

Letters from Brazos County – 1880's
Compiled by Bill Page

From an adult:

J.L. Mayo, Bryan, Brazos County:

Domestic grapes are not extensively cultivated in Brazos County, but when they are they generally do well. Favorite kinds are Concord, Isabella, and Scuppernong. Very little wine made from domestic grapes but large quantities from the wild Mustang grape, which, when managed well, makes a very fair wine. They grow in the greatest luxuriance and profusion all over our woods.

McMurtrie, William, **Report Upon Statistics of Grape Culture and Wine Production in the United States for 1880**, page 100

from an adult

Febrifuge

A Remarkable Letter from a Celebrated Physician

Bryan, Texas, June 11, 1879

J. C. Richardson, St. Louis – Dear Sir:

My boy, 2 years old, had fever every other day, or every third day, for about 2 months. I used as much as 12 grains of Quinine during the day, but with no effect; tried Cinchonia (alkaloid) Sulph. Cinchonidia, Salacine, etc., etc., but the boy got worse all the time. I reluctantly sent down to my drug store for your Febrifuge, and I write just to say that he never had a symptom of fever after commencing Febrifuge, to date, being now over a month ago. I feel that I ought to say this much in behalf of your medicine. Am a regular M. D., but retired from practice 3 years ago and devoting my time to drug business.

Very respectfully, J. W. Howell. **Omaha Daily Bee**, 4 May 1880, page 4

From an adult:

[Endorsement for Child's Catarrh Specific]

I am cured; another formidable case at last yielded to your treatment. W.B. Morse, Bryan, Texas. **Texas Siftings** (Austin, TX), 16 December 1882, page 5

From an adult:

Brazos County. H.B. Stoddard, Bryan – I have driven and shipped 3,000 to 4,000 head of cattle each year for the past eight years from this county to Caldwell, Kans., and Fort Dodge. No complaint ever reached me as to the cattle being diseased, or communicating disease to other cattle.

Second Annual Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry for the Year 1885, p. 256

I would say in regard to tobacco, that I have quit chewing and smoking, although never a habitual smoker or chewer. Chas. Blatherwick, Bryan, Texas.

Gleanings in Bee Culture, May 1885, p.338

From an adult:

[Endorsement for News Sewing Machine]

W.L. Bringhurst, Professor of English, A. and M. College, College Station, Tex. We are much pleased with your Premium Sewing Machine. My wife thinks it has no superior among the machines of the continent. My little boy, 8 years old, sews on it with ease.

Dallas Morning News, 10 February 1887, page 7

From an adult:

O.H.N., Millican, Texas – The ancient Carthaginians were not a Negro race. They were descendants of the Phoenicians, of Asia Minor. **The Daily Inter-Ocean** (Chicago, IL), 23 February 1889, page 11

From an adult:

[Endorsement for Ayer's Pills]

For eight years I was afflicted with constipation, which at last became so bad that the doctors could do no more for me. Then I began to take Ayer's Pills, and soon the bowels recovered their natural and regular action, so that now I am in excellent health. – S.L. Loughridge, Bryan, Texas. **The Philadelphia Inquirer** (Philadelphia, PA), 16 May 1889, page 7

Alice V. Dunlap, Millican, Texas: Here is another little Texas girl bringing a mite for our soldiers' home. I picked cotton for papa and he paid me 10 cents. Which I send you. If all the little girls in the south would do the same they might get up enough money to build a nice little cottage there and call it the children's cottage. My papa was a Confederate soldier and he would like to see Mr. Grady President of the United States. Age 8.

Atlanta Constitution, 22 October 1889, page 4.