

**The Yellow Fever Cemetery
in Bryan, Brazos County, Texas**
updated 5 April 2010
by Bill Page
bpage@lib-gw.tamu.edu

Historians and genealogists see the importance of cemeteries as being self evident. Scholar Ruth Little summed up those feelings in this way: “An old graveyard is a cultural encyclopedia – an invaluable source of insight and information about the families, traditions, and cultural connections that shape a community. (Little, Ruth, Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998, page 3)

The Bryan Yellow Fever Cemetery is historically significant for several reasons. It was the first public cemetery for the City of Bryan. The graveyard is linked – at least in popular tradition – to the great yellow fever epidemics of the 19th century. The graves of at least two Civil War veterans, John Skues and James P. King, are located in this burial ground; Skues served in the Union Army, while King was a veteran of the Confederate Army. In addition, the cemetery was primarily used for the burial of paupers, a class of persons often overlooked in published histories. Moreover, an interesting ethnic mix of persons were buried in this graveyard. This cemetery was in use 1861 until 1897.

The Yellow Fever Cemetery is located in Bryan on the west frontage road for Earl Rudder Freeway, between its intersections with Martin Luther King, Jr. Street (formerly Old Reliance Road) and its intersection with Old Kurten Road. This is about .3 miles south of the intersection of Highway 21 East and Earl Rudder Freeway (formerly the East Bypass). This land lies within Stephen F. Austin league number 10.

No reason is known why residents picked a location so far away from the newly surveyed Bryan townsite. Perhaps this reflected the rural cemetery movement that was then becoming widespread in the United States. Social reformers of the day advocated building park-like cemeteries on the outskirts of towns. The theory was that graveyards should be designed for both the living and the dead. [Bender, Thomas, “The ‘Rural’ Cemetery Movement: Urban Travail and the Appeal of Nature,” The New England Quarterly, vol.47, no.2, pages 196-211 (June 1974)]. Another, more mundane, possibility is that this was the closest land Bryan residents could get for free. The Bryan city government would not be established for several more years, so there was no organized group to purchase land for a burial ground.

Due to the destruction of the Bryan city records when its city hall burned in 1879 and again in 1888, much of the history of the Yellow Fever Cemetery is shrouded in mystery. (Brenham Daily Banner, 16 Oct. 1879, page 1; Fort Worth Daily Gazette, 18 April 1888, page 7; Fort Worth Daily Gazette, 17 May 1888, page 5; “A Voice from the Past,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 8 July 1909, page 3). Fire destroyed the Bryan city hall a third time in February 1909, but the city records were stored in a newly constructed fire proof vault and no records were lost. That building also housed the Bryan fire department, and the fact that the city’s fire station burned down generated a fair amount of comment by newspapers around the state. (Bryan Morning News, 20 February 1909, page 4; “Bryan Fire Station

Burns,” Dallas Morning News, 22 February 1909, page 9; “Fire Losses at Bryan,” Houston Post, 21 February 1909, page 4).

Another problem is that only a few scattered issues of Brazos County newspapers survive for the years prior to 1889. The loss of those journals creates an unfortunate gap in the historical record.

The history of the cemetery’s name is itself in question. Early records refer to this cemetery as the old or public cemetery. The earliest printed source that calls it the Yellow Fever Cemetery is a newspaper article from 1962. (Powell, Jim and Delphine Ford, “Cemeteries Make Interesting Report, Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 June 1962, “Centennial Section,” page 23). Of course, cemeteries often are known by more than one name.

In order to understand this cemetery’s history, we need to review the history of an older graveyard and also the early history of the town of Bryan. The first public cemetery in Brazos County was the Boonville Cemetery. The earliest known burial in that cemetery was William Vess, who died in 1845. [Van Bavel, Margaret L., Birth and Death of Boonville, Austin, TX: Nortex Press, 1986, page 89; Texas National Register (Washington), 14 August 1845, p.7.] Boonville at that time was the county seat of Brazos County.

In the 1850s, the construction of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad into Brazos County led to the founding of the city of Bryan. When that railroad’s roadbed was being graded through the county in 1859, William Joel Bryan, a nephew of Stephen F. Austin, owned a sizable tract of land along its proposed route. On 6 May 1859, Bryan gave the railroad a right of way through his land for a token price of one dollar. (Brazos County Deed Book F, page 86) Bryan’s rationale for donating his land became clear on 9 April 1860, when he sold his interest in the newly surveyed town lots to the directors of the railroad for \$3,200. (Brazos County Deed Book F, page 169). Having a railroad built through his vast land holdings greatly increased their value. The new town was named “Bryan” after William Joel Bryan. The Civil War caused railroad construction to be halted at Millican, but nonetheless the town of Bryan began to grow slowly. By the end of the war, the town had about 300 white residents, as well as an unknown number of African Americans. (Brundidge, Glenna, Brazos County History: Rich Past, Bright Future, Bryan, TX: Family History Foundation, 1986, page 29). After the end of the war, railroad construction northward from Millican resumed. On 15 October 1866, Brazos County residents voted 190 to 42 to move the county seat from Boonville to Bryan. (Brazos County Commissioners Minutes Book A, page 163). After that Bryan’s population rapidly increased.

Research has not revealed when the Yellow Fever Cemetery was founded. It seems likely that at first, many Bryan residents would have continued burying their dead at Boonville or in family graveyards. However, the establishment of a burial ground logically would have been one of the first priorities of the citizens of a new town. Unfortunately, the earliest deed that mentions this graveyard dates from 1871, which is at least ten years after its establishment. (Brazos County Deed Book L, page 439, 3 January 1871). That the cemetery was in use by 1861 is shown by an article published in the

Bryan Daily Eagle in 1962. That story, written by two high school students, described several area graveyards. It had this to say about the Yellow Fever Cemetery:

The yellow fever cemetery is located on Old Reliance Road in the middle of a cow pasture. The property belongs to Miss Lucy Harrison. This cemetery is not an easy one to find. There were only a few grave stones; and the ones that were there were broken and half sunken in the ground ... Of the few gravestones that were there, only two had any markings. They were: Dr. D.E. Ball, July 1825 – June 1861; infant child, five months in 1865. (Powell, Jim and Delphine Ford, “Cemeteries Make Interesting Report, Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 June 1962, “Centennial Section,” page 23).

No biographical information has been found concerning Dr. Ball.

Bryan city documents later refer to this as the “old” cemetery, further supporting the idea that this land was set aside prior to 13 June 1868. On that date J.C. Hubert sold 20 acres of land for \$100 to Bryan’s mayor and aldermen for use as a city cemetery. (Brazos County Deed Book I, pages 267-268, 1868). No reason has been found as to why Bryan residents established a second city graveyard. Perhaps there were too many unmarked graves in the Yellow Fever Cemetery, or maybe Bryan residents simply wanted a graveyard closer to town. Perhaps William Joel Bryan either was unwilling to give the city additional land for the Yellow Fever Cemetery, or wanted too much money for that property. At any rate, the Yellow Fever Cemetery clearly was the first Bryan City Cemetery and was for many years the oldest burial ground associated with that community. Its status changed, of course, when the City of Bryan annexed the land containing the Boonville Cemetery in the latter half of the 20th century.

In addition to the Bryan City Cemetery and the Yellow Fever Cemetery, the churchyard at Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church was also being used as a cemetery. The first burials took place there in 1869, including Amelia Purdy (June); Fred Anderson and Alice Sulyson Tays (July); Mollie Conger, Mrs. Emma Durant and John Wren (August); Edwin Denoly (September); and Ada Durant (December). (Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Bryan, TX, Register 1, page 118). In 1911, the Episcopal Cemetery was closed and the graves moved to the Bryan City Cemetery. (Bryan City Council Minutes, 18 January 1911; “City Council Meeting,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 January 1911, page 2; “Moving Episcopal Cemetery,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 19 January 1911, page 8). It is possible that some older graves had previously been moved to the Episcopal Cemetery, for a 1911 newspaper article states: “Some of the tombstones are markers of death of long ago, a few as much as fifty years [1861], and the coffins are badly decayed.” Saint Andrew’s was organized as a mission at Millican in 1866. It moved from Millican to Bryan the following year. A visiting priest held the first Episcopal services in Bryan in November 1867. The parish was organized the following month. (St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Bryan, Texas, <http://standrewsbcs.org/>, consulted 21 June 2007). Those dates make it clear that the Episcopal Cemetery could not have been in use as early as 1861. Of course, the 1911 article may have simply gotten some of its facts wrong.

The first mention of the Yellow Fever Cemetery in county records is a deed where William Joel Bryan sold David McIntosh 201 acres of land. That document notes that the property Bryan sold was “less the five acres heretofore laid off as a grave yard.” (Brazos County Deed Book L, page 439, 3 January 1871). Soon afterwards, land speculators became interested in the real estate bordering the cemetery as shown by the following transactions. On 22 January 1872, David McIntosh sold that property for \$500 to M.W. McCraw, “less the five acres heretofore laid off as a grave yard.” (Brazos County Deed Records, Book M, page 357). That same day McCraw sold two brothers, C.F. and H.A. Moore, a half interest in the land for \$600 – quite a tidy profit. (Brazos County Deed Records, Book M, page 372). Just over a month later, on 28 February 1872, McCraw sold his other half interest in the land to C.F. Moore for \$650. Thus, in a short period, McCraw more than doubled his investment. (Brazos County Deed Records, Book M, page 394). On 9 March 1874, C.F. Moore sold his interest in the land to his brother H.A. Moore for \$2000. This time C.F. Moore made a good profit off his investment. (Brazos County Deed Records, Book O, page 331). That same day, H.A. and C.F. Moore sold just under 200 acres of land, consisting of part of this property plus another tract, to the Bryan Real Estate and Building Association for \$3500. This deed notes the land began at “a corner of the Grave Yard 5 acre tract.” (Brazos County Deeds, Book O, page 367). C.F. Moore and M.W. McCraw were officers in the building association. (Texas Legislature. Special Laws, 12th Legislature, 1st Session, 25 May 1871, pages 493-495). Considering the steady increase in land values, one wonders whether William Joel Bryan regretted having donated the land for the burial ground.

The deed for the Yellow Fever Cemetery was not recorded until 18 October 1886, when William Joel Bryan transferred those five acres to the city for cemetery purposes, for a token price of one dollar. (Brazos County Deed Book Volume 2, page 585). Since the land had been in use as a graveyard for twenty-five years by that time, it seems possible that an earlier deed or public dedication may have once existed, which was lost before it could be recorded in the county records.

The complicated legal history of the Bryan city government may be one of the reasons that the legal title to this cemetery was not recorded sooner. The first attempt to incorporate the city came in April 1867, but that organization never took effect because of the legal uncertainties of Reconstruction. (Galveston Daily News, 18 April 1867, page 2; letter from L.J. Wilson to General Griffin, 27 May 1867, Freedmen's Bureau, Correspondence of the Office of Civil Affairs, letters entered in volume 1, reel 8, frame 0777, National Archives microfilm M1188; Letter from L.J. Wilson to Col. H. Prime, 9 June 1867, Freedmen's Bureau, Correspondence of the Office of Civil Affairs, letters entered in volume 1, reel 8, frames 791-792, National Archives microfilm M1188). The Texas Reconstruction government finally appointed the first Bryan city officials in the spring of 1868. (Texas Countryman, 10 June 1868, page 2). City officials continued to be appointed, rather than elected, until 1871. Finally, on 29 November 1871, the Texas Legislature ratified the Bryan city charter that formally established Bryan as a city. (Gammel, H.P.N., The Laws of Texas 1822-1897, Austin: The Gammel Book Company, 1898, volume 7, pages 121-127). Bryan's uncertain legal status logically might have caused some irregularities in the way the town kept its records.

It is not known when the Yellow Fever Cemetery received its name. Yellow fever epidemics plagued southern residents into the early 20th century. Symptoms of the disease included fevers, chills, severe pains, and sometimes jaundice, which gave yellow fever its name. Another symptom was black vomit, composed of blood and stomach acids. Mortality rates were high among persons who caught the disease. Although its cause was unknown until 1900, mosquitoes transmitted yellow fever. Epidemics continued as long as mosquitoes were available to transmit the disease. Residents knew the first frost would mark the end of the disease, though they did not realize it was because it killed off the mosquitoes.

The first known occurrence of yellow fever in Brazos County was in 1864. Apparently that was a relatively mild outbreak. In October 1864 Texas coastal cities, including Houston and Galveston were experiencing yellow fever epidemics. Many Union prisoners of war were then being held in a Galveston hotel that had been converted into a makeshift prison. Confederate officials, fearing for the prisoners' safety, ordered them moved to points inland, including Millican. On October 15, commanding officer General J.G. Walker issued the following order:

Anderson, Tex., October 15, 1864

Lieutenant Brashear, Commanding Provost Guard, Millican:

The yellow fever having broken out amongst the prisoners, it is necessary in order to prevent its spreading to the guard and the prisoners to scatter them into the country at points not too far from the railroad. You will therefore divide the prisoners into squads of from eight to ten, sending a guard of sufficient strength (from fifteen to twenty-five) to guard the worst class of prisoners, and such as may be acclimated, at Millican. You will remain at Millican yourself, as I am told you have had the yellow fever, and do everything in your power to make the condition of the sick as comfortable as possible. To effect this, you are hereby authorized to impress cotton to make mattresses and bedding for the sick, as well as anything else necessary for their comfort, observing the provisions of the impressment law.

As soon as these different parties locate themselves, direct the officer in charge of each to inform you of their localities, so that you can communicate with them when necessary. Doctor Cade has been ordered to remain at Millican.

J.G. Walker,
Major-General, Commanding.

After the prisoners were sent to Millican, a few cases of yellow fever occurred there. The extent of that outbreak is not known, nor whether anyone died of the fever there.

(Lisarelli, Daniel Francis, The Last Prison: The Untold Story of Camp Groce CSA, Parkland, FL: Universal Publishers, 1999, pages 107-109; also The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series II, volume 7, page 994; also Keating, John M., A History of the Yellow Fever, Memphis, TN: Printed for the Howard Association, 1879, page 91: 1864 ... Galveston ... mortality, 259; Houston, Tex.; Millican, Tex.).

The cemetery may have received its name during the great yellow fever epidemic in 1867, when many Brazos County citizens were killed by the disease. From summer until the late fall in 1867, yellow fever swept through Texas, causing death and terror where ever it appeared. Millican, in southern Brazos County, was especially hard hit by the disease. This was the largest outbreak of yellow fever ever experienced in Brazos County. (Anderson, Frank G., Jr., and Edith Anderson Wakefield, The History of Medicine in Brazos County, Bryan, TX: F.G. Anderson, Jr., 2001, pages 17-19). While Millican residents suffered more than people in Bryan in the 1867 epidemic, the disease did kill a few Bryan residents, as documented in the following articles.

A letter from Bryan City, dated the 23d inst., says ... “There is said to be one or two cases [of yellow fever] in the city, but, if so, they are slight attacks. But most of us think our escape is only a matter of time, and that we, too, will have to suffer from the prevailing scourge” Galveston Daily News, 2 October 1867, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 6, 1867: Eds. News: ... Miss Ella Yates and two Miss Sawyers died here. They contracted the fever at Millican. No original cases here, and we greatly hope we will escape. The town is nearly deserted. Galveston Daily News, 11 October 1867, page 3

Bryan ... No cases of yellow fever have occurred at Bryan since the 5th of October. The following are deaths from fever previous to that time: H.C. Swift, Ben Hubert, D. Sanger, J. Sanger, Miss Ella Yates. Galveston Daily News, 24 October 1867, page 2

Ben Hubert, a former U.S. Indian agent, had settled in Boonville in the 1850s. In the 1860s, he served as Brazos County district clerk and as postmaster at Boonville. Hubert is buried at Boonville. (Van Bavel, Margaret L., Birth and Death of Boonville, Austin, TX: Nortex Press, 1986, pages 99-100).

Jacob and David Sanger were two of the Sanger Brothers whose stores later became famous. Arriving in the United States in 1866, David and Jacob joined their brothers in Brazos County in 1867, only to die a few months later. The 16-year-old David, who died on October 1, and his 22-year-old brother Jacob, who passed away on October 5, were buried in Beth Israel Cemetery in Houston. (Rosenberg, Leon J., Sangers’: Pioneer Texas Merchants, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1978, pp.17-18; Teter, Gertrude and Donald L. Teter, Texas Jewish Burials, Austin, TX: Texas Jewish Historical Society, 1997, pages 341-342).

The burial locations of the other known yellow fever victims have not been identified. If they are buried in Brazos County, they evidently lie in unmarked graves.

Ella Yates was the daughter of Dr. Lafayette Yates and his wife Susan (listed on the 1860 Lamar County, Texas, Census, page 119). Dr. Yates died from yellow fever in September 1867 in Millican (Galveston Daily News, 2 October 1867, page 2). So, it is possible that the Yates were buried in unmarked graves in Millican, or perhaps the father was buried there and the daughter in Bryan.

No biographical information has been found on H.C. Swift or the “two Misses Sawyers.”

There may have been other deaths in Bryan not mentioned in the newspapers. In addition, some folks who lived outside of Bryan might also have been buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery.

The 1864 yellow fever outbreak and the 1867 epidemic are not the only possible sources for this cemetery’s name. In 1873, Bryan experienced yet another yellow fever outbreak. In September and October of that year, eleven Bryan residents contracted yellow fever, and four died from it. One of the fatalities was Margaret, the wife of Bryan physician Francis M. Hall. (Anderson, Frank G., Jr., and Edith Anderson Wakefield, The History of Medicine in Brazos County, Bryan, TX: F.G. Anderson, Jr., 2001, page 20). Margaret died on 24 October 1873 and is buried in Bryan City Cemetery.

Another victim was Miss Alice Jones, who died on 29 October 1873. She, too, was buried in Bryan City Cemetery. Alice was 15 years old and the only child of Harrison H. and Mary J. Jones. She has the only known cypress headstone in the city cemetery. Alice’s father was a carpenter, and it seems likely that he carved her marker. Alice’s mother ministered to the sick during the epidemic. (1870 Brazos County, TX, Census, page 16; 1880 Brazos County, TX, Census, ED 22, page 23; email from Robert Holmes, Bryan City Sexton, 26 June 2007; also see “Mrs. Jones Passes Away at Sherman,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 April 1921, page 1)

A third victim was Miss Minnie Smothers, whose burial place is not known. Minnie probably was the daughter of Thomas T. Smothers, a Bryan civic leader in the early 1870s. (See, for example, a story about the Bryan Odd Fellows' University and Orphans' Home, Galveston Daily News, 24 February 1871, page 1; an article about his home burning, Galveston Daily News, 16 August 1873, page 2; U.S. Patent, 166421, Improvement In Reversible Sad-Irons, invented by Thomas T. Smothers, Bryan, Texas, 3 August 1875).

The identity of the fourth victim has not been learned. Even if a few more Bryan residents than Anderson’s estimated four victims died of the disease, and even if all of those persons (except Hall and Jones) were buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery, this simply does not seem like a dramatic enough event to have led to the naming – or renaming – of this cemetery. For more about the 1873 epidemic, see Appendix B.

Bryan also experienced yellow fever scares in 1897 and 1905, but these were more public health panics than actual epidemics. (Anderson, Frank G., Jr., and Edith Anderson Wakefield, The History of Medicine in Brazos County, Bryan, TX: F.G. Anderson, Jr., 2001, page 27). There is no evidence that any yellow fever victims were buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery in 1897 or 1905. So, it seems unlikely that the cemetery was named then. Another possibility is that the cemetery did not receive its name until sometime in the 20th century, perhaps reflecting a popular confusion about its history.

There now is only one marked grave in the Yellow Fever Cemetery: James P. King. According to his granite tombstone, King was born on 18 February 1835 and died on 24 October 1868; he was a Mason. King was a member of Belmont Masonic Lodge No.131 in Belmont, Gonzales County. (Kelsey, Michael, Texas Masonic Deaths, Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1998, page 31). James Parchman King was the youngest of the eleven children of John Gladden King, Jr. and Permelia Parchman. James's eldest brother, William Phillip King, was the youngest person to die at the Alamo (age 15). King had served as a first corporal in the Civil War in the Spy Company of Gonzales County, which was a part of Waul's Legion. (The History of Gonzales County, Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corp., 1986, pages 37-39). When King died, he left a widow and two small children. (Email from LaVere Peters, 11 June 2007).

As noted previously, the 1962 newspaper article says the Yellow Fever Cemetery had earlier contained at least two graves whose tombstones are no longer extant. The disappearance of markers in old graveyards is a well documented phenomenon. Consider, for example, Weaver Cemetery, located near Millican in southern Brazos County. When W. Broadus Smith inventoried that burial ground in 1962, there were 27 marked graves. By the time Shirley Redman rechecked the cemetery in the mid 1970s, there were only 17 headstones. By 1979, that number had dropped to only three markers. (Brazos Genealogical Advertiser, volume 1, no.1, pages 9-10, June-July 1979). The absence of markers on most graves in the Yellow Fever Cemetery probably reflects in part the fact that so many of the persons buried there were poor and / or transients. None of the persons known to be buried there, for example, are listed in the Brazos County probate records.

Sexton's records name another 21 persons buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery whose graves are not marked. For a complete list of known burials in the Yellow Fever Cemetery, see Appendix A.

In addition, there must be unmarked graves for which there is no documentation. No records survive of any burials between 1866 and 1883. From 1884 to 1897, 21 people were buried in the cemetery. If persons had been buried at the same pace from 1866 until 1883, that would suggest there are another 27 unmarked graves in that cemetery. While this is just speculation, there surely must be some persons buried there about whom we have no information.

The Yellow Fever Cemetery contains a mixture of ethnic and racial groups. Out of the 24 known burials, six were natives of Italy, four were natives of Ireland, and one each were from England and Germany. In addition, two were of "Bohemian" ancestry, while two others were African Americans. The persons interred in this graveyard reflect Brazos County's status as a melting pot of European immigrants, northerners, and residents from the southern states.

Bryan City Sexton's records date back to October 1869. So, the office of sexton must

have been created under the Reconstruction era form of the Bryan city government. (Collie-Cooper, Mary, Bryan City Cemetery Brazos County, Texas, Books 1, 2, 3, & 4, Bryan, TX: Collie-Cooper Enterprises, 1987, page 7).

The Bryan city charter passed by the Texas Legislature in November 1871 explicitly gave the city the power to regulate burials within the city limits. Article 5, section 21 of that document noted the city's power to regulate:

In relation to the public health, the prevention and removal of nuisances, the regulation of interments, the business of bone boiling or grinding, meat packing, soap making, and other occupations, or occupation, noxious to health and comfort, and to removal, keeping and deposit of manure, offal and garbage. (Gammel, H.P.N., The Laws of Texas 1822-1897, Austin: The Gammel Book Company, 1898, volume 7, pages 121-127).

Even if the Bryan city sexton were responsible for overseeing burials in the Yellow Fever Cemetery in the 1870s, most likely he did not keep a list of those internments. The sexton did not, for example, begin recording burials in the Bryan City Cemetery's "freedmen's section" or its "Hebrew enclosure" until 1881. More significantly, the sexton also did not begin documenting burials in the Bryan City Cemetery's potters' field until 1881. (Collie-Cooper, Mary, Bryan City Cemetery Brazos County, Texas, Books 1, 2, 3, & 4, Bryan, TX: Collie-Cooper Enterprises, 1987, pages 38-39).

Some persons may have been buried in this cemetery without the sexton's knowledge. The City of Bryan faced ongoing problems with unauthorized burials in the Bryan City Cemetery. This is reflected, for example, in the following ordinance:

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Bryan: That, It shall be unlawful for any person to bury a dead body within the City Cemetery of Bryan without first procuring from the City Sexton permission to do so, and paying to the City Sexton such fees as are allowed by Ordinances to said sexton for superintending burials and preparing graves. See Section 4 page 52, City Ordinances, pamphlet form. Anyone violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than five nor more than twenty-five dollars. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict are herewith and hereby repealed. Adopted and approved this the 12th day of January, 1894.

Cliff A. Adams, Mayor

Attest: A.B. Carr, Secretary

(Bryan City Council Minutes, 12 January 1894)

There are, for example, some tombstones in the Freedmen's Section of the Bryan City Cemetery where the names of the deceased do not appear in the sexton's records. Unauthorized burials were also a problem in the Boonville Cemetery well into the 1980s.

Ed Feury, who died in 1897, is the last person known to be buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery. Two years after Feury's death his body was moved to Mount Calvary Cemetery in Bryan, a Catholic graveyard.

Multiple factors likely contributed to the City of Bryan's decision to discontinue use of the Yellow Fever Cemetery. Doubtless, many people preferred burying the deceased in the more convenient and better maintained Bryan City Cemetery. The presence of many unmarked graves in the Yellow Fever Cemetery may have made it difficult to site new graves.

An 1896 Bryan City Council ordinance was instrumental in the establishment of Mount Cavalry Catholic Cemetery in Bryan in 1897. [Bryan City Council Minutes, 14 December 1896; Antone Wolfe, Elaine Berger, Regina Opersteny, Mount Cavalry Cemetery – Brazos County (marker application), 2004]. Local Catholics included a large immigrant population, whose members had, until that time, been a significant presence among the persons buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery.

Yet another reason may have been the growth of African American burial societies in this area. Those groups assisted in burying their deceased members and provided death benefits to members' families. [(weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 January 1895, page 3; (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 22 January 1903, page 7]

The rationale behind who was buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery is not clear. While it does contain the graves of some victims of virulent disease, the surviving records prove that was not the primary consideration for deciding who was buried in that cemetery. Out of the 24 persons buried there with known causes of death, about one third died from noninfectious causes, such as being thrown from a horse, mangled by a cotton gin, stricken by heat stroke, morphine overdose, or hit by a train. Roughly another third were killed by common diseases, such as consumption (tuberculosis), congestion, pneumonia, or croup. The remaining third died from more feared diseases, such as cholera, malaria and various other "fevers," but persons with those same diseases were also being buried in the Bryan City Cemetery during the same period.

In later years the cemetery was used primarily as a burial spot for poor people or transients. Shortly after the city's organization in 1868, Bryan became responsible for seeing that paupers who died inside its city limits were properly buried. On 17 August 1868, the Brazos County commissioners declared:

It is indorsed and adjudged by the Court that in the future from this date, this Court will affirm no claim against the county for the burial of any pauper who may have died within the corporation of the Town of Bryan, and that the sum of six dollars is the maximum that will be allowed for the burial of any pauper within the limits of the county outside of the Corporation of Bryan. (Brazos County Commissioners Minutes, Book A, page 173)

Research has not disclosed where indigent residents of Bryan were buried during the earliest years. While some paupers were buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery, it is equally clear that others were buried in the Bryan City Cemetery. Beginning in 1881, the Bryan sexton's records list at least 35 people buried in the "potters' field" (sometimes designated as potters' field 1 or potters' field 2). While the sexton's records fail to

specify precisely where the potters' field was located, several of the people noted as being buried in the potters' field have markers in the Bryan City Cemetery. Thus, those entries cannot refer to burials in the Yellow Fever Cemetery.

In 1896, the Bryan City Council specifically directed that paupers living outside the Bryan city limits could be buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery. The December 1896 city council minutes state:

Communication from H.H. Jones, City sexton, received and read asking that the council order him as sexton to make no sales of lots in City Cemetery except to bona fides citizens of Bryan. After considering the foregoing communication, on motion duly seconded and passed the said H.H. Jones and his successors in the office of City Sexton is ordered and directed to make no sale of lot or lots or parcel of lots in cemetery to anyone except the purchaser be a bona fide citizen of Bryan. The sexton is further ordered and directed to utilize the five acre tract donated by G.M. Bryan for the burial of paupers living outside the City limits. (Bryan City Council Minutes, 14 December 1896).

Most likely the city had been using this cemetery as a burial place for rural paupers for some time. About half of the persons buried there from 1882 to 1891 lived outside the city. Apparently there had been an ongoing struggle between the Brazos County commissioners and the Bryan City Council over who would pay for the burial of paupers living in rural areas. On 10 February 1886, the commissioners passed the following resolution:

It is ordered by the County that from and after this date (Feb 10th, 1886) the County of Brazos will not pay any the Burial Expenses of paupers not regularly supported by the County. (Brazos County Commissioners Minutes, Book D, page 22).

While the City of Bryan let paupers be buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery, there is no evidence that the city paid their funeral costs. The only documentation found so far relating to burial expenses dates from an 1889 newspaper story concerning a tramp who was killed by a train in Bryan. After no one stepped forward to take custody of his body, the article notes "the body was buried by private subscription in the pottersfield." [(weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 November 1889, page 5.]

The sexton's records do not specify exact burial locations within the Yellow Fever Cemetery. That, coupled with there being only one marked grave, make it impossible to determine whether the plots were laid out according to some established pattern. In particular, it would be interesting to know whether African American burials were segregated from the graves of whites. All that is known about the placement of graves is that King's grave lies near the western boundary of the cemetery, while John Skues and Pat Malloy were buried in 1890 near the burial ground's south gate. The fact that the graveyard had a south gate does not necessarily imply the cemetery was fenced. Even unfenced Texas cemeteries often have a lichgate, or "corpse gate," a ceremonial entrance

to the cemetery. (Jordan, Terry G., Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy, Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1982, page 38)

If a copy of the Bryan city ordinances published in 1877 could be found, they might provide additional insight into the Yellow Fever Cemetery's history. (The existence of the 1877 collection of ordinances is noted in "Ex Parte Canto," 17 South Western Reporter 155; 20 March 1886).

In 1908, the Bryan city ordinances state:

The plot of ground originally set apart by Guy M. Bryan as a public burial ground, located about one and one-half mile north east of Bryan, may hereafter be used for said purpose, said plot containing about five acres. The same is hereby set apart and dedicated as a public burial ground for the city of Bryan, but no burial is to be made in same except on application to the city sexton. (Charter and Ordinances Civil and Criminal of the City of Bryan, Bryan, TX: City Council, 1908, pages 94-95)

At some point, Bryan city officials forgot about this cemetery. In 1918 the city published a collection of its ordinances which makes it clear that officials then knew about the cemetery. (Charter and Revised Ordinances of the City of Bryan Codified, Bryan, TX: Daily Eagle, 1918, page 129). Although the revised code of the City of Bryan published in 1927 no longer mentions this graveyard, one provision suggests that city officials may still have been aware of its existence. The section of the code applying to the Cemetery Board states members of that body "shall advise the City Commission at all times for the benefit of the white cemeteries of the said city." It is hard to imagine why the plural "cemeteries" would have been used in the code unless it was also making reference to the Yellow Fever Cemetery. (Henderson, F.L., and J. Bryan Miller, Revised Ordinances of the City of Bryan, Texas in Force November 1, 1927, Bryan, TX: The Board of Commissioners, 1927). When the Bryan ordinances were next codified in 1951, that document said the Cemetery Board was to advise on the "white cemetery." Notice that the singular form was then used in that document. (McDonald, W.T., The Code of the City of Bryan 1952, Bryan, TX: The City, 1951).

An article published in the Bryan Daily Eagle in 1962 further demonstrates the confusion over the ownership of this graveyard. That story incorrectly states that Lucy Harrison, a private citizen, owned the cemetery. (Powell, Jim, and Delphine Ford, "Cemeteries Make Interesting Report, Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 June 1962, "Centennial Section," page 23).

Two changes in the Yellow Fever Cemetery's neighborhood occurred in the late 1960s. One development occurred when the East Bypass (later renamed Earl Rudder Freeway) was constructed, passing near the cemetery. The Bryan City council authorized some funds for that project in 1967, and then Brazos County voters passed a bond issue to pay for the purchase of additional land in February 1968. Part of the right of way was briefly tied up in litigation, when F.W. "Bert" Wheeler contested the county's condemning of his land. The county won that lawsuit in December 1968. (Bryan City Council Minutes, 25 July 1967; "Brazos Voters Pass Bond Issue," Bryan Daily Eagle, 25 February 1968, page

1; “State of Texas, et al., vs. F.W. “Bert” Wheeler, et al., proceedings in eminent domain in the county court of Brazos County, case decided 6 December 1968, involving tract no. 1 of 8.483 acres and tract no. 2 of 24.496 acres, Brazos County Deed Records, volume 275, pages 727-729)

The cemetery’s neighborhood changed again in the fall of 1968, when East Park subdivision was platted just west of the graveyard. (East Park Addition final plat, 1st installment, filed 20 September 1968, recorded 11 October 1968, plat shows the area east of Kendall Drive as being bordered by “cemetery,” Brazos County Deed Records, volume 273, page 329).

In the early 1980s, Brazos County was the scene of intense activity by oil men, with much land being leased and many oil wells being drilled. In 1982 that activity led to the city’s rediscovery of its ownership of the graveyard, when an oil company contacted the city about paying royalties on the five acre tract. On 18 March 1982, the City of Bryan signed an oil and mineral lease with Al. W. Habarta, Inc., covering:

Cemetery Tract. Located West of the East Bypass and between Hwy. 21 East and Old Reliance Road. 5 acres (more or less) tract situated in the S.F. Austin League No.10, Brazos County, Texas. To City of Bryan, Volume 2, page 585, Deed Records of Brazos County, Texas, recorded October 19, 1886. (Bryan City Council Resolution No. 1002, approved and adopted 22 March 1982; also “Yellow Fever Cemetery Scheduled for Face-Lift,” Bryan-College Station Eagle, 9 November 1985, section A, pages 1, 11).

In July 1984, the City of Bryan renamed portions of 19th Street, Peirce Street, and Old Reliance Road as Martin Luther King, Jr. Street. (Bryan City Council Minutes, 23 April 1984, 25 June 1984, 9 July 1984, 23 July 1984). This included the portion of Old Reliance Road that passed near the cemetery.

The following year, in 1985, the City of Bryan gave the burial ground a much needed “face lift.” Members of the Bryan school district’s choirs did the work. A newspaper article published at that time described the cemetery’s condition in this manner:

After years of neglect, Bryan’s Yellow Fever Cemetery is to get a facelifting today. It wasn’t really deliberate neglect, but more a matter of the cemetery being sort of misplaced ... As a graveyard, though, the Yellow Fever Cemetery makes a great pasture. It is scrub land, dotted by mesquite, cedar, huisache, and an occasional prickly pear ... On the far western side, in an area otherwise cleared of all scrub and well mowed, is a small clump of hackberry and locust trees surrounded by weeds. Hidden away, out of sight to all but the closest observer, is a rusted wrought iron fence surrounding a plot about four feet by eight feet. Tucked within the recesses of that gravesite is a weathered granite tombstone (“Yellow Fever Cemetery Scheduled for Face-Lift,” Bryan College Station Eagle, 9 November 1985, section A, pages 1, 11).

Another change took place in 1998, when the East Bypass was renamed Earl Rudder Freeway, after a former president of Texas A&M University. (Bryan City Council Minutes, 12 May 1998).

One more development took place in 2000, when St. Joseph's Laundry was built on property just to the north of the cemetery. This land was in the newly platted Cedar Hill subdivision. (Brazos County Official Records Book, Book 4844, page 92, 13 September 2002).

In 2010, the Yellow Fever Cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence, with a gate facing the frontage road. The cemetery is not identified by any signage. The graveyard has a park like appearance, with numerous trees being present. The City of Bryan keeps the area mowed.

Nearby historical markers include Mount Calvary Cemetery to the west, Boonville to the south, and Wixon Cemetery to the east.

(An earlier version of this article appeared in the Brazos Genealogist, volume 17, no.4, pages 136-137, Winter 1996).

Appendix A: Known Burials in the Yellow Fever Cemetery

I have annotated the following records with additional information when possible.

Ball, D.E., Dr., born July 1825 – died June 1861. (Powell, Jim, and Delphine Ford, “Cemeteries Make Interesting Report, Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 June 1962, “Centennial Section,” page 23).

Infant child, name unknown – five months in 1865. (Powell, Jim, and Delphine Ford, “Cemeteries Make Interesting Report, Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 June 1962, “Centennial Section,” page 23).

King, James P., born 18 February 1835, died 24 October 1868, a Mason (from his tombstone). This may be the J.P. King who is listed in the 1868 Brazos County Tax Rolls as owing taxes on \$200 worth of miscellaneous property; that man owned no land, cattle, or merchandize. He does not appear in the 1869 Brazos County Tax Rolls. J.P. King, a member of Belmont Lodge No.131 in Belmont, Gonzales County, died in 1868, taken from Returns of Lodges for the Masonic Year A.D. 1868, A.L. 5878, in (Kelsey, Michael, Texas Masonic Deaths, Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1998, page 31). Unfortunately, Belmont Lodge No. 131, chartered in 1854, demised in 1884. (Email from Pete Normand, 18 June 2007). The Gonzales County history lists James P. King as serving in two different outfits. However, there is only one James King in the 1860 Gonzales County census who could have had Confederate service, and no other evidence of a second James P. King. One soldier was a private in "The Gonzales Rebels" Company, organized in Gonzales County on 25 May 1861, which later became Company E. of the 8th Texas Cavalry. However, the muster rolls for Company E don't include James P. King. The other listing for James P. King is as a first corporal of the "Spy Company of Gonzales County" in Waul's Legion; this man is listed on the muster roll of 13 June 1862, aged 27 (born ca. 1835) and married, which matches the James P. King who is buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery. I believe there was only one James P. King, that he initially enlisted in "The Gonzales Rebels" in 1861, but for whatever reason, never made it into the 8th Texas Cavalry. Then that same James P. King enlisted in a second outfit in 1862. (The History of Gonzales County, Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corp., 1986, pages 37-39).

Another burial is listed in the Bryan city sexton's records as being “buried in Old cemetery,” which apparently refers to the Yellow Fever Cemetery.

Name of deceased, Miss Della Chandler; age, 30 years; nativity, Missouri; date of burial, Nov. 8th, 1884; cause of death, consumption; “buried in old Cemetery” (As published in: Collie-Cooper, Mary, Bryan City Cemetery Brazos County, Texas, Books 1, 2, 3, & 4, Bryan, TX: Collie-Cooper Enterprises, 1987, pages 52-53)

Few details are known about Miss Chandler, but she apparently was poor and without relatives in the area. On 8 December 1884, the Brazos County Commissioners paid “Mrs. Gregory” for taking care of “Miss Chandler” “up to her death.” (Brazos County Commissioners Minutes, volume C, page 411).

Additional burials in this cemetery are recorded on loose pages inserted at the beginning of volume 4 of the Bryan Cemetery Registers (available on microfilm at the Texas A&M University Library). The loose pages are numbered pages 63-67 and are a different size than the pages bound in that volume. The entries are all in the same handwriting; no date or source of the information is given. The pages are labeled "Names & dates etc. of persons buried in the Old or Public Cemetery." The only explanatory note on the sheets reads: "see sec.475 p.129 1918 ord. book." That refers to the Charter and Revised Ordinances of the City of Bryan Codified, Bryan, TX: Daily Eagle, 1918. That document repeats what the 1908 book said. Only one of these people – Rosa Dross – is listed in the actual Bryan cemetery registers, so those registers clearly were not the source of this information.

Dross, Rosa (Bohemian); born in Burleson Co., TX; residence Bryan; aged 2 years; cause of death croup; buried 5 September 1884. // Rosa Drozds baptized on 22 January 1882, page 23 of transcription, page 102 of original, Baptism Book 1, listed in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas, 1876-1909, Index to Birth Marriage and Death Records, Houston, TX: Polish Genealogical Society of Texas, 1991, page 20.

Viedo, Lunado; born in Italy; residence near Bryan; age 40 years; cause of death congestion; buried 12 September 1885

Steeman, Jack; born in Ireland; residence near Bryan, TX, H & T.C. R.R.; cause of death malarial fever; aged 35 years; buried 24 November 1885

Smiley, Jack (tanner); born in Ireland; residence Bryan; aged 45 years; cause of death typho malarial fever; buried 11 December 1885

Tarantino, Ercole; born Italy; residence near Bryan; age 26 years; cause of death killed by cotton gin; buried 10 November 1886 // This apparently is the same person as "Tarantino Ercole" who married Margherita Congelos on 2 February 1886; Father A. Laski performed that ceremony, Brazos County Marriage Records, Book F, page 338

Neschke, Alois; born in Pilesia German Empire; residence at "Rance Smith's" near Bryan; age 65 years; cause of death "thrown from a horse"; buried 14 December 1886 // This is perhaps the same man as described in the following article, but notice that the names are quite different: Bryan, Dec. 13 – A German by the name of A. Reisenboyner while riding out of town this evening was thrown against a post and instantly killed. He was about 60 years old and a carpenter by trade. Dallas Morning News, 14 December 1886, page 5

Sedestha, Gessepa, Miss; born in Italy; residence near Bryan "north east"; age 18 years; cause of death congestion; buried 1 January 1887

Treadway, Mollie E., Mrs.; born in Lee Co., TX; residence Bryan; age 27 years; cause of death "abortion"; buried 12 June 1888

Foley, Mike; born in Ireland; residence section no. 16 H.& T.C. Rail Road; case of death

“sun stroke”; buried 28 August 1888

Williams, James “colored”; born in Texas; residence near Bryan; age 18 years; cause of death “scrofula”; buried 9 November 1888

Applegate, Little Noah Theophulus; born in Jacksonville, Cherokee Co., TX; residence Bryan; age 1 year; cause of death cholera infantum; buried 18 May 1889

“unknown cripple man”; buried 26 November 1889, aged about 40 years; cause of death, killed by Rail Road cars // Bryan, Tex., Nov. 26 – This morning an unknown man was found dead on the Houston and Texas Central railroad track, in the northern part of the city. Justice Harman held an inquest over the body. Nothing definite could be learned as to the manner in which he met his death, but it is presumed that he sat down on the end of the ties and fell asleep. While in that position the south bound freight train struck him. Deceased had been about town for a day or so selling pencils. He was about 40 years old, of medium height with black hair and gray eyes, was pock marked on the face and was poorly dressed. He was crippled about the hips and walked with a stick. The remains were buried here today. Galveston Daily News, 27 November 1889, page 1. // An unknown man was killed by the southbound 6 o’clock freight on the Central Railroad in Bryan Tuesday morning. It seems that he had been drinking and had walked up the track several blocks north from the depot and either fell or sat down on the track just a few minutes before the freight came thundering along. He was killed instantly, but not mutilated. He was of medium size, about 38 or 40 years old, had dark hair and sandy mustache, was crippled and in walking used a stick in either hand. Nothing was found about his person to identify him only a few pencils, and an old song book, a pocket knife, and 30 cents in nickels, comprising his store of worldly goods. He had been about Bryan a day or two, it is said, selling pencils, and was addicted to strong drink. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 November 1889, page 4 // “Where is the Fault ... The tramp who was killed on the track of the Central Railroad in Bryan, last Tuesday morning, was by direction of the Coroner hauled in a delivery wagon to a freedman’s carpenter shop to be prepared for burial. The shop was closed and the corpse was carefully laid out on the ground in front of the building, in the rain. Subsequently it was hauled down to the depot and placed on the platform, unconfined and unprotected, and there left. The company’s agent made a huge kick, and later the body was buried by private subscription in the pottersfield ...” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 November 1889, page 5.

Skues, John; born in England; residence Bryan; age 48 years; cause of death sun stroke; buried 15 August 1890 “near South Gate” // John Skues was listed on the 1890 Special Census of Civil War Union Veterans and Widows of Veterans (National Archives microfilm M123) as living in Bryan, having served from January through July 1865 as a private in Company E of the 40th New Jersey infantry regiment;

Malloy, Pat; born in Ireland; residence Section No. 15, H. & T.C. Road; age 45 years; cause of death killed by pistol shot by Jim Conway; buried 16 October 1890 in Public Cemetery, near South Gate // A special from Bryan, Tex., says: John Conroy, section boss at section 15 on the Houston and Texas Central railway, about four miles from Bryan, shot and killed a section hand, Pat Malloy, who was violently abusing and

cursing Conroy's wife. An inquest was held today, and the defendant gave \$1000 bond. Austin Daily Statesman, 17 October 1890, page 1; also Temple Weekly Times, 24 October 1890, page 1.

Moore, Gilbert; "colored"; born in Brazos County; residence Woodville, near Bryan; age 18 years; cause of death "small pox"; buried 25 January 1891 // Bryan, Tex., Jan. 18 – A well defined case of small-pox in confluent form was discovered here this morning. The patient is a Negro boy about 18 years of age who came up from Houston about fifteen days ago. Dr. Hall, county health officer, ordered the house in which he is strictly quarantined. The case is outside the city and well isolated and ever precaution is exercised to prevent (illegible). Dallas Morning News, 19 January 1891, page 4 // Bryan, Tex., Jan. 21 – No new cases of small-pox have been found. The Negro found on the 18th instant is doing very well under the care of a local nurse. A pesthouse has been built and things are arranged to take care of any cases that may be found. Dallas Morning News, 22 January 1891, page 4 // Bryan, Tex., Jan. 25 – The Negro confined at the pesthouse outside this city died last night. This is the only case of small-pox that Bryan has had. The News correspondent saw Dr. F.M. Hall, city health officer, this morning and was informed by that gentleman that there was no more small-pox in or near Bryan; never had been any except the case mentioned above, and that he had no fear of there being any more. He added: "Though we are now free from the disease, yet I am not going to let up on a strict quarantine until matters assume a different aspect over the state." Dallas Morning News, 26 January 1891, page 8 // Gilbert Moore is listed in the 1880 Brazos County Census, ED 17, page 254d, as the son of Harriet Moore, a 25 year old widow. She was a laundress. Gilbert was 9 when the census was taken; he had a number of younger siblings

Farlow, Wm.; nativity unknown; residence unknown; age about 30 years; cause of death overdose of morphine found dead near A. and M. College; buried 20 May 1891 // Bryan ... A telegram was received here this evening by Sheriff Nunn and Justice McGee that a man was found dead about one mile south of College in this county, on the Houston and Texas Central railway tracks. Officers went to the spot and found a man about 5 feet 9 inches high, dark complexion, high forehead, dressed in a light colored suit and apparently about 32 years old. An empty pocket book, a plug of tobacco and a few papers were all that were found on his body. "William Farlow, Wharton Co." was dimly written on a slip of paper in his coat pocket. He is an entire stranger here. The remains were brought to Bryan for burial. Galveston Daily News, 20 May 1891, page 6.

Infant son of Mary Wolter "a Bohemian"; residence unknown; nativity unknown; age about 10 days; cause of death unknown "found dead in lumber yard"; buried 22 September 1891 // Bryan, Tex., Sept. 22 – This morning while a Negro laborer was walking on the Houston and Texas Central Railroad track in the south part of Bryan, he saw a white infant lying near a lumber pile. The Negro notified the city authorities who investigated the affair and found a boy babe about two weeks old which appeared to have been dead some hours. It was examined by the county health officer, Dr. F.M. Hall, who found no marks of violence on its body. The physician states that though he had as yet made no regular postmortem examination of the child's body, yet he was satisfied that it had been given an overdose of morphine. The remains will be buried

this evening by the county. It now appears that a strange woman had been for a day or so about town carrying an infant about the age of the one found and that this woman was seen last night at the depot at a late hour with her child. This same woman, it is reported, bought a ticket to Hempstead last night. She is not in town to-day. Officers are making efforts to learn her whereabouts as she is thought to be the murderer of the babe. Dallas Morning News, 23 September 1891, page 3 // Bryan, Tex., Sept. 22 – Arrest woman of the following description for whom I hold a warrant: Supposed to be a German woman or a foreigner, speaks English well, a low fleshy woman, light hair, brown and white striped dress, with dark brown sacque, had a black valise, and had a ticket to Hempstead and left on the southbound train this morning; about 35 years old. She is charged with having murdered a baby she had, about two or three weeks old, which was found dead this morning near the depot. Arrest and wire T.C. Nunn, sheriff Brazos County. Dallas Morning News, 23 September 1891, page 3. // Brenham, Tex., Sept. 28 – The woman wanted in Bryan for the murder of a 2-weeks old baby was found in Chappell Hill by Sheriffs Teague and Faulkner on arriving yesterday evening. She gave her name as Mrs. Mary Walter and is a Polish woman. Mrs. Walter answered the description of the woman wanted in every particular, but Sheriff Teague, after locating and putting several parties to watch her movements, so she could not escape, telegraphed to Sheriff T.C. Nunn of Brazos County to bring some one who saw her with the baby at Bryan to identify her. Last night Sheriff Nunn and a party who knew the woman arrived at Chappell Hill and this morning made the arrest. At first she was greatly surprised, but finally admitted that she took the baby to Bryan and that it died and she hid the body in the lumber and left it there. She bitterly denies killing it. Sheriff Nunn left with Mrs. Walter on the east-bound Central this evening for Bryan, where she will be tried for infanticide. Dallas Morning News, 29 September 1891, page 1 // On Monday, the 21st inst., a woman about 35 years of age, supposed to be a German or Polander, rather fleshy and having light hair, wearing a brown and white striped dress and dark brown sacque, got off the Central train at Bryan. She had a baby boy about 2 weeks old when she arrived, and on Tuesday she bought a ticket for Hempstead and left, but did not have the child. The baby was found dead last Tuesday in a lumber yard in Bryan hid between two piles of lumber. The woman is supposed to have murdered it and a complaint was made against her for the offense. The woman was traced as far as Hempstead and there she bought a ticket for this place. Another link has developed in the case. While in Bryan she stated that she had once been in Marlin, and was there acquainted with Parson Brooks, who has since moved to Chappell Hill, in this county. On Tuesday night or Wednesday morning a woman answering her description in every particular was seen to leave the west bound Central train at Chappell Hill. Sunday Sheriff Teague and Sheriff K.H. Faulkner, of Waller County, went down to Chappell Hill to locate the woman, and found her. Sheriff Teague telephones the authorities at Bryan to send some one down there to identify the woman, while Sheriff Faulkner remained there to see that she did not get away, Mr. Teague having to return here to be present when court was called Monday morning. Sheriff Nunn arrived in Chappell Hill Monday morning identified the woman who confessed she was there with the baby at the time but denies that she killed it. The woman's name is Mary Walton, and she is the mother of Mrs. Martin Janeshek, the woman who sued Father Lasky for slander, and who formerly cooked for the family of Ref. C.H. Brooks, at Chappell Hill and it was through her daughter that she perhaps mentioned him as the only person she knew there and it was to her

daughters she came from Bryan instead of returning to her home in Grimes County. Ten years ago there was considerable talk of this woman mysteriously disposing of one of her children and with the evidence already developed in this case there seems to be but little doubt of her guilt. Brenham Weekly Banner, 1 October 1891, page 5 // Mary Walker, the Bohemian woman who was arrested at Chappell Hill a few days ago by Sheriff Teague, charged with the murder of her child, which was found dead in a lumber yard at Bryan a short time ago, had her examining trial before Justice McGee at Bryan Friday and her bond placed at \$1000, in default of which she was remanded to jail. Brenham Weekly Banner, 8 October 1891, page 7

Dolcemoscola, Gasparrio "Italian"; nativity Italy; residence 3 miles north of Bryan; age 45 years; cause of death pernicious fever; buried 12 March 1897 // Brazos County Deed Book 12, page 103: W.J. Brogdon and his wife L.H. Brogdon sold land to Gaspore Dolcinoscolo and Frank Dolcinoscola ("two brothers"), 12 Oct. 1893

Cannatillo, Leane "Italian"; nativity Italy; residence Mudville, Brazos Co.; age 45 years; cause of death pneumonia; buried 16 March 1897

Palmeri, Samuel "Italian"; born in Italy; residence Bryan; age 30 years; cause of death remitting fever; 24 May 1897 (date is not labeled, but is assumed to be date of burial, not date of death)

Fuerre, Ed.; nativity New York state; residence traveling horse trader; age 45 years; cause of death dengue fever; buried 17 November 1897 // Ed. Feury, New York St., died 16 Nov. 1897, buried 17th, denge Fever, Bryan's Public Cemety (p.38); Ed. Feury, 14 Jan. 1899 body buried in Public Cemetery; died 17 Nov. 1897; exhumed and buried Calvary Cemetery, block 4, N.E. ¼, lot 15 (p.40); see Joanne Dominik Glowski's St. Joseph Catholic Church Bryan, Brazos County, Texas. Marriage and Death Records 1877-1909, Houston, TX: Polish Genealogical Society of Texas, 1991 // Mr. Ed. Feury died here yesterday afternoon and will be buried today. He was with a party who have been here a fortnight with a bunch of horses. He was born in Michigan, but had lived in Texas about ten years. Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 November 1897, page 4.

Appendix B: 1873 Yellow Fever Epidemic

Bryan, Sept. 29 – Excitement is heavy here to-day, as there were five deaths and five new cases of yellow fever reported at Calvert. Strict quarantine has been declared here since 11 o'clock to-day, and a heavy guard has been put out on all the roads to prevent people from coming inside of the corporation. Many persons are fixing up to leave. Galveston Daily News, 30 September 1873, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 20, 1873 – Yellow fever is reported in this city this morning. One death from black vomit since 8 o'clock this morning and four more cases. The disease is believed to have originated by a Mrs. Morse coming down from Calvert, who took sick at this place. The sick are near around the house where she lay sick. The people are perfectly panic stricken and are moving out in one solid army. A little frost this morning, and it is thought that it will be confined to a certain limit. Will report further news this evening. Galveston Daily News, 21 October 1873, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 22, 1873. Your correspondent having reached here this evening, was welcomed by a blowing norther, cold and cutting, deserted streets and a general appearance of a city closed for a funeral ... Up to this hour there has been only one death from fever. Miss Alice Jones died yesterday morning. Rumor says there are fifteen cases now under treatment, but diligent inquiry has only shown eight, confined mostly to the northwestern part of town, a locality, I am told, not noted for cleanliness ... The norther of this evening has developed into a cold, drizzling rain, and if there are no bad symptoms to-morrow, we may look for an early disappearance of Bronze John. Mrs. Dr. Hall is in a very critical condition. Perhaps she will not recover. Will advise you regularly. Galveston Daily News, 23 October 1873, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 23, 1873. The fever dealt gently with us last night, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather. No new names have been added to the sick list, and those already down, with an exceptional case or two, are doing as well, bad weather considered, as could be expected. Business is not entirely suspended, as some few of the stores remain open, driving their local trade. The sun is shining warm, but the weather is cool and blustering. Second Dispatch – Bryan, October 23. Three of the afflicted, Mrs. Hall, Lem Hall and Miss Minnie Smothers, are very sick, and I fear the destroyer will not be as merciful as last night. All the others are doing well. The plague has assumed no appearance of epidemic. No new fevers within the past twenty-four hours, and the white faces I remarked yesterday are beginning to wear their habitual red. Galveston Daily News, 24 October 1873, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 24. Miss Minnie Smothers died last night. Mrs. Hall and three others are not expected to live till night. There are three new cases, making nine in all. The weather prognosticators talk of all manner of inclemencies, some even hinting of sleet or snow. A fire is comfortable and necessary. Second Dispatch – Bryan, October 24. I can only inform you that there are two persons who will probably die to-night. No change or death since my noon report. Galveston Daily News, 25 October 1873, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 25. The out look this evening is still encouraging. No deaths since yesterday at noon, and but one new case of sickness to-day, and that of a doubtful nature. Some of

the sick reported hopeless yesterday are better to-day. It is thought that Mrs. Walker can not recover. This is the only critical case. The rural districts are active in keeping up their quarantines, and the writer, who has a weakness for pastoral freshness of a Sunday, must needs defer his visit. The week ends with a good showing, yet some will shake their heads and talk of a warm sun to-morrow and a hot sun the day after. Galveston Daily News, 26 October 1873, page 2

The Galveston Daily News issue dated 27 October 1873 was not on the microfilm.

Bryan, Oct. 27. Five new cases reported yesterday. No new cases to-day. No deaths since last report. Weather cold and rainy. Second Dispatch – Bryan, October 27. No deaths since Saturday. Two new fever cases yesterday and one to-day. The older patients are convalescing, and those of a more recent date are not considered in immediate danger. If our runaways are not too hasty in leaving their castles in the woods, I feel inclined to hazard the opinion that we have had our last fever funerals. Galveston Daily News, 28 October 1873, page 2.

Bryan, Oct. 28. There are no new cases and no deaths. Cold norther blowing. We hope to be free of fever in a day or two. [Second Dispatch]. Bryan, Oct. 28. There were no deaths last night, and no new cases of yellow fever reported. It is said, however, that several of those now ill are not doing well. The strong wind last night prevented frost. A cold norther is now blowing. Galveston Daily News, 29 October 1873, page 2

Bryan, Oct. 29. 9 a.m. – Have not heard of any new cases of yellow fever as yet. The weather is cold and wind prevented frost. Galveston Daily News, 30 October 1873, page 2.

Bryan, October 30. Mrs. Eichenbaum and daughter were taken with fever yesterday. These are the only cases since Monday. A warm sun to-day after a frosty night causes some apprehension. It is particularly urged that all who have left town remain away until a return is sanctioned by the physicians. With the visitation of unhappy Calvert fresh in our minds, it would be the height of imprudence to add fresh material as a fever tempter. Among others who are assiduous in attention to the sick, it is well to note Dr. G.S. West, late health officer of Palestine, and an experienced physician of New Orleans. Dr. West came among us immediately after the fever originated and tendered his professional services gratuitously. Such acts bring their own reward and will be remembered when the plagued is reckoned in the far past. Galveston Daily News, 1 November 1873, page 2

Bryan, Nov. 3, 1873. The Howard Association, of Bryan, adjourned to-day sine die, as no further necessity existed for their serving, but subject to the call of the president when needed. No new cases having occurred during the past week, and as all those who have had the fever are doing well and out of danger, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board of Health that our town is entirely free from the fever, and that persons may come and go out as usual, without the least risk. (Signed) J.W. Boyle, Secretary; Dr. J.C. Farley, Pres't. We had a heavy rain here all day yesterday. The weather is now cool, the wind from the north, and frost is expected. Galveston Daily News, 4 November 1873, page 2

Bryan ... The dispatch of yesterday, reporting a case of yellow fever, was incorrect.

There is no case here, nor has there been for three weeks. James B. McLelland, Mayor of Bryan, Galveston Daily News, 8 November 1873, page 2.

Bryan, Texas, Nov. 6, 1873. G.S. West, M.D., Palestine, Texas: Dear Sir – In behalf of the members of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, permit me to express to you our sincere gratitude and high appreciation for your valuable and gratuitous services rendered to members of our society and the citizens of our town in general during the late epidemic. You have left a comfortable home and hastened to our relief, and under circumstances not very enviable. The trains on the Central not stopping at this place during the panic, you had to walk some ten or twelve miles to reach our town, and all of this without expecting a cent of remuneration, and thereby have proved to us a true philanthropist in the full sense of the word. In parting with us to-day our best wishes and sincere prayers are with you wherever you may go, and hope and pray that should it be our pleasure to meet with you again, it may be under more favorable auspices. Wishing you a long and prosperous life, I remain, gratefully yours, L. Sanger. Pres't Hebrew Benevolent Society. Galveston Daily News, 12 November 1873, page 4.