

**Brazos County Natural History:
Plants, Animals, Weather, Geology and Related Topics**

1890-1894

compiled by Bill Page

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Otto Braatz has on his place in the suburbs of Bryan several acres of a gritty earth of Venetian red color, that is thought to be the genuine article for making a superior quality of mineral paint. The find promises to be a rich one. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 9 January 1890, p. 5, col. 5

Bryan, Tex., April 21 ... One of the heaviest rains of the season last night and as a result farming is suspended for a few days. Dallas Morning News, 22 April 1890, p.4

College Station ... Crops along the Brazos ruined by high water; many of them having been under water for three weeks ... Dallas Morning News, 16 May 1890, p.4

Mrs. Isa Beaumont, has rented the Manganic Wells, two miles north west of Bryan, and invites all in search of health, to try the healing waters of these wonderful wells. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 26 June 1890, p.5, col.2

*B.F. Kennedy called for a mass meeting at Jones Spring, (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 July 1890, p.5, col.4

There have been some good local showers this week, but a general rain is badly needed. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 July 1890, p.5

College Station ... Cotton, corn and grass suffering from drouth. Dallas Morning News, 15 August 1890, p.3

College Station ... Cotton crop ruined by worms; rainfall .68. Dallas Morning News, 10 October 1890, p.4

College Station. Prof. D. Adriance – Too much rain, no farm work can be done for some time, light snow on 23d instant. Temperature, maximum 74, minimum 32, rainfall 1.33 on two days. Dallas Morning News, 30 January 1891, p.2

College Station. D. Adriance. Rain is badly needed. Crops will soon begin to suffer. Temperature, maximum 81, minimum 41. Dallas Morning News, 10 April 1891, p.4

Millican, Tex., April 10 – This locality was visited by a severe hail storm yesterday evening, completely destroying the corn and cotton crops north of town, also damaging housetops. Hail stones as large as goose eggs fell. Dallas Morning News, 11 April 1891, p.4

College Station ... Heavy rains have damaged crops in some parts of the county; the Brazos River threatens overflow ... rainfall 4.20 inches on four days. Dallas Morning News, 24 April 1891, p.4

Bryan, Tex., April 28 – The Brazos at this place is falling rapidly. No further trouble is anticipated. At this time no proper estimate can be made as to the damage done by the overflow, but many farmers think that the damage is as great as that of 1876. Dallas Morning News, 29 April 1891, p.1

Bryan – An excellent rain fell here yesterday, doing much good to vegetation of all kinds. The upland farmers are about up with their work, but the bottom farmers have been delayed by overflows ... Dallas Morning News, 19 May 1891, p.2

A good flow of water has been secured from an artesian well near Ella, in Brazos County, at a depth of 625 feet. Brenham Weekly Banner, 18 June 1891, p.4

Millican, Tex., June 25 ... The damaging drouth wound up this evening by a good rain. It will not do corn much good, but will save the cotton crop, which is the best at this time for many years. Dallas Morning News, 26 June 1891, p.3

Ella ... Cotton is finer than for several years. The worms have just made their appearance, but are being slain as fast as they can be dusted with Paris green, which is a dead shot ... Bryan – The upland cotton, as well as corn, is poor, owing to drouth, but the bottom cotton and corn are above the average. But little cotton picking yet. No worms worth mentioning yet. Millican ... The cotton worms have made their appearance. Some farmers have already commenced to use Paris green. Dallas Morning News, 12 August 1891, p.2

Bryan ... Everywhere reports show that the bollworm has done far more damage than was expected. It is the opinion of those well informed that this county will fall short of last year's crop. Millican ... The bollworm is still reported as doing some damage to young cotton. Ella – Fine weather for cotton harvesting ... Cotton crop was seriously damaged by the boll worm, but not so bad as was expected ... Dallas Morning News, 16 September 1891, p.2

Bryan, Tex. ... The first car load of pecans for this year was shipped from Bryan yesterday. They were shipped by W.G. Hotfield to a St. Louis house. Dallas Morning News, 6 December 1891, p.11

Bryan, Tex., Dec. 12 ... The artesian well at the agricultural and mechanical college is progressing very satisfactorily. A great quantity of water has been reached, so that it now rises to within 100 feet of the top of the well. The water is heavily impregnated with oil. It is now a matter of a very short time when the well will be flowing. Galveston Daily News, 13 December 1891, p.13, col.3

Bryan, Tex., Dec. 12 – Arrangements have been made to have a jack rabbit chase on Burton's prairie, some six miles northeast of Bryan. A large number of swift-footed greyhounds have been engaged for the sport, including some famous dogs from neighboring counties. Dallas Morning News, 14 December 1891, p.6

Bryan, Tex., March 5 – After a long dry spell, a delightful rain fell here last night, which will do great good to vegetation. Galveston Daily News, 6 March 1892, p.3, col.4

Bryan, Tex., March 5 – After a long dry spell, a delightful rain fell here last night, which will do great good to vegetation. Dallas Morning News, 7 March 1892, p.4

College Station ... Vegetables rapidly recovering from the effect of the late freeze; fruit not so badly damaged as first supposed ... Dallas Morning News, 1 April 1892, p.7

Bryan – Acreage of cotton about 10% less ... Plenty of rain so far to insure splendid growth ... No damage done to crops by recent drouth. Some say it was a great advantage to the farmers in cleaning their crops ... Ella ... Oat crops is almost an entire failure on account of dry weather. Dallas Morning News, 26 May 1892, p.4

Bryan, Tex., Aug. 13 – Mr. Kennedy, assistant state geologist, who has been for some time working in Brazos County, reports that his labors are about completed. He says that among other things, he notices unusual amounts of fossil remains. These were found near the line dividing Grimes and Brazos Counties. He also reports large deposits of lime and sandstone. Dallas Morning News, 15 August 1892, p.6

Dumble, Edwin T., Fourth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Texas, 1892. Contains extensive information about Brazos County, including quarries, clay, lignite, wells, etc. Cushing Library / Texas & Borderlands 557 / T355a (also available on the internet)

Wellborn, Tex., Sept. 7 – Saturday Major Beane, a genial old gentleman of Brazos County, was out with a party of friends chasing the wild deer, but being unsuccessful he left the party to return home. Sunday his nonappearance caused uneasiness at home and friends went out in search of him. He is supposed to have been seized with apoplexy soon after his separation from the other hunters and to have fallen from his horse, as he was found in the forest Monday at noon in an unconscious condition with his head and face infested with worms. He was taken home and tenderly cared for, but died in a few hours. Dallas Morning News, 8 September 1892, p.5

Ella ... The first of the week this section was visited by heavy rains that not only delayed cotton picking but seriously damaged what remained ungathered. Galveston Daily News, 14 November 1892, p.2, col.6

“The Finest in the Land,” Dallas Morning News, 22 November 1892, p.6. “Mr. Koppe has in this tract of land 6000 acres ... On these premises are 72 renter houses, well built and comfortable; built of native woods, sawed on the plantation, with brick chimneys

made of brick burned also on the place ... Two artesian wells supply the barns and stock with water, while the third well is being sunk now and is down about 750 feet and is the largest well in the bottom. Surface wells supply water for the tenants.”

Millican, Tex., Dec.6 – A terrific cyclone, followed by a water spout, passed two miles west of town this morning at 9 o'clock, carrying destruction and devastation in its path. Great oaks were uprooted and houses and fences blown down. Jeff Steele, a prosperous farmer, is in town and reports that his house was completely demolished and his farm fences destroyed. Mr. Steele and his family barely escaped with their lives. The house of Dan Moore of the same place was blown down. His daughter, the sole occupant at the time, received painful but not fatal injuries by being struck by falling timbers. As yet no loss of life is reported, but it is feared much damage has been done in localities not yet heard from. It is raining incessantly and the whole earth is inundated. Dallas Morning News, 7 December 1892, p.1

Wellborn, Brazos Co., Tex., March 24 – Mr. M. Kelly's boy, about 3 years old, died Wednesday of hydrophobia, caused from the bite of a puppy about a month ago. He has another child about 5 years old, that was bitten at the same time, but has shown no symptoms as yet. He leaves to-morrow, however, with the child for New York to have it treated. It seems that at the time this occurred the dog, being only a puppy, was fighting with another dog, and the children endeavored to separate them, but were unable to do anything with them, and were bitten. Some of the men around the house separated them, and the puppy attempted to bite them. But little was thought of the matter, though they felt some uneasiness, and the children were not allowed to play with the dog, which died a few days later, though showing no symptoms of being mad. Dallas Morning News, 25 March 1893, p.7

Bryan, Tex., April 5 – A Negro, Ed Hopkins by name, while out hunting yesterday accidentally shot himself in the left arm above the elbow. It was necessary to amputate the arm. Galveston Daily News, 6 April 1893, p.2

Bryan, Texas – Ed Hopkins, the colored man who, while out hunting plover a few days ago, shot himself in the left arm, died from the effect of the wound yesterday and was buried today. Houston Daily Post, 8 April 1893, p.2, col.4

Bryan, Tex., April 7 ... The oil mill company has received a large lot of iron casing for the artesian well ... Galveston Daily News, 8 April 1893, p.3

*George Hempfling has a large catamount ... Galveston Daily News, 17 April 1893, page 1, col.6

Bryan, Tex., April 22 – The cold nights and hot days we are having now, together with the very dry weather, are damaging the crops and gardens in an alarming manner. It has not rained a real hard, good season in this section for three months. Farmers from the Brazos bottom say they can not plow or work at all and are idle, awaiting rain. Dallas Morning News, 24 April 1893, p.6

Bryan, Tex., May 8 – The *News* reporter spent yesterday in the Brazos bottom on Mr. J.E. Astin's plantation near Stone City, this county. Crop prospects were very promising, the corn growing off nicely after the recent rain, and cotton, that had not sprouted for want of rain previously, was coming through the earth. During the afternoon a heavy and steady rain fell, which was welcomed by the planters. In Bryan a heavy rain fell, it being accompanied by quite a severe wind storm and some hail, but did no damage. From reports the rain seems general over the county, in some places doing damage by overflowing crops and washing fences away, while in other places there was not as much as was needed. Dallas Morning News, 10 May 1893, p.6

Bryan, Tex., June 3 – Quite a heavy rain, accompanied by a severe wind, fell here last evening. In Bryan the wind did no damage, but at Benchley, this county, six miles north of here, it was more severe, and overturned and demolished a storehouse, church and seedhouse. Dallas Morning News, 5 June 1893, p.6

Bryan, Tex., June 29 ... An important meeting of the Brazos County Farmers' alliance is called to meet at Jones' Spring, this county, July 6. The executive committee of the people's party will also hold a meeting on that date and place. Dallas Morning News, 1 July 1893, p.8

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., Aug. 20 – A heavy rain and wind storm visited Bryan yesterday evening and damaged property to some extent. The Catholic Church was struck by lightning, which tore the shingles off the cone and knocked a hole in the cupola. The new Catholic school building by the church was blown down and will have to be entirely rebuilt. The frame work for the new colored school building was also struck by the wind and completely demolished. Other buildings, signboards, shrubbery, etc. were blown down. A fine steam hobby-horse which had just hit the town was also roughly handled by the wind and rain. Dallas Morning News, 21 August 1893, p.4.

Ella – The past week has been very hot and dry ... Millican ... The extreme dry weather has caused all the cotton on hill lands to open ... The weather is extremely dry and warm. No rain since the 17th of June. Dallas Morning News, 22 September 1893, p.4

Bryan, Tex., Oct.6 – W.H. Harris' show exhibited here yesterday and last night. During the performance last night about 8 o'clock a storm blew the tent down on a large crowd of spectators, and for a time pandemonium reigned. The wind blew furiously, the ladies and children squalled and there was a general scramble for the outside. Fortunately few people were hurt. One of the center poles blew down on a circus bandman named Fox and broke his leg in two places. The gale did not last long, but was accompanied with some rain and a blinding electrical storm. Dallas Morning News, 8 October 1893, p.4

Bryan, Tex., Oct.31 – The dry weather, which has continued for weeks, is becoming almost insufferable. High winds are blowing the dust in clouds through the streets, and parties coming in from the country say from a distance the town looks like it was enveloped in smoke, and that only the standpipe is at times visible. Stock water is drying up in many parts of the county and many watering places have become bog holes, where the cattle, weakened for lack of water and food, rush in to suck the moist mud and, unable to extricate themselves, lie down and die. In those parts of the county where stock has access to the Brazos and Navasota rivers the drouth is not so severely felt. Cotton receipts have fallen off heavily lately, showing the crop pretty well all in. Dallas Morning News, 2 November 1893, p.6

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., Feb.24 – Snow fell here last night, and the unusual sport of snowballing has engaged the attention of the old and young much of the day. The cold is still severe, the present disagreeable spell having continued all the week ... Wellborn – about one inch of snow fell here this morning, but the ground being wet and the weather turning warm, it had about all disappeared by night. Snowballing was extensively indulged in, and many red noses and ears were visible after the skirmish. The continued cold weather through this month has caused business to be rather dull and will retard planting some, but will no doubt be of value in putting a season in the ground and also insure the fruit crop, as fruit trees will be late budding. Dallas Morning News, 26 February 1894, p.6

College Station, Tex., April 28 ... A terrific hail storm passed over College last Tuesday. Some of the stones weighed more than a pound. No damage, as the stones fell very scattering. Galveston Daily News, 30 April 1894, p.5.

Bryan, Tex., Sept. 16 – A maddog scare occurred on Main street this morning. A dog with rabies attacked five other dogs at different points and was killed after being chased about a mile. Dallas Morning News, 17 September 1894, p.8