

THE ROOTS OF JUNETEENTH

And

SAINT MARY'S COLONY

Keep Hope Alive!

Yes We Can!

Compiled by

Roscoe Overton, Sr.
2022

Major General Gordon Granger in Galveston on the 19th on June, 1865 Order Number 3. (Read the following)

“The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves as absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and the free laborer.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF JUNETEENTH

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth (June 19th) became an official Texas holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards; an African American state legislator from Houston, Texas. Across many parts of Texas, people pooled their funds to purchase land specifically for their communities and for large Juneteenth gatherings. Their purchases include Houston's Emancipation Park, Mexia's Booker T. Washington Park and Emancipation (Rosewood) Park in Austin.

According to author Keith Green, Juneteenth holiday is the oldest celebration of African American Emancipation in the United States. The first Juneteenth occurred on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger entered Galveston to inform the people of Texas that slavery was over.

A printed program (Exhibit A), was submitted by relative Patricia Ann Harris, revealing that the St. Mary's celebration on Overton's Grove could have been the first recorded Juneteenth Celebration outside of the Galveston initial event. The program states that on Tuesday, June 19, 1923, the people of St. Mary's Colony were celebrating their 57th Anniversary of Emancipation on the grounds of the Overton's Grove.

The great tragedy forever associated with Juneteenth is that the enslaved population of Texas—somewhere around 200,000 black folks—had already been freed earlier by the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and also by the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865. They were informed of their freedom roughly two and a half years after the fact. Even today, that hits at people's heartstrings.

Juneteenth Commemorates a day in 1865, so why has it gained prominences only recently?

We are at a moment of racial reckoning. We're seeing greater attention paid to African American displacement, discrimination, and mistreatment, well as a lot of conversation related to police brutality. There are Conversations about a definition of white supremacy that is more than simply the Ku Klux Klan or cross burning; they extended our educational system, our health care system, our standards of beauty, and how we teach history. When we understand history in those ways, Juneteenth makes perfect sense. Juneteenth stands for the fact that until all of us are free, none of us can be free. As long as there were people in Texas in 1865 who had not received their freedom, then we really couldn't have said that slavery had been abolished.

Today, we're reckoning with the idea that as long as we live in a world where George Floyd can be murdered in broad daylight, none of us can be free. That's not a world where any of us should feel content.

Another reason Juneteenth is being taught more now is because people are trying to recall those moments that tell us both how we got here. Juneteenth is a prime example of how freedom was delayed and denied. We're living in a moment where we can see how, again, freedom is still being delayed and denied.

The Willing to Explore

Long before Roots author Alex Haley traced his family lineage from his hometown of Henning, Tennessee, to Juffure, the Village in The Gambia, West Africa, Roscoe Overton wondered about the Overton family roots--1947. According to Roscoe, out of the blue, the question came up with Uncle Mike, a son of George Overton, "where did the Overton family come from?" Uncle Mike answered—"Ros, I don't know, but they tell me, we came from Tennessee."

It was not until the early 1960s when Roscoe moved with his family (wife Johnnie and one son Rutherford) to Nashville, Tennessee, after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in the area of Industrial Education (Graphic Design) from Texas Southern University, and later to Memphis after receiving the master's degree in School Administration from Tennessee State University, Nashville that the Overton name became very noticeable in public places---a high school, museum and a park. However, it was not until the year 1984, when Roscoe started working for the Tennessee State Department of Commerce and Insurance as an Investigator (Ex. B), that he began researching data that was connecting his own family in Maha/Creedmoor, Texas and the Tennessee Overton name. His research took him from the libraries in Memphis and Nashville to the Texas State Archives, Travis County Courthouse in Austin, Texas and the Overton Plantation (Travelers Rest) Nashville, Tennessee.

After five years of research, Roscoe along with his cousin James K. Griffin, a fourth generation descendant of George Overton, who had moved to Memphis to join the pilot crew of the Federal Express Corporation presented to the plantation administration at Travelers Rest, preponderance of evidence that the Texas Overton's were indeed the freed slaves that left Travelers Rest in 1863, seeking a new life somewhere in a place called Texas. From the 1860 Census Tracts, Roscoe found former slaves, whose ages and race identification based on cross agency research and pass-down information by family members matched the following—Alfred, James, George, Mary Jane and Clora (Ex. C) The research further revealed that Alfred was married to a lady named Martha Davis, prior to leaving Tennessee.

St. Mary's Colony and Mary Doyle

Fifty years later the Overton's appear in connection with Mary Doyle and St. Mary's Colony. Saint Mary's Colony does not appear on county highway maps. It is near Lytton Springs, Texas, 17 miles west of Bastrop on State Highway 21, on the St. Mary's Road, that dead end at the church and cemetery.

Mary Doyle's devotion to the Catholic Church and concern for her former slaves was affirmed by giving the farm to Father Edwards Sorin of St. Edward's University and remittance of the note she held against Father Sorin for payment due on the Doyle Farm. She wanted the land to be devoted to the interests of her farm people—the freedmen, the formerly enslaved persons who had been



Mary Doyle (b. 1805 d. 1873), Author of Last Will & Testament

Mary Doyle

released from slavery who were living on the Mary Doyle farm or who had formerly lived there. She also willed property to Albina, wife of grandson James P. McArthur and to William E. Sneed, husband of her granddaughter. It was her grandson James P. McArthur, who sold property to George Overton, (Ex. 7), that was filed with the City of Austin, county of Travis, February 7, 1874.

Research further revealed that the church and cemetery that were located on two tracts of property out of the James Doyle survey were given to Mary Jane Overton Patton, sister of George Overton, who in turn gave said property to the St. Mary Colony Community. A Baptist church (Ex. 8) was built

on a portion of the land she bequeathed which had become known as Saint Mary's Colony. Over time, the community grew to a population of more than 300. The cemetery, located on the east side of the Baptist Church, became the original graveyard for its residents; known as the Ates, Burse, Cavanaugh, Doyle, Freeman, Johnson, Landren, Overton, Patton, Rowe, Slaughter, Sneed, Swann, Watrous and Wilson.

Summary

Our research did not produce any printed information pertaining to how the naming of the picnic ground "Overton's Grove" became the official gathering location for the Juneteenth Celebration, located in the south west area of Bastrop County and extreme south west area of west Travis County—(See Exhibit 1). According to pass-down information, it was known that because George Overton was the only known freed slave to have purchased property; the name "Overton Grove" became affixed. However, we did locate and talk with Robbie Landren Jones, a relative and former resident of St. Mary's Colony and the only person we located to have witnessed participating in activities on the grounds of the Overton Grove; she remembered that she had been given a new flowered print dress for the occasion.

Conversations with previous generations who had migrated west to this area of Texas from Tennessee as freed slaves, (since Tennessee had freed slaves in January 1863 following the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation) had worked as house keepers and field hands and received pay from plantation owners as they migrated west.

From that new beginning with rich hope, the Overton families of generations to come have ventured into the professions of education, athletics, business and school administration, law, medicine, aviation, ministry, military services and other leadership capacities throughout these United States with pride and great admiration.

Finally we want to recognize the family pride by third and fourth generation of Overton's off-springs--namely Roscoe Overton, Sr., Edwin Smith and the late Andrew (Mac) Smith, as they set forth efforts to clean-up the cemetery (Ex. 10), and obtain a Historical Marker (Ex. 11), to forever recognize this small group of Overton's who journeyed from Travelers Rest, Tennessee, and exemplified the hope and arduous efforts to obtain a better life for their families. It is further hoped that this marker will forever be a reminder of those who labored and "felt in the days of old when hope unborn had died; yet, out from the gloomy past—Let us march on till victory is won."

On Thursday, June 17, 2021, the words of former President Barrack Obama, "yes we can," came alive when President Joe Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a Federal Holiday, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It is a day African Americans have celebrated yearly since the Civil War-era and the culmination of a decade-long effort by advocates to get national recognition for the momentous development in American history. According to Vice President Kamala Harris, "history of Juneteenth has been known by many names: Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, so, today,

June 17, 2022, "Juneteenth" has been declared a national holiday." Therefore, let us rejoice and express joy as we remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his closing statement at the March on Washington, D. C., August 28, 1963, as he quoted the words of the "Negro Spiritual," "Free at last, Free at Last, Thank God Almighty, we are Free at Last."

The words and lyrics stated by Rev. Jesse Jackson, Former President Barack Obama, John Weldon Johnson, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, were results of their theology schooling, other higher institutions of learning and understanding from variety of Church service practices, and community (local and abroad) organizations, family meal gatherings from which oftentimes bible verses were read and prayers were given. I am sure many pondered over the readings from the bible . . . "hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." –yes we can.

After these many years in which our ancestors, led by Alfred Overton, the older son of Emmaline, and during the period of 1863-1865, and after migrating to the State of Texas, they began to try and understand the complexity of their surroundings. There were other days of celebration such as; Sept. 22, 1862, the day Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation Order; the date Jan. 1, 1863 the day it took effect, and on Jan. 31 Congress officially abolished the institution of slavery, and on Dec. 6 the day the 13th Amendment was ratified.

My editorial, gives Texas a very low grade in explaining the reason for the delay in sharing the highly important news that the Civil War had ended, and all slave were free. On paper this meant, equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves and the relationship between the master and slave, now becomes the employer and hired hand. Our current and past history tell us that Texas has been a very adamant state when it comes to state issues; especially since June is one of the heavy crop gathering months, when slave labor is most needed; school districts initiatives being controlled via political re-districting.

Now, some 157 years later, are we able to celebrate a declaration of freedmen or just have a picnic gathering? Each family has to survey the joy, and measure how stony roads they have travelled. The Juneteenth can be defined yes many different ways—one family of five boys and four girls; three received the bachelor's degree; two received the master's degree (one also coached football) and one the doctorate; two retired with military honors as Lieutenant Colonels; other families progressed likewise—contract builders, yes, also ministers of various religious faiths, and many performed with their vocal musical talents. Community participation was a natural; Austin, Texas was the beneficiary; one led a motion to intervene the Austin Independent School Board desegregation suit to be granted; one organized a non-profit organization to help support Black parent and their students to learn the Spanish Language.

Therefore, it further appears that the Juneteenth will continue to be celebrated with joy and fun as new generations continue developing and organizing mutual interest, such as the Overton Enterprises, LLC, and the non-profit: the Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas. It is further hoped, that other races will realize how snafu their lives has been while communities of color has been seeking opportunities of growth.

EXHIBITS/REFERENCES:

Front Cover -- The Reverend Jesse Jackson—"Keep Hope Alive".

Front Cover -- Former President Barack Obama—"Yes We Can"

Reference Facebook —Keith Green, director of Africana Studies and professor of English at Rutgers University

Exhibit 4 -- Patricia A. Harris—Printed Juneteenth program, dated June 19, 1923.

Exhibit 5 -- News Article, Nashville, Tennessean Newspaper, date June 30, 1991.

Exhibit 6 -- First Generation Overton's of African heritage in our research findings—two brothers and wives; Alfred and George.

Exhibit 7 -- George Overton deed of property purchased, filed in Travis County, Texas, February 7, 1874.

Exhibit 8 & 9 -- Church and Cemetery built on two tracts of land bequeathed to St. Mary's Colony by Mary Jane Overton Patton.

Exhibit 10 -- Texas Historical Commission—Declaration of Dedication for Cemetery purposes dated and filed May 11, 2022.

Reference Facebook Facebook—Libby Cathey, June 17, 2022, Bill signed by President Joe Biden, making June 19th a Federal Holiday

Reference -- John Weldon Johnson—"Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing.

Reference Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.--- Speech, August 28, 1963.

Acknowledgments:

Poem—Edward Doyle, great great grandson of Alfred Overton

The Reverend Jon Chapman

National Black Presbyterian Caucus.

All Hands All Hands
 We the People of St. Mary's Church
 To Celebrate Our 57th Anniversary
 Day of Emancipation

OVERNIGHT PARTY TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH 1923

Free Barbecue and Basket Picnic
 Beef and Pork Ice Water Refresh-
 ments of all kinds. Dinner served
 promptly at 1:30 p. m. All invited

PROGRAMME

Working session opened by St. Mary's vocal band. John Brown
 Body Line Winding in the Olay. Prayer by Chaplain Rev. P. T.
 Taylor. Meeting of Carpenters by W. Cunningham. A table will be
 prepared for the ex-slaves. Order of day Rev. J. S. R. Taylor.

AMUSEMENTS

2:00 p. m. - Clay Root Shooting.
 3:00 p. m. - Base Ball St. Mary's vs. Kyle.
 3:30 p. m. - Horse Racing.
 5:30 p. m. - Apple race between school boys ages 10 to 12.
 Also the boys will climb the mast pole. Pillow fight will be
 pulled off after which program will be rendered by St. Mary
 and others. Mrs. Minnie Overton. Alice Smith, Beatrice Baker
 and Mrs. A. J. Davney will be attendants of Carpenters.

COMMITTEES

Addressing - Henry Foster, Noble Wren, Gilwell Smith, W.
 Overton, Gentry Redpath, Sam Brooks and Albert Arnold.
 Program - L. A. Rice, R. J. Patton and G. E. Devlin.
 Usher - Eddie Wilson, Sebron Smith and Abigail Overton.
 Carving - Roland Overton, Noble Wren, Horace Johnson, Luther
 Landre, Robert Anderson, Sam Brooks, E. Wilson, Simon
 Freeman and Israel Reed.
 Table Waiters - Harry Atas, Chairman, L. A. Rice, Marshall Patton
 Joseph Atas, Odell Foster, James Kimball, George Alexander,
 W. E. DeWitt, W. Overton, Lewis Patton, A. L. Sells, Geo.
 Washington, and Sebron Smith.
 Table Managers - Harry Atas and L. A. Rice.
 Grand Marshal - Marshall Patton.
 Cook - R. J. Patton.
 Deputy - Freeman Horton.

H. W. Patton, President. Israel Reed, Secy.
 Henry Patton, Treasurer.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1991

Memphis man uncovers roots at Travellers Rest

By RENEE ELDER

Staff Writer
Roscoe Overton followed a winding trail of census forms, birth records and "pass down" information before finally arriving home at Travellers Rest.

Five years of research led Overton to the conclusion that his family descended from slaves who worked on the Travellers Rest plantation. The family will have a reunion Friday at the historic home, which was built in 1799 by Judge John Overton, political adviser to President Andrew Jackson.

"When I first walked up to Tra-

vellers Rest, I got chills," Roscoe Overton said, recalling his first visit to the plantation after embarking on his family history quest.

"All I knew before I started looking was that my family had come to Texas from Tennessee right after the Civil War."

Travellers Rest was home to 63 slaves of black and mixed backgrounds at the time of the last pre-Civil War census—1860.

The fact that two of them—Martha and Alfred Overton—were ancestors of his own Texas clan took a lot of digging to uncover, Roscoe Overton said.

Overton, speaking from his home in Memphis, said it was a 1985 family reunion in Austin that sparked his interest in learning more about his family's roots.

"I went to the library and went through every county in the state of Tennessee, from the 1860 census on," he said.

"I found out that Col. John Overton was the largest Overton slave holder in Tennessee."

Overton compared the information he gleaned from the historical records with what little he knew from his own family history and finally found a match at Travellers

Rest.
"The likelihood just seems to be very strong that this is where they came from," said Ruth Warner, a descendant of the plantation owners and a volunteer researcher for the museum.

Roscoe Overton said he expected the visit of more than 200 members of his family to Travellers Rest to be a joyful experience.

Like many black families, the Texas Overtons never talked much about their history. That fact left Roscoe Overton, like many African-Americans, with no real sense of his own history, he said.

"There's nothing we can do about slavery now—what has happened is real," he said. "But knowing that history and seeing what our people came out of and what they've accomplished should make us feel good."

Warner said the museum staff and John Overton family descendants were excited about the new aspect Roscoe Overton's discovery had added to research at Travellers Rest.

Will Hendricks, executive director of Travellers Rest, said the mu-

► Turn to PAGE 2B, Column 3

Memphis man digs up family ties to Travellers Rest

FROM PAGE 1B

seum staff had not delved much into the history of slaves at the site until Roscoe Overton spurred them on.

"Prior to Roscoe's contacting us, we had not done a very good job of learning about the black history of the site," he said.

The site of the plantation's slave quarters was lost when a portion of the plantation was sold to the L&N Railroad. It is now being used as a parking lot of freight cars, Warner said.

However, existing research into the period prior to the mid-1800s may help enlighten the Texas Over-

tons about their ancestors even further back in history, Hendricks said.

Travellers Rest was a large cotton plantation and fruit orchard, specializing in the production of peach brandy, Warner said.

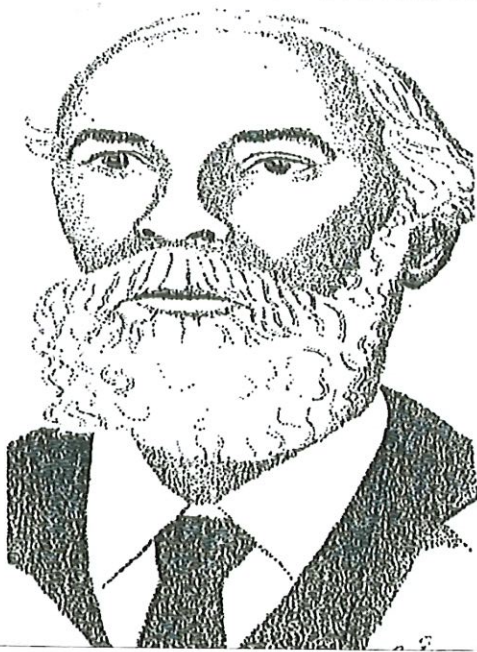
The contributions of the slaves who lived and worked at the plantation would have been tantamount to the successful operation of Travellers Rest, she said.

"This is the story of the South and Southern plantations," she said of the slave descendants.

"These places cannot tell an honest story unless they interpret black history, so we welcome them back and we celebrate with them."

11

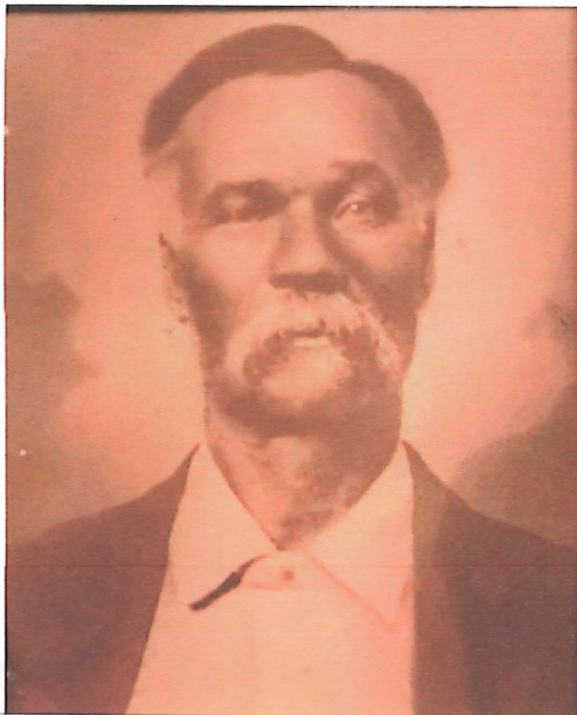
1st Generation Brothers and Wives



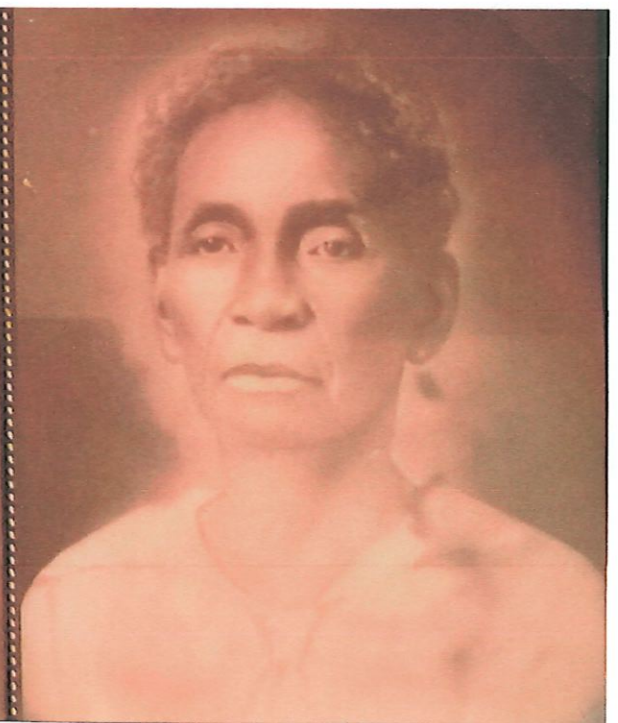
Alfred Overton



Martha Overton



George Overton



Eva Patton Overton

Maria Campbell, acknowledged the same to her husband, read
 and declared that she had willingly signed and delivered the
 same, and that she would not retract it. To certify which I
 first signed my name, and after was read in the Court of Sessions
 on the 12th day of January, A.D. 1874. Charles Parker
 J. Clerk of the Court. Maria Campbell, N. H.
 Filed January 17th 1874, at 10 o'clock A.M. Remond's Ch. 6th 1874.

John I. McArthur to deed George Overton

State of Texas } I have all seen by their Consent, that I, John
County of Travis } I. W. Arthur, of the City of Austin, County of Travis,
State of Texas, for and in consideration of One Hundred Dollars
Cash to me in hand paid by George Overton, of said City, County and
State, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have bargained
and sold, and by these presents do Grant, Convey and Sell; re-
vise, release, convey and confirm to said George Overton, the fol-
lowing described tract or parcels of land, situate in the County of
Travis, State of Texas: to-wit: Eleven acres more or less of the Eastern
part of the Texas Homestead and Twenty acre tract conveyed to H. W.
Arthur by H. C. Horton, and afterwards allotted to said in Partition as
one of the heirs of H. W. Arthur. The Eleven acres hereby conveyed
being described by notes and bounds as follows. Beginning at a
point on the Eastern line of survey made for H. C. Horton, situated
five rods east and South and a half feet from a stone corner
in said Survey, from which a well's right angles in diameter
measures 40 rods South & West 70 rods; and stone marked being
the N. corner Southwest corner. Thence South & East parallel with
Survey corner line, and a half feet east thereof, more or less and
thirty feet to a stone corner. Thence at right angles North
to said stone corner and thence and a half feet to a stone
corner; Thence at right angles South & West nine hundred and
thirty feet to the said South line of Horton's survey. Thence
South & East with said South line of Horton's Survey, five hundred
and thirty feet, and a half feet to the place of beginning.

I, H. W. Arthur, do hold the same together with the
appurtenances unto him the said George Overton, unto his heirs and
assigns forever. And I hereby covenant that I will warrant and defend
the title to and premises against the lawful claims of all parties whom
soever. Witness my hand and seal this 20th day of September, A. D. 1878.

1 Signed: John D. B. B.

State of Texas } Superior the constitutional authority then duly & personally
County of Tarrant } James P. Bl. Attorney to said all the undersigned to the
that appearing to & having state the oath day of September, the 10th, and
advised that the said, read and delivered the same for the
our said commission, others & persons in the various counties of Texas.

Exhibit A

8



St. Mary's Colony Baptist Church

9



St. Mary's Colony Cemetery

14

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories



3 pgs
DECL

202210476

DECLARATION OF DEDICATION FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES
FOR THE ST. MARY'S COLONY CEMETERY

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§
§
§

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

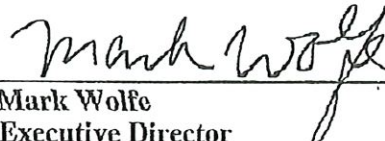
COUNTY OF BASTROP

That the Texas Historical Commission, an agency of the State of Texas, does hereby certify and declare:

That the St. Mary's Colony Cemetery, located in the James Doyle Survey, A-28, Bastrop County, Texas and more particularly described in Exhibit A as attached hereto, has been set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes through historic use and that such property is now occupied by human graves. ↓↓

That this dedication is subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Texas regarding cemeteries now in effect and to those adopted after the effective date of this dedication, and is made in accordance with 13 Tex. Admin. Code Section §22.6.

This Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes is signed and executed on this 11 day of April, 2022.


Mark Wolfe
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission

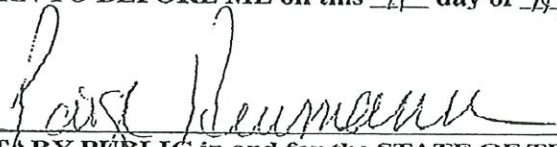
THE STATE OF TEXAS

§
§
§

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mark Wolfe, known to me to be a credible person, whose name is above subscribed, and said person swore to me the statements contained herein are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this 11 day of April, 2022.


NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the STATE OF TEXAS



Notary without Bond

10



P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276
512-463-6100
thc@texas.gov

May 24, 2022

Roscoe Overton
1701 E. 21st Street
Austin, TX 78722

Re: Historic Texas Cemetery designation for St. Mary's Colony Cemetery, BP-C082

Dear Roscoe Overton:

The Texas Historical Commission is honored to designate St. Mary's Colony Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC). The enclosed certificate is testament to your commitment to the preservation of this important historic resource. However, this is just the first step toward the protection and preservation of the St. Mary's Colony Cemetery. Enclosed please find information to help develop a master preservation plan for the cemetery. A master plan is a tool to help establish goals, priorities, and maintenance schedules and estimate costs. It also contains a detailed record of the cemetery through photos and surveys of the gravemarkers and cemetery features.

You will also find a sample press release and the HTC designation fact sheet should you choose to publicize your cemetery's HTC designation. This is an optional choice that we leave to the discretion of those affiliated with the cemetery, as there are circumstances in which drawing attention to an isolated burial ground may not be prudent. However, highlighting this additional level of recognition for an already highly visible cemetery can be a positive way to reassert the fact that the community treasures the sacred burial ground.

The Historic Texas Cemetery designation is a qualification for an Official Texas Historical Marker, an option you may want to consider. Please visit our website at www.thc.texas.gov/markers for Marker Program updates and news.

Regards,

Carlyn Copeland Hammons
Cemetery Preservation Program
History Programs Division

Cc: Ken Kesselus, Chair, Bastrop County Historical Commission, via email
Magdalia Gonzalez, Cemetery Parcel Owner

GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR | JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIR | MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

16

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CERTIFIES THAT

ST. MARY'S COLONY CEMETERY BASTROP COUNTY

IS RECORDED AS A

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY

2022


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR, HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

17

FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS



KRISTAB

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Krista Bartsch".

KRISTA BARTSCH, County Clerk

Bastrop Texas

May 11, 2022 11:40:09 AM

FEE: \$30.00

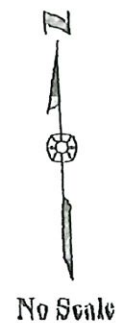
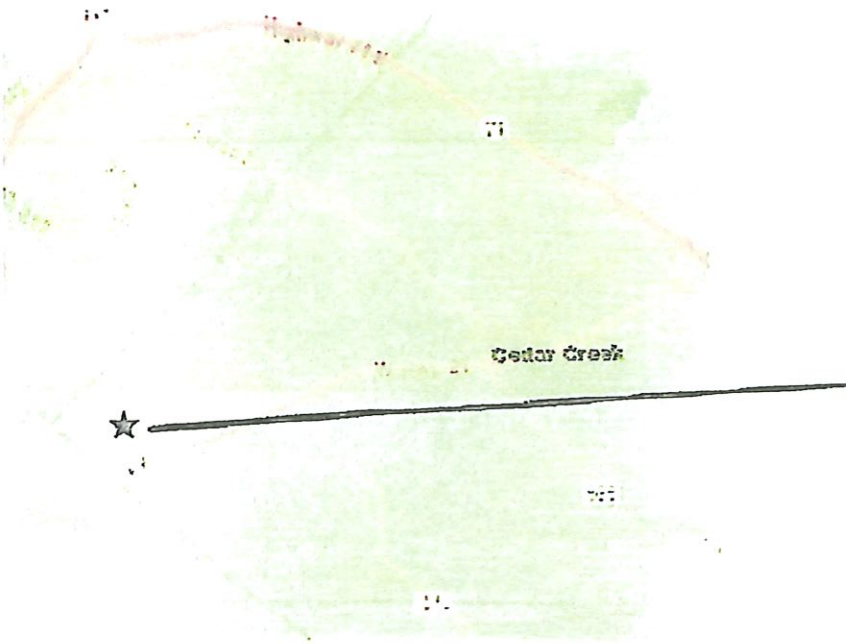
DECL

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Exhibit A

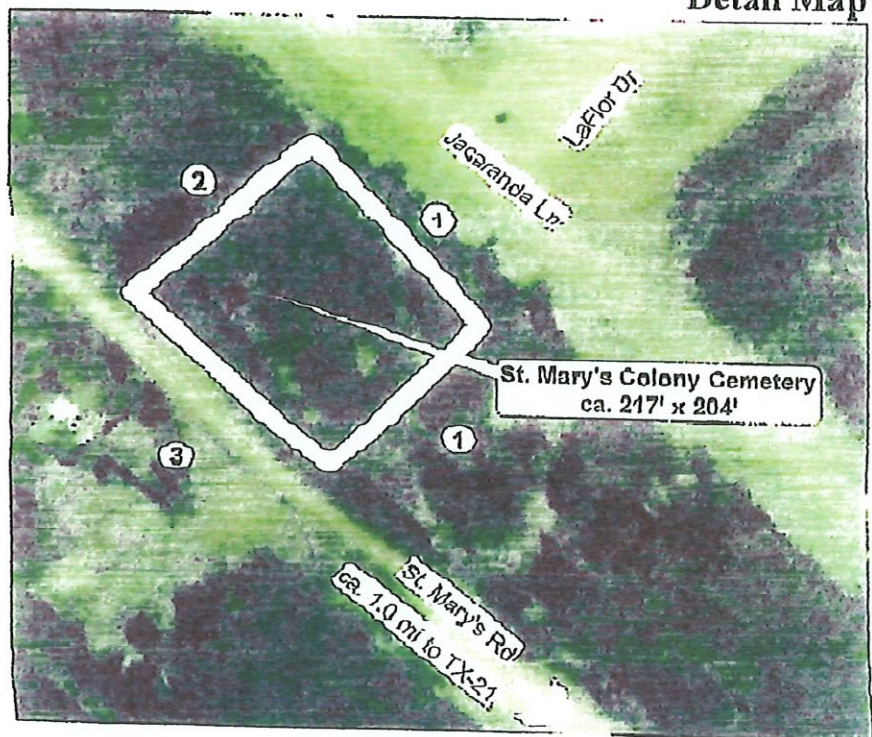
10

Location Map



St. Mary's Colony Cemetery

Detail Map



Adjacent Property Owners:

1. Leda Z. Resendiz
2. Jorge Salazar & Naila Garcia
3. Magdalia Gonzalez
(also owns parcel containing cemetery)

Bastrop CAD identifies the parcel containing the cemetery with Property ID 92240.

Original boundary is not known. Boundary shown in Detail Map (right) is approximate and depicts cemetery as currently (2022) fenced; referenced in a 2014 Resolution (Vol. 2302, p. 84); and described in a 2014 deed (2329, p. 538).

Cemetery contains numerous unmarked graves.

ST. MARY'S COLONY CEMETERY

Also known as St. Mary's Baptist Church Cemetery

Exhibit adopted from data provided by the applicant; Bastrop County Appraisal District; and Official Public Records of Bastrop County Vol. 352, p. 364; Vol. 2302, p. 84; and Vol. 2329, p. 538.

Located in the James Doyle Survey, A-28, Bastrop County, Texas

Latitude: 30.066688 Longitude: -97.62424

THC Cemetery No. BP 2222

19

THE OVERTON SAGA

From the hills of Tennessee they came,
A group of freed slaves, Overton was the name.
We don't really know the miles or how far they trod
Into Central Texas, the seven brothers and sisters braved the odds,

On the Southside of the Colorado, they secured land.
I'm told 600 acres was the total span.
They raised large families and tilled the soil to test,
And helped other friends and sharecroppers do their best.

Cotton, Corn, Cattle and whatever the soil did bring.
All around Travis, Bastrop and other areas knew the Overton name.
As time went and the years did go,
These seven pioneers produced 60 odd offspring or more.

So here we are today to give introduction, tribute and praise to the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th
generations of these former slaves.
You've left your blessings and prayers that we might succeed,
And we've multiplied by the hundred to meet our needs.

So we stop and give you thanks for showing us the way
In order to strive and prosper until this very day,
So sleep the long sleep you deserve from falling and stumbling,
We'll see you later and talk about it in the final homecoming.

By Edward Overton Doyle
4th Generation of Alfred Overton

From: "Jon Chapman" jontchap@aim.com
To: rosoverton@grandecom.net
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 11:45 AM
Subject: Re: The Root—"What is Juneteenth

Greetings Roscoe Overton,

Jon Chapman here. Thank you for bringing back some fond memories. And very glad to know of your family's connection to this important Black History.

My wife Pat and I were at the Fort Worth, TX GA and were able to go to a pre-Juneteenth outdoor concert/celebration held just adjacent to our hotel. Admittedly, it was the first I'd heard of Juneteenth, and I did a bit of reading up on it as soon as I could.

I should add that one of our African Overseas Advisory Delegates that year was from Ghana—The Rev. Dr. Isaac Focuo; was also fascinated with this piece of African American History.

Wish I'd had Henry Louis Gates piece then.

I hope you and your family are well and blessed in the Lord.

Sincerely,

Jon Chapman

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As a Presbyterian Minister, Jon served first in the Synod of the Northeast in Syracuse, New York for almost 15 years, working with racial ethnic congregations and ecumenical partners. Then from 1992 forward, his calling took him to the National Office of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Louisville, KY., where for many years was the Coordinator for Southern and East Africa. In that capacity he related to the denomination's mission, co-workers and denomination partners in many African countries. He always had a heart for Africa and her people which was nurtured in by his step-father, the Rev. Clinton Marsh, and further enhanced during the time that he spent in Kenya, as a college student. One of his colleagues in South Africa says this, "The family of Chapman gave us the best to serve us, what a great man who loved the Lord, his fellow human beings, and Africa, the place of his origin. May his soul rest in peace and rise to Glory to be with His maker. Africa sends her love to you, in particular the Church in alexander where he visited, preached and help to build a Church." The last three years of his ministry in the PC(USA) saw Jon's responsibility in the area of mission shift from churches and partnership in Africa to those in Europe. He was also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)****National Office: P.O. Box 99696****Troy, MI 48099****(843) 425-6869**www.nationalnbpc.org email: info@nationalnbpc.org**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****iv. Dr. Charles Heyward, Sr., President**heyward1@gmail.com**iv. Doris Evans, Vice-President**vdoris@gmail.com**uling Elder Lenore Williams, Secretary**efabill@aol.com**iv. Dr. Brian Henderson, Treasurer**asterbrian@attimesa1.org**Finance Chair:****Rev. Reginald Tuggle, Finance Chair****Financial Administrator Vacant****Mail and Bank Assistant****uling Elder Alvin Smith - alvin40smith@gmail.com****Chapter and Regional Development Co-Chairs****Rev. Doris Evans****Rev. Reginald Regland****Membership Committee****uling Elder Stefano Lewis, Chair****REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES****Mid-Atlantic - Rev. Naomi Hodge-Muse****Midwest - Ruling Elder Larry Jenkins****Mid-South - Ruling Elder Natalie Toomba****Northeast - Mrs. Rosheeda Hastings****Southeast - Rev. Dr. Joe Rigsby****West - Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.****NBPC REP TO GA RACIAL EQUITY ADVOCACY****COMMITTEE (REAC)****Rev. Dr. Flora Bridges****AFRICAN AMERICAN CLERGYWOMEN****Rev. Dr. Y. Janet Dixon****BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CLERGY WOMEN****Vacant****AFRICAN CONNECTION****Ruling Elder Dr. Dianna Wright****BLACK PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN****Ruling Elder Dr. Lydia Willingham****CIRCLE OF ELDERS****Rev. Dr. James Thomas, Moderator****SEMINARIANS ADVISOR****Rev. Denise McCloud****SEMINARIAN REPRESENTATIVE****Vacant****YOUTH and Young Adults ADVISOR****Ruling Elder Lynne Foreman****YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE****Vacant****CHILDREN'S REPRESENTATIVE****Rev. Toure C. Marshall****PRESBYTERY MISSION AGENCY LIAISON****African American Intercultural Congregational Support****Rev. Michael Moore****March 14, 2022****Mr. Roscoe Overton****1701 E. 21st St.****Austin, TX 78722****Dear Mr. Roscoe Overton,**

Thank you again for your 2022 membership with the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC). Your membership card is enclosed with much gratitude for your support of NBPC.

We look forward to your active participation as we discern and follow God's direction in seeking racial justice and equity in our presbyteries, synods, the PC(USA), and our communities.

Please visit our website for ongoing information and news about NBPC.

Blessings, and stay safe,

*Charles Heyward**Brian Henderson**Stefanie W.**Lewis**Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward**Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson**Elder Stefanie W.**Lewis**President**Treasurer**National**Membership Chair*

22

THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF A MAJOR

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

All Hail! All Hail!

We the People of St. Mary's Colony
Propose to Celebrate

The 57th Anniversary Emancipation

JUNE 19, 1923
at

OVERTON GROVE

Land was provided for picnic gatherings west of the St. Mary's Colony Cemetery by Mary Doyle. The area became the landmark for the celebration of the Juneteenth for the community. In 1871 George Overton purchased land in the south west corner of Travis County that joined Bastrop County on the north west corner. The recognition given to a former slave owning property, gave roots to the celebration of the Juneteenth at Overton Grove in Bastrop County, Texas.

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