursued the retreating Mexicans, killing on all sides, even the wounded. I had a double barrel shotgun and had shot only four times when we crossed the breastworks. After that I shot no more at the poor devils who were running. As we were passing the Mexicans, I came to a young Mexican boy (a drummer I suppose) lying on his face. One of the volunteers brought to Texas by Colonel Sherman pricked him with his bayonet. The boy arose and grasped the man around the legs and called in Spanish, "Ave Maria Prissima per Dios Salva me vida." I begged the man to spare him, both of his legs being broken already. The man looked at me and put his hand on his pistol, so I passed on. Just as I did so, he blew the boys brains out. I soon came to a tide water bayou where a number of Mexican horses were bogged just beyond the bayou was a grove of timber on the margin of San Jacinto Bay. There was an island in this lake or bay and two or three hundred Mexicans had jumped into the water to reach it. I got to where there were some fifteen or twenty of our riflemen who shot at the Mexicans as they raised their heads out of the water to get breath. Colonel John A. Wharton, Adjutant General, rode up and ordered the men to stop firing. One of Sherman's men (Joe Dickson) who

⁵ "Reminiscences of M. A. Bryan"

⁶ Barker, Eugene C. ed., Letter Stephen F. Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, November 6, 1834, The Austin Papers, Vol. III, Oct. 1834-Jan. 1837, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington D. C., 1924-1928, p. 21.

⁷ "Reminiscences of M. A. Bryan"

⁸ "Reminiscences of M. A. Bryan"

was engaged in shooting Mexicans said, "Colonel Wharton, if Jesus Christ would come down from Heaven and order me to quit shooting yellow bellies I wouldn't do it, sir." Colonel Wharton put his hand on his sword. Joe Dickson took a few steps back and cocked his rifle. Colonel Wharton very discreetly (I always thought) turned his horse and left..." After the capture of General Santa Anna by James A. Sylvester and five others he was brought before General Sam Houston and Austin Bryan came upon the scene: "I went from my camp fire to where General Houston was, a distance of thirty or forty steps. Houston was lying on a mattress brought from Zavala's house. I supposing Santa Anna had been captured...General Santa Anna said in Spanish: (I thought then, and believe now, that I was the only person present who understood General Santa Anna's speech to General Houston) "Yo soie Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna Presidente de Mexico Commandate en Jesse del exereito de opperacions y me jouje a la dispasicion del vahinte General Houston y quinos ser tabado comedene ser an General quando is prisonerno de guerra." The English being, "I am Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, President of Mexico, Commander-in-Chief of the army of operations and I put myself at the disposition of the brave General Houston. I wish to be treated as a general should be when a prisoner of war..." On the second night of Santa Anna's confinement Austin Bryan was the sergeant of the guard around the tent of Santa Anna, Colonel Almonte, Colonel Nunez, and Correo often eavesdropping on their conversations.⁹

Austin Bryan was later with the group of soldiers that kept following General Filisola's Mexican troops on their retreat from Texas and upon reaching Goliad buried the remains of the Texas soldiers massacred with General James W. Fannin.¹⁰ During this time period he acted as Spanish interpreter for General Thomas J. Rusk until he was discharged in July 1836.

Head Quarters Victoria

16th July 1836

Moses Austin Bryan having served faithfully in the army of Texas from the 31st March and since the 29th May as clerk in my staff is hereby honorably discharged.

Thomas J. Rusk

Brig Genl

By an examination of the returns of the army it will be found that my staff was _____ that Moses A. Bryan served as secy and that I had by law a right to appoint more aids de camp than I had in my staff at the time M. Bryan also served in the capacity as interpreter & I think is entitled to pay.

Oct. 30th 1837

Approved

Bernard E. Bee

Thos J Rusk¹¹

As 1836 drew to a close M. Austin Bryan was again working with his uncle, Stephen F. Austin in Columbia. Congress had been in session October 3-December 22 and Stephen F. Austin was serving as secretary of state for the new republic. From George B. McKinstry he had rented a "shed room" on McKinstry's home's north side, which served as his bedroom and office. Here in a room without a fireplace or stove, a severe cold progressed to pneumonia. M. Austin Bryan was at his bedside on the 27th when he awoke and spoke his last words, "The

⁹ Baker, D. W. C. ed., *A Texas Scrap-Book*, A. S. Barnes & Company, New York, New Orleans, Chicago, 1875, p.172.

¹⁰"Reminiscences of M. A. Bryan"

¹¹ Texas State Archives

independence of Texas is recognized! Don't you see it in the papers? Doctor Archer told me so!" He slipped into unconsciousness and thirty minutes later passed away.¹²

Emily Austin Perry made a trip to the United States in 1837 accompanied by M. Austin Bryan to visit relatives and put two of her children, Guy M. Bryan and Eliza Perry into school. First stopping in Lexington, Kentucky to visit Mary Austin Holley for almost a month they moved on to the Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio where Guy M. Bryan would begin his studies. Emily seemed somewhat perplexed in the behavior of her children and noted unsophisticated her children from Texas appeared to her relatives. "You have no idea how awkward Austin appears in company," she wrote James F. Perry and of Eliza, "She has acquired so many bad and ugly habits that it will be some time if she ever is broken of them."¹³ The Steubenville Female Academy in Ohio was selected for Eliza Perry¹⁴. On their return trip to Texas they were joined by Lavinia Perry, the daughter of James F. Perry's older deceased brother.¹⁵ On his return to Texas Austin supervised and kept track of the land that his mother had inherited from Stephen F. Austin, acting as her representative in its management and traveling throughout his uncle's old colony in doing so.¹⁶

In 1839 Mirabeau B. Lamar appointed M. Austin Bryan secretary to the Republic of Texas diplomatic legation to the United States under Dr. Anson Jones. He served from January to June in Washington, D. C.¹⁷(See Appendix C) After being introduced to President Martin Van Buren and partaking of the Washington social life Austin wrote home:

We sat down to dinner at 6 o'clock P.M. (a fashionable hour to dine in these parts) and rose from the table about 9, and then went to a dancing party in Georgetown where I saw more beauty and fashion than is common—At 1 we left the party in Georgetown enjoying themselves, and on our way home stopped at the Theatre, to see how the military ball came on—There were *two hundred and fifty* ladies and Gentlemen dancing at once—some sixty cotillions, which you know was a sight to me [in Texas ladies—and gentlemen who could dance cotillions—were scarce]—at 2 we left the ball and came to our boarding house and glad enough to get to bed.¹⁸

Upon returning to civilian life, M. Austin Bryan decided to wed a lovely French girl from Louisiana, Adaline Lolett LaMothe.¹⁹ They had met while Austin had been traveling through New Orleans as part of the Texas diplomatic legation. In a letter to his stepfather, James F. Perry, Austin informed him of his decision:

Alexandria Feby 18th1840

On my arrival here I found Adaline was unwilling for me to leave her...I have concluded to get married...you may look for us in a week or ten days in N. Orleans.

¹² Cantrell, Greg, *Stephen F. Austin Empresario of Texas*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1999, pp. 363-64.

¹³ Cummins, Light Townsend, *Emily Austin of Texas 1795-1851*, Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas, 2009, p. 151.

¹⁴ It was on this trip that Eliza Perry first started to exhibit severe health problems treated as an epileptic-like disorder which afflicted her the rest of her short life.

¹⁵ Cummins, Light Townsend, *Emily Austin of Texas 1795-1851*, Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas, 2009, pp147-155. Lavinia Perry would become the wife of William Joel Bryan.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 181-182.

¹⁷ Hand Book of Texas on Line

¹⁸ Gambrell, Herbert, *Anson Jones The Last President of Texas*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1964, p.156.

¹⁹ Adaline's middle name is sometimes spelled Laulethe or Laulette, parents Polycarpe LaMothe (1771-1858) and Edith Wells (1781-1879) of Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

I hope you will have no objections to the course I have taken, and that you will aid me in settling down in any business which you think I can do best at...

If you have any regard for my welfare, for Gods sake do not feel offended at me, even should you think I have not acted all together right. I know you and Mother will be pleased with my choice of a wife and I trust you both will excuse and forgive any error I may have committed in the matter...I am very much pleased with Mr. & Mrs. Lamothe they are plain, old fashioned, but very cleaver people. I wish you could see them. I know you would be pleased with the connexion I am about to make. They stand high and are connected to the most wealthy & respectable portion of the Parish...

I now close this letter with the hope and belief that you will sanction what I have done which will place me under additional obligations to one who has been a Father to me & I trust will be disposed to give parental advice for my benefit...²⁰

It did not take the week or ten days for the couple to reach New Orleans as they were wed February 20, 1840 in New Orleans.²¹ Austin and Adaline at first resided with the family at Peach Point Plantation where his brother William Joel Bryan and his new wife Lavinia Perry Bryan, who had wed in the spring, also lived while Joel was trying to build his home Durazno. Their parents were traveling in the United States at this time. By summer Austin had purchased a home and a couple of lots from Leander H. McNeel²² and moved with his new bride to Quintana while he continued to try to work selling some of the family's land and lots in Quintana and the family's new hope for revenues from land speculation, the island of San Luis, located on West Galveston Bay. In a letter Austin expressed his wife's wish to move to the family property on Chocolate Bayou:²³ "Adaline is anxious to live on Chocolate Bayou and when you return if you will swap some land with me and me have a piece off the lower part of your 1 ¾ league tract & let me have your stock I will go there and live, I am anxious to be doing something & I believe I had as soon raise stock for a living as do anything else..."²⁴ William Joel Bryan also wrote to his stepfather mentioning that "Austin has moved down to the mouth of the Brazos. He has gone in to L. H. McNeel's House. Mr. Williams²⁵ also lives in the same House. I tried to prevail on him to remain at home but he would not do so, I think his wife prevailed on him to going away, ...for what cause I know not, and I don't think she knows herself, I cant venture to say more on the subject as it does not concern me, only as far as Austin is Consumed."²⁶

On September 11, 1842 Mexican General Adrian Woll captured San Antonio. For a week he held the town and then retreated to the boarder carrying up to 60 prisoners.²⁷ As the call to arms rang out across Texas M. Austin Bryan was one of those that answered. Though he had a young wife and baby daughter at home he left October 1 to rendezvous with others from Brazoria County heading to join the army. From Brazoria he wrote Adaline the next day: "...Dear

²⁰ Letter M. Austin Bryan, Alexandria, Louisiana to James F. Perry City of New Orleans, Louisiana, February 18, 1840, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

²¹ Cummins, Light Townsend, *Emily Austin of Texas 1795-1851*, Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas, 2009, p. 182. Another reference has they were wed at her father's home in Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

²² Leander H. McNeel had married Adaline's older sister Jane LaMothe April 23, 1835 in Brazoria. He would build Pleasant Grove Plantation on the east side of the San Bernard River.

²³ This property was the first home of James F. and Emily M. Perry when they came to Texas. Often called their Pleasant Bayou Ranch the land was later given to Guy M. Bryan.

²⁴ Letter M. Austin Bryan, Quintana, Texas to James F. and Emily Perry Louisville, Kentucky, July 19, 1840, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

²⁵ Mr. Williams was most likley to be William Whitworth Williams and his wife Emeline who was an older sister of Adaline.

²⁶ Letter William Joel Bryan, Peach Point, Texas to James F. Perry Louisville, Kentucky, July 26, 1840, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

²⁷ Haynes, Sam W., *Soldiers of Misfortune The Somervell and Mier Expeditions*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1990. pp. 19-20.

Adaline I hope you will take good care of yourself & the baby, and I feel confident Mr. & Mrs. Williams²⁸ will do all they can for your comfort & c. In haste your Affectionate Husband...”²⁹ By October 7 the volunteers reached Columbus on the Colorado River. Again Austin wrote home expressing his views on the upcoming campaign to the Rio Grande and his concerns for his wife and child: “...You must take good care of your self and our sweet little girl. Should you need anything that can not be procured by Mr. Williams let Mr. Perry know and I am confident he will do all he can for you. Should I never return my Brother Guy will take care of you and see that you want for nothing that my property may be able to procure. I want to see something done to put an end to these frequent inroads into our country by the Mexicans and shall stay out as long as there is a prospect of doing anything...”³⁰ In less than a week Austin Bryan was in camp near Gonzales with about 450 other volunteers contemplating the strategy for their campaign and waiting for General Alexander Somervell to arrive. In a personal part of his letter to Adaline he writes: “...God grant you may enjoy good health and spirits until I return and when I do return, you may rest satisfied my attention shall be directed solely to the procuring means to afford you the satisfaction of again embracing and enjoying the company of your elderly and affectionate parents--nothing would give me more pleasure than to see you spend two or three months or more with your friends in Louisiana which would have a tendency to make you better satisfied with Texas for a while at least...”³¹ Luckily after reaching the Rio Grande while serving under Captain John P. Gill, Austin returned with Alexander Somervell in mid December and did not cross the Mexican boarder with the Mier Expedition.³²

Possibly in the spring of 1843 M. Austin Bryan moved his family to make Washington County their home. In a letter James F. Perry states “...I have left instructions with Hancock should you wish to move before my return to let you have the best yoke of old oxen with the yokes...”³³ Their second child a son, Stephen Fuller Austin Bryan, would be born there. Early in 1844 Austin gave up the idea of planting and didn't hire any new slaves. He purchased an improved property in the Chriesman Settlement where he planned to move in the fall.³⁴

Adaline's pregnancy may have delayed the trip promised to visit her relatives but in June of 1844 the family traveled to Louisiana: “...I arrived here on the 6th Inst. found all of our friends well & apparently much pleased to see us had a very long & fatiguing trip of it through by land but Adaline and the children stood the journey much better than I expected. We are now at Mr. Martin's who married Adaline's oldest sister in the pine woods a very healthy & delightful place with every comfort & convenience desired—we arrived here the day before yesterday & will remain a week or two with them & then return to Mr. Lamothe's 20 miles from this...I do not know as yet whether I will return home this summer or not...”³⁵

In the later part of the year M. Austin Bryan was at work on his new property in Washington County:

²⁸ William Whitworth Williams and his wife, Emeline, lived east of the Brazos River on Oyster Creek several miles north of Columbia. His property would later become the Quarles Plantation. Emeline was another of Adaline's older sisters born ~1812.

²⁹ Letter M. Austin Bryan to Mrs. Adaline Bryan, Oyster Creek Care of W. W. Williams, Brazoria, 2 October 1842, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

³⁰ Letter M. Austin Bryan to Mrs. Adaline Bryan at Mr. Williams on Oyster Creek near Orozimbo, Columbus, October 8th, 1842, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

³¹ Letter M. Austin Bryan, to Mrs. Adaline Bryan at Mr. Williams on Oyster Creek to the care of Smith & Adriance, Columbia, Brazoria County, Camp Somervell near Gonzales, October 16, 1842, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

³² Both E. M. Pease and B. T. Hill gave witness in February 1854 that M. Austin Bryan was a member of John P. Gill's Company. Texas State Archives

³³ Letter James F. Perry to M. Austin Bryan, Peach Point, March 2, 1843, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

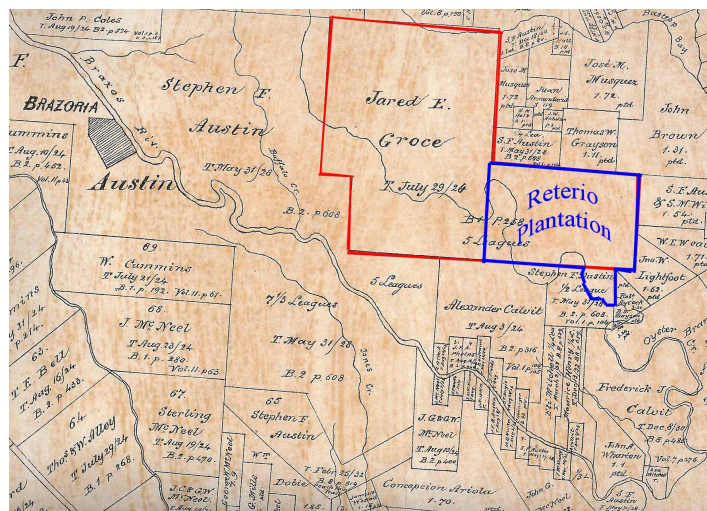
³⁴ Letter James F. Perry to Stephen S. Perry Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, Peach Point, February 29, 1844, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

³⁵ Letter M. Austin Bryan to Stephen S. Perry Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, Bayou Beouff, June 28th, 1844, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

I arrived here six days ago after a tedious trip have got my hands to work—I found Old Mr. Fletcher here on my place with all his negroes—he is building and will bring my family out next fall...I have agreed to take a negro woman from the McNeise at 7\$ a month & will take two negro fellows from Mrs. Dockeridge at 100\$ a year each—if I get them delivered to me on the 1st Jany...³⁶

A month later Guy M. Bryan was at Washington-on-the-Brazos and had visited Austin Bryan's new property mentioning, "...Austin leaves day after tomorrow for Louisiana. He is in fine health & has a beautiful place...."³⁷ By the spring of 1845 James F. Perry was reporting to his son Stephen that: "Austin is living in Chrismans³⁸ Settlement. He has planted 80 acres of corn which he expects to sale next fall to emigrants."³⁹

Because of financial reasons or the need to be nearer the family in Brazoria County, the Reterio Plantation was established by Moses Austin Bryan late 1846 or early 1847 on 1 ½ leagues of land from the eastern section of the Jared E. Groce 5 League Hacienda and a small portion of a Stephen F. Austin half league just south of the 1 ½ leagues which were given to him by his mother Emily Austin Bryan Perry. Emily M. Perry had received many thousands of acres of land from the estate of Stephen F. Austin after his death in 1836. Stephen F. Austin had purchased from William C. White a league and a half of land out of the Jared E. Groce 5 League Hacienda which Groce had received from the Mexican government.⁴⁰ The plantation was located east of the Brazos River along Oyster Creek in the southern part of Brazoria County. Austin Bryan and his family lived on the property for several years before it was bequeathed to him after the death Emily M. Perry in 1851.⁴¹



Reterio Plantation in Jared E. Groce 5 Leagues
Map 1879 The General Land Office of the State of Texas

³⁶ Letter M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry Peach Point, Washington County, November 15th, 1844, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

³⁷ Guy M. Bryan to James F. Perry Peach Point, Washington, Texas, December 18th, 1844, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

³⁸ Horatio Chriesman

³⁹ Letter James F. Perry to Stephen S. Perry Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, Peach Point, April 27, 1845, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

⁴⁰ Brazoria County Deed Records: SR 244/50, SR 174/175, SR 175/77

⁴¹ Emily M. Perry Probate Case 445 & Record of Wills Volume B: 64+.

Early in 1847 M. Austin Bryan requested building materials and laborers to help with the building of his new home: "I have to send Jack over with Mrs. McNeel and I take the opportunity of asking the favor of you to send me into the river brick enough to make jams & back to my fire place say three hundred also if ma will extend her goodness in the way of flooring plank I should be glad to have enough of the same Kind of plank she gave me to finish my big room say a dozen plank 18 or twenty feet long—twenty feet if you have any that long--...Any time you can spare your hand or hands best send them over, I am ready at any time for them between now & the middle of February..."⁴²

M. Austin Bryan built his home on the east bank of Oyster Creek. His production for 1849 was very limited. Of the ~ 6800 acres he owned only 50 acres were under cultivation. Livestock on the plantation consisted of 15 horses, 3 mules, 10 milch cows, 6 work oxen, 350 head of cattle, and 80 swine. Production was listed as 2000 bushels of Indian corn, 50 of Irish potatoes, 700 of sweet potatoes, 520 lbs. of butter, and 3 tons of hay.⁴³ According to the 1850 Federal Slave Census Austin owned 9 slaves at this time and only 7 of these were of an age to provide labor.⁴⁴ His household listed in the 1850 Federal Census:

M. Austin Bryan	33M	Farmer	Missouri
Adaline L.	28 F		Louisiana
Stephen F. A.	7M		Texas
Polycarp L.	4M		Texas
Jane McNeel	30 F		Louisiana (older sister of Adaline)
John	3M		Texas



M. Austin Bryan and his Son Stephen Fuller Austin Bryan ~1850

⁴² Letter M. A. Austin Bryan to James F. Perry Peach Point, 1847, James F. and Stephen S. Perry Papers, 1785-1942

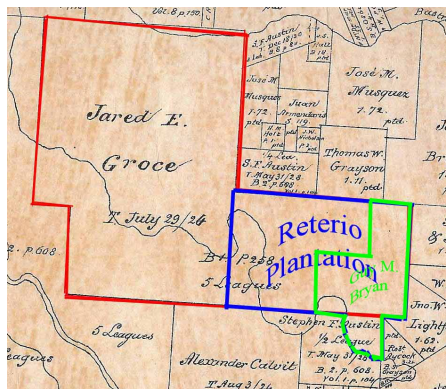
⁴³ Federal Agricultural Census 1850

⁴⁴ Emily M. Perry gave M. Austin Bryan 3 male slaves David, Morris, and Jerry in 1844 and he purchased a family of 3 slaves Edward aged 24, Rose 22, and their son Nelson 8 for \$1500 in 1848. Deed of transfer April 5, 1844, Moses Austin Bryan Papers and Brazoria County Deed Records: E 279.

On May 29, 1855 Adaline L. Bryan died in Galveston of pulmonary consumption leaving four sons ranging in age 3-12 years.⁴⁵ Six children had been born to Adaline and Austin Bryan. Their two young daughters Emily and Austinia would die in 1848 and 1850 respectively with both being buried at Reterio. Their four sons would reach maturity (See Appendix B). November 15, 1855, shortly after the death of Adaline, Guy M. Bryan in a letter to Eliza Perry wrote:

...Austin is not now at home...I hope he will make such a disposition of his children as will be for the advantage of all concerned & especially for his children. I take the deepest interest in the welfare of those little boys. They are good & smart boys & will do well if they have a good teacher. Mr. Herndon⁴⁶ informs me that they will stay with him & go to school to Mr Lenny with his children. This arrangement is a good one yet I should have liked it had it been convenient & advantageous to all that the boys had been placed with Stephen & Sara as I am satisfied it would have pleased Austin to have done so, had it been for the interest of the boys as to a school, & when I left home I thought this was his intention...⁴⁷

In 1856 M. Austin Bryan married Cora Lewis, daughter of Ira Randolph Lewis then living in Matagorda.⁴⁸ Six children would be born to their union (See Appendix B). Cora Lewis Bryan as described by her niece Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry⁴⁹ in later years: "She was small, quick as light in movement and thought, and withal as fine a sense of humor as was component in her day. As her life was spent with husband step-sons, and four boys of her own she often said she did not know anything about girls, but she was intensely feminine and with age-old art knew how to influence, each of these several personalities, only in one sense failing, as when an occasion came she suffered herself rather than allow anyone of them to be disappointed. So we told her she spoilt all men-folk...She was always up first in the morning, and the only privilege she allowed herself was an early retirement at night but even then not until she had seen Uncle Austin comfortably ensconced...Of her Uncle Austin said, and to her as well, to the end of his days, "She never frowned on me".⁵⁰



In September 1853 M. Austin Bryan traded the eastern end and lower portion of the Reterio Plantation amounting to 2892 acres to his brother Guy M. Bryan for 1000 head of cattle and a separate piece of property.⁵¹ In 1856 he was also partners with Lewis M. Strobel in 1500

⁴⁵ *Texas Planter*, June 27, 1855, Brazoria, Texas

⁴⁶ John C. Herndon owned Evergreen Plantation a short distance to the west of Reterio Plantation now part of present day Clute, Texas.

⁴⁷ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, pp. 132-133.

⁴⁸ Ira Randolph Lewis was often a government official and the couple wed in Austin, Texas.

⁴⁹ Hally Ballinger Bryan was the daughter of Guy M. Bryan.

⁵⁰ Deckler, Edna Perry ed., "Austin-Perry Memorandum", *Stripes*, Volume 8, Number 2, June 1968, Texas State Genealogical Society, Tyler, Texas, pp. 71-72.

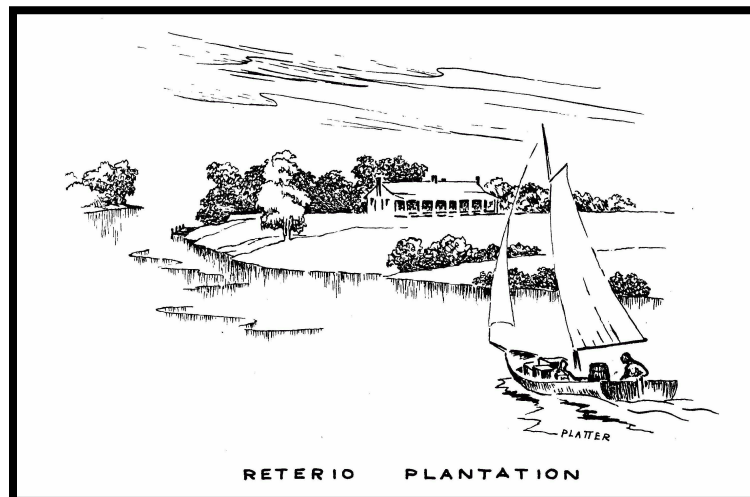
⁵¹ BCDR: F 622/23 & 754/55

head of cattle raised on Strobel's property.⁵² Austin Bryan used nine Peach Point hands to help pick his cotton crop 16 September to 25 September, 1858.⁵³

By 1859 M. Austin Bryan had 200 acres under cultivation and owned 11000 acres of land. Livestock listed were 10 horses, 20 mules, 12 milch cows, 12 work oxen, 5000 head of cattle, and 200 swine. He produced 4000 bushels of corn, 200 of Irish potatoes, 200 of sweet potatoes, 300 lbs. of butter, 10 tons of hay, and 17 bales of cotton.⁵⁴ There were 9 slaves listed in the Federal Slave Census in four dwellings. The Bryan household listed in the 1860 Federal Census:

M. A. Bryan	42M	Planter	Missouri
Cora	31F		Louisiana
Steph. F. Au.	17M		Texas
Polycarp	14M		Texas
James	9M		Texas
William Joel	8M		Texas
Lewis A.	2M		Texas
Cora L.	1/12F		Texas
Rob Braham	45M		Scotland
Mich Cormallan	30M		Ireland
Emanuel Randon	36M		Mexico

Their home which stood before the Civil War, as described by Carrie Stratton Brock was a long, one storey brick building with chimneys at either end and in the center. A fourth chimney was in the kitchen, located in a wing extending northward from the east end. The home fronted to the south. West of the house, near the creek, was a small building where milk was kept. Beyond this was the boat landing.⁵⁵



⁵² Platter, A. A., *Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas*, Doctoral Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1961, p. 86.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Federal Agricultural Census 1860

⁵⁵ Platter, A. A., *Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas*, Doctoral Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1961, p. 85.

With the beginning of the Civil War M. Austin Bryan joined the Confederacy rising to the rank of major while serving in regiments within the state of Texas. His son, Stephen Fuller Austin Bryan, joined Terry's Texas Rangers September 7, 1861 enlisting for the duration of the war. Samuel Irvin and James Perry Bryan, sons of William Joel Bryan, joined along with him. After serving for 18 months straight, suffering illness, without a furlough and few letters from home Stephen had become disenchanted with his regiment by Christmas 1862: "...I suppose you are having a merry Christmas in Texas—a plenty to eat & drink tho not half so merry a holiday as we soldiers are having. Let me tell you what our Regt. had for dinner. Oh, it was a magnificent feast—The merriest Christmas I ever spent—The feast consisted of Minnie balls & Bomb shells. We enjoyed this feast from 6 O'clock until dark...I had made my calculations to spend this Christmas at home with you all...I expect to hear something from Army Department in reference to the transfer...Both Genl Wharton & Thomas Jack have written I am certain for me & it is quite time that I was hearing...Tell Pa not to cease in his efforts until he gets me out of this Regt. That I want to leave at all hazards—There was a time I was proud to be called a Texas Ranger but now I had rather be a member of any other Regt. I am disgusted with the whole thing..."⁵⁶ During the first part of 1863 he was able to transfer to Rueben R. Brown's Regiment guarding the Texas coast line closer to home. However, before he left the rangers he wounded himself in the leg by the accidental discharge of a rifle and had to convalesce at his grandmother La Mothe's residence in Louisiana on the way home: "...You no doubt will be greatly surprised when you receive this & find that I am this far on my journey home, I arrived here at Grand Ma's, a four days ago...I expect to remain until I am able to travel been scarcely able at present to get about in consequence of a serious wound, which was inflicted by the accidental discharge of an enfield rifle in camp--on the evening previous to the day that I had determined on leaving for Texas...After having passed thro a campaign of eighteen months without a scratch then to be wounded accidentally... fortunate was I that it did not break my leg & make me a cripple for life—The ball struck the shin bone & fortunately, glanced, tho inflicting a pretty bad wound as it was...I am in good hands and be well cared for—I received a warm reception from relatives all being glad to see me...I have received the transfer Uncle Guy got for me..."⁵⁷

During the Civil War the W. Austin Bryan family moved to Washington County near Independence for safety where two more sons were born. From early 1863 through most of the war the families of William J. Bryan and Stephen S. Perry also lived in the same area from time to time. Cora Bryan wrote Sarah Perry enumerating on some of the privations the family was experiencing while Sara was back home at Peach Point in Brazoria County:

Sarah if you are forced to come here, let me advise you to bring everything in the shape of something to eat—for of all the scratching scrambling places to get along in this beats all we thought we were living plain enough when Stephen was here—but it is now reduced to a science, the simple thing of procuring enough to satisfy the absolute gnawings of our immense family with a total disregard to delicacies, or luxuries butter is a fiction, flour almost as uncertain, as the intervention of France and England, Coffee will soon be numbered among the things that were, Tea a myth, chicken and eggs in extremly small quantities at fabulous prices, Spices and flavorings we do not miss as there is nothing to flavour—cacke, and preserves are related to our little ones as a legend of the past—Fresh meat!!!—it comes now and then to refresh our palates, at a steady increase ever it comes around, of 3 cts, a lb. which as everything is going out and nothing coming in, visibly lessens the quantity purchased. Fortunately we bought plenty of bacon lard sugar, etc, and cannot *actually starve*. But my advice is if you come, from butter up to butter down, you had best bring your supplies...I never thought that sweet potatoes pumpkins, peas, etc would be classed among the luxuries of life..."⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Letter Stephen A. Bryan to Cora Bryan, December 26, 1862, Camp Texas Ranger, Near Trinity(?), Moses Austin Bryan Papers

⁵⁷ Letter Stephen A. Bryan to Father [M. Austin Bryan], February, 1863, Bayou Rapides, Louisiana, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

⁵⁸ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, pp. 143-45.

After the Civil War, Austin Bryan's family remained near Independence. The Reterio Plantation was kept in operation with labor supplied by some the former slaves of the Bryan family serving as tenant farmers. One such slave Samuel Price Dolly⁵⁹ worked seven months of the year 1868 for Austin Bryan and received 14 acres of land in trade for his services.⁶⁰ Stephen Perry, Joel, Guy, and Austin Bryan all struggled the years following the Civil War trying free themselves from debt. Austin wrote:

It is a hard time for every one to live up here & I suppose it is the same every where—I never have been so troubled to live in my life—the necessities of life hard to get...I want to go down to Brazoria as soon as I get my crop gathered & it gets more healthy—Tell Lathrop & McCormick & Smith (businesses to which Austin owed money) not to sell me out till I come down—I will do all I can to pay every debt I owe...Tell Joel to write me And if he can loan me a thousand dollars it would help me much & I will give him land till he is satisfied—I am offering my land in Burleson very low I want to get out of debt once more...⁶¹

Austin Bryan liquidated all the livestock he owned in Brazoria County and sold off parcels of land trying to satisfy his debts. His son James Bryan was living at the plantation home during the early 1870's. In the 1870's Henry Seaburn brought a civil suit against Austin for a debt of \$380.16. January 1874 Seaburn won the case by default and M. Austin Bryan's Reterio Plantation was seized by the sheriff November 1875. Sheriff Thomas J. Copes sold the property, which had been reduced in sized by ~1400 acres, at public auction to William Joel Bryan January 1876 for \$1425.⁶² In his later life he was one of the founders of the Texas Veterans' Association and served as its secretary until 1886. M. Austin Bryan died at the home of his son Judge Beauregard Bryan in Brenham, Texas March 16, 1895 after a brief illness. Cora Bryan had died June 9, 1889. Both are buried near Independence, Texas.



M. Austin Bryan in Later Years

⁵⁹ Samuel Price Dolly had been the body servant of Stephen F. A. Bryan while he served in the Civil War.

⁶⁰ BCDR: O 592/93

⁶¹ , Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, p. 157.

⁶² BCDR: P 289/90 & Civil Case 3284

William Joel Bryan and his wife Lavinia Perry Bryan lived on the Durazno Plantation (see article written on Durazno Plantation). William J. Bryan was the older brother of M. Austin Bryan. He had turned a lot of his efforts into stock raising after the Civil War and was in somewhat better financial condition than his brother in the 1870's.

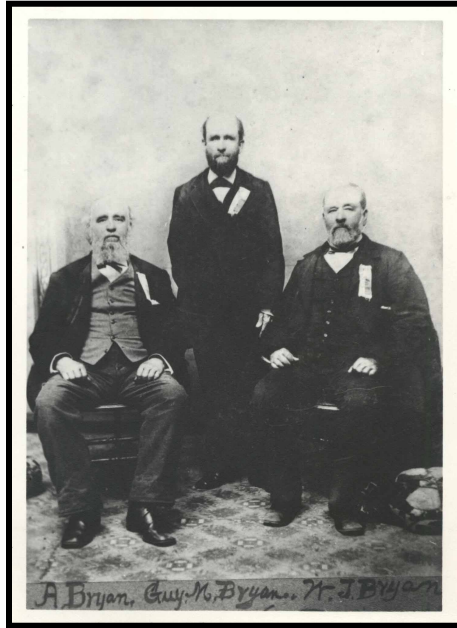
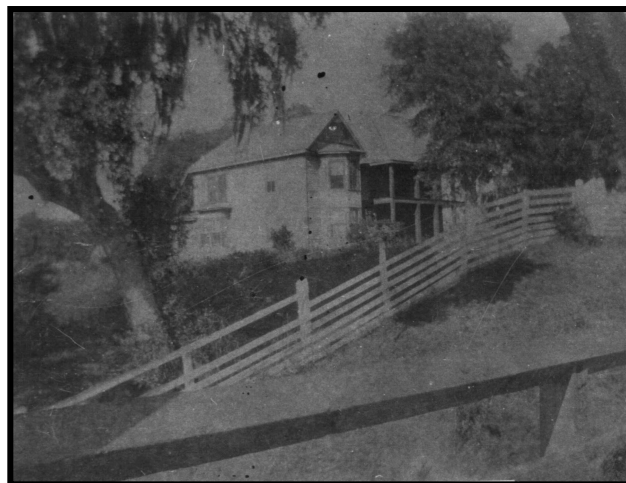


Photo Courtesy of Brazoria County Historical Commission 1983.006p.0105

In 1880 Joel Bryan gave the plantation to his daughter Lavinia Bryan Stratton who had married James Thomas Stratton in 1873.⁶³ James T. Stratton had moved to Texas with his parents in 1859. They would have four children before Lavinia's death in March 1880. After her death James T. Stratton married Minnie C. Dewey, the daughter of Major E. C. Dewey and they would have four children born to them. During this time the old plantation home was torn down and a new large two story Victorian style home was built near the same location. This home burned in 1896.

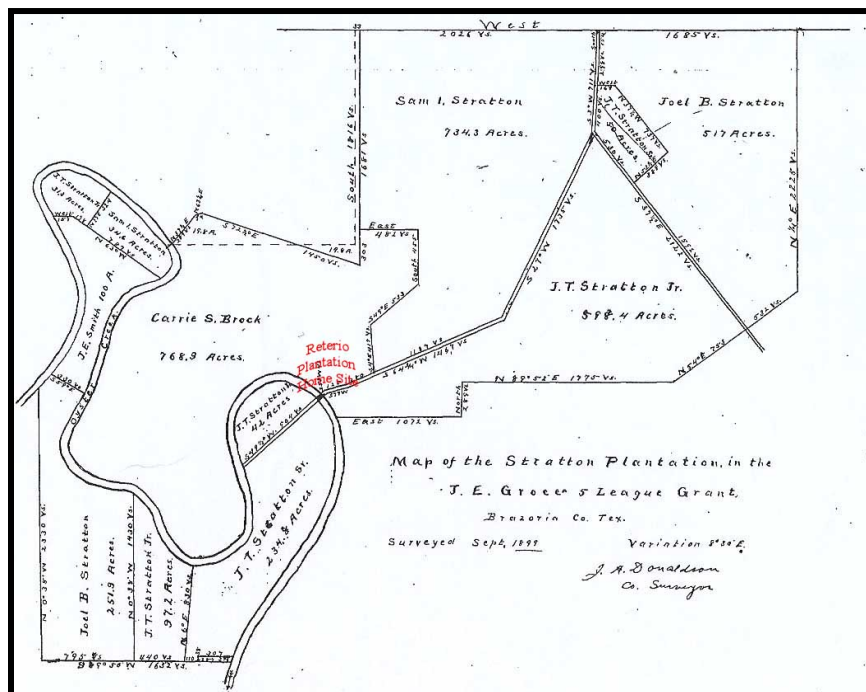


⁶³ BCDR: S 398



Courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum 1985.054p.002 & 1984.004p.002

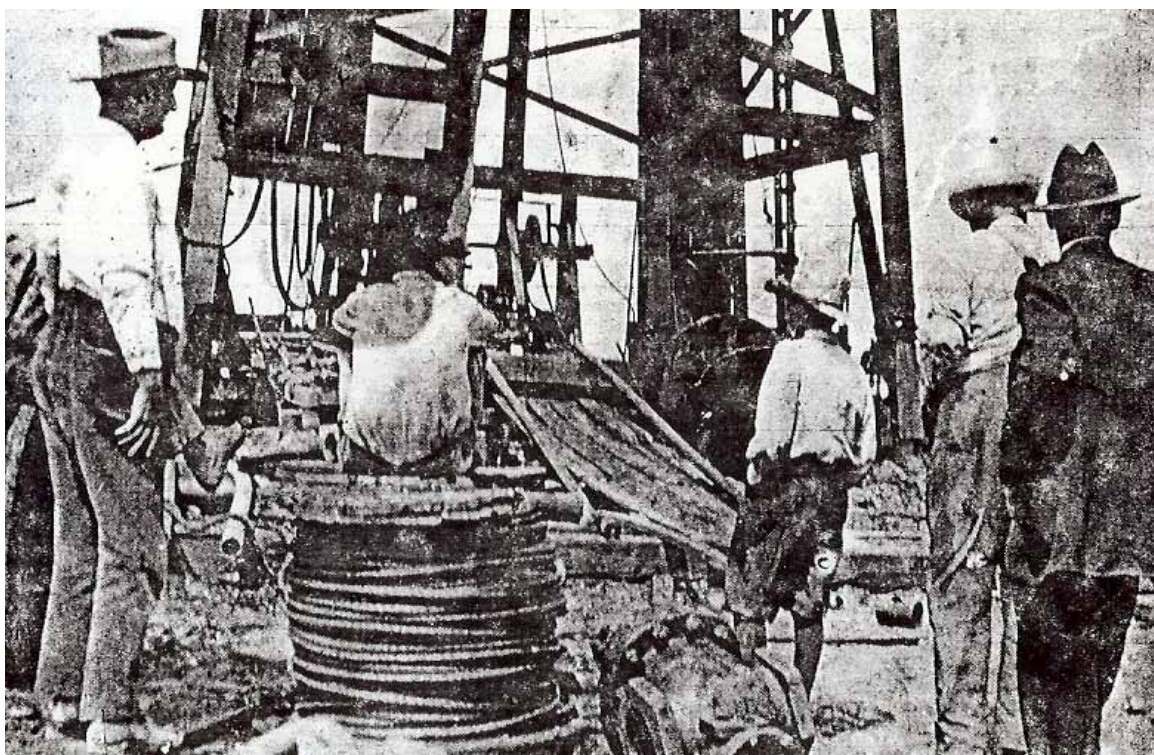
James T. Stratton, who had moved to Velasco, Texas, partitioned the property (3360 acres) among his children by Lavinia Perry Bryan in 1899. His daughter Caroline (Carrie) received 769 acres which included the old home site.⁶⁴ Several of the siblings began to sell off their portions of the old plantation (See Appendix A).



⁶⁴ BCDR: 50 156/61

Carrie A. Stratton had married Frederick Augustus Brock in 1897. Fred A. Brock was the son of an English engineer employed in the construction of the jetties at the mouth of the Brazos River. In the mid to late 1920's Fred Brock was doing well enough to start buying back several of the large tracts of land which once made up the original plantation.⁶⁵ The ranch house was rebuilt in 1930 and a small slave quarter was restored on the bank of Oyster Creek. In 1931 Carrie had a Presbyterian church built at the corner of County Roads 226 and 523 to honor her father and with the expectation that the area would grow. This never did occur and the church was eventually sold.

The area became known as Stratton Ridge. The Stratton Ridge salt dome was discovered in 1913. It is roughly oval in outline, approximately two miles by one-and-a-half miles in lateral length, with its long axis oriented north and south. Several hundred oil and gas wells have been drilled on the flanks of the dome since 1918-1922.⁶⁶ The Dow Chemical Company has purchased and leased much of Stratton Ridge since the 1940's because of the vast underground salt mining and storage potential for the area.



Stratton Ridge Well, About 1918

Caption reads Mr. Bradford, an Unknown oil field worker, Arnold Oberhelman, Fred Obehelman, F. Kiber⁶⁷

⁶⁵ BCDR: 200 123/27 & 206 74/76

⁶⁶ Lord, Anna Snider, Christopher A. Rautman and Karl M. Loeff, "Geological Technical Assessment of the Stratton Ridge Salt Dome, Texas, for Potential Expansion of the U. S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve", Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2006, pp. 7-8.

⁶⁷ *The Angleton Times*, May 11, 1975

In 1941 Carrie Brock deeded the property equally to her three children.⁶⁸ From the Oyster Creek Bridge on FM 226 the Fred A. Brock home is visible upstream. It is approximately 50 yards north of the original M. Austin Bryan home. Ruins of the old cistern, once beside the kitchen, can be seen in the front yard.⁶⁹ There is no indication of the old family cemetery or the ranch house which stood south of FM 226. The ditch which was used to drain the shallow lake at an early date northeast of the home site is now a major drainage ditch.



Courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum, 2000.008p.0056

Several home sites of freedmen and women should be located on the south side of FM 226 on the lower part of Oyster Creek. In addition to property deeded to Sam Price Dolly by M. Austin Bryan, Samuel and Betsy Bryan were deeded 30 acres in 1870 as partial payment by Guy M. Bryan for their services of 15 months previous.⁷⁰ They built a home on this site and the property is still in possession of their descendants today.

⁶⁸ BCDR: 354 219/22

⁶⁹ Platter, A. A., *Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas*, Doctorial Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1961, p. 87.

⁷⁰ BCDR: X 704/05

Appendix A

Reterio Plantation Deed Record

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	Jared E. Groce	Deed	SR	244/50	July	29	1824		5 Leagues west of the Brazos River
Jared E. Groce	William C. White	Deed	SR	174/175	April	26	1827	6642	1&1/2 Leagues
William C. White	Stephen F. Austin	Deed	SR	175/177	March	16	1828	6642	1&1/2 Leagues \$500
Stephen F. Austin	Emily Austin Bryan Perry	Probate							Inherited on the death of Stephen F. Austin
Emily Austin Perry	Moses Austin Bryan	Record of Wills	B	64/+				6642 285	Given to him by his mother + small section out of S. F. Austin 1/2 League
Bane Gillespie	M. Austin Bryan	Deed	E	279	Nov	21	1848		Slave family (3) \$1500
Moses Austin Bryan	Guy M. Bryan	Deed	F	622/23 754/55	Sept	27	1853	2892	Eastern End & Lower Portion 1 1/2 Leagues for 1000 head of cattle
M. Austin Bryan	Guy M. Bryan	Deed	K	383/84	March	17	1863		Livestock to his brother
M. Austin Bryan Washington County	H. H. Dailey	Deed Trust	M	308/10	Sept	18	1870	800	NW corner of his tract + another tract in another league \$5000
Moses Austin Bryan	Sam Price Dolly	Deed	O	592/93	Jan	12	1871	14	Freedman rendered service of 7 months in 1868-14 acres for pay
Moses Austin Bryan	Polycarp Bryan	Deed	N	447/48	Feb	2	1872	42	Timberland on west boundary of plantation gift
Moses Austin Bryan	James Bryan	Deed	O	452/53	Dec	25	1873	400	Ranch house tract gift to his son
Moses Austin Bryan	James Bryan	Deed	P	306/07	Jan	20	1875	600	Gift to his son below the home M. Austin Bryan once lived same as above
Thomas J. Copes Sheriff	William J. Bryan	Deed	P	289/90	Jan	20	1876		M. A. Austin lost suit by H. Seaburn property seized
James Bryan	Guy M. Bryan	Deed	P	793/94	March		1877	600	Swapped for 250 acres
M. Austin Bryan	A. D. Walker	Deed	Q	451	Dec	22	1877		Cattle sale
William J. Bryan	Lavinia Perry Bryan Stratton	Deed	S	398	Jan	1	1880		\$1425 less 800 acres to Dailey & 600 acres sold to James Bryan by M. Austin Bryan
H. H. Dailey	T.R.Dailey & E.C. Dailey	Deed	T	606/07	Feb	3	1880	769	Foreclosed on DT \$5000 Bryan note to T. R. Dailey 2 Tracts of Land
James T. & Minnie Stratton	Caroline A. Stratton Brock et al	Deed	50	156/61	Oct	17	1899	3360	Partition of property among father & children Survey Map
Samuel I. Stratton	Robert C. Storie	Deed	53	175	Jan	14	1901	734	\$5870.40
T. H. & Jessie Dailey	Robert C. Storie	Deed	53	172	Feb	6	1901	769	NW Corner
John T. Stratton Jr.		Deed	53	226	Feb	20	1901	598	\$4188
J. W. & Della Fulton	C. J. Fulton	Deed	131	238					\$1000 their 1/2 interest in 598 acres
Robert C. Storie	Fred A. Brock	Deed	200	123/27	Sept	29	1926		Tract 1 733.3 acres Tract 2 Strip out of 598.4 acres Tract 3 769 acres
C. J. Fulton et al	Fred A. Brock	Deed	206	74/76	Dec	3	1927	598	\$7500
Carrie Stratton Brock	Fred A. Brock Jr. J.T.S. Brock Lois Brock Adriance	Deed	354	219/22	Oct	28	1941	2861	1/3 to each by their mother

Appendix B

Bryan Family Genealogy

Moses Austin Bryan b. 25Sept1817 St. Francois County, Missouri Territory d. 16March1895 Brenham, Washington County, Texas buried Independence, Texas

m. 1st 20Feb1840 Rapides Parish, Louisiana (another reference has New Orleans)

Adaline Laulethe LaMothe b. 8May1822 Rapides Parish, Louisiana d. 30May1855 (1854?) Galveston, Texas

1. Emily Editha Bryan (25Nov1840-24Sept1848) buried Reterio
2. Stephen Fuller Austin Bryan (21April1843-14Oct1867)
3. Polycarp LaMothe Bryan (3Nov1845-21Mar1916) m. Mary K. Kiger (1845-)
4. Austinia Bryan (15Jan1848-8Jan1850) buried Reterio
5. James Bryan (13Aug1850-21May1914) m. Sue Runnels
6. William Joel Bryan (7July1852-27Jan1882)

m. 2nd 3Nov1856 Austin, Texas

Cora Lewis b. 12Nov1828 d. 9June1889 Washington County, Texas buried Independence

1. Guy Randolph Bryan (16Aug1857-26Oct1858) buried at Reterio
2. Lewis Randolph Bryan (2Oct1858-11Feb1938) m. Mattie Jane Shepherd (1859-1937)
3. Stella Louise Bryan (12June1860-8April1864)
4. Beauregard Bryan (16Jan1862-3Mar1918) m. Lillian A. Lyles
5. Austin Y. Bryan (20Dec1863-1Jan1930) m. Mary Louise Kinyon (1906-)
6. Stonewall Jackson Bryan (2Feb1866-3May1906)

William Joel Bryan (1815-1903)

m.

Lavinia K. Perry (1813-1872)

1. James Perry Bryan (1841-1920) m. Octavia Leverta Brown (1842-1929)
2. Guy Morrison Bryan Jr. (1843-1921) m. Lucy Countes Falconer (1856-1882)
3. Samuel Irvin Bryan (1844-1909) m. Sarah Emily Stratton (1847-1924)
4. Moses Austin Bryan Jr. (1845-1894) m. Josephine Hart (1859-1928)
5. Erin Ernest Bryan (1852-1910) m. Nannie Frank Waldman (1851-1910)
6. Mary Amantha Bryan (1847-1867) m. Charles W. Truehart II (1837-1914)
7. Lavinia Perry Bryan (3July1854-14Mar1880) m.(18Feb1873) James Thomas Stratton (1849-1910)
 - A. Joel Bryan Stratton (1874-1918)
 - B. Caroline Austin Stratton (3Nov1875-16Nov1963)
 - m.(24Nov1897)
 - Frederick Augustus Brock (15Aug1875-28Nov1945)
 - a. Lavinia Caroline Brock (1898-1929)
 - b. Lois Teresa Brock (1900-)
 - c. Frederick Augustus Brock IV (1902-1973)
 - d. James Thomas Stratton Brock (1909-1980)
 - C. James Thomas Stratton (1877)
 - D. Samuel Irwin Stratton (1879-1929)⁷¹

⁷¹ Deckler, Edna Perry ed., "Austin-Perry Memorandum", Stripes, Volume 7, Number 2, June 1967, Texas State Genealogical Society, Tyler, Texas, pp. 71-72.

Appendix C
Mirabeau B. Lamar Letter

25 December 1838

Austin Bryan

Dear Sir

Your name has been handed in to the Senate as Secretary of Legation to the United States; the nomination will be confirmed tomorrow morning, and I wish you to hold yourself in readiness to start for Washington City without delay—The Minister Dr. Jones is anxious for the arrival of his Secretary; & it is important that you to leave almost immediately—come over to Houston.

Yours
M. B. Lamar⁷²

⁷² Letter Mirabeau B. Lamar to M. Austin Bryan, Brazoria, "Send this to its destination without delay" on front, Moses Austin Bryan Papers

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library, San Jacinto Museum of History, La Porte, Texas
Moses Austin Bryan Papers

Brazoria County Historical Museum Library, Angleton, Texas
Perry (James Franklin and Stephen Samuel) Papers, 1785-1942
Mrs. G. W. (Lois) Adriance Collection
Reterio Plantation File
Bryan Family File #75

Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas
1850 Federal Agricultural Census
1860 Federal Agricultural Census

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

The Angleton Times, Angleton, Texas

The Texas Planter, Brazoria, Texas

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Deed Records Brazoria County, County Clerk's Office, Angleton, Texas

Civil Court Records, District Clerk's Office, Angleton, Texas

Brazoria County Tax Records on microfilm Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas

Federal Population Schedule, Seventh Census of the United States.
1850 The State of Texas, Brazoria County
"Schedule 2—Slave Inhabitants in the County of Brazoria, Texas"

Federal Population Schedule, Eighth Census of the United States.
1860 The State of Texas, Brazoria County
"Schedule 2—Slave Inhabitants in the County of Brazoria, Texas"

Federal Population Schedule, Ninth Census of the United States.
1870

Federal Population Schedule, Tenth Census of the United States.
1880

Secondary Sources

BOOKS, ESSAYS, THESES, AND DISSERTATIONS

Baker, D. W. C. ed., *A Texas Scrap-Book*, A. S. Barnes & Company, New York, New Orleans, Chicago, 1875

Barker, Eugene C. ed., *The Austin Papers*, Vol. III, Oct. 1834-Jan. 1837, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington D. C., 1924

Bryan, J. P., Ed., *Mary Austin Holley, The Texas Diary, 1835-1838*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1965

Cantrell, Greg, *Stephen F. Austin Empresario of Texas*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1999

Cummins, Light Townsend, *Emily Austin of Texas 1795-1851*, Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas, 2009

Deckler, Edna Perry ed., "Austin-Perry Memorandum", *Stripes*, Volume 7, Number 2, June 1967, Texas State Genealogical Society, Tyler, Texas

Gambrell, Herbert, *Anson Jones The Last President of Texas*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1964

Haynes, Sam W., *Soldiers of Misfortune The Sovervell and Mier Expeditions*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1990

Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982

Lord, Anna Snider, Christopher A. Rautman and Karl M. Loeff, "Geological Technical Assessment of the Stratton Ridge Salt Dome, Texas, for Potential Expansion of the U. S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve", Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2006

Platter, A. A., *Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas*, Doctorial Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1961

The Handbook of Texas Online