

Batts Ferry Neighborhood

compiled by Bill Page

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Batt's Ferry was located on the Brazos River, in the southern part of Brazos County. A small community grew up around the ferry.

Batts Ferry was the terminus of a proposed road from Bryan to the Brazos River in 1872. The ferry was operated by Jesse Batts. (Brazos County Commissioners Minutes, Book B, page 209).

A Negro named Charlie Robinson was drowned in the Brazos River at Batte's Ferry Saturday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 July 1895, page 3, col.1.

In a difficulty over a game of cards near Batte's ferry one of the Negroes, named Sam Jackson was shot twice and probably fatally wounded. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 26 November 1896, page 7, col.2

Ed Hefley, colored, has surrendered to the authorities of Burleson County for the shooting of Sam Jackson, another Negro, near Batte's Ferry Sunday afternoon. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 26 November 1896, page 7, col.4

Bryan, Tex., Aug. 1 – Reports from all points on the Brazos River late this evening say that the flood is receding rapidly ... At Battes Ferry, in the lower bottom, a fall of eight inches is reported and the water is running down rapidly ... Dallas Morning News, 2 August 1902, page 3

The members of the Brazos and Burleson County Commissioners' courts will visit Batte's Ferry Friday to investigage conditions there with a view to the proposed new bridge across the Brazos. A barbecue will be given them on the plantation of T.R. Batte. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 May 1903, p.2, col.3

The members of the Brazos and Burleson County Commissioners' courts, members of the Bryan business league, business men and other citizens of the town and county interested spent the day yesterday at Batte's Ferry looking over the ground and considering the proposition to bridge the Brazos River at or near that point. The necessity for such a bridge is generally conceded, and there is no question but what the people desiring it most are entitled to it. The authorities have so far shown a willingness to do all they can in the matter and we hope they will see their way clear to carry out the project without delay. One of the enjoyable features of the day was a fine barbecue served on the plantation of T.R. Batte. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 June 1903, p.5, col.4

Bryan ... At the meeting of the Bryan Business League ... a number of important matters were discussed for developing the trade of the town and committees appointed to look after them. Among them was a proposition to petition the Commissioners' Court to lease the Pitts Ferry toll bridge and the Battes Ferry on the Brazos River, between Brazos and

Burleson Counties and make both of them free, as an inducement to bring trade to Bryan. This will likely be done Dallas Morning News, 4 August 1903, p.10.

A petition to the commissioners court to lease the Pitts Bridge and Batte's Ferry, and make both free to the public, in accordance with the plans outlined at the last meeting of the business league, has been circulated and liberally signed on the streets the past two days. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 August 1903, p.5, col.1

Henry Hodges and Frank Wilson were here from Batte's Ferry yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 29 September 1904, page 6

W.H. Bell of Batte's Ferry was in town yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 November 1904, page 2

Mrs. Frank Wilson and children of Batte's Ferry were in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 1 December 1904, page 2

Bryan ... The Commissioners' Court has also leased the Batte's ferry, lower down the river, from T.R. Batte and will operate the same free to the public. ... Galveston Daily News, 26 February 1905, page ? [on page with Denderine ad]

"Battes Ferry," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 August 1905, p.1, col.4. It is in good shape.

"Volney McLendon," Brazos Pilot, 24 August 1905, page 5. Died at Batte's Ferry.

T.W. Worthington was here from the Batte's Ferry neighborhood yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 January 1907, page 7

*John Woods, an African American, was killed near Batte's Ferry. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 October 1907, page 7

John Woods, colored, living on the J.W. Coulter farm in the Brazos bottom was shot last night by the officers while resisting arrest. Woods is wanted in Limestone County for carrying a pistol and when the officers went to his house to place him under arrest, resisted and was shot. A telephone message from there today stated that he was still alive, but his wounds were fatal. Brazos Pilot, 3 October 1907, p.7