

Elections and Miscellaneous Notices – 1856-1857

By Bill Page

Executive Office, Austin, Dec. 7, 1856.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: I have just received the resignation of Hon. E.M. Millican, as senator for the 21st District composed of the counties of Leon, Robertson, Brazos and Burlison ... E.M. Pease.

Official Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, 7th Biennial Session. Austin: Printed by John Marshall and Co., 1857, p.269

The “Ranger” thinks that Sam Houston may calculate on getting Brazos County if he runs for Governor, *provided that he does not move into it before the election!* Brazos gave Fillmore one majority. State Gazette (Austin), 13 Dec. 1856, p.2

Appointments of the preachers of the Texas Annual Conference, which was held at Gonzales, beginning Dec.3d, 1856 ...

Springfield Dist – Mordecai Yell, P.E. ... Boonville, Jos. H. Moore ...

State Gazette (Austin), 20 Dec. 1856, p.3

Supreme Court ... Cases Affirmed ... Blossman vs. Litchford et. al. from Brazos . Reversed and remanded ... Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 29 Jan. 1857, p.3

List of Grand Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, for the Year A.D. 1857 – A.L. 5857 ...

Harvey Mitchell, Boonville, Brazos County, D.D.G.M. 13th District ...

Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 31 Jan. 1857, p.2

Boonville in Texas. This is a small town, the county seat of Brazos County, situated upon the high lands between the Brazos and Navasota rivers. The county may be said to consist of a convenient and beautiful alternating of prairies and timbered lands. The lands are mostly sandy, with small bodies of black land interspersed. We have heard that Brazos was a poor country; but while this may be true in a comparative sense, we see no reason why it may not be a good farming and grazing country, and sustain a large population. It is yet new and uncultivated, when compared with some other counties, but it is improving in several particulars. Farms are increasing in number and size, schools are growing up, and some of the people whom we saw are intelligent and moral. They have no church in the county, as we were told, but they have preaching at Boonville and in two or three other settlements. Many of the people are fond of horse racing, but they seem to respect religion. Brother Creath had an appointment to preach in Boonville on Saturday, and others had appointed a horse race. They all met in town early, and upon consultation it was determined to postpone the race until after dinner, as we were told, and that all should go and hear the sermon. This was better than some would have done in other counties. At night we attended with brother Creath and twice on the Sabbath. The congregations were large and very attentive. We preached in the courthouse, where seats, &c., were provided by the kind citizens, who manifested to us every kind of evidence of due respect. May God bless the people of Boonville and the whole county.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 4 March 1857, p.3

Taken up by Harvain Nevill, and estrayed before G.B. Reed, justice of the peace, an iron grey mare, about fifteen hands high, three years old, branded E, and appraised at \$65; also a sorrel horse, about fourteen hands high, five years old, with both hind feet white, a blaze in his face, branded on both shoulders with E, and appraised at \$50, on March 28, 1857.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 1 April 1857, p.3

A Negro boy and horse, belonging to John Millican, Esqr., were drowned in the Brazos, a little below the mouth of the Navasota, on Saturday evening last. The water at the ford is scarce three feet deep, but the boy becoming frightened, it seems, forced the horse out of the track and into the channel. Washington American, 14 April 1857, p.2

1857: April 16 – “Texas Weather Reminiscences,” Dallas Morning News, 14 May 1903, p.6. “In today’s News appears some reminiscences of Texas weather in 1857, and I wish to add some of my recollections of that year ... On my return [from Houston] on the 16th [of April] another norther was blowing and in Reed’s Prairie, in the southern part of Brazos County, it snowed thick and fast for an hour or two.”

Citation

Wm. Dunlap, Adm’r on the Estate of Minerva Thomas, dec’d, vs. Ric’d Norwood and others.

To any lawful Officer – Greeting:

Whereas, William Dunlap, Adm’r as aforesaid, having made oath before me, an acting justice of the peace for Brazos County, that Richard Norwood is justly indebted to the Estate of Minerva Thomas, deceased, in the sum of one hundred dollars, with interest on the same from the first of January last, and said Norwood resides in parts unknown, or secrets himself so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him, these are therefore to command you to summon said Norwood as the law directs, to appear at my office in said county of Brazos, on the first Saturday in June next, to answer to the complaint of William Dunlap, Adm’r as aforesaid, in a plea of debt due by note not exceeding one hundred dollars. Herein fail not, and have you then and there this writ. Given under my hand and seal, this 10th day of April, 1857.

R.P. McMichael, J.P.B.C. Washington American, 21 April 1857, p.3

[ad] Rogers & Searcy, Washington, Texas

Jas. S. Barton, Wheelock, Texas

Rogers Searcy, & Barton,

Attorneys and Counselors at Law,

Will practice in all the Courts of the Third Judicial District, and the counties of Grimes, Brazos and Robertson. Washington American, 21 April 1857, p.4

Taken up by William C. Bayles, and estrayed before G.B. Reed, Esq., a bay horse, with black mane and tail, a star in his forehead, heavy built, about fourteen hands high, seven or eight years old, saddle-marked, branded W on the left shoulder, and appraised at \$50.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 29 April 1857, p.3

[ad] Great Southern Circus and Menagerie (Late Robinson and Eldred’s) Will Exhibit at Washington, Anderson, Boonville ...

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 20 May 1857, p.3

Notice

The undersigned having been appointed by the County Court of Brazos County, at the April Term thereof, Administrator of the estate of Henry Koontz, dec'd, this is to notify all persons having claims against estate, to present them properly authenticated to me within the time prescribed by law, and all indebted to the same, to make immediate payment to me.

Frank Keiffer, Adm'r of H. Koontz, dec'd.

May 21st, 1857

Washington American, 26 May 1857, p.3

Brother Baines is absent, which will account, we hope, for any lack of the usual amount of interesting matter. He is on a visit to Brazos County, where we hope his labors may rebound to the edification of God's people. Should he return before we go to press, an account of his trip may be expected. Texas Baptist (Anderson), 3 June 1857, p.2

Taken up and estrayed by Nelson W. Rector, County Commissioner for Brazos County, a dark brown horse, about fifteen hands high, nine or ten years old, no brands to be seen.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 3 June 1857, p.3

Taken up by L.J. Bundick and estrayed before Jas. D. Lewis, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, a bright bay horse, about fourteen and a half hands high, a small white streak in his face, some small white saddle marks, no brand seen, about eight years old, and appraised at \$80. Texas Baptist (Anderson), 24 June 1857, p.3

Notice, I hereby forewarn all persons from trading for a note executed by me to Barret T. Millican for one hundred bushels of corn, for I am determined not to pay said note, only at the end of the law, as the consideration for which said note was given has failed to prove as recommended.

John Grant, March 25th, 1857.

Washington American, 7 July 1857, p.3

Taken up by John Grant, and estrayed before G.B. Reed, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, a brown mare mule, about fourteen hands high, quite old, saddle and gear marked, branded on the left thigh with a Spanish brand, and appraised at \$31.50.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 8 July 1857, p.3

Taken up by Hugh R. Henry, and estrayed before G.B. Reed, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, a dark iron grey filly, about fourteen hands high, two years old past, no brands or marks perceivable, left hind foot white, and appraised at \$60.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 15 July 1857, p.3

The *Galveston News* says: "We have heard from a gentleman just from Milam, Brazos and Robertson Counties, where he says there is very great suffering from the drouth. The cane crop is nearly ruined. Many were preparing to cut up their corn for fodder. The grass on the prairies looks dry and dead. Water is very scarce, the people in many places drinking pond water, and hauling it a long distance. We hear also from several other counties lower down, similar accounts. A gentleman from Wharton says, several planters there were

cutting up their corn when left the other day. Cotton, however, looks very well generally. In Waco and vicinity, we learn that the prospects for corn are better, as they have not there suffered so much from drought. A letter from Independence says: ‘Very dry, and prospects for farmers are gloomy in this vicinity.’” The Charleston Mercury, 20 July 1857, p.1

Taken up by John Millican, and estrayed before R.P. McMichael, a justice of the peace of Brazos County, a bay horse, ten or twelve years old, about thirteen and a half hands high, white face, three white feet up to the knees, of a wild disposition, branded with the figure 8, and appraised at \$12.50. Texas Baptist (Anderson), 22 July 1857, p.3

Citation Notice. Suit for divorce, pending in the District Court of Brazos County. John Milhanks, vs. Sarah Ann Milhanks. The State of Texas. To the Sheriff of Brazos County, You are hereby commanded to summon, by publication, Sarah Ann Milhanks, to be and appear before the honorable District Court of Brazos County, to be holden at this courthouse thereof, in this town of Boonville, on the first Monday in September A.D. 1857, to answer the petition of John Milhanks, this day filed in the Clerk’s office of said court, wherein said John alleges: that he was married in said Sarah Ann, and lived with her in the discharge of his duties until about the 23rd of Apr. 1855; that said Sarah Ann, in disregard of the kind and genial conduct on the part of the petitioner, eloped from his bed and board along with a mix blooded or colored man, together with two of petitioners little daughters, and on divers occasions has been guilty of adultery with said colored man; that said Sarah Ann has abandoned petitioner forever; that such conduct on the part of said Sarah Ann is insupportable; that thenceforth it is impossible for them to live together as man and wife ... Came to hand July 14, 1857, and ordered to be published for four successive weeks in the *Texas Baptist* Texas Baptist (Anderson), 22 July 1857, p.3

Election returns ... Brazos County, Boonville Precinct ...

Governor – Runnels, 73; Houston, 149

Lieut. Governor – Lubbock, 60; Grimes, 150

Commissioner – White, 66; Crosby, 152

Congress – Bryan, 63; Howth, 136

For Representative, the vote is Chance, 108; Thompson, 40; McClanahan, 45.

Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 6 Aug. 1857, p.2

Taken up by S.E.W. Hudson, and estrayed before G.B. Reed, a justice of the peace of Brazos County, a sorrel mare, with blaze face, about fifteen and a half hands high, four years old, branded F on the left shoulder, and appraised at \$80.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 12 Aug. 1857, p.3

Taken up by Joshua Seale and estrayed before G.B. Reed, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, the following described oxen, to wit: One is a black and white pied ox, marked a swallow-fork in the right ear, and an under half crop in the left; branded S; with the left horn knocked down; six or seven years old; and appraised at \$25. One is a brown stag with some white in his face, marked a crop, split and underbit in the right ear, and a crop off the left ear; with a small bell on; no brand perceivable; nine or ten years old, and appraised at \$25. The third is a pale yellow ox, marked a crop off the right ear; had on a necking stick;

branded thus d; six or seven years old, and appraised at \$25 this August 3d, 1857.
Texas Baptist (Anderson), 12 Aug. 1857, p.3

Election returns ...
Senators ... Elliott M. Millican, of Brazos
Representatives ... E.J. Chance, Burleson and Brazos
Galveston Tri-Weekly News, 18 Aug. 1857, p.2

Taken up by Levi Sweat, and estrayed before Hardin Nevill, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, a bay horse colt, two years old, both hind legs white, no brands perceivable, about twelve hands high, and appraised at \$35.
Texas Baptist (Anderson), 19 Aug. 1857, p.3

Citation – No. 139

Mary E. Graves vs. Samuel Graves

Suit Pending in the District Court in Brazos County

The State of Texas, to the Sheriff of Brazos County, Greeting:

Your are hereby commanded to summon by publication, Samuel Graves, to be and appear before the Hon. District Court to be holden in and for Brazos County, at the court house thereof, in the town of Boonville, on the First Monday in September, A. D. 1857, to answer the petition of Mary E. Graves, filed in the Clerk's Office of said Court, wherein said Mary E. Graves states, that in the year A. D. 1853, she was married to said Samuel Graves; that some time in the early part of 1854, more than three years before the commencement of this suit, said Samuel, with the intention of abandonment, left your petitioner with a young infant, and made no provision for the support of the child or the petitioner, so as to render their living together insupportable – that he had at divers times cruelly treated her, and whilst she was in ill health, left her unprovided for – that said defendant has for left petitioner for more than three years with the intention to abandon her. Wherefore she prays for citation by publication, and for a divorce, and for general and equitable relief, and said Mary has made oath that the residence of said Samuel is unknown to her.

Herein fail not and of this writ make return according to law.

Attest, Arthur Edwards, Clerk of the District Court of Brazos County ...

The Texas Ranger (Brenham), 29 August 1857, page 3

Departed this life in Brazos County, on July 26th, 1857, Mrs. Martha Stroud, wife and consort of Mr. Benjamin F. Stroud. The deceased was born in Bedford County, Tennessee, on May the 16th, 1827. Her maiden name was Martha Right. At the age of about seventeen, she made a profession of religion, and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Subsequently, however, she united with the Reformers, with whom she remained until 1847, when she was granted a letter of dismissal in full fellowship; since which time she has had no church communion, but retained her letter. She gave abundant testimony of her preparation to meet God in peace. She was asked a short time before her death, if she was easy; to which she replied, I am, and happy, and not afraid to die; I shall not be with you long; I am dying now; don't weep after me. She asked her husband not to grieve for her. She desired much to see an absent sister. She then said I am going; going home, then went off without a struggle. "Jesus can make a dying bed / feel soft as downy pillows are." S. J. W.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 2 Sept. 1857, p.3

Millican, Brazos County, September, 1857.

Editor News – I feel it my duty to give you a small sketch in relation to the crops in this county. Crops have suffered badly from the long continued drought; corn is now being gathered. Some are making bread, while others will not make seed. Some of our farmers made only ten bushels to the hand, cultivating Brazos Bottom. We see from your paper that tolerable good crops of corn are being made in portions of Texas, which gives us some hopes of having bread another year. The varmints seem to have a spite at us; coons and squirrels must have come from all parts. They have damaged our cotton crop to a considerable extent, as well as corn. Cotton on the bottom lands seems to be doing well; upland is nearly all open and being picked. It is thought that there will be nearly an average crop raised in this county. We have had two light showers within the past two days, and the prospect is good for more. There is here an entire failure of the post oak mast, but we have some few pecans, pin oak, acorns, &c. Subscriber.

Galveston Weekly News, 15 Sept. 1857, p.2

Taken up by Robert M. Henry, County Commissioner for Brazos County, a bay horse, black mane and tail, white face, left hind foot white, has had a sore back, thirteen and a half hands high, Spanish brand on the left hip, and HP on the left shoulder, (the bar of the H very dim), about eleven years old, valued at \$25. Texas Baptist (Anderson), 3 Oct. 1857, p.3

Taken up by J.M. Zimmerman and posted before H. Nevill, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, a bay mare, fifteen years old, about fourteen hands high, no brands or marks perceivable, left hind foot white, appraised at \$30. Also a gray mare, six years old, about sixteen hands high, no brands or marks perceivable, and appraised at \$100.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 7 Oct. 1857, p.3

Taken up by Joshua Seale, and estrayed before H. Nevill, a justice of the peace for Brazos County, a mule, between a brown and mouse color, about twelve hands high, sixteen years old; no brand, a scar on the right hip. Appraised at \$15.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 21 Oct. 1857, p.3

Taken up by Robt. Johnson, County Commissioner for Brazos County, a dark brindle ox, seven or eight years old; marked, crop and split in the right ear, and smooth crop off the left. No brand perceivable. Texas Baptist (Anderson), 21 Oct. 1857, p.3

Minter Spring Church, Brazos County. Organized fourth Lord's day in September, 1857, by Elder B.L. Wright and David Fisher. Names of those that went into the organization: James Hood, James Hood, Jr., Bartlett McGregor, Joel McGregor, and Sylvanus Taylor; females, Mary Hood, Nancy Hood, -- McGregor, and Margaret McGregor; total, 9. First deacon, James Hood; first clerk, J.H. McGregor. Total at present, 20.

Tryon Church, Brazos County, Texas. Was organized on Saturday before the first Lord's day in August, 1857, by Elders Thomas Eaton and J.G. Thomas, with the following members: John R. Stewart, Joanna Stewart, James M. Zimmerman and Mary Zimmerman, Peter Keifer and Joseph Keifer. First pastor Elder Thomas Eaton; J.M.

Zimmerman first deacon and also church clerk. Total at present, 8.
Texas Baptist (Anderson), 21 Oct. 1857, p.2

Letter from Brazos County. Boonville, Oct. 6, 1857. Dear Bro. Baines: On Saturday 27th ult., brethren Fisher and Wright commenced a meeting at Minter Springs, some ten miles south from this place. On the next day they organized a church with nine members. The meeting has continued day and night and is yet in progress. Four have been received by letter, sixteen have been recommended, and eight more are received for baptism, and we hope that others may receive conversion and follow their Savior in holy baptism. Brother Keifer has been in the meeting all the time, and it has been my privilege to be present for the last three days. The meeting will close on to-morrow. "Praise the Lord for his goodness unto the children of men." Please send twelve numbers of your paper as directed below. Brother J.M. Hood will act as local agent for you at this place. Yours in Christ, J.G. Thomas. Texas Baptist (Anderson), 28 Oct. 1857, p.2

Churches	Post-offices	Pastors	Delegates
Minter Springs	Millican		B. McGregor, J.M. Hood
Tryon Church	Boonville	Thomas Eaton	J.M. Zimmerman, J.R. Stewart, Peter Keifer

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 28 Oct. 1857, p.2

Minter Spring, Texas. Oct. 8, 1857. On Friday night before the fourth Sabbath in September a meeting was commenced in this neighborhood by our Missionaries Elders Fisher and Wright. The congregation was small but attentive. On Saturday, the day that had been appointed to constitute a church, a large congregation met at eleven o'clock. A deep anxiety to hear the gospel preached seemed to rest upon every countenance, especially I could notice that they had sincerely prayed for the Lord to visit them at the time by the outpouring of his spirit, and if the prayers of Christians have ever been answered, they were surely during the progress of this meeting. As brother Burleson was expected to be present, the organization was postponed until Sunday. On Sunday at eleven o'clock, brother Wright preached a feeling sermon to a large and attentive congregation. After the services were --- presbytery composed of the above two missionaries took into consideration --- brethren and sisters of this neighborhood into a Baptist church. Nine presented letters of recommendation from their respective churches, and after the usual ceremony, the presbytery declared them to be a regularly organized gospel church. The presbytery and other visiting brethren then extended to them the right hand of fellowship. Tears of joy and love trickled down the cheeks of all lovers of Zion present. The doors of the church were then opened for the reception of members, when two presented themselves, who were --- under the watchers of the church until they could obtain letters. At the --- meeting, after preaching by the writer, brother Fisher invited those that felt an interest in their souls salvation to come forward for prayer. Quite a number presented themselves, quite affected.

On Monday the interest greatly increased. Some sixteen were seen weeping at the alter for prayer. Here were those that had once loved the Lord, but had gone astray; others for the first time in their lives had heard the gospel voice. On Tuesday three willing candidates desired to express their love to their Savior by following him in the holy ordinance of baptism. A large concourse of people were present when brother Fisher administered this ordinance. It was the second time that the like was seen in this county. From that time on, the interest seemed steadily to increase. As others were coming to this meeting, the Lord's

spirit seemed to take hold of them, and they were seen trembling and crying for forgiveness. Some friends that had come to see what was going on, were so affected that they would immediately start home after their wives and families. One thing deeply affecting was to see so many husbands and wives side by side, seeking the salvation of their souls.

Some meetings but two or three unconverted persons were left in the house, that were not at the anxious seat, and trembled at their seats.

From time to time some would find the precious pearl, and would rise and tell the church how they had found peace for their souls. Backsliders were reclaimed, and would rejoice in renewed evidences of divine favor. Brother Fisher, who had to leave us on Friday morning, to go to the meeting of the United Association, returned again on Saturday night, and brought with him your Missionary Elder J.G. Thomas. This seemed to give new interest to the meeting. On Sunday, first Lord's day in October, after preaching by brother Thomas, we all repaired to the Brazos River. Thirteen willing converts, and a large number of spectators were seen at the water's edge. Brother Wright administered the ordinance. Preaching was again given out for night, and next day. Up to this time everything had been favorable in the highest degree, cool and pleasant days and bright, moonshining nights, besides the manifest presence and blessing of the Lord. But now dark clouds "gathered thick and thundered loud." Many of the people could get no further than brother Hood's house. It continued raining all the evening, so that we had to give out meeting at the usual place for worship; but the brethren were not content to remain until that night. All present assembled in one of our brothers' rooms, where all the ministers, many of the new converts and a few mourners were present, and while brethren Thomas and Fisher were speaking, two that had been deeply concerned about their eternal welfare, were enabled to rejoice in the pardon of their sins. Another who had received forgiveness before, came forward and declared that all doubts had left her, and that she wished a name with the people of God. It was a meeting long to be remembered by all present. On Monday we met again as usual. Some others that had set out to seek the Savior were determined to persevere, and by Wednesday morning all our mourning friends met with us with happy countenances. We repaired again to the river's side, and while solemnity pervaded all present, brother Fisher administered the holy ordinance to eleven candidates. The meeting was then closed, while a good feeling still existed in the community. The church received since its organization by letter, five; by baptism, seven. Of these, nine were husbands and their wives, and a number of young men, some of whom we trust the Lord will call to preach his blessed word. The total number now is forty one. The brethren are anxious to have brother Wright settle in their neighborhood, and they express their thanks to the labors of our missionaries. May God bless them abundantly, and give them will for every good work, and may they become a blessing to Brazos County. Yours truly, F. Keifer.

Texas Baptist (Anderson), 4 Nov. 1857, p.3

... Senate ... Tuesday, Dec. 8th ... Bills Passed ... to hold a special election in the 21st Senatorial District, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. E.M. Millican ... Texas State Gazette (Austin), 12 Dec. 1857, p.3