

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

1895-1899

compiled by Bill Page

22 March 2010

Bryan, Brazos Co. – Rain has followed the unusual cold weather of the past few days. Dallas Morning News, 1 January 1895, p.7

Allenfarm, Brazos County – The long drouth was broken here Thursday night by a heavy rain which was cause for much joy. It had become so very dry that it was almost impossible for farmers to make any headway breaking their lands for another crop, and most of the wells and cisterns had gone dry. Dallas Morning News, 27 January 1895, p.4

Echoes of the Storm ... Bryan, Brazos Co. – Four inches. Schools suspended. Galveston Daily News, 16 February 1895, p.6

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., Feb. 15 – The sun shown out brightly this forenoon and the snow has been melting rapidly. The afternoon brought more clouds, a colder wind and strong indications of more snow and foul weather. Galveston Daily News, 16 February 1895, p.6

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., March 14 – A very heavy rain and wind storm visited this place last night, blowing down signs, fences, trees and damaging several stocks of goods by flooding the buildings. One or two houses were blown from their blocks. A norther has been blowing all day and it is quite cold. Dallas Morning News, 15 March 1895, p.3

Millican, Brazos Co., Tex., Apr. 6 – A severe storm attended with rain and hail passed over this place last night about 11:45, doing much damage to outhouses and growing crops. The Baptist Church is badly wrecked and blown about three feet off its blocks. Dallas Morning News, 7 April 1895, p.9

*Ernest Rayford, a cook at the Exchange Hotel, died after taking tapeworm medicine. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 April 1895, p.3, col.2; 25 April 1895, p.11, col.2

College Station – D. Adriance. Rains have been abundant but followed by severe winds, which have retarded plant growth ... Galveston Daily News, 18 April 1895, p.5

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., April 17 – In the county court here Martin Hearn, the young white boy who recently accidentally shot a Negro girl while hunting in the Brazos bottom, was declared not guilty of negligent homicide. Dallas Morning News, 19 April 1895, p.5

“Brazos on a Rise,” Galveston Daily News, 7 May 1895, p.2, col.5. Storm at Bryan.

Millican, Brazos Co., Tex., May 16 – A most terrific hail and rain storm commenced here at 2:25 this evening and lasted twenty-five minutes, doing incalculable damage to crops and gardens. Corn is ruined and cotton badly beaten. No one is reported hurt. Dallas Morning News, 17 May 1895, p. 6.

Allen Farm, Brazos Co. – At this station a heavy rain fell for nearly four hours. The rainfall is estimated at about 1 inch. The consensus of opinion among farmers is that the rain at this time is an injury. Galveston Daily News, 18 May 1895, p.2.

College Station – D. Adriance: Great damage done to both corn and cotton the past week by wind and rain. All farm work seriously retarded. Galveston Daily News, 22 May 1895, p.16

Allen Farm, Brazos Co., Tex., June 1 – The Brazos is rising rapidly. Farmers are moving their stock to the hills and are preparing to await results, as if it continues to rise at the present rate thousands of acres of land will be flooded in the next twenty four hours. Dallas Morning News, 2 June 1895, p.9

“Commencement Days,” Dallas Morning News, 16 June 1895, p.3. “A deluge of rain fell last night during the Young Men’s Christian Association address at the assembly hall, and nearly all those who came out from town were more or less the victims of the foul weather, which was no respecter of hats and dresses, and played sad havoc with the dainty creations of art and fancy. Fairer weather has prevailed today”

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., Oct. 23 – *The News* man yesterday saw an unparalleled freak. A rabbit having four horns was killed by a colored man near town and the head was exhibited on the streets by Mr. R.H. Smith. Three of the horns, each an inch long, and the middle one forked at the top, were arranged, one behind the other, between the ears on the top of the head; the fourth protuded about half an inch from the left side of the upper lip and showed evidence of having been broken or worn off. The horns were dark colored and very hard, being held erect by the skin and not attached to the skull. The rabbit was in other respects not unlike the usual “cotton tail” or brush rabbit. The freak attracted wondering attention from everyone who saw it, but no naturalists were at hand to render an intelligent opinion on it. *The News* man spoke for the left hind foot to tote as a mascot. Dallas Morning News, 26 October 1895, p.11

"Col. Harvey Mitchell will present a historical cedar tree to Brazos County...," Bryan Daily Eagle, 11 February 1896, p.1, col.5

Bryan ... A Mexican by the name of Frank Garza shot and killed another Mexican at the rock quarry near Millican this morning. He was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Dunlap and brought to Bryan on the 12 o'clock train and lodged in jail. Houston Daily Post, 9 March 1896, page 2

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., March 12 – The Mexican, Frank Carzo, who is charged with killing another Mexican at Millican last Sunday, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice Gainor this morning and remanded to jail in default of \$5000 bond. Dallas Morning News, 13 March 1896, page 1

“H. & T.C. Railroad,” Dallas Morning News, 22 March 1896, p.10. “Last year a spur from the Houston and Texas Central was built from Millican, two miles southwest to a noted quarry of hard blue sandstone, which is now being largely used in the jetty works at Galveston. This stone is all shipped from Millican, and the opening up of the quarry is a matter of considerable importance to the town.”

“Blew Himself Into Small Bits,” Washington Post, 10 April 1896, p.8. “After the shooting Brooks went to the rock quarry, near Millican, and sat down on a box of dynamite and blew himself to atoms.”

Twenty-five or thirty Mexicans came up from Millican Saturday. They had been employed at the quarry. Bryan Daily Eagle, 26 May 1896, p.4, col.1

The colored community barbecue given at Allen Springs, near Kit Davis' place, eight miles northwest of Bryan on the Mumford road, on last Friday was a great success. There was plenty of barbecued meats on hand, and manager S.D. Dorsey handled everything satisfactorily. Bryan Daily Eagle, 21 June 1896, p.4, col.1

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., June 28 – The thermometer registered 107 in the shade here today. It is terribly dry and the streets are an arid waste of shifting sands. Dallas Morning News, 29 June 1896, p.1

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., Aug. 26 – A.G. Davis, a farmer of this county, reports that cotton worms have made their appearance in the uplands and are looking after what little there may be of the top crop. Dallas Morning News, 27 August 1896, p.6

Albert Bernardt, aged 51; born at Brincowitz by Minkowitz in Russian Poland; Bryan butcher; accidentally shot himself while hunting; left wife & 5 children; member of Sons of Hermann. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 December 1896, p.1, col.3

Mr. Hinkle has reached a depth of 430 feet in boring the new well at the water works plant and the air compressor has been received. Bryan Daily Eagle, 20 January 1897, p.4

“Auction Sale of Fruit Trees,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 23 January 1897, p.4, col.1

A wagon load of six or seven hundred pounds of fish was brought in from the Navasota River yesterday and sold out on the streets. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 January 1897, p.4

“The coldest blizzard of the season, accompanied by sleet ...,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 26 January 1897, p.4

There was a sufficient fall of snow to cover the ground Monday night, and the partial thaw yesterday made it very disagreeable. Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 January 1897, p.4

The pond near the oil factory was frozen over yesterday, and some of the boys and girls had a time skating. Bryan Daily Eagle, 28 January 1897, p.4

Mr. H.H. Jones has the thanks of the reporter for a genuine graveyard rabbit foot. Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 February 1897, p.4

At Wellborn, we found the people in hopeful expectancy regarding the outcome of a plan to work the lignite deposits there ... (article continues) ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 February 1897, p.4, col.4

Bird hunting is the order of the day ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 February 1897, p.4, col.2. Two men killed 98 birds and 2 jack rabbits.

A wagon loaded with five hundred pounds of cat fish and buffalo caught from the Navasota River, was on the streets yesterday, and proved a great attraction. Bryan Daily Eagle, 21 February 1897, p.4

Wild geese were observed going north in large numbers yesterday, which is considered one of the infallible signs of the passing of winter. Bryan Daily Eagle, 23 February 1897, p.4

“Mr. J.H. Royder ...” Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 February 1897, p.4, col.2. Found copper near Mitchell’s bridge on the Navasota River.

[rock quarry near Millican] ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 February 1897, p.4, col.3

[more about copper on the Navasota River] Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 March 1897, p.4, col.2

The march winds have been blowing fiercely for the past week and the sand storms continuous and annoying. Bryan Daily Eagle, 6 March 1897, p.4

A report from Millican says Messrs. Olive & Green, contractors of quarry No.1, have received and are putting in their new crusher, and will be shipping crushed rock to Galveston in a few days. Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 March 1897, p.4

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., April 1 – The Little Brazos River has been on a big rise and has damaged the fine county bridge opposite Moseley’s ferry by washing away the approach at the west. The bridge has been impassible for the last two days. The country around was also flooded, but no other serious damage is reported. The Brazos and Little Brazos have been falling rapidly to-day. Dallas Morning News, 2 April 1897, p.2

A light frost was reported yesterday morning. Bryan Daily Eagle, 10 April 1897, p.4

The sand storms were simply terrible yesterday and Main Street glared like an arid desert. Sprinkle the streets. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 April 1897, p.4

Allenfarm ... Cotton is being damaged some by lice ... Dallas Morning News, 18 May 1897, p.8

Billy Roman, John Caldwell and Ira Wyse have returned from a fishing and hunting trip to Wickson Lake where they ... (continues) ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 20 June 1897, p.4, col.1

Allenfarm ... The lice have left the cotton and it is growing nicely, with prospects of a big yield ... Bryan – Cotton two weeks late ... crop will be large if the worms do not strike it. Late corn probably needs another rain within ten days ... Wellborn ... Cotton is growing rapidly. A number of planters report cotton blooms. The lice which have infested the cotton plant are disappearing. They have not injured the plant to any appreciable extent in this community. Dallas Morning News, 22 June 1897, p.7

"Money in Honey," Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 June 1897, p.4, col.2

"Babe in the Woods," Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 June 1897, p.4, col.1

Bryan, Tex., June 26 – A little 3-year-old daughter of Mrs. Hamilton, a widow living in the Kurten settlement, this county, strayed away from home and was lost in the woods all night. A large crowd spent the night searching for the child and when found yesterday morning she was uninjured. Dallas Morning News, 27 June 1897, p.4

Manager Cain has strenghtened the city's water supply by sinking a shallow well to be used in connection with the old one until the new deep well can be cleaned out and put in shape for use. Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 June 1897, p.4

One of the rock quarries at Millican has been shut down and the machinery loaded on flat cars for shipment. Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 August 1897, p.4

Allenfarm – The weather continues dry and hot, with no rain for six weeks, except a light show that did no good. Cotton is badly damaged by the dry weather and the boll worms ... Dallas Morning News, 6 August 1897, p.8

Millican ... The Green & Olive rock quarry is still in operation. Bryan Daily Eagle, 5 September 1897, p.4

"Boll Worms," Bryan Daily Eagle, 11 September 1897, p.4

J.W. Benson was here from Harvey yesterday and reported the killing of a 5-foot rattle snake in a cotton patch in Wixon Creek bottom Friday. Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 September 1897, p.4

The continuous rain and wind which prevailed yesterday were extremely disagreeable ... (continues) ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 September 1897, p.4

Two large pelicans killed on the Brazos River were brought to town yesterday by Frank Salvador. One of them measuring nine feet from tip to tip of wings was suspended in front of Sanders & Johnson's headquarters for curiosities. Bryan Daily Eagle, 19 September 1897, p.4, col.3

Eight of the young men and boys went out to chase the 'possum and the wiley coon on Carter's Creek Wednesday night, and three of them and a Negro got lost from the others and had a lively time getting home. The results of the hunt are best represented by a goose egg. Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 October 1897, p.2

Having returned from squirrel hunting in the Brazos bottom, I am again ready to make the best pictures for the least money. J.A. Dahlgren, photographer. Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 October 1897, p.4

Yesterday a Negro was exhibiting on the street a large centipede ... (continues) ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 October 1897, p.4, col.2

Bryan ... Last night at the Allen farm, near here, while gambling for pecans, a Negro named General Chetham was stabbed twice and killed. Another Negro, Tom Sweat, was arrested for the crime, and while being conveyed to Millican by a posse was taken from his guards and strung up to the limb of a tree. The Vigilantes are said to have been Negroes. New York Times, 19 November 1897, p.3

Mr. A.W. Royder of Wellborn, says the parties prospecting for coal ... (continues) ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 December 1897, p.4

Allenfarm ... We are having so much rain that some have not worked out the cotton yet ... Wellborn ... The cotton crop is about three weeks late and not in good condition. Planters have not been able to do much with this crop for the past two weeks on account of excessive rainfall ... Dallas Morning News, 22 June 1898, p.9

Bryan, Tex., July 12 – Messrs. Ward and Gordon of Fort Worth have been prospecting for coal at Wellborn the past week, and their researches have been sufficiently successful to warrant sending for machinery to continue experiments. The presence of coal in paying quantities in that locality seems to be well established. Dallas Morning News, 13 July 1898, p.7

Allenfarm – Cotton is at least one month late this year compared with last year ... The weed is very large, but has very few grown bolls, as the boll worms and sharpshooters have been bad, but have quit now. The weed is full of young fruit, and if the army worm can be destroyed there will be 15 per cent increase in yield over last year. Farmers are poisoning their cotton with a rush, hoping to kill the worms ... Bryan – On account of the

ravages of the boll and army worms, the cotton crop in the Brazos bottom is badly damaged and 23 1/3 per cent short of last year ... Sharpshooters and Mexican weevils have injured the hill land crops. Cotton poison can not be obtained in sufficient quantities and the people in the bottom are using slacked lime to poison ... Millican ... The boll worm has done more damage this season than in any previous season. Some fields are nearly completely ruined by them, especially on light bottom lands. The caterpillar is doing some damage on bottom lands, but is managed easily with poison ... Dallas Morning News, 25 August 1898, p.9

A Negro was here yesterday who lately captured an alligator 10 ½ feet long in Judge Henderson's pasture near the Brazos River. The alligator will be exhibited here. Bryan Daily Eagle, 31 August 1898, p.3, col.1

From Edge ... It is still hot and dry, rain is needed as there is no stock water. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 6 October 1898, p.3, col.1

Kurten ... Mr. J.P. Post began sinking a well Monday morning – he is preparing for dry weather. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 October 1898, p.3, col.2

"On the Road," Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 October 1898, p.2, col.3. Crushed rock from the quarry near Millican "has been much used on the fortifications at Galveston."

Bryan, Tex., Feb. 12 – A telephone message from the Anglin farm this morning stated that the ice on the Brazos River would hold a skater. Daily Express (San Antonio), 13 Feb. 1899, p.7

Kurten ... At this writing the weather is extremely cold in this vicinity – the coldest in 12 years. Seed potatoes and eggs are frozen ... Owing to the freezing temperature, there was no singing at Kurten Saturday night ... (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 16 February 1899, p.3, col.1

"J.V. Rosprim of the Providence neighborhood called on the *Eagle* ...," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 29 June 1899, p.6, col.1. Was growing plum trees.

"Bryan is Isolated," Dallas Morning News, 3 July 1899, p.2. By the flood.

"News from Bryan," Dallas Morning News, 7 July 1899, p.2.

"Brazos County Losses," Dallas Morning News, 9 July 1899, p.2.

"Millican Relief Work," Dallas Morning News, 19 July 1899, p.3

"Mr. J.V. Rosprim has the thanks of the *Eagle* for a basket of very fine Thurber peaches ...," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 August 1899, p.6, col.1

From Thompson Creek. The weather is still hot and dry. A good rain is very much needed as there is but very little stock water. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 31 August 1899, p.3, col.2

From Thompson Creek. Still the weather continues hot and dry. A good rain is needed very much as there is but little stock water, cisterns and tanks have gone dry. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 21 September 1899, p.3, col.3

“New Features,” Battalion, Sept./Nov. 1899, p.23. “To give some idea of how much the school has improved since its foundation ... I will quote Judge Charles Rogan, one of the first graduates of the college ... He says, when he arrived at College, “The only buildings on the grounds were the Main Building and the Mess Hall. The campus extended from the Main Building to the Brazos river. Sage grass and broom weeds took the place of lawns, walks, drives, shrubs and ornamental trees. There was no enclosure to turn trespassing sock or jack-rabbit hunter ...”

Bryan ... J.C. Lewis brought here to-day a number of excellent specimens of the leg and body bones and teeth of a gigantic mastodon, found near Pitt's bridge, where the bank of the Brazos River had caved in as a result of the overflow. The bones are in an excellent state of preservation and would be a valuable addition to a museum. Dallas Morning News, 26 September 1899, p.5.

Kurten ... We have been visited by a very cold spell the past week. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 9 November 1899, p.3, col.4