

African American Deaths, 1900-1904

11 April 2010

compiled by Bill Page

Bryan, Texas - Levi Neal, colored, for twenty years on the police force, was shot in the breast while making an arrest at 9:15 o'clock tonight, dying instantly. Dennis Calhoun, colored, was lodged in jail. Houston Daily Post, 25 February 1900, p.6, col.3

Levi Neal was buried Sunday and his funeral was largely attended by the colored people. Levi was a vigilant officer. He knew his duty and his place and kept within the bounds of both to an extent that was gratifying and helpful to the officers over him. His tragic and sudden death has been a matter of much regret. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 1 March 1900, p.2, col.4

The examining trial of Dennis Calhoun, charged with the murder of Levi Neal, was commenced before Justice Minkert yesterday and the entire day was consumed in taking testimony. Late in the afternoon Calhoun was remanded to jail without bail. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 1 March 1900, p.2, col.4

Bryan ... Dennis Calhoun, the Negro charged with the murder of a colored policeman named Levi Neal here recently, was today convicted of murder in the first degree in the District Court and his punishment fixed at imprisonment in the penitentiary for life. Dallas Morning News, March 23, 1900, p.4

The jury in the case of Dennis Calhoun, charged with the murder of Levi Neal, returned a verdict of murder in the first degree yesterday afternoon and assessed Calhoun's punishment at life imprisonment in the penitentiary. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 29 March 1900, p.6, col.1

*Bob ARMSTRONG, a well known African American, died; he lived on the Little Brazos River. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 8 February 1900, p.6, col.2

*Charlie Robertson was convicted of killing "old man Griffin Jackson," Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 March 1900, p.3, col.4

*Ed PHILLIPS, "young", was shot in Burleson County; died in Brazos County; Mr. PARKER, also an African American, was accused of the crime. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 12 April 1900, p.6, col.2

Navasota ... It was reported here today that Lee Burrell, colored, a former resident of this city, was drowned near the Brazos River in Brazos County. Dallas Morning News, 12 May 1900, p.2

Ed Nolan, colored, died Thursday night at the home of his father in this city, aged about 35 years. He was a son of Mack Nolan, born and raised in Bryan. He was quiet, industrious and enjoyed the confidence of both white and colored people. For many years he was a night watchman at the depot and performed his duties faithfully and acceptably. The funeral will take place from the A.M.E. Church today at 11 a.m., under the auspices of Social Tie Lodge. Elder Shivers will conduct the service. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 May 1900, p.6, col.2

Henry THOMPSON, a highly respected and prosperous colored man, died Sunday night and was buried at Wickson Monday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 May 1900, p.3, col.4

*Henry Thomas was accused of killing Pomp Trammel. Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 May 1900, p.3, col.2

Millican, Tex. - News came in late this evening that Hence Williams and his son Will were killed while plowing in their field about sundown. Both were Negroes. A shotgun was used. Hence was very old, and went all through the war as a Confederate soldier, and was a member of Camp J.B. Robinson at Bryan. Justice Pool issued a warrant charging a white man with his killing. Galveston Daily News, 14 June 1900, p.1, col.1

Dallas, Tex., June 14. - Two Negroes, Henson Williams and his son William, were shot dead from ambush in Brazos County, while they were plowing in a field. Officers are searching for a white man who is believed to have shot them. The elder Williams fought through the Civil War as a Confederate soldier and made such a good record that he was a full member of the Confederate Veterans camp at Milliken. The old white Confederate soldiers are enraged at the assigation and threaten vengeance on the assassin when captured. New York Times, 15 June 1900, p.7

*Hence WILLIAMS was killed by John GREER at Millican. Bryan Morning Eagle, 16 June 1900, p.3, col.2

New was received here yesterday morning that a Negro was killed by lightning below College Monday afternoon. The Negro and a white man were near a stove which was struck by lightning, the Negro being killed and the white man badly shocked. Another Negro was rendered insensible on Jim Dunn's place from a strike of lightning. He subsequently recovered. Bryan Morning Eagle, 11 July 1900, p.3, col.2

*John HUNTER, nearly 90 years old, died at Millican. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 16 August 1900, p.7, col.1

Bryan, Tex., Aug. 28 – Robert Millican, a Negro, was brought here and lodged in jail this morning charged with the killing of a Negro named Taylor, near Millican yesterday. Dallas Morning News, August 29, 1900, p.5

*Mr. TAYLOR was shot & killed near Millican by Robt. MILLICAN, also an African American. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 August 1900, p.6, col.4

*Giles STEPTSE [STEPTOE ?] died at Millican. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 September 1900, p.7, col.4

Cicero Medlock, a Negro, forty or fifty years old and an employee of the compress, was struck by a train some time Saturday night and died from his injuries. He was found Sunday morning by the H.& T.C. track with his skull and several ribs crushed and his left arm and hip broken. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 20 Sept. 1900, p.6, col.3

About 7 o'clock Sunday night a Negro named James Johnson was shot and killed at Mudville by Bonny Lanza, an Italian merchant at that place. Lanza came to town yesterday morning and surrendered to the authorities, stating that the shooting was done in self defense. Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 January 1901, p.2, col.2

The examining trial of Bonny Lanza, charged with the killing of the Negro James Johnson, at Mudville was begun before Justice Mitchell yesterday. There are eight or nine witnesses in the case and the examination was not concluded.

Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 January 1901, p.3, col.3

The examining trial of Bonny Lanza was concluded yesterday afternoon and he gave bond in the sum of \$1,500. Bryan Daily Eagle, 18 January 1901, p.3, col.3

The remains of Matilda Jefferson, colored, who died in Corsicana, were brought here for burial yesterday. Deceased was the wife of Joe Jefferson. Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 January 1901, p.3, col.2

Bryan – Sunday night Messrs. Sam Meredith and B.J. Hayood were in pursuit of two Negroes charged with the theft of property from a plantation in the Brazos bottom. Upon coming upon the Negroes and calling to them to stop it is alleged that one of them shot Mr. Meredith, who received a slight flesh wound in the shoulder. Thereupon a general shooting affray ensued in the dark, the results of which were not fully known that night nor for two days following. Yesterday the body of Will Favers, one of the Negroes evidently wounded in the affray, was found near the scene of the fight, which occurred near College Station. Today Meredith and Haygood had an examining trial before Justice Mitchell and gave bond. The other Negro evidently made good his escape. Dallas Morning News, 15 Feb.1901, p.2

Ike Watson, a good old Negro and one of the most interesting characters of his race the writer has ever seen, died recently at the Seale homestead near Benchley, where he had made his home continuously since the days of the Civil War. He was good, kind, honest, faithful and industrious and these qualities met with proper appreciation from his benefactors. He rarely ever came to town, but when he did he was fond of wearing a long many colored coat which gave him the air of a minstrel comedian. He was very old.

Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 February 1901, p.3, col.3

Amity Hill, colored, charged with an assault with intent to murder his father, was on yesterday found guilty of aggravated assault and fined \$50 and costs. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 March 1901, p.5, col.4

“Bob Ballard to Hang,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 March 1901, p.2, col.1

Card of Thanks

We, the undersigned citizens of Brazos County, desire to express our heartfelt thanks to the jury, the officers and the citizens who aided in bringing to conviction Bob Ballard, and especially do we desire to thank the jury who have beyond a doubt discharged their whole duty. (signed) Jacob Shramek, Sam Luther, J.H. Wehrmann and others. Bryan Morning Eagle, 27 March 1901, p.2.

Bryan, Tex., May 24 – Will Fuqua, a Negro cook, was shot and killed on the Houston and Texas Central Railroad track near Main street this morning. After the shooting Mr. Edgar Covey, a young hite man and member of a leading family, gave himself up. An examining trial was held this afternoon and Mr. Covey gave bond in the sum of \$1,000. The killing was the result of a difficulty caused by the Negro’s impudent and insulting conduct toward the young man’s mother while employed as a cook. Dallas Morning News, May 25, 1901, p.10

Will Fuqua, a Negro, was shot and killed yesterday morning at the H.& T.C. railroad crossing near the store of Sanders Bros. & Co., by Mr. Edgar Covey. Fuqua was a cook employed by Mr. M.D. Cole, and the difficulty which resulted in his death was brought on by his impudent and insulting conduct towards Mrs. Cole, mother of Mr. Covey, earlier in the morning. The Negro carried a heavy stick with which he struck Mr. Covey during the fight and had a butcher knife in his pants pocket with the blade protruding prominently. Mr. Covey was armed with a Colt’s pistol of large calibre with which he struck the Negro and afterwards shot him. After the shooting Mr. Covey gave himself up and an examining trial was held yesterday afternoon before Justice W.G. Mitchell, Mr. Covey being allowed bond in the sum of \$1000, which he readily gave. The Negro’s end was not a surprise to those who knew his disposition for disrespect and impudence. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 May 1901, p.7, col.4.

L.C. Sellers was here from Millican yesterday circulating a petition to the governor for the pardon of Jim Steptoe, colored, sent to the penitentiary for murder.

*Evans Lee was shot and killed near Benchley. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 July 1901, p.3, col.4

*Esau Harrison was killed at Steep Hollow ...Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 Sept.1901, p.3

“Arthur Carter, charged with the murder ...,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 26 September 1901, p.3, col.3

Bryan, Tex. – Bob Ballard, the Negro sentenced to be hanged here Friday, Nov. 22, for murder and who has been a notorious criminal, is now becoming anxious about the hereafter and is praying and consulting with ministers in an effort to find peace for his soul. His moans could be heard this morning outside the jail, and at 1 o'clock this morning Revs. J.F. Slaughter and F.R. Wilson and three deacons of the colored Baptist Church held a meeting with him at the jail. He occupies a jail to himself, but no death watch has been set.

Dallas Morning News, 21 October 1901, p.2

"Bob BALLARD Will be Hung at Bryan Next Friday," Brenham Daily Banner, 21 Nov. 1901, p.2

"Bob BALLARD Hanged," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 November 1901, p.1

“Fatally Burned,” Galveston Daily News, 5 March 1902, p.1, col.5. Lina King, wife of Jesse King.

Russell Minor, colored, was accidentally shot near Beaumont Sunday, and the remains were brought here for burial yesterday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 26 June 1902, p.2, col.3

Navasota, Tex., July 14 – Ira Steptoe, a Negro living about six miles north of here in Brazos County, was killed by lightning during a shower yesterday afternoon. He was out in the field eating a watermelon when a shower came up and he took the melon and ran under a pecan tree for shelter and was eating the melon when the stroke came and ended his life. Other Negroes who saw the accident rushed to the scene and found Steptoe dead with a piece of melon still in his mouth and the slice which he had been eating firmly grasped in his hand. Dallas Morning News, 15 July 1902, p.2

Mose STURLIN [Sterling ?] died; he was born in Va. in 1838; taken by his owner John T. BASS to Cass Co., Texas, then sold to D.M. DANSBY's father in 1859, who gave him to D.M. DANSBY; he came with D.M. DANSBY to Brazos Co. in 1867. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 September 1902, p.2, col.3

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 19 – News comes from the Belson Schoolhouse neighborhood in this county that Sarah Jackson, wife of Clint Jackson (colored) accidentally shot herself while handling a pistol, and died the following day. Dallas Morning News, 20 Nov. 1902, p.6

Jim McDonald, colored, died yesterday morning at his home after an illness of only two or three days. He was a member of Rose of Sharon Lodge G.U.O. of O.F., and will be buried this afternoon by that order. Bryan Daily Eagle, 5 February 1903, p.3

*Lula Williams was shot; not expected to live. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 April 1903, p.2, col.3

“George Sterne, the Negro charged with murder in the Lula Williams case, gave bond in the sum of 200 ...,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 April 1903, p.5, col.1

Mrs. Emeline Williams, colored, died at her home in this city Thursday afternoon and was buried yesterday morning. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 April 1903, p.5, col.5

The death of Frank Richards, colored, from lightning during the hail, rain and electric storm, was mentioned in the Eagle yesterday morning. Richards was driving a wagon loaded with feedstuff from Bryan to Howell Bros.’ stock farm. He was overtaken by the storm and killed one mile east of town in the Howell pasture. One of the mules was also killed and was turned completely around, with head towards the wagon. Richards was found on the wagon seat with his head thrown back and fell over the dashboard. His body and clothing were burned and his shoes ripped open. His collar was found fifty yards away and the rim of his hat 100 yards away. The bolt appears to have struck him in the head and run down the body. One of the mules was uninjured and stood in the harness by the side of the dead one until found by Clint Soles an hour later. The body of Richards was viewed by Justice Mitchell. The fire was evidently extinguished by the rain, otherwise the wagon and all would probably have been burned. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 May 1903, p.2, col.2

The wife of Clark Bell (colored) died in this city Thursday and was buried Friday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 May 1903, p.5, col.3

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 13 – A peculiar and tragic accident is reported from the Kurten neighborhood. Some parties were moving a house on wagons when it fell off and crushed the life of an 8-year-old Negro boy. Dallas Morning News, 14 November 1903, p.5

Green Foster, a Negro 65 years old, dropped dead yesterday on the farm of Joe Kosh, three miles east of town, from heart failure. Justice Mitchell viewed the body and returned a verdict in accordance with the above statement. Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 December 1902, p.7

Will Roy, Monroe Cheeks and Will Harris, three Negroes, were lodged in jail yesterday to be held in connection with the killing of the Negro who was found recently near the I.& G.N. railroad track with his throat cut. Other arrests will probably be made. The Negroes now in custody were employed in an I. and G.N. section gang. Dennis Malcom was the Negro found dead. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 June 1903, p.2, col.1

Navasota, Texas, May 27 – George Malcom, a Negro, was brought to this city on the International and Great Northern passenger train this afternoon with his throat cut and other bad gashes on his face. He was unable to talk, but wrote his name and also that he was cut by another party. He was discovered by the side of the track near Copps between this city and Bryan. He can hardly recover. Dallas Morning News, 29 May 1903, p.6

Bryan, Tex., June 4 – Jim DeBose, Will Roy, Henry Harris, Monroe Cheeks, Flem Berry and Will Holmes, six Negroes belonging to the gang of section No.9 on the International and Great Northern, south of Bryan, were examined separately before Justice W. Gillie Mitchell here today, and each was placed under a \$100 bond to appear before the Grand Jury in the Dennis Malcom murder case. The bonds have not yet been made and the Negroes are in jail. Jim DeBose is the section foreman. The negro Malcom was found by the side of the railroad track with his throat cut and died a few days later. Dallas Morning News, June 5, 1903, p.2

Bryan, Tex., June 11 – Sheriff T.C. Nunn today filed complaints against the six Negro section hands lodged in jail a few days ago in connection with the Dennis Macolm killing, charging them with murder. Dallas Morning News, June 12, 1903, p.9

Bryan, Tex., June 14 – Jim Debose, colored, released on bond as a witness in the Dennis Malone murder case, has been brought back to Bryan from Grimes County and lodged in jail. He is one of the six Negroes belonging to a section gang against whom the charge of murder has been made. Debose appears to stand well in Grimes County, where he was employed on the Anderson branch of the International and Great Northern. The other five Negroes held are Will Roy, Henry Harris, Monroe Cheeks, Flem Berry and Will Holmes. Abe Phelps, colored, who was held as a witness, has been released on bond. Dallas Morning News, 15 June 1903, p.1

Bryan, Tex., June 17 – At an examining trial held before Justice W. Gillie Mitchell, five of the six Negro section hands charged with the murder of the Negro Dennis Malcom, namely, Will Roy, Jim Debose, Monroe Cheeks, Will Holmes and Henry Harris, were allowed bond in the sum of \$500 each. Flem Berry, the sixth, a young Negro, had his bond fixed at \$100. All were again placed in jail after the hearing to await the making of the bonds. Dennis Malcom, the murdered Negro, was the one found with his throat cut near the International and Great Northern Railroad track between Bryan and Navasota recently. Dallas Morning News, 18 June 1903, p.10

*Remains of a man who burned to death in a house fire were found; the body was believed to be that of Sam McMillan; he was buried in Pleasant Hill graveyard on Still Creek. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 1 October 1903, p.2, col.4

“Whose Burned Body Is It?” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 1 October 1903, p.4, col.4

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 13 – A peculiar and tragic accident is reported from the Kurten neighborhood. Some parties were moving a house on wagons when it fell off and crushed the life of an 8-year-old Negro boy. Dallas Morning News, 14 November 1903, p.5

“A Negro Killing Mule,” Bryan Morning Eagle, 13 January 1904, p.3, col.4. An African American man named “Speed” was killed on the EDGE farm.

Wellborn, Tex., Feb.1 – An old colored woman named Maril Porter, living with old Uncle Bob Foster, in the Brazos bottom, was washing. Her clothes caught fire and she was burned to death before the flames could be extinguished. She was 80 years old and had resided in Brazos County since 1854. Dallas Morning News, 3 February 1904, p.3

*Three African American children burned to death in their home on the John DiPuma farm near Mudville. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 February 1904, p.2, col.2

Bryan ... Louis Battle reports a tragic incident happening to the family of a Negro in the Brazos bottom near Mudville. The Negro was in the field at work and his wife went to Mudville to do some trading, leaving three children at home. During her absence the house was burned and one of the children lost its life in the flames. Dallas Morning News, 5 Feb.1904, p.10

Dock Nero, a Negro living at College Station, in attempting to board the 8 o'clock passenger train for his home last night, fell beneath the cars and one foot was badly mangled by the wheels. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 7 March 1904, p.2, col.4

Will Green, colored, charged with murder in the second degree, was tried and acquitted in the Brazos County District Court yesterday. The Negro killed was named Lee. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 March 1904, p.7, col.1

Bryan ... A Negro child was burned to death on the Shelton place, in the Brazos bottom, this morning. It had been left alone on a pallet while the mother went to the field. The house was not burned. Dallas Morning News, 1 July 1904, p.11

While John Curtis and Jerry Brown, two Negro boys about twenty years old, were out hunting in the Brazos bottom Tuesday afternoon, a shotgun was accidentally discharged the load taking effect in the heart of Curtis and killing him instantly.

(weekly) Bryan Eagle, 21 July 1904, p.2, col.4

Bryan ... A Negro named Henry Moseley was put in jail here today, charged with the killing of another Negro named Matthew Camper on the Sims plantation in the Brazos bottom last night. Mosely claims it was an accident. District Court convened today and the case will likely undergo Grand Jury investigation at once. Dallas Morning News, 7 Sept.1904, p.3

Bones of a human were found in a burned house near Bryan. A Negro woman was arrested. (Victoria) Daily Advocate, 30 September 1904, page 4

Bryan, Tex., Oct. 18 – Isaac King, colored, shot and probably mortally wounded his wife, Daisy King. After the shooting he went to the home of his sister. Constable Baker followed to arrest him, and upon seeing the constable approaching, King shot himself under the right ear with a pistol, killing himself instantly. Palestine Daily Herald, 18 October 1904, page 5

The wife of Dock King, colored, was buried Sunday afternoon, having died from the wound King inflicted on her by shooting the night he committed suicide. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 10 November 1904, p.2, col.4

Jesse Parks, the old Negro who is well remembered as the coachman of Governor Ross while the latter was president of the A. and M. College, died in Houston at an advanced age. Jesse belonged to Mr. J.F. Parks' father before the Civil War, and went through the war with Mr. Parks, who enlisted at the age of 17. As a slave and as a freedman Jesse Parks was a good Negro, and enjoyed the regard and confidence of the white people. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 November 1904, page 2, col.2

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 17 – Will Gray, colored, was lodged in jail last night charged with the murder of the Negro Will Price, Tuesday night, near Harvey, Brazos County. Gray was arrested by Constables C.L. Baker and Jim Reed. In his verdict, Justice W. Gillie Mitchell, who held the inquest, says Will Price came to his death from two blows from the blade of an ax, one of the head and one on the neck. These blows were inflicted by Will Gray about 1 o'clock in the morning, Nov. 16, 1904. Dallas Morning News, Nov. 18, 1904, p.7

Bryan ... The body of Albert Cavitt, a Negro about 45 years old, was found on the International and Great Northern Railroad track near the edge of the city this morning with head, neck and shoulders crushed. After inquest proceedings Justice W. Gillie Mitchell rendered a verdict that death was caused by a freight train about 2 o'clock this morning. Twenty-five dollars and other articles were found on the body. Dallas Morning News, 3 Dec. 1904, p.3

