

Durazno Plantation
Brazosport Archeological Society



Photo Durazno Plantation Front Gates¹

Emily Austin Perry inherited a large portion of Stephen F. Austin's 7 1/3 League grant west of the Brazos River on gulf prairie after the death of her brother Stephen F. Austin in December 1836. In 1840 only six miles from the Gulf of Mexico William Joel Bryan established the Durazno Plantation² on a portion of this property. Family tradition relates that Stephen F. Austin had already set this property aside for William J. Bryan before his death though it was not deeded over to him until 1847. The plantation was located southeast of Peach Point Plantation, James F. and Emily A. Perry's residence.

Married in 1840 William Joel Bryan and his wife Lavinia K. Perry would raise a family and maintain ownership of the plantation until almost the turn of the century. Maintained with a small slave population in the 1840's cotton was the principal cash crop while a sugar mill was built in the 1850's. The plantation home was a modest one storey wood frame as were the slave quarters and office building while their sugar mill had been built out of brick. Additional tracts of land were inherited and added to Durazno after the death of Emily A. Perry in 1851.

Four of William J. and Lavinia Bryan's sons served during the Civil War. After the war the Bryan family turned to the raising of livestock and later tenant farming which benefited the family much better than many of their neighbors who continued to rely only on cane and cotton production going bankrupt in the process.

May 1895 William J. Bryan deeded 530 acres comprising the Durazno Plantation over to his son Samuel I. Bryan. After the death of Samuel I. Bryan in 1909 the property was inherited by Louella Stratton Bryan Burroughs his daughter and Samuel I. Stratton his nephew. The southwestern half of the property on which the main residence rested along with a major portion

¹ Photo 2000.008p.0093 date unknown available from the Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas. Gates opened to a road which ran south of the original plantation main home structure.

² Durazno is the Spanish word for peach.

of the slave quarter row remained with heirs of the Bryan family until 1928 when it was sold to R. E. L. Stringfellow. Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs retained the northeastern half which contained the sugar mill and a portion of the slave quarter row until her death when Terese Lewis Learned inherited the property.

The original plantation home was replaced in 1909. This construction incorporated part of the original log kitchen and office building. Mrs. Nannie Stringfellow's sister Pollye M. Beacroft and her husband Percival T. Beacroft renovated this structure after WWII. This structure burned to the ground July 18, 1991 during an additional renovation. Percival T. Beacroft Jr. inherited the original home site from his mother Pollye Maddox Beacroft in 1983 and deeded it over to Troy Beacroft the current owner in 2005.

Stephen F. Austin had started his colony in Texas in the hope of establishing a new beginning for his family he had left in Missouri, especially his brother James E. B. Austin (1803-1829) and his sister Emily Margaret Bryan Perry (1795-1851). After much pleading on the part of Stephen F. Austin, June 7, 1831 Emily and James Franklin Perry (1795-1853) with their family and eight slaves left Potosi, Missouri for Texas. Emily had three sons and a daughter by a previous marriage to James Bryan (1788-1822), William Joel Bryan (1815-1903), Moses Austin Bryan (1817-1875), Guy Morrison Bryan (1821-1901) and Mary Elizabeth Bryan (1822-1833) which would come to Texas. Eliza Margaret Perry (1828-1862) and Stephen Samuel Perry (1824-1874) two of her children by James F. Perry along with Lavinia Perry (1813-1872) a niece of James F. Perry would also make the trip to Texas³. At first the family resided at San Felipe de Austin. The next year they settled on Chocolate Bayou before moving to the west side of the Brazos River in the gulf prairie area to establish Peach Point Plantation before Christmas 1832⁴.

During the cholera epidemic of 1833 many of the family and slave population were ill. August 4, 1833 eleven year old Mary Elizabeth Bryan perished and her burial would be the first at the family burying ground which would become the Gulf Prairie Cemetery⁵.

Stephen F. Austin wrote to James F. Perry in 1834 expressing his expectations for the Bryan brothers: "Joe must be a good "planter", Austin a good "merchant", and Guy a good "lawyer". Let them bear this in mind."⁶ The cultivation of corn and cotton were most important in the early years of the Peach Point Plantation. William J. Bryan seemed to take to his agricultural pursuits as James F. Perry commented to Stephen F. Austin the next spring: "Joel is attending the farm and I think will make a good Farmer."⁷

Commerce was slowly expanding up until the Texas Revolution in 1835-1836. While the family fled as part of the Runaway Scrape William Joel and Moses Austin Bryan served in the Texas Army. William Joel Bryan was at the siege of Bexar with uncle, Stephen F. Austin as commander in 1835. He was with Sam Houston as the Texas Army retreated but caught a case of the measles⁸ and did not participate in the Battle of San Jacinto⁹. Moses Austin Bryan, also at

³ Jones, Marie Beth, Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, p.25.

⁴ Ibid. pp. 25-32.

⁵ Ibid. pp. 34-39.

⁶ Barker, Eugene C. ed., Letter Stephen F. Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, November 6, 1834, The Austin Papers, Vol. III, Oct. 1834-Jan. 1837, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington D. C., 1924-1928, p. 21.

⁷ Ibid., Letter James F. Perry, Peach Point, March 5th, 1835, pp. 71-72..

⁸ Ibid., "We are in tolerable good health except Joel." Letter James F. Perry to Stephen F. Austin, Lynch's Ferry, April 8, 1836, pp. 326-327.

⁹ The HandBook of Texas Online "William Joel Bryan", <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/fbrat.html> (accessed November 2, 2008).

Bexar participated during the Battle of San Jacinto and served as interpreter for Sam Houston as he interviewed the captured General Antonio López de Santa Anna after the battle¹⁰.

After Texas gained its independence and the family had returned to Peach Point William Joel Bryan became the overseer for the plantation. He was credited with \$800 for service in “1837 & 1836” and 1838 & 1839¹¹.

January 1838 Mary Austin Holley came to visit Peach Point and recorded in her diary:

Jan. 9th

Morning cloudy, wind north—good fire nessary at night. 140 acres—20 hands—Mr. Perry’s farm...¹²

Jan. 14th

Took a walk over the plantation & to the cotton gin. Hate to see so much cotton left in the field. They say it is not worth picking. The stalk is big as a man’s head—large as my wrist—the soil quite black—peach land.

The negroes have each a cotton patch—their cotton is ginned after that of the master & sold with his. Some of them make \$70 per year...

The negroes have good cabins & good clothes—2 or 3 suits per year...¹³

Jan. 24th

Started on horseback, with Mrs. Perry, for Quintana. The road lying all through the prairie...we passed his (Stephen F. Austin) chosen spot on this Earth, where he & I were to have our paradise—beautiful indeed it is, diversified with copse & lawn; but how changed to me! This lovely tract now belongs to Joel Bryan, an excellent young man...¹⁴

Previous to Mary Austin Holley’s visit Emily M. Perry had visited their relatives in the north and with each letter home to her husband the instructions for the preparations for Mary A. Holley’s future visit were more precise and exacting. In June 1837 she wrote home, “If you should have carpenter’s employed, I wish you to have a *Necessary House* built in the Back Yard, in the corner of the Fence by the Lane, and on a line with the Hen-House, it can be set over the Dich: these *City Dames* will think it Horrible to run into the *Woods*...”¹⁵ James F. Perry must have followed instructions as Mary makes no note in her diary of any necessary trips to the woods due to a lack of accommodations. I am sure the “facilities” were much the same at her brother Henry Austin’s Bolivar Plantation.

William Joel Bryan and Lavinia K. Perry, his cousin by marriage, were married by the Minister Frances Rutherford April 7, 1840 and settled on the property that had been set aside for him establishing Durazno Plantation. They would have four sons and a daughter born to them in the 1840’s, James Perry (1841-1920), Guy Morrison Jr. (1843-1921), Samuel Irvin (1844-1909), Moses Austin Jr. (1845-1894), and Mary Amantha (1847-1867).

Moses A. Bryan wrote to James F. Perry July 1840 indicating “Joel is building his pens & c. at Durazno”.¹⁶ Eliza M. Perry wrote in Oct 1843 Joel was “improving his place still”.¹⁷ A successful hunt

¹⁰ The HandBook of Texas Online “Moses Austin Bryan”,

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/fbrar.html> (accessed November 2, 2008).

¹¹ Curlee, Abigail, “The History of a Texas Slave Plantation 1831-1863” MA Thesis, June 1922, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, p. 56.

¹² Bryan, J. P., Ed., *Mary Austin Holley, The Texas Diary, 1835-1838*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1965, p.48.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p.50.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p.52.

¹⁵ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, p.80.

¹⁶ James F. Perry Papers, Letter Moses Austin Bryan to James F. Perry, July 4, 1840

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Letter Eliza M. Perry to Stephen S. Perry, October 16, 1843.

made by Joel Bryan, James F. Perry, White and Hancock in the fall of 1843. They killed two bears, the larger of which weighed 400 pounds.¹⁸

In April, 1842 William J. Bryan is debited in the Peach Point Record Book with \$1000 paid to Hopkins for “negress Ann and child” and \$3000 paid to Dr. Smith for “negress Tamar, negroes Donor & George.” On the same day Joel, is again debited with \$1000 to Emily Perry for boy Frank.¹⁹ Not owning many slaves himself, William J. Bryan hired hands in 1844 Frank George, Clenen, Bob, Mary, and Silvy to assist with his cotton. The next year he hired Sam, Allen, Purnell, Westley, Ben, John, Ned, and Bill a total of sixty-two days to gin and bale his cotton.²⁰ These slaves were from Peach Point.

M-²¹

Emily M. Perry July 1847 “for the further consideration of the natural affection & love which I have and bear unto my son William Joel Bryan” deeded over almost 5600 acres out of the Peach Point Tract and Stephen F. Austin Prairie League on which the Durazno Plantation rested.²²



Durazno 1847 Map 1879 Texas General Land Office

¹⁸ Ibid., Letter Emily M. Perry to Stephen S. Perry, November 26, 1843.

¹⁹ Curlee, Abigail, “The History of a Texas Slave Plantation 1831-1863” MA Thesis, June 1922, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, p. 51.

²⁰ Ibid. pp. 53- 54.

²¹ William Joel Bryan Brand registered October 6, 1840.

²² Brazoria County Deed Records: D 468/70, County Clerks Office, Angleton, Texas.

The 1850 Census lists Wm. Joel Bryan as a farmer with 8 slaves and his household:

William Joel Bryan	35 M Missouri
Lavinia K.	32 F Ohio
James P.	9 M Texas
Guy M.	7 M Texas
Samuel J.	6 M Texas
Moses A.	5 M Texas
Mary A.	3 F Texas
Augustus Tennis	25 M Germany

The 1850 tax rolls list him with 5600 acres of land, 30 head of horses, and 4500 head of cattle. Prosperity was slowly beginning to build at Durazno although the 1850 Agricultural Census only lists 80 acres under cultivation with \$200 worth of farm machinery and \$2000 being the value of his plantation. Livestock listed on the plantation were 80 horses, 7 mules, 50 milk cows, 12 oxen, 6000 head of cattle, and 100 hogs. His produce for his 1849 crop was 2500 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, 500 bushels sweet potatoes, 312 pounds of butter, and 2 tons of hay. Their home was a one storey wood structure facing the south with a long porch stretching across the front. A pair of tall pillars flanked the entrance gate. Near the residence were an office and a school house. Other buildings were slave cabins, smoke house, carriage house, stables, and later in the 1850's a brick sugar mill.²³



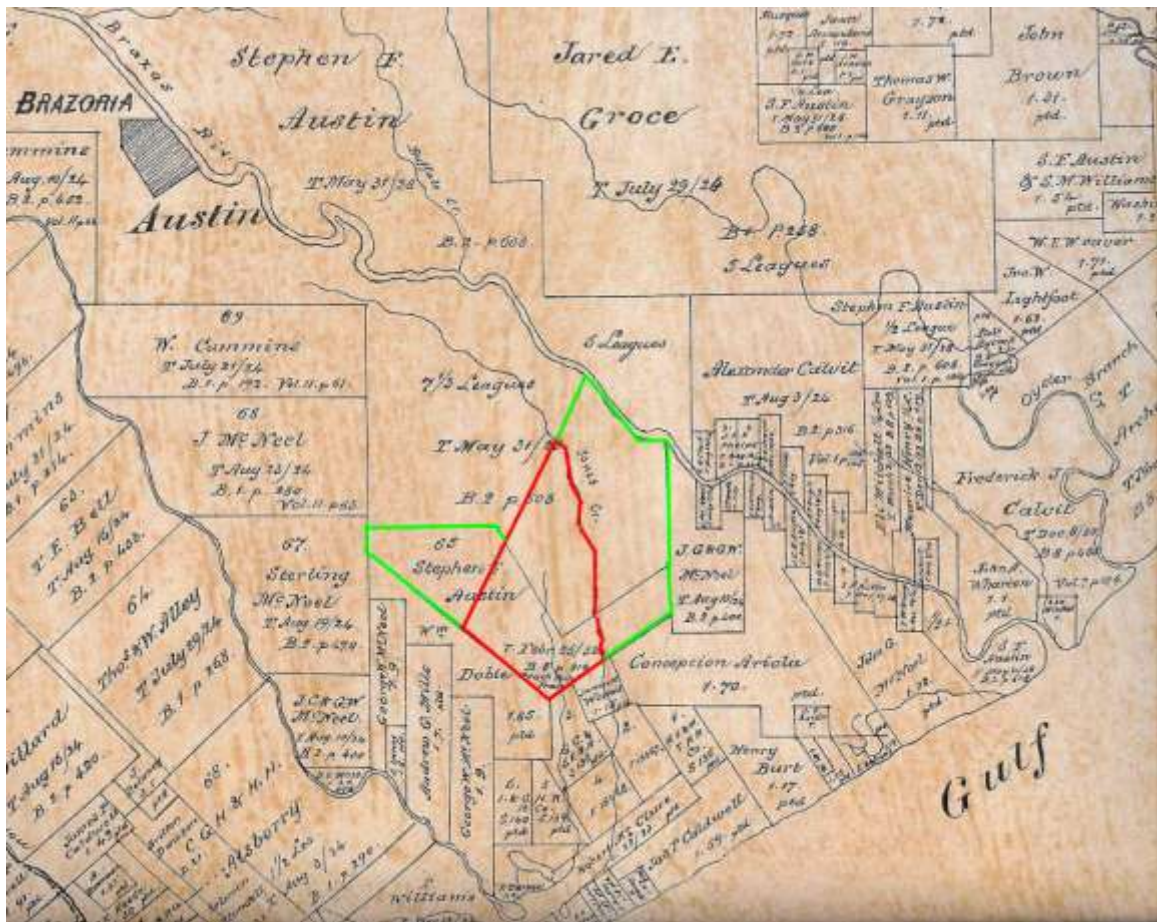
Photo William Joel Bryan at Durazno Plantation Unknown Date
Courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas²⁴

²³ Platter, Allen Andrew, "Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas", Doctor of Education Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, August 1961, p. 112.

²⁴ Photo 1986.049p.0024 date unknown available from the Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas.

In July 1851 after making a trip to the east coast to consult doctors in Philadelphia Emily M. Perry returned to Peach Point while her health continued to fail. August 1851 she died and was buried in the family cemetery. In the summer of 1853 James F. Perry took his daughter Eliza to Biloxi, Mississippi to seek a physician's care for her. They were joined by his son Henry. Yellow fever broke out that summer and James F. Perry and his son Henry Austin both died during the epidemic. Though both were buried together in the same coffin their remains were never found nor brought back to Peach Point.²⁵

Emily M. Perry's estate distributed her land holdings among her children July 1854. William Joel Bryan received two additional tracts of land from the Peach Point Tract and the Stephen F. Austin Prairie League adjacent to his current holdings as well as many other tracts of land and many lots in the town of Quintana.²⁶



Durazno 1854 Map 1879 Texas General Land Office

²⁵ Jones, Marie Beth, Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, pp 124-125 & 128-130.

²⁶ BCDR: G 1-14.

A sugar mill had been built at Peach Point in 1851 and somewhat later a mill was built at Durazno. The first crop listed was 150 hogsheads using steam power in 1858²⁷. In 1860 a poor year for all of Brazoria County the production was down to 50 hghds²⁸.



Photo Durazno Sugar Mill Unknown Date Possibly after Hurricane Damage
Courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum²⁹

January 1859 while William Joel Bryan was trying to expand he mortgaged the whole Durazno Plantation amounting to almost 9000 acres to Morgan L. Smith of the Waldeck Plantation for \$13,899.87.³⁰ Previously he and his brother Guy M. Bryan had attempted to purchase the Waldeck Plantation the most expensive sugar operation in the county for \$132,000 in 1856³¹. In 1857 they deeded the property back over to Morgan L. Smith probably thinking better of their extravagance³².

The 1860 Census lists William Joel Bryan as a planter with real estate valued at \$176,000 and personal wealth at \$62,320:

William Joel Bryan	45 M Missouri
Lavinia K.	40 F Ohio
J. P.	19 M Texas
Guy M.	17 M Texas
Saml.	15 M Texas
M.A.	13 M Texas
Mary A.	12 F Texas
Erin	7 M Texas
Lavinia P.	5 F Texas

²⁷ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1858-59, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1859.

²⁸ Champomier, P. A., Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana in 1860-61, With An Appendix, New Orleans, 1861.

²⁹ Photo 1983.015p.0002 date unknown available from the Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas.

³⁰ BCDR: J 65/69.

³¹ BCDR: G 572/76.

³² BCDR: H 309/11

The 1860 Agricultural Census taken June 1, 1860 lists 300 acres improved and the value of the plantation at \$160,000 with \$16,000 being the value of his farm machinery principally his sugar mill. His production for 1859 was 4000 bushels of corn, 30 of peas, 60 of Irish potatoes, 3000 of sweet potatoes, 85 hogsheads of sugar, and 12,000 gallons of molasses. Livestock listed are 75 horses, 50 mules, 40 milk cows, 14 oxen, 300 head of cattle, and 100 hogs. The tax records for 1860 list 40 slaves, 100 head of horses, and 3000 head of cattle in addition to several thousands of acres of land. The 1860 Slave Census lists 37 slaves with 10 slave quarters. With the addition of sugar as a cash crop the increase in manpower was necessary. In 1851 his brother Guy M. Bryan, although not a planter, purchased nine slaves in Baltimore and sent eight to be kept at Durazno: "...I have purchased (9) nine altogether. One family of eight, man, wife, & 6 children & a fine young man of 27, a cooper, for the whole I gave \$2600. The family are on their way to Joel, the Cooper I shall take with me South..."³³ From 1853 to 1858 the number of slaves on the tax rolls increased from 21 to 45.

With the outbreak of the Civil War James Perry Bryan, Samuel Irvin Bryan, Guy M. Bryan Jr., and Moses Austin Bryan Jr. all joined the Confederacy. Both James Perry Bryan and Samuel Irvin Bryan were members of Terry's Texas Ranger Company B. August 1861 William J. Bryan pledged 100 beeves and his entire crop to the Confederacy³⁴ and at his own expense, he fed Southern troops stationed at the mouth of the Brazos during the war. Due to fears of a Federal attack along the coast and problems with the Confederate troops stationed along the coast both Peach Point and Durazno were abandoned by the women, children, and slaves who were sent to the interior of Texas on several occasions. From early 1863 until near the war's end the families lived near Independence, Texas. Confederate troops would be stationed at Peach Point and Durazno.³⁵ In a letter H.L. Brown wrote "Joel's crop looks awful & he will not make hardly any corn & scarcely and cane at all as he has not had any rain at all..."³⁶ William Joel became so annoyed at this situation that in 1864 he told Hiram Brown that he planned to move Lavinia and his younger children back to Durazno in the fall, and to "stay here until the Yankees come & drive him off. He puts down the damages he has sustained by moving at \$50,000.00."³⁷

Directly after the Civil War records are sketchy as to how Durazno was maintained. With the loss of their labor force the crops would have to be planted and harvested by paid labor. This was done at Peach Point by Stephen S. Perry on a somewhat amicable basis. Perhaps this was the case at Durazno. In 1865 William J. Bryan granted the Houston and Texas Central Railroad a right-of-way across his lands in Brazos County, and a projected townsite, later called Bryan, was named in his honor.³⁸

October 1872 Lavinia K. Bryan died after having visited physicians in the north the year before. Her health had continued to fail after her return to Texas³⁹.

Sugar may still have been produced in 1875. In September 1875 a hurricane hit Indianola also bringing havoc to coastal Brazoria County. The following newspaper report lists some of the damage:

³³ Platter, Allen Andrew, "Educational, Social, and Economic Characteristics of the Plantation Culture of Brazoria County, Texas", Doctor of Education Dissertation, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, August 1961, p. 113.

³⁴ *Democrat and Planter*, August 13, 1861, Columbia, Texas

³⁵ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, pp.143-146.

³⁶ James F. Perry Papers Letter H. L. Brown to his sister Sarah Brown Perry Gulf Prairie, July 24, 1864.

³⁷ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, p. 148.

³⁸ The HandBook of Texas Online "William Joel Bryan",

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/fbrat.html> (accessed November 2, 2008).

³⁹ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, pp. 162-163.

The sugar mills at the Widow Stephen Perry's plantation, and those of Greenville McNeill and Joel Bryan, all the sugar houses are down, and nothing but wreck shows itself.

At the old R. & D. G. Mills place, known as "Lowerwood," the sugar and other houses down.

Col. Hawkins' sugar house, on the Caney, was demolished, and the same can be said of Col. Sharp's place, at Chenago.⁴⁰

Sarah reported the loss at Peach Point at \$5000 to \$6000, but she reported that Joel Bryan's losses "were much heavier as he lost a great deal of livestock he estimates at \$30,000⁴¹. This indicates that Joel had been running a large amount of cattle on Gulf Prairie before the storm. Tax records for the early 1870's indicate he had 2500 head of cattle, 100 head of horses, and 100 sheep on Durazno.

By the 1880's the running of Durazno was turned over to William J. Bryan's son Samuel Irvin Bryan. Several of the Durazno log books with S. I. Bryan on their covers indicate that from March 1882-March 1884 he was employing 25-35 workers on the property at from wages 25-60 cents per day depending on their job. Later ledgers from the 1890's list what must be tenant farmers or sharecroppers living on the property with some these having debits for their transportation from other states in the south to Texas⁴².

In 1895 William Joel Bryan deeded the Durazno Plantation containing 530 acres over to his son Samuel Irvin Bryan who had married Sarah Emily Stratton (1847-1924)⁴³. Before his death March 3, 1903 Joel divided the rest of his lands among his many heirs in 1897⁴⁴.



Photo William Joel Bryan and Four of His Sons Front of Durazno 1897⁴⁵
James P. Bryan, Guy M. Bryan, Samuel I. Bryan, Erin E. Bryan

⁴⁰ *Houston Daily Telegraph*, September 22, 1875

⁴¹ Jones, Marie Beth, *Peach Point Plantation The First 150 Years*, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1982, p. 165.

⁴² Mrs. G. W. Adriaance Collection, Durazno Ledger or Log Books, 5 Volumes, Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas.

⁴³ BCDR: 31 476/77.

⁴⁴ BCDR: 40 26/30.

⁴⁵ Photo 1983.012p.0016 courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum.

When Samuel Irvin Bryan died December 6, 1909 he left Durazno to his daughter Louella Stratton Bryan Burroughs (1869-1943) and a nephew Samuel Irwin Stratton (1879-1929). Louella had been married at Durazno in 1893.



Photo Wedding Col. James M. Burroughs & Louella Stratton Bryan Durazno Plantation 1893⁴⁶

Perhaps because the two cousins could not reach an agreement about how to equally share the lands a law suit partitioned the 530 acres in 1924 with Samuel I. Stratton receiving 265 acres from the southwest side of the property which contained the original home site along with most of the slave quarters and Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs receiving the northwest 265 acres which contained a portion of the slave quarter row and the site of the sugar mill. She also received ownership of several tenant homes which were in both halves of the property⁴⁷.

After the death of Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs the northeast half of the property was passed to Terese Lewis Learned wife of A. C. Learned a great granddaughter of Joel Bryan.

⁴⁶ Photo 1983.015p.007 courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum.

⁴⁷ BCDR: 187 341/44.



Aerial Google Earth Durazno Plantation 530 Acres

In the early 1970's Percival T. Beacroft Jr. inherited the southwest 265 acres from his Aunt Nannie Stringfellow and in 1988 started working on the grounds and preparing the home which he hoped to open to the public. July 18, 1991 this home burned to the ground⁴⁸. This tract of land is now owned by Troy R. Beacroft.

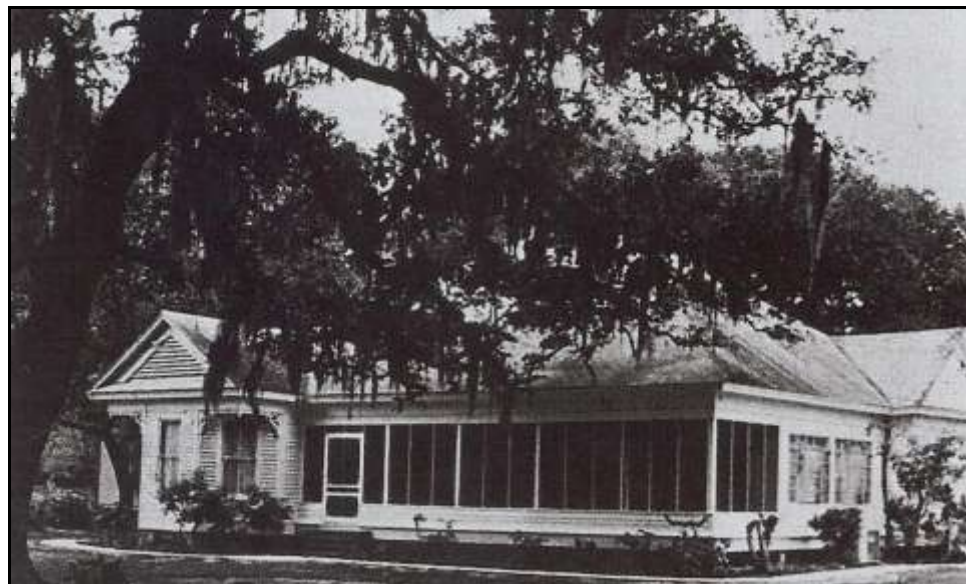


Photo by Timothy Patout Durazno 1989⁴⁹

⁴⁸ *The Brazosport Facts*, July 20, 1991.

⁴⁹ Armstrong, Anabelle, "Durazno Plantation", "Heritage" Texas Historical Foundation, Texas A& M University, College Station, Texas, Winter 1989.



Photo Durazno Back March 1986 Courtesy of W. Sue Gross



The Brazosport Facts, July 20, 1991

Over the years most of the early 1800 structures had been demolished. The original home stood until ~1909. Below are photos from unknown dates taken at Durazno courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum.



Photo Durazno Front View 2000.08p.0092 Brazoria County Historical Museum



Photo William Joel Bryan Front of Durazno 1983.012p.0023 BCHM

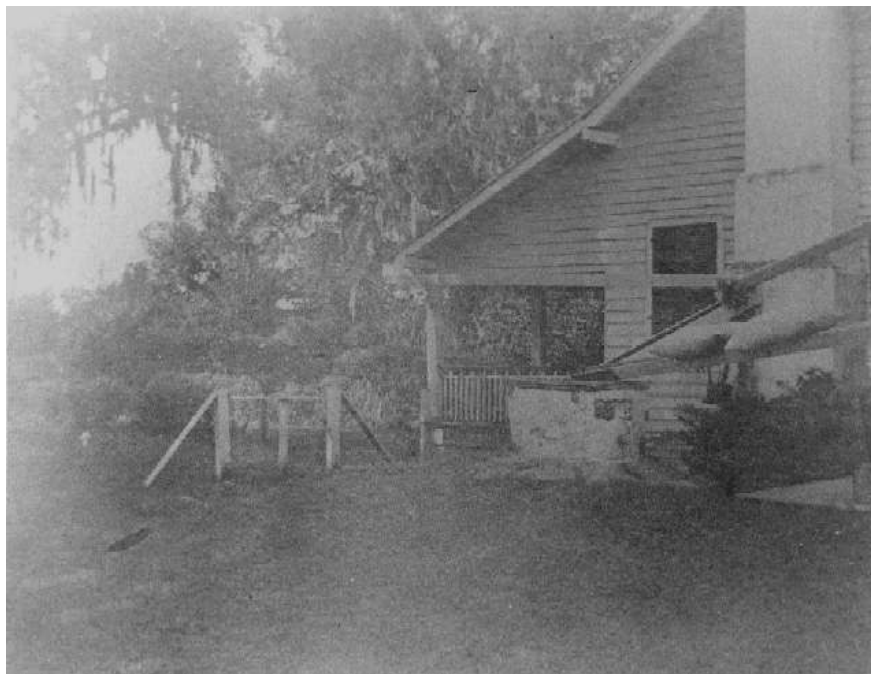


Photo Durazno East Side 2000.008p.0094 BCHM



Photo Durazno West Side 2000.008p.0095 BCHM

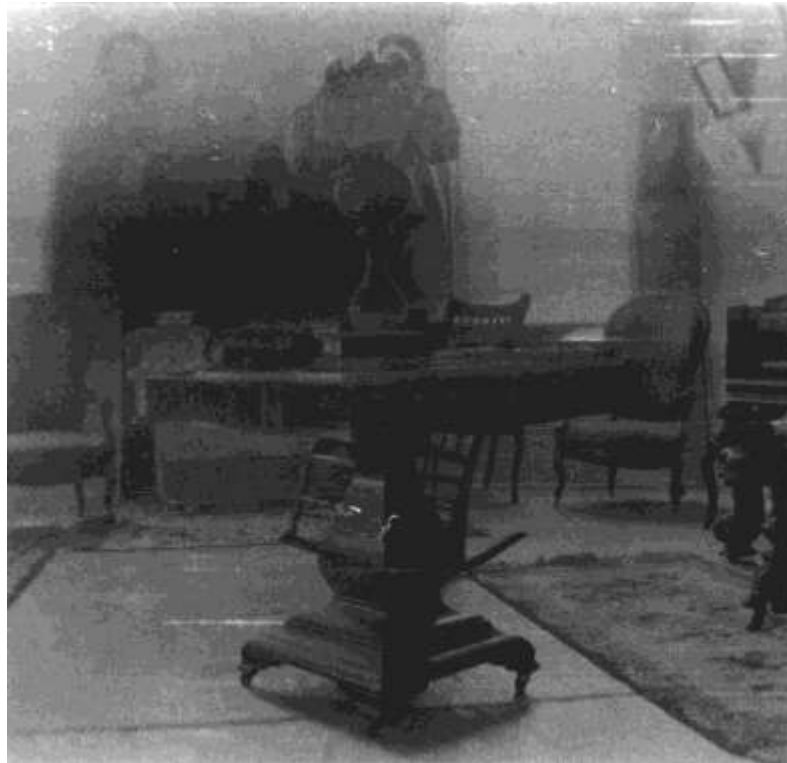


Photo Durazno Parlor Interior 1983.012p.0018 BCHM



Photo Durazno Parlor Interior 1983.012p.0017 BCHM



Original Furniture Durazno Plantation Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, Texas



Photo Durazno Office Building 1983.015p.0003 BCHM



Photo Grave Site William Joel Bryan Gulf Prairie Cemetery October 2008 (JL Smith)



Photo Grave Site William Joel Bryan Gulf Prairie Cemetery October 2008(JL Smith)

Only a few reminders of Durazno survive. The cistern that sat just east of the original main house and part of one of the gate posts remained in 1986.



Photo of Cistern Next to Original Home July 1985 Courtesy W. Sue Gross

Brick rubble along the slave quarter row indicated where fireplaces once stood and another cistern stood in a field in the northeast 265 acre tract. The slave quarter row also extended into this tract.

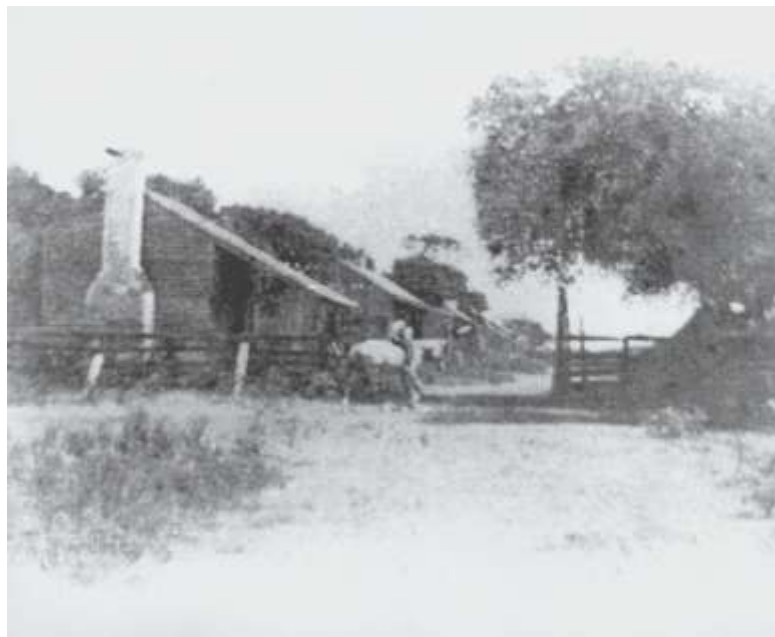


Photo Durazno Plantation Slave Quarter Row 1983.012p.0019 BCHM

The first slave cabin in the row near the gate was once restored but burned in 1959. It was described as a one room structure built around 4 live oak or bois d'arc timbers sunk into the ground and with framing placed around them. A door and a window faced south and another door was in the north wall. A fireplace occupied the west wall. The room measured 10' x 10' and the floor was about 12" off the ground.



Photo Slave Quarter Structured Restored but Burned July 1985 Courtesy of W. Sue Gross



Photo Cistern in NE Tract July 1985 Courtesy of W. Sue Gross

A log carriage house, later used as a smoke house, still stood being used as a storage shed, but was covered with weather boards early in the 1900's. It was located northeast of the cistern near the gate to the slave quarter row. Deep in a wooded area in the northeast 265 acre tract are the ruins of the brick sugar mill. Approximately 200 meters northwest of the home site is the unmarked slave cemetery. Buried there are members of the Hobbs, Edwards, and Hardman families, all of whom served the Bryans.



Photo July 1985 Courtesy of W. Sue Gross



Photo Durazno Front Yard William Joel Bryan
Trees were still there in 1986.

Appendix A Deed Records

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Month	Day	Year	Acres	Description
Mexican Government	Stephen F. Austin	Deed	B	608	May	31	1828		Stephen F. Austin 7 1/3 League Tract
Emily Bryan Perry	William Joel Bryan	Deed	D	468	July	28	1847	5600	SE corner of Stephen F. Austin 7 1/3 League Tract
Estate Emily Bryan Perry	William Joel Bryan	Deed	G	1/14	July	7	1854	943	Division of property with many different tracts with 2000 + 943 acres next to Durazno
William Joel Bryan	Morgan L. Smith	Mortgage	J	65/69	Jan	1	1859	8543	\$13,899.87 3 tracts of land now making Durazno Plantation
Morgan L. Smith	William Joel Bryan	Release	M	355	Jan	5	1871		Note paid in full
William Joel Bryan	Samuel I. Bryan	Deed	31	476/77	May	18	1895	530	William J. to his son Samuel I Bryan \$1.00
Samuel I. Bryan	Guy M. Bryan Jr.	Deed	64	79/80	June	9	1903	64.7 acres	NW corner of 530 acre tract \$647
Lucy B. Hervey	Samuel I. Stratton & Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs	Deed	180	452/53	Dec	1	1923	64.7	same
Samuel I. Stratton & Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs	Mrs. Pearl Rucks	DT	35	373/75	Jan	1	1924	130	Mrs. Pearl Rucks \$1500 note
Samuel I. Stratton & Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs	E.H. Suhr	DT	36	183/85	June	7	1924	530	Secure \$1200 note to Wm. O. Gilbert
Samuel I. Stratton	Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs	D	187	341/44	Dec	29	1924	530	Suit Stratton vs Burroughs Equal division of 530 acres with Bryan receiving SW half & Burroughs NE half
Wm. O. Gilbert	Samuel I. Stratton	Release	37	202/03	Feb		1925	265	Released Bryan but Burroughs still owes \$1200
Mrs. Pearl Rucks	Samuel I. Stratton	Release	37	204/05	May	11	1925		Release DT
Mrs. Louella B. Burroughs	M. Gosset	DT	3	314/19	Dec	11	1925	265	Federal Land Bank Houston note \$4000
Samuel I. Stratton	Rosa Hill Stratton	Deed	197	530/31	June	4	1926	265	\$10.00 transferred to wife
Rosa Hill Stratton & Samuel I. Stratton	R. E. L. Stringfellow	Deed	209	3/4	May	26	1928	265	\$26500 SW half
Rosa Hill Stratton	Nannie M. Stringfellow	Release	768	224/26	April	12	1960	265	Note paid in full
Estate Louella B. Burroughs	Terese Lewis Learned							265	NW half
Estate of Polly Maddox Beacroft	Percival T. Beacroft Jr.						1983	265	SW half
Percival Beacroft Jr.	Troy R. Beacroft	WD			Feb	23	2005	265	SW half

Appendix B

William Joel Bryan (1815-1903)
m. Lavinia K. Perry (1813-1872)

- I. James Perry Bryan (1841-1920) m. Octavia Leverta Brown (1842-1929)
- II. Guy Morrison Bryan Jr. (1843-1921) m. Lucy Countes Falconer (1856-1882)
- III. Samuel Irvin Bryan (1844-1909) m. Sarah Emily Stratton (1847-1924)
- IV. Moses Austin Bryan Jr. (1845-1894) m. Josephine Hart (1859-1928)
- V. Erin Ernest Bryan (1852-1910) m. Nannie Frank Waldman (1851-1910)
- VI. Mary Amantha Bryan (1847-1867) m. Charles W. Truehart II (1837-1914)
- VII. Lavinia Perry Bryan (1854-1880) m. John Thomas Stratton (1849-1910)⁵⁰

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