

## **African American Deaths, 1910-1914**

11 April 2010  
compiled by Bill Page

Elias MAYS, one of the oldest and best known colored men in Bryan, and this section of the state, died at his home in this city this morning. He was at one time a member of the legislature from this county. In his younger days he took an active interest in several races for representative. Since retiring from politics, he has lived quietly, working most of the time on farms in different localities. He was a good man, humble and inoffensive, and had many friends among both white and black. Bryan Daily Eagle, 5 January 1910, p.3, col.5

Aunt Spicy Jefferson, an old Negro woman of this city, was killed by the train late yesterday afternoon. She, with several other Negroes, was near the oil mill crossing on the H. & T.C. just as the southbound "Hustler" came in at six o'clock, and when she saw it turn the oil mill curve, remarked that she could beat it and ran away from her companions and attempted to cross in front of the rapidly moving train. She failed, however, and the train struck her, knocking her thirty or forty feet and killing her instantly. The engine whistle was blowing a fearful warning all the time, but she did not heed it and went to her death. Justice McGee went to the scene and viewed the body, but did not hold an inquest as it was not necessary, there being a number of eye witnesses. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 January 1910, p.3, col.4.

"Bowman Moore Killed," Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 March 1910 [paper incorrectly dated March 31], p.6, col.4. He was a "well known colored school teacher" near Benchley.

"Negro Killed in Bottom," Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 April 1910, p.5, col.1

"Two Negroes Killed," Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 April 1910, p.6, col.4

"Negro Children Burned to Death," Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 April 1910, p.5, col.3. They lived on the farm of Will McRea in the Brazos bottom.

"Negro Killed in Bottom," Bryan Daily Eagle, 26 April 1910, p.1 col.3. Wm. Wilson killed David Roy on the farm of H.E. Smith.

"Admitted to Bail," Bryan Daily Eagle, 28 April 1910, p.1, col.2. Wm. Wilson.

"Negro Killed in Bottom," Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 May 1910, p.3, col.4.

The Negro boy, Jim Johnson, who cut his throat two weeks ago in attempt to suicide, died from the effects of his injuries last night. He was thought to be out of his mind when he committed the rash act. Bryan Daily Eagle, 19 May 1910, p.3, col.5.

“Uncle Ned Blanchard,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 23 May 1910, p.1, col.4. Died; he was 76 years old; he came with Dr. Fletcher in 1870.

“Uncle Sol Holstein Dead,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 July 1910, p.5, col.6. Of the Thompson Creek community.

“Uncle Nathan Adams,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 16 July 1910, p.1, col.3. Died.

“A Negro Shooting Scrape,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 July 1910, p.3, col.6. Ira Sandle shot and killed Mr. Roberts [actually Mr. Rogers ?]

There was another Negro fight between Negroes Saturday night in the neighborhood of College Station and one was killed. John Progue was stabbed in the neck by Cy Williams, the knife severing the jugular vein and death resulted in just a short time. Williams made his escape at the time but was captured about 11 o'clock yesterday in the Bethel community by Sheriff Conlee about ten miles from the scene of the killing. He was brought to town and lodged in jail. Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 August 1910, page 3, col.4.

“Denied Bail,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 8 August 1910, p.1, col.3. Cy Williams.

“Children Burned to Death,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 August 1910, p.3, col.4

“Died from Injuries,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 August 1910, p.1, col.6. Jeff Rogers.

Aunt Emma Wilson, a faithful servant in the home of Col. and Mrs. M.W. Sims, died last night after a long illness. She was a good woman, faithful in all things, and had many friends, both white and colored. Bryan Daily Eagle, 10 September 1910, p.4, col.5

“Killing at Wheelock,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 September 1910, p.1, col.3. Powell Chambers killed Joe Wilson on the Hanover place near Wheelock.

“Killing at Mudville,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 October 1910, p.3, col.3. Dave Lamar killed Ike Montgomery

“Arch Carr Dead,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 October 1910, p.3, col.2. At Steep Hollow.

“Uncle Bill Dunn,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 21 October 1910, p.2, col.2. Died in Robertson County; had once belonged to James Dunn and G.H. Dunn.

On Saturday afternoon a small house on the farm of Mr. W.D. Yardley, near Harvey, was burned and a small Negro boy perished in the flames. The parents were away at work and the children, a small boy and girl, were left at home. It is believed that the children were playing in the fire and in some way set fire to the house. The girl was the larger of the two and rushed from the house, but under the excitement of the moment

forgot her little brother, who perished in the flames before aid came. The little fellow was named Willie Holland, and it is indeed a deplorable accident. Henry Johnson, a Negro living in this city, saw the fire and reached the scene just as the roof fell in on the little Negro boy, but of course was unable to rescue him from his horrible death. The parents knew nothing of the fire until after it was all over, and did not arrive until the house had burned down and the charred bones of their little son were taken from the ruins. Bryan Daily Eagle, 31 October 1910, page 1, col.3.

George O'Neal, an aged Negro, well known in this city, was found dead at his home yesterday. He was very old and lived alone in a little cabin in the western part of town. When his death was discovered an inquest was held and his death assigned to natural causes. The funeral was held this afternoon. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 April 1911, p.5, col.5

"An Aged Negro Dead," Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 May 1911, p.2, col.2. Dave COLLIER; aged 75; had lived at Rosprim for 18 years.

"Little Girl Badly Burned," Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 July 1911, p.5, col.4. Daughter of George HARRIS

"Aunt" Elmira Vanhook, an aged Negro woman, was struck by the southbound Hustler yesterday afternoon in the extreme northern part of the city, at the Woodville crossing, and killed instantly. The train was late and the distressing accident happened about 5 o'clock. The old woman had been to town and was returning to her home in Woodville, and was caught by the flyer on the crossing near her home. She was partially deaf and did not hear the approaching train until it was too late. The engineer saw her and sounded his whistle long and loud, thinking every moment she would hear it and step off the track, not knowing she was deaf. After he realized that she was making no effort to get off, it was too late to stop his train and the accident was then inevitable. Some Negro women nearby were attracted by the whistle of the locomotive and looked just in time to see the train when it struck her, and said she was knocked high in the air. After the accident the body lay about eight yards from the center of the track, and some sixteen yards from the place where she was supposed to have been when the engine hit her. Parties who saw the body said there was a cut on the face extending toward the back of the head and that her neck was broken. Her right hand was also cut and bruised and her right arm broken. Justice McGee and Constable Baker went out and viewed the body, but did not hold an inquest, as there were eyewitnesses to the tragedy, making an inquest unnecessary. Aunt Elmira was the widow of the late Parson Vanhook. She was eighty-seven years old and had lived in Bryan forty-two years. Since her husband's death several years ago she had lived alone in the old Vanhook home in Woodville, within a stone's throw and in the very shadow of which she lost her life. The old lady was a familiar figure on the streets with her basket on her arm, going from place to place, picking up pieces of paper that struck her fancy, scraps, and whatever else she could find. She was a good old woman and will be missed by her white friends, as well as by those of her own color. This was not the first accident that has occurred at the Woodville crossing. In December, 1885, Mr. Wilson of Tabor, and his two daughters were caught

on that crossing in their wagon and all three of them and both horses were killed. At that time, however, it was a veritable death trap, as the old oil mill was then standing and it was impossible to see a train coming from the south. Now the mill building is removed and a clear view to the south can be had, but it is still dangerous, as trains coming from the north can not be seen until they reach the crossing, or if you are crossing the road, not until you get right on the track. People on the dirt road should use great care in making this crossing, as trains from both directions are always going at a high rate of speed when they pass that point. Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 August 1911, p.2, col.5.

“Jake HAZELY Killed,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 September 1911, p.1, col.4. He lived on Capt. A.F. Wilson's place.

“Jim JORDON Killed,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 18 September 1911, p.4, col.3. Jim, son of Cicero JORDON, was killed by a train.

“Negro Killed Last Night,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 19 September 1911, p.1, col.3. Hamp Palmer killed Gene Whitley.

"Another Negro Shooting," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 September 1911, p.3, col.5. George Clark shot Johnny Keats near Mudville.

"Another Negro Killed," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 12 October 1911, p.8, col.4. Will Benson killed Jim Stewart.

"Negro Woman Killed," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 19 October 1911, p.9, col.2. Rosa McGrew killed Ida Harris at Allenfarm.

Mr. D.M. Dansby of this city has just had erected a nice monument over the grave of Uncle Mose Sterling, one of his old-time slaves. Uncle Mose died a few months ago at the age of sixty-two and was as honorable and faithful servant as ever lived in the South. He was perfectly trustworthy in all things and lived a clean life. Uncle Mose was given to Mr. Dansby by his father when he was 15 years old, was still his at emancipation, and continued to live with him after being set free until his death. Uncle Mose's wife also belonged to Mr. Dansby, having been given to him when a little girl by his grandmother. She also remained with Mr. Dansby and is still living near his old farm in the country. She and Uncle Mose lived happily together and reared a large family of children who are among the leading colored people of the Boonville community. The monument is the double type, a space on one side being reserved for Uncle Mose's widow when she goes to join him. The erection of the monument by Mr. Dansby is a beautiful tribute to the memory of these two old and faithful servants. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 2 November 1911, p.4, col.4

Sam Greer, colored, was found dead this morning in the servants' house at the home of Mr. D.M. Dansby, in which he lived alone. He had separated from his wife and Mr. Dansby permitted him to occupy his servants' house. When found he was lying in his bed in a perfectly natural position. His shoes and outer clothing had been removed,

and every indication was that he had undressed and retired for the night. The last time he was seen alive was shortly after dark Monday night and it is supposed he died that night. He was at the home of a relative after supper, and as he left remarked that he was sick and was going home and go to bed. He was not seen again until found dead this morning. He was about forty-five or fifty years old and was reared out on Wixon creek, near Steep Hollow. His parents were two of the oldest Negro settlers in Brazos county, having lived here ever since the war until their death. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 9 November 1911, p.4, col.6

Viola Lee, colored, of Houston, died Monday night and the remains were shipped to this city and buried Tuesday. The funeral was held from Shiloh Baptist Church under the auspices of the Ancient Order of Pilgrims. She was a good woman and had many friends, both white and colored. Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 January 1912, p.5, col.4

“Given Examining Trial,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 8 January 1912, p.5, col.3. Maria Hill was accused of killing Henry Spriggs, near Mudville.

“Ed Williams Fell Dead,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 2 February 1912, p.3, col.5.

“An Old Negress Dead,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 22 Feb.1912, p.3, col.3. Lucy ANDERSON; about 50 years old; “died in a Negro restaurant where the family was living”

College Station, Tex., May 6 – Will Garrett, aged 23 years, colored, who lives at Navasota, was found dead beside the track of the Houston and Texas Central railroad, near the depot. His left arm was broken and his skull fractured, both presumably caused by being struck by a southbound train. Coroner McGee of Bryan held the inquest. Dallas Morning News, 7 May 1912, page 8

“Found in Dying Condition,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 July 1912, p.4, col.2. George McGregor.

“Negro Shot and Killed Near Mudville,” Bryan Weekly Eagle, 31 August 1912, p.1, col.5.

“Negro Died in Jail,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 October 1912, p.1, col.3. Hawkins Kyle

Bill Smith, one of Bryan’s old time darkeys was killed today in a well upon which he was working at the Fountain sanitarium. The well is nearly forty feet deep and the old Negro was laying brick down about twenty-five feet when gas began to rush in through a crack from a nearby cesspool. He shouted to the darkey helping him to draw him up and stepped into the well bucket and was pulled within six feet of the top when he became unconscious and fell back into the well. Owing to the amount of water in the well, so far efforts to recover the body have failed, and the water is being drawn out. “Uncle Bill” was well known and had been a familiar figure on the streets of Bryan for more than forty years. He had many friends, both white and black, who will regret to learn of his tragic death. Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 December 1912, p.6

“Smith’s Body Not Recovered,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 10 December 1912, p.5, col.4. Bill Smith

The body of Bill Smith was recovered at dark yesterday afternoon from the well at the Fountain sanitarium, where it had been covered by the caving in of the sides of the well after the old Negro had fallen back into it, overcome by gas when he had been drawn within six feet of the top. His funeral took place today at 2 o’clock from his late home. The many friends of “Uncle Bill,” representing both white and black, are sincerely sorry to hear of the death of this old time darkey who had for years dug wells all over the county. Bryan Daily Eagle, 11 December 1912, p.5

“Negro Killed Yesterday,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 6 January 1913, p.1, col.5.

“Aged Negro Burned to Death,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 8 January 1913, p.5, col.3. “Aunt” Charity BATTISE, aged 85, mother of George TURNER, “who has been in the army several years”

Hearne, Tex., Jan 28 – Joe Brown, a Negro, was shot and killed at Sutton, five miles south of Hearne this morning, after he had been commanded to throw up his hands. The Negro had been terrorizing the Negroes in the lower bottom for the past three months, and last night he went to College Station where he robbed several Negroes at the point of a gun and then boarded the train for Bryan. The officers congregated at Sutton, hiding behind a pile of wood. When the Negro was within thirty steps of them he was commanded to halt, and making an attempt to draw his gun, the officers fired, inflicting wounds which caused death in a short time. Dallas Morning News, 29 January 1913, page 2

Millican, Tex., Feb. 6 – A Negro laborer on G. D. Osburn’s Brazos bottom plantation was dragged to death by a mule last night. The Negro had been logging stalks during the day, and it is supposed he started to ride from the field at night and was thrown by the mule, his feet caught in the traces and was kicked and dragged during the night. His body was found fastened to the mule at daylight this morning. Galveston Daily News, 8 February 1913

"Negro Shot," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 27 March 1913, p.4, col.6. Ned PETERSON

“Aged Negro Fell Dead,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 May 1913, p.5, col.4. Rufus Daniels.

“Negro Shooting at Wixon,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 19 May 1913, p.6, col.4. Laura Turner

During the rain this morning a Negro and a mule were killed instantly by lightning on one of the big farms in the bottom. The *Eagle* learns the Negro was in the field plowing and the bolt did its work so quickly he never knew what struck him. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 12 June 1913, p.8, col.5

“Cal O’Neal, Colored, Is Shot And Killed,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 July 1913, p.1, col.2

“Two Men Were Killed by Live Wires at A. & M. College,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 15 December 1913, page 1, col.3. “... The dead ... George Easter, Negro janitor at the college .... Rose Easter, wife of the Negro janitor, was severely burned. The two Negroes were the first victims. They were on their way home when George Easter ran into a telephone wire which was crossed with an electric wire. Easter was killed instantly and his wife was rendered unconscious ... The college surgeon, Dr. O. Ehlinger, administered surgical aid to the injured.”

“Live Wire Kills Two,” Houston Post, 15 December 1913, page 1. “... The two Negroes were the first to fall victim. They were on their way home when George Easter ran into a telephone wire which was crossed with an electric wire. Easter was killed instantly and his wife struck the wire and was knocked unconscious. Neighbors a short while later noticed the Negro and his wife and notified Suber that two drunken Negroes were asleep in the road ... The Negro janitor had worked at the college for a number of years ....”

“Gives Names of 15 That Were Drowned,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 Dec. 1913, p.5, col.3.

“Uncle Tom Jones Burned to Death,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 28 February 1914, p.2, col.5

“Negro Killed Sunday Morning,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 19 May 1914, p.3, col.5.

“Negro Cutting Scrape,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 June 1914, p.3, col.6. Henry Jones

“Negro Killed at Kurten,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 June 1914, p.3, col.4. (Issue filmed after July 3rd).

“Woman Killed Accidentally,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 1 July 1914, p.6, col.3.

Prince Adams, one of Bryan’s oldest citizens and best known colored residents, died suddenly at his home in Freedman town yesterday morning about 10 o’clock. Heart trouble is given as the cause of his sudden death. Adams was in apparently good health in the early morning, and had just returned from the market and was carrying on a conversation with his wife while sitting in a chair, when he suddenly fell from the chair and was dead when picked up. He had a large number of friends among both white and colored, who regret to learn of his death. The funeral was held this afternoon and the remains laid to rest in the City Cemetery. Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 July 1914, p.1, col.6.

“Negro Killing on Main Street,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 20 August 1914, p.3, col.5.  
Asia Johnson, Elija Ransom.

Uncle Jack Johns, a well known colored man of the county and a resident of the Harvey community for forty years died Saturday night and was buried Sunday at Roan’s Chapel. Before the war he belonged to the Dansby and Cole families and came to Brazos County with them from Cass County in 1868. He was a good man and law abiding citizen and had many friends among both white and colored. He raised a large family and his wife and six children are still living. Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 October 1914, page 3, col.2.