

An Application for an Official Texas Historical Subject Marker¹

THE SCHOOLS AT CEDAR BAYOU²

Baytown, Harris County, Texas

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I. CONTEXT⁵

About 1839, Sarah Penn started a Sunday school in Dunman's settlement on the San Jacinto River where Crosby is located today and sometime before 1850 her school had become a weekday school⁶ known as the Manayunk school. It may have served as a model⁷ for the first known school in the Baytown area. The Cedar Bayou School House shared a building with the Methodist church at Midway, near today's ExxonMobil docks,⁸ and the school house was used by Precinct 8 as a voting place for the 1850 through 1852 elections.⁹ The precinct extended from Cedar Bayou on the Harris and Chambers county line to the San Jacinto River and north to the Houston to Liberty Road. All of the precinct's voting places, from the time it was established in 1843¹⁰ through 1862,¹¹ were located within two miles of Midway, the center of population, and they all provided easy access by boat, the primary means of transportation at the time. By 1854, there were between 20 and 30 common schools¹² and 14 Sunday schools in Harris County,¹³ and as evidenced from Mrs. Penn's Manayunk school, some of the Sunday schools were also weekday schools. This was almost certainly the case with the Cedar Bayou school, as indicated by the numerous references to the Cedar Bayou Sunday school in the Lynchburg Circuit Quarterly Conference minutes and the improbability that County Commissioners would name a Sunday school as an official voting place.

In September, 1854, a devastating hurricane hit just south of Houston, pushing a storm surge up the San Jacinto River that inundated the area. Steamboats were left stranded up to three-quarters of a mile from the river and all the bridges in Houston were washed away. In Houston, the water was reported to have been seven feet higher than had ever been known.¹⁴ This storm destroyed the Cedar Bayou school and church as well as the church at Lynchburg, both located right on the river. The May 5, 1855 Methodist Quarterly Conference minutes reported that building committees were appointed for both the Cedar Bayou and Lynchburg churches.

In 1854, two million dollars from the Compromise of 1850¹⁵ was designated to provide for public schools. The Scholastic Census taken in 1855 was a list of school age children and their parents, rather than a list of students who actually attended school. The school districts were established using precinct boundaries¹⁶ and the Galveston Bay and Cedar Bayou District No. 8 contains names of 58 children in 26 families.¹⁷

There seems to have been no weekday school in the Baytown area after the hurricane until 1859 when a school, run by Mr. and Mrs. Kemp,¹⁸ was established on John L. Bryan's property. Dr. Ashbel Smith,¹⁹ who lived in the neighborhood, was appointed as a Harris County School Examiner²⁰ in 1858 and announced that the school would open in 1859.²¹ It was located at the east end of today's Missouri Street on the west side of Goose Creek stream where W.C. Britton Park is located today.²² Almost all the white children in the 1860 census had attended school within the year.²³ It was named Harmony Grove and also had a Sunday school component. In the same year, a post office was established at "Baytown," with Simon Hageman as postmaster.²⁴ In 1860, one of the teachers in the school was 18-year-old Miss Julia C. Woodruff,²⁵ who boarded with her half-sister, Mary Jones.²⁶ Julia Woodruff was the teacher who accompanied the Harmony Grove Sunday school to a May Day celebration in Houston attended by Sunday schools from Houston, Galveston, Lynchburg, and several other cities and towns.²⁷ In 1861, the "Harmony Grove School House" was named as a reference point when Harris County Commissioners laid out the road from Lynchburg to Shearn (the town was later renamed Cedar Bayou).²⁸

Rev. Christopher C. Preston²⁹ had run successful boarding schools in Alabama,³⁰ Mississippi,³¹ and Louisiana³² since at least 1839. In mid-1863, he moved to Baytown³³ where he established an institution called Baytown High School³⁴ and also began teaching neighborhood children at the Harmony Grove school house.³⁵ In 1864, Preston purchased the 205-acre property from Dr. John L. Bryan when the Bryan family returned to Houston. The Harmony Grove school house as well as the two-story brick residence was located on the Bryan homestead that Preston had not bought but had use of.³⁶ (The 25-acre homestead property remained with the Bryan family until Mary Ann Bryan sold it to the Orphan's Home in 1871.³⁷) Preston soon renamed the high school as Bayland³⁸ and by 1866 the Harmony Grove school house was being used by the Bayland Home.³⁹

In September 1866, the "Orphan's Home at Bayland" was chartered,⁴⁰ situated on the property that Preston⁴¹ had purchased from John L. Bryan in 1864, as well as the 25-acre homestead.

The obituary of Mary Jones⁴² states that her children attended school at Galveston and then attended school "under Mr. & Mrs. Kemp who were in turn succeeded by Mr. Preston who had a flourishing school there for some years." It mentions no other school that they attended.⁴³ Her youngest son, Cromwell Anson Jones, was the most accomplished alumnus of the Harmony Grove school, and it's reasonable to assume he also attended Bayland High School.⁴⁴ In 1866, at the age of 15, he taught at the Bayland school.⁴⁵ Later, from 1876 to 1882, he served as Harris County Judge.⁴⁶ The Bayland school had previously admitted "pay scholars,"⁴⁷ and records show that it was a public school from 1876⁴⁸ through 1887⁴⁹ when the home closed at this location and moved to Houston.

At the end of the Civil War, Thomas Gaillard moved with his family to Goose Creek⁵⁰ from his native Mississippi. In 1868 or 1869 his oldest daughter, Linna Gaillard, opened a school on the family property in a building that had been used as a barracks⁵¹ for Confederate troops manning a cannon at the mouth of Goose Creek.⁵² This school closed by 1876.

There are a number of common misconceptions about mid-nineteenth century schools in Baytown, several of which appear in a 1968 *Baytown Sun* article by Bonnie Hazel Martin, quoted below.⁵³

The Rise of Area Schools. [A] The Lynchburg School near the present Lynchburg Ferry was begun about 1820 and continued to teach the youth of the community until 1854. In that year a severe hurricane destroyed the one room school building. Children from Scott's Settlement commuted to school by oxcart, sled or horseback depending on the number to be transported. [B] Scott's Settlement was located north and west of the point where North Main Street intersects Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg Road... [C] in 1854, the people of Scott's Settlement erected a one-room log house for school purposes. This school was opened about 1855. ... [D] Louis, Henry and Melissa Whiting, children of Dr. Harvey Whiting, attended this school. ... [E] In the late 1840s school was taught in the Methodist Church which was a one-room log structure. It was located on the present site of the Cedar Bayou Methodist Church. [F] Classes were taught in the Baptist church located east of the Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge. ..."

Comments and errata for the above article are identified below by letters within the original text.

[A] Nathaniel Lynch was one of the first settlers in the area, arriving in 1822⁵⁴ and the earliest documented school in the area was started in 1837 at Zavalla Point near Lynch's Ferry with Wm H. Hastings as the teacher.⁵⁵ It is unknown how long this school continued.

[B] The first road to the Scott's settlement location described by Mrs. Martin was laid out about 1868.⁵⁶ About that time, James W. Scott established a settlement named Fairview west of Barkaloo Road about halfway between Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg Road and Archer Road.⁵⁷ A school situated in the Benjamin Barrow land grant on the east side of today's Barkaloo Road opposite Fairview, just south of today's airport,⁵⁸ was started there sometime around 1871. It was a one-room building of rough lumber sawed at Pound's sawmill and Mrs. Winnie Magee Yarrington was one of the teachers.⁵⁹

[C] A school had existed before 1850 near the former town of Louisville, established by the heirs of William Scott.⁶⁰ It was destroyed in 1854.

[D] Lewis, Henry, and Melissa Whiting were 31, 28, and 24 years old in 1854, much too old to have attended any Texas school. However, the *1854 Scholastic Census* for Galveston Bay and Cedar Bayou District No. 8 does include Charles and Clarissa Brooks, who were grandchildren of Harvey Whiting by his daughter, Francis Jane,⁶¹ who was married to Gilbert Brooks.⁶² After Francis Jane died in 1849, Gilbert Brooks married her younger sister, Melissa Peck Whiting. They had a daughter named Mary Melissa (Mollie) Brooks, (1865-1945), whose obituary stated that she attended school at Fairview and Goose Creek.⁶³ Her age indicates that she may have attended Fairview during its entire lifetime from 1871 to 1875. The 1876 *Director's School Record for Harris County* lists schools at Goose Creek, Cedar Bayou, and Lynchburg, but not Fairview, suggesting that the Fairview School was destroyed in the 1875 hurricane.⁶⁴

[E] The one-room log structure described was the Methodist parsonage in the Christian Smith land grant. It may have been used as a Sunday school but was not a common school. It was located on the present site of the Cedar Bayou Methodist Church, but a church did not exist there before 1858. Richard Hogue Dickson (1831-1931) stated that when he was nineteen [in 1850] he attended class under the tutelage of his Methodist preacher brother-in-law in a "small, one-roomed log cabin on the present site of the Cedar Bayou cemetery."⁶⁵ However this was the Methodist parsonage where his brother-in-law lived and not what was, at the time, called the

Cedar Bayou school house.

[F] The article seems to indicate that the Baptist church was used for classes in the late 1840s. Originally founded in Chambers County in 1860, that church was moved to Harris County in 1877⁶⁶ and was located just north of the Masonic Lodge on today's Ferry Road.⁶⁷

Gilbert Brooks was married to two of Harvey Whiting's daughters at different times. His children attended school at two different places, both of which were "Scott's Settlements," that were started by two different families named Scott, and both schools were probably destroyed by hurricanes. There are too many similar but different threads to keep the record straight through oral tradition.

There seems to have been a short-lived school at the Christian Smith league in 1860⁶⁸ but it, along with many schools throughout the South, closed during the Civil War. Further evidence that a school did not exist at Christian Smith before 1873 was provided by photographer R.O. Harris in a report he made to a Houston newspaper;⁶⁹

"Cedar Bayou P. O., Harris Co., Tex. July, 1873... on the west bank, about four miles above its mouth ... at which point is two well-stocked stores, one steam saw and grist mill, one Methodist church and one Baptist church and a Masonic Hall nearby, and there will also soon be on foot an effort for the purpose of raising a subscription for building a Union church and school-house."

However, it is clear from the written history of Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge No. 321 that the Baptist church and Masonic Hall (one building, with the Masonic Hall on the second floor) were on the east side of Cedar Bayou until 1876.⁷⁰

In a 1930 interview, Cedar Bayou poet John Peter Sjolander stated, "Sixty years ago when I came to Cedar Bayou [in 1871], people seemed to care very little for books. In fact, at times I wondered if they had ever heard of a book."⁷¹ And in a 1938 interview, he repeated, "I soon returned to Texas and settled on this farm 60 years ago. Then, there were no schools and few books."⁷²

In 1858, a new Methodist church was built on Cedar Bayou in the Christian Smith league.⁷³ In 1860, Seth Cary had platted a town on the west bank of Cedar Bayou near the new church and named it Shearn.⁷⁴ Several lots were sold and when the town began to prosper, Charles Ilfrey opened a post office in October 1870 and the town of Shearn became the town of

Cedar Bayou.⁷⁵ The Methodist church at Cedar Bayou had operated a Sunday school from the time it was built, but a common school did not exist in the Christian Smith league until 1876.

II. OVERVIEW

In 1876, Texas voters approved a new constitution. The Common School Districts that had previously been established along Precinct boundaries were replaced by what were called “School Communities.” The requirements for a School Community consisted of having a building in which to conduct classes, a list of any number of students between the ages of 8 and 14, and a board of trustees consisting of three members. Attendance by the students was not compulsory, although attendance was kept in a day book by the teacher as a requirement for her pay, which was based on the number of students in class.⁷⁶ Other parts of the school law would cause strife for decades to come.

["Sec.15.](#) The available public free school fund shall be appropriated in each county for the education alike of white and colored children, and each race shall receive its just pro rata, as far as practicable, in each county, according to the number of children of each race within scholastic age.

[Sec. 16.](#) No school in which sectarian religion is taught shall be entitled to any portion of the available public school fund, nor shall any form of religion be taught in any public free school in this State. ...

[Sec. 19.](#) All children between the ages of eight and fourteen years shall be entitled to the benefit of the available free school fund, under this act, without regard to race or color.

[Sec. 54.](#) In no case shall any school, consisting partly of white and partly of colored children, receive any aid from the available school fund, but the two races shall always be taught in separate public free schools."

Thirty-five School Communities were established in Harris County. The three School Communities in the Baytown area were Cedar Bayou No. 5, Goose Creek No. 9, and Lynchburg No. 24. Mary Jones' son, Cromwell Anson Jones, was the elected County Judge of Harris County and all the county's schools came under his jurisdiction. Ashbel Smith⁷⁷ was appointed to the Harris County Board of School Examiners⁷⁸ and the board in turn named him as County Superintendent.⁷⁹

The first week-day school actually situated in or near the town of Cedar Bayou began on November 9, 1876, when "Seth Cary, C.J. Massey and others, parents and guardians," filed a petition to establish the school. The school designated as "Cedar Bayou School Community No. 5" was established under the new Texas Constitution with C.F. Ilfrey, W.C. Scott, and C.M. Milam appointed as trustees.⁸⁰ The sum of \$133.95 was apportioned by Harris County to operate the school and a list of students was submitted along with the petition.⁸¹ The list has been lost, but Harris County allocated \$2.85 per student per year,⁸² indicating there were 47 students who could have been enrolled in the first class. This was the first public school in the Christian Smith league and they met on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge.⁸³ The two-story Masonic Lodge building adjacent to the Methodist Church was built with the specific intention that the ground floor be used for school. A Lodge resolution, dated April 8, 1876, anticipating the opening of the new building in May, stated "That the Public Common School shall be permitted to occupy the new school room as soon as the building committee sees proper. And the teacher shall be held responsible for the care of the room."⁸⁴ Classes may have also been held in the Baptist Church,⁸⁵ located on Ferry Road just north of the Masonic Lodge. In 1881 another Lodge resolution was adopted that the school room under the Lodge should be used for educational purposes only and by 1883, the student population was up to 74.⁸⁶

In 1884, the Texas legislature completely rewrote the school law. Among the provisions of the new law were:

[Sec. 3.](#) The school fund will be sufficient to support the schools for at least six months per year.

[Sec. 5.](#) Scholastic age is "over eight years of age and under sixteen years of age."

[Sec. 10.](#) School will be taught 5 days a week, at least 7 hours a day, at least 20 days a month – but number of months per year is not stated.

While the 1876 law allowed citizens to establish their own school communities, the 1884 school law directed the Commissioners Court of most counties (including Harris, but not Chambers) to subdivide the county into convenient school districts.⁸⁷ Exempted counties including Chambers would continue to create school communities as needed upon petition from a group of parents.⁸⁸ In eastern Harris County, School District No. 15 was established on the east side of Goose Creek, extending north to Wallisville Road, east to Cedar Bayou, down the stream and along the shoreline to the place of beginning.⁸⁹ There were initially three schools (two white

and one Colored) in this district that was created in 1884: Cedar Bayou School 1 (W), Goose Creek School 2 (W), and School 3 (C) for Black children.⁹⁰ School 3 (C) only ran from 1886 to 1889 and its location is as yet unknown.

In 1886, the *Galveston Daily News* reported about School District 15, "attendance was pretty regular but sometimes a school was broken up by the children refusing to go and the parents disapprove [sic] of the teacher enforcing obedience. One school-house in particular has gained the name of 'the battleground' from this cause."⁹¹

School District 15 in Harris County opened the 1889 school year with 66 students enrolled out of a total of 93 school age children in the district.⁹² Two months later, enrollment was up to 91, and an election was scheduled to consider levying a school tax in District 15.⁹³ Even though compulsory attendance was not yet a law in Texas, in 1890, the Cedar Bayou school boasted a 90 percent attendance rate.⁹⁴

In 1893,⁹⁵ Cedar Bayou School District 10 was formed in Chambers County.⁹⁶ A Colored public school was opened in Mt. Olive Baptist church,⁹⁷ located off Highway 146 just north of Cedar Bayou. Black children from Harris County could attend this school⁹⁸ and Victoria Taylor Walker (1905-2002)⁹⁹ remembered attending classes here in 1909 as a four-year-old. The teacher was Leah Cooper, who also taught at other schools in Chambers County.

In 1897 when a new roof was needed on the Masonic Lodge, a committee of the Lodge visited the patrons of the school who were not Masons to see if they would like to contribute something to pay for repairs. The public had had free use of the building for twenty years but only one dollar was collected, which the Lodge returned. This free use of the lower story continued as a community service by the Lodge for thirty-five years. Even the home-made double desks were furnished by the Lodge.¹⁰⁰ The first teacher in the Masonic Lodge was Miss Linna Gaillard (1848-1922),¹⁰¹ who had run a school on Goose Creek in 1868 or 1869.¹⁰² She later married Doctor Nicholas Schilling. Later teachers were Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Massey and Miss Pink Ellisor (1877-1962).¹⁰³

The student population¹⁰⁴ had grown to 109 by 1907.¹⁰⁵ In 1909, Harris County School Superintendent L.L. Pugh made a report to the *Houston Post*, stating "Cedar Bayou is located in the extreme south end of the county, and has two schools and three teachers. The school buildings [sic] in this beautiful little town belong to the Masonic order and through their kindness we maintain school in it. The Ellis League school is a small one-room building and has

one teacher. This district has a local tax to supplement the State funds in maintaining their schools."¹⁰⁶

In 1911, voters in School District 15 approved a school bond of \$8,000 to build two brick school houses,¹⁰⁷ \$6,000 for a two-story school at Cedar Bayou¹⁰⁸ and \$2,000 for a one-story school in the Ellis League.¹⁰⁹ Ed Ilfrey donated 2 acres for school purposes on the north side of Cedar Bayou Road.¹¹⁰ The brick came from Mike Casey's brickyard just south of the school¹¹¹ and the contract for construction of both buildings was awarded to W.G. Cook of Houston.¹¹²

When construction was completed in November, the *Houston Chronicle* reported;

Brick School for Cedar Bayou. The new school house has recently been completed and accepted by the trustees. It was built of Cedar Bayou brick throughout, with all walls plastered inside.¹¹³ There are two classrooms, with seating capacity about 48 each. There is an auditorium above with a seating capacity of about 200. The classrooms are furnished with the best single desks. The building has a vestibule with double doors to enter into the hall. There are two cloak rooms below and above, with fixtures for dinner buckets, etc. The vestibule has a cement floor, also cement steps to enter. This school building was built at a cost of about \$6,000.¹¹⁴

By the beginning of 1912, there were three schools in District 15: Cedar Bayou, Ellis League, and Goose Creek, where 16-year-old Alice May Bullard had opened a school in the oil field. Her father had provided a tent and desks and she taught 32 pupils for a year and was paid \$1.50 per month per student. When she got married the following year, the school moved to a frame building her husband and some other men built nearby on property owned by Elizabeth Tabb.¹¹⁵

The Goose Creek school continued until January 1917.¹¹⁶ Miss Cora Lazenby was the teacher in the 14'x18' building when it was shut down by an oil well blowout nearby spewing rocks, sand, oil, water, and 15 million cubic feet of gas a day.¹¹⁷ But even had the well not blown out, school would have shut down in March anyway, as did the Cedar Bayou school and fifteen other schools in the county. The Harris County schools had run out of money because a constitutional amendment allowing the school tax to be raised had failed to carry the previous November.¹¹⁸ This created an emergency, so a bill was put to the Texas legislature to create Cedar Bayou Independent School District. The whole area, even including today's old Baytown, was actually called the Cedar Bayou District at the time.¹¹⁹ The creation of an independent school district would allow for taxes to be assessed locally and would remove the district from county oversight.

Cedar Bayou ISD was created by an act of the Texas Legislature on May 17, 1917,¹²⁰ due to the explosive growth of the scholastic population at Goose Creek and the need to issue bonds to pay for the schools and teachers. The new district included territory on both sides of Cedar Bayou between Goose Creek stream and Cove School District No. 8. This embraced School District No. 15 which had been created in 1884,¹²¹ and included the Cedar Bayou school, the Ellis League school, and the Goose Creek school in Harris County. The new district also included the Cedar Bayou Colored school, Schilling School¹²² District No. 12 and Morgan School District No. 13 in Chambers County. Interestingly, children attending the Schilling and Morgan schools had been transferred to the Cedar Bayou School the previous September, so transferring the district properties was a formality.¹²³ The law removed all those schools from county control and put them under Cedar Bayou ISD control.¹²⁴ The preamble to the bill stated (and pay special attention to the last phrase):

An Act creating the Cedar Bayou Independent School District in the counties of Harris and Chambers, State of Texas; defining its boundaries and divesting the bodies politic now controlling the same of the title of all property now held and used for school purposes within the territory within this Act described and investing the same in the Cedar Bayou Independent School District; providing for the election of a Board of Trustees to manage and control the public free schools within said district; authorizing said district to issue bonds to take up any outstanding indebtedness against any of the common School Districts affected by this act; and investing the said District with the rights, powers, privileges and duties of a town and village incorporated for free school purposes only under the General Laws; and declaring an emergency.¹²⁵

Even though Cedar Bayou ISD was created in 1917, it appears that the law was not implemented at that time.¹²⁶ It called for an election of seven trustees but it appears that this election was not held, because as late as 1919, there were still only three trustees. The *Goose Creek Gusher* yearbook for the school year 1918-1919 named the School District Superintendent as W.G. Smiley, who was Harris County Superintendent, and the Board of Trustees (A.W. Fayle, Chairman; J. G. Martin, and W.R. Black) are the same men shown as Trustees of School District No. 15. The teachers at Cedar Bayou¹²⁷ and Ellis League schools were still on the Harris County payroll and still reporting to the County Superintendent as late as the 1918-1919 school year¹²⁸ but Goose Creek teachers do not appear on the Harris County School District No. 15 payroll after 1916.¹²⁹ Names of Cedar Bayou teachers (including those in the new Goose Creek school)

appear in a September 1918 list of county rural school teachers.¹³⁰ Compulsory attendance increased that year from 80 to 100 days per year.¹³¹

On February 25, 1919, the Texas Legislature created Goose Creek Independent School District with five trustees, and that was also declared an emergency.¹³² It took in Wooster School District No. 38 and included territory on both sides of Goose Creek stream, extending north to today's Interstate 10.

On July 21, 1919, the legislature amended the act creating Cedar Bayou ISD by redrawing the boundaries to accommodate Goose Creek ISD and reducing the number of trustees from seven to five.¹³³ The Schilling and Morgan schools were not mentioned because those schools had already closed and their territory merged into Cedar Bayou ISD, leaving only Cedar Bayou, Ellis League, and Cedar Bayou Colored schools in the district.

The following history of the Cedar Bayou School is excerpted from an essay written in 1992 by Tommy Martin Clayton (1930-2018),¹³⁴ Cedar Bayou High School, Class of 1947.¹³⁵ He wrote it in commemoration of the demise of Cedar Bayou Independent School District and Cedar Bayou High School, and it was presented at a reunion of all surviving graduates in 1992. The events from 1911 onward occurred within the lifetimes and memories of Mr. Clayton and other alumni and teachers of the school. In addition to his personal memories, all details after 1919 were referenced from the Cedar Bayou ISD Trustee minutes books.

Mrs. Bessie Kilgore Busch (1900-1996)¹³⁶ received most of her education in the Cedar Bayou Common School District. She went to school in La Porte her first two years and then transferred to the school in the Masonic Lodge for one and a half years. The school then moved to the new four room brick building at the present school location. Only the two ground floor classrooms were used. The two vacant upstairs rooms were used for skating and other recreation. Mrs. Busch lived in Chambers County near the south end of what is now Kilgore Road. To get to school, she would scull a skiff across Cedar Bayou and then walk the two miles to school. There was no road and she had to open and close the gates between each pasture. Occasionally her father would take her in a boat as far as Ilfrey's Landing. In 1918 Mrs. Busch graduated at the top of her class of one. She was the first person to complete all grades and is [in 1992] the oldest living ex-student at 92 years of age.

In 1992, Mrs. Louise Fowler Himes (1898-1995), was the oldest living ex-teacher of Cedar Bayou Schools. She taught one year in 1918, the year Mrs. Busch graduated. She taught primer (like kindergarten), first and second grades. Miss Bartlett taught grades 3, 4, and 5, Eunice Mulkey taught grades 6 and 7, and Mr. Plummer, the Principal, taught grades 8, 9, and 10. The pay was \$60.00 per month plus \$3.00 per month for janitor duties, including building fires.

The school board approved construction of a 30'x50' frame school building in 1923¹³⁷ and in 1925 a bond election for \$4,500 covered a new water well and some wooden buildings, including a cafeteria at the Cedar Bayou campus. The Mothers Club was to run the Cafeteria. Cora Denny, the Principal, in her 1912 report to the Harris County School Superintendent, had noted "that a Mother's Club would add greatly to the educational as well as the social interests of the community, for the school should be the sun with all the public affairs of the county revolving around it. Mothers when organized wield a power which men do not wish to resist."

L. G. Sanders was Superintendent from 1922-1925 followed by his brother J. A. Sanders. In 1925 the school had 11 teachers, with salaries of \$90 to \$100 per month. The Ellis League School had been closed the previous year. In 1926 this building was leased to the Shiloh Baptist Church, represented by Sam Sjolander and T. B. Smith.

In 1927 Victoria Taylor was hired as the teacher for the colored school in Chambers County at \$70 per month. A \$50,000 bond issue was passed for a new building, the "H" building on the Cedar Bayou campus.¹³⁸ A Ford truck was purchased to be equipped as a transportation truck on the Morgan School line. An additional 3 acres adjoining the Cedar Bayou campus was purchased from Ed Ilfrey for \$1000. The Trustees voted that no Christmas trees were to be erected in the buildings and the Christmas program was to be omitted.

In 1928 the district paid \$200 to move one of the buildings from the site where the new Cedar Bayou elementary school building would be built. It opened later that year and would become known as the "H Building." Mr. Clifton was elected to drive the school truck on the Ellis League line for \$30 per month. Mr. Oliver was paid \$40 per month to haul children in his part of the district. Due to increase in pupils he had to equip a truck in place of his car.

In 1930 the district included 478 white and 46 colored pupils. Trustee Sam Sjolander's motion to buy a new bus failed. It was voted to repair the old one. The trustees voted to put a

governor on the bus so it would not go over 35 miles per hour. They also voted to deed the one acre at Morgan School back to Mrs. Annie F. Busch.

In 1931 D. E. Thomas was hired as superintendent at \$2,000 per year. Mrs. Frank Smith and Miss Irma Casey were elected teachers. C. E. Donaho was science teacher and coach. H. H. Harper's bid of \$60 per month to drive the bus from the Ed McKinney home to the school was accepted. Mrs. O. W. Fayle ran the cafeteria for \$45 per month plus \$30 for help.

In 1932, because of the financial condition, the trustees feared the school term might have to be shortened. All high school lessons were to be increased by 20 per cent to cover the work. All teachers except two agreed to a ten percent salary reduction. Mrs. Annie Wolfean loaned the school \$2000 to finish the 31-32 year. People were unable to pay taxes due to the Depression. It was voted to close the cafeteria and require that all teachers live in the district. In 1932 Dr. E. E. Oberholtzer, Superintendent of Schools in Houston, delivered the commencement address to four graduates. He was later President of The University of Houston.

In 1933, after the death of his son, Ivy Ilfrey, Ed Ilfrey gave a 10-year no-cost lease on three acres of his land to build a football stadium called Ivy Ilfrey Field. It was matched by a 3-acre purchase and opened in 1934.¹³⁹ The admission price to all games and programs was set at 10 and 15 cents. A \$2,000 note to Gilbert Stoufflet was paid. A motion was passed to pay Mrs. Frank Smith 56 cents for the balance of expenses for the grade program.

The budget for the 1933-1934 term was \$22,584. The cafeteria was to reopen. A fee of \$7.50 per year was to be charged as tuition for all students over 21 years of age. Admissions were increased to 10 and 25 cents. A telephone was added to the school office. It was voted to cut off water to all houses on the school well, sell the windmill, and buy an electric pump. A windshield wiper for the bus was approved. There were 18 students in the 1934 Senior Class.

In early 1934 G. L. Bennett was hired as superintendent. The minutes reflect: \$1.75 paid to Mr. Bennet to replace the battery in the bus, to forbid selling candy in the cafeteria, and charge the janitor \$2.00 for lights and radio provided he put in a smaller bulb. It was later decided to sell candy under the control of the cafeteria manager and superintendent. Teachers pay was \$900 per year for high school and \$810 per year for grade school. Money was borrowed from the Citizens State Bank.

In 1935 the budget was \$25,230. This included paying fifty percent of the cost of football shoes. T. P. Evans was principal and coach at a salary of \$1,125 per year. Mrs. Westbrook was Cafeteria Manager. An International bus was purchased from Wilburn Brothers for \$2,063. The Senior Class had fourteen members. Mrs. Verna Compton was elementary principal.

The 1936 budget was \$26,257. A Home Economics department was started with Mrs. Hairgrove as teacher. Lamar Oltman was coach. The Senior Class had 15 Members in 1936, 19 in 1937, 25 in 1938, and 16 in 1939. A. B. Lefevre was principal in 1938-1939 and Hanzel Mangum was coach at a salary of \$1,155. Most of the 14 teachers were paid \$900 per year. Mrs. Laura Going became cafeteria manager in 1938.

After being deemed unsafe by an engineering study,¹⁴⁰ the 1911 brick building was condemned in 1938 and was razed and replaced in 1939 with a new high school building.¹⁴¹ This allowed the grade school to move into the "H" building. For the first time indoor plumbing was installed and the outhouse facilities were demolished. There is probably some significance in the fact that lights were added to the football field two years before the privies were replaced.

F. L. Muston became Superintendent in 1940, the 12 grade system was installed and Carl M. Owens became high school principal. In 1944 the Junior High wing was added. R. W. Akridge became Superintendent in 1946 and Mr. Barfield became high school principal. A new elementary building and a new gymnasium were added in the 1948 - 50 period as enrollment reached over one thousand students. Teacher Smith became elementary principal.

The first record of extracurricular activity is a basketball game between Goose Creek and Cedar Bayou in 1919 which Goose Creek won 26 to 1. A football team was organized in 1925 and games were played in the Henry Pruett pasture on Kilgore Road. In 1933 an Athletic Association was authorized with T. P. Evans and Mrs. Belle Smith as directors. However, the Bear Athletic Association was dissolved by the trustees in 1934. The first District Championship in football was won in 1932.

The 1932-1933 financial statement for athletics shows a net loss of \$26 for football and \$9 for basketball. A Fall Carnival was staged each year to make up the deficit. Seven football games and five basketball games were played with Texas City, Humble, Goose Creek, Pasadena, Freeport, Webster, Galena Park, Crosby, La Porte, and Barbers Hill. Receipts ranged from \$116

for Goose Creek football to 80 cents for La Porte basketball. A total of \$3.00 was paid to launder football suits.

In 1937 and 1938 the football program developed under Coach Hanzel Mangum. In 1939 the Bears won their first bi-district championship under Ernie Lawrence. Because of the war football was suspended in 1943. In 1944 Ray Trip coached the Bears to a winning season. Hanzel Mangum returned in 1945 and in 1946 produced a district championship. The 1945 basketball team won district. The football field was moved to its present location in 1946. [For sixteen years the stands had faced east and west next to the 1911 schoolhouse because that was the only way they could fit the field on the campus. That schoolhouse was torn down in 1939, so when they remodeled the stadium, they turned it 90 degrees and built it with lights to be ready in time for the 1946 kickoff. A new field needed a new name so it was named Bayou Stadium.]¹⁴²

In 1947 Robert Barfield became football coach and Cotton Watkins basketball coach. The golden years of athletics at Cedar Bayou followed in 1950-1953. In football, the Bears lost no district games and compiled a 40 - 6 - 4 record. In 1951 they reached the quarterfinals, beaten only by Giddings, the state champions. In 1952 they reached the semi-finals where they tied Deer Park but lost on penetrations 3 to 2. The next year they reached the quarter-finals.

The boys basketball team won a district championship in 1950 and in 1953. The 1953 team produced 14 straight victories and a 22 - 2 record. The track team won district in 51, 52, and 53 and regional in 50 and 54.

The "Blue Battalion" drum and bugle corps was started in 1936 under Teacher Smith and the band started soon after. A girls basketball team started in 1949.

With the financial problems of the Depression and wartime shortages behind, the decade of the 50's looked bright indeed. The struggle of the first 100 years for a top quality educational system was now rewarded. The dream of the pioneers was realized as the frontier yielded to the industrial promise of the mineral rich area. The wide open spaces of rural Cedar Bayou beckoned the young families of nearby Baytown.

However, an ominous sign appeared on the horizon. A headline in the March 21, 1950 *Baytown Sun* said "Baytown Real Estate Board Urges Consolidation". The larger entity wanted to expand into the vacant prairies between the communities but they wanted to control the

schools. A campaign began to convince the Cedar Bayou residents that the bountiful tax flow from the Humble Refinery should be enjoyed by Cedar Bayou students.

A 1952 consolidation election failed 733 to 565 but the campaign continued. On March 6, 1954 Cedar Bayou approved consolidation 1072 to 654 and Goose Creek approved 3 to 1. The 45 member class of 1954 wrote the final chapter to the story of an independent school district at Cedar Bayou.

It is unknown how many total students have attended school at Cedar Bayou. From 1936 through 1954 when the high school closed, 488 students graduated from the high school and they have had an impact on the history of Baytown and the surrounding area. Among the best-known are John M. Kilgore (1878-1965),¹⁴³ Charles D. Massey (1879-1935),¹⁴⁴ and Victoria Taylor Walker (1905-2002).¹⁴⁵

John M. Kilgore was probably the area's best-known businessman. He built a thriving shipyard on Cedar Bayou and for 20 years owned a brickyard where the locally-famous Cedar Bayou bricks were made.¹⁴⁶ He also served as a school trustee in Cedar Bayou from August 1915 to April 1940, including several terms as President of the Cedar Bayou ISD school board.¹⁴⁷

Charles D. Massey served as Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 3. He is best known for improvements in transportation in eastern Harris County. The Hog Island Morgan Point Ferry was named for him.¹⁴⁸ He also served on the Cedar Bayou ISD school board in the 1920s.

Victoria Taylor Walker, MEd grew up in the Colored community on the Chambers County side of Cedar Bayou. She began teaching at the Cedar Bayou Colored School in 1933 and took summer classes at Prairie View A&M. She later earned a Master of Education degree from Texas Southern University in 1952. The following year, the school where she taught was named for her. She had a long career as a teacher in the Cedar Bayou ISD and Goose Creek Consolidated ISD, retiring in 1971,¹⁴⁹ and when a new Goose Creek Consolidated ISD elementary school opened in 2007, it was named Victoria Walker Elementary.¹⁵⁰

From 1954 Onwards

On March 7, 1954, voters at Goose Creek and Cedar Bayou approved consolidation of the two school districts as Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.¹⁵¹ The 1954

graduating class was the last at Cedar Bayou High School and the high school students transferred to Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown which, at the time, was the only white high school in the district. The old high school building at Cedar Bayou became the new home to Cedar Bayou Junior High.¹⁵² In 1955, the city of Baytown annexed the unincorporated town of Cedar Bayou¹⁵³ and the city began expanding northward. When Goose Creek Consolidated ISD replaced Cedar Bayou Elementary School in 1956, it was not built on the Cedar Bayou campus. It was named James Bowie Elementary,¹⁵⁴ and for the first time since 1876, there was not an elementary school named Cedar Bayou.

After the elementary school closed, grades 7-9 of Cedar Bayou Junior High School were the only classes taught on the campus. In 1964, Victoria Walker Elementary School for Colored children closed and the students, as well as Victoria Walker herself, were transferred to George Washington Carver School in Baytown. Two years later, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD desegregated the schools and Victoria Walker was transferred to Stephen F. Austin Elementary School, becoming the first Black teacher in the formerly all-white school. When Ross Sterling High School opened in 1966, the district underwent another shuffle. Sixth grade was moved to Junior School and ninth grade was moved to high school.

Baytown's population continued to increase and, in September 1990, voters passed a \$39 million bond issue with \$2.9 million going to add 30 classrooms at Cedar Bayou Junior School.¹⁵⁵ Soon after classes began in the new sixth grade wing, the old "H" and "L" buildings were torn down.¹⁵⁶ Six years later, in May 1999, Baytonians voted on another bond election, this time for \$120 million.¹⁵⁷ Part of the package was \$23.1 million for a new Cedar Bayou Junior School.¹⁵⁸ Initially turned down,¹⁵⁹ it was back on the ballot in October, and this time it passed by a 2-1 margin.¹⁶⁰ Bids were requested in March, 2001¹⁶¹ and ground was broken in September.¹⁶² Demolition of the 1938 high school building began as construction of the new school was nearing completion and on August 19th, 2002 the doors opened for classes.¹⁶³ The new athletic facilities including the track and practice field were completed in late 2021.¹⁶⁴

From the beginning of the school in the Masonic Lodge in 1876 through the purchase of two acres in 1911, the school at Cedar Bayou today¹⁶⁵ has grown more than ten-fold to a 24-acre campus¹⁶⁶ where the staff and faculty provide a quality junior school education for more than 1,000 students.¹⁶⁷

III. SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest known school in the Cedar Bayou district was in 1850. At the time, the Justice Precinct extended from Cedar Bayou to the San Jacinto River and the precinct voting place from 1850 to 1852 was shown as the Cedar Bayou School House. The school was held in the Methodist church located at Midway (near today's ExxonMobil docks) and was destroyed in the 1854 hurricane. The next known school, called Harmony Grove, began in 1859 by Mr. and Mrs. Kemp. They were followed by C. C. Preston, who ran the school until 1866. Beginning about 1868, Linna Gaillard taught a school on her family's property at the mouth of Goose Creek.

Until 1876, there is no record of a common school in the Christian Smith League, although there was talk about establishing one in 1871. The 1876 Texas Constitution established districts called "School Communities." Cedar Bayou School Community No. 5 was formed in 1876 and, for 35 years, classes were held on the ground floor of the Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge. About 47 students may have been enrolled that first year. In 1884 a new state law for schools passed and Cedar Bayou School became part of Harris County School District No. 15, along with Goose Creek School. African American children living in the area attended the Cedar Bayou Colored School in Chambers County that was established sometime after 1893.

In 1911, a bond election was approved for \$8,000 to erect two brick school houses, one at the town of Cedar Bayou and one in the George Ellis League, two miles north. Edward Ilfrey donated two acres of land on Cedar Bayou Road at the location of today's school, and Mike Casey's brick yard on Cedar Bayou just to the south supplied the bricks. In 1917, Cedar Bayou Independent School District was formed, combining Harris County District 15 with two small districts in Chambers County, including the Cedar Bayou Colored School.

A new elementary school was built in 1928 and after the 1911 building was condemned in 1938, that building was replaced by a brick building constructed with bricks made at school trustee John Kilgore's Cedar Bayou brick plant.

Cedar Bayou High School was in session until Cedar Bayou ISD consolidated with Goose Creek ISD in 1954. From the beginning of the school in the Masonic Lodge in 1876 through the purchase of two acres in 1911, the school at Cedar Bayou has grown more than ten-fold to a 24-acre campus and today provides a quality Junior School education for more than 1,000 students.

IV. REFERENCES

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Minutes of the Trustees Meetings of Cedar Bayou Independent School District, 1919-1954. Held by Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, 4544 Interstate 10 East, Baytown, Texas 77521. 281.420.4800. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30, Baytown, Texas 77522. GCCISD webpage: <http://www.gccisd.net/>

[The Baytown Sun](#) was founded in Goose Creek, Texas, as the weekly publication, *Goose Creek Gasser*, in 1919. In 1949 to better identify with the new community it served, the paper was given its current name, *The Baytown Sun*.

The Houston Chronicle is the largest daily newspaper in Houston, Texas, United States. As of April 2016, it is the third-largest newspaper by Sunday circulation in the United States, behind only *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*. With its 1995 buy-out of long-time rival *The Houston Post*, the *Chronicle* became Houston's newspaper of record. Archival issues dating from 1901 are available online at [NewsBank](#).

The Houston Post, founded in 1880, was a newspaper that had its headquarters in Houston, Texas, United States. In 1995, the newspaper shut down, and its assets were purchased by the *Houston Chronicle*.

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V. APPENDIX.

Table 1: Galveston Bay & Cedar Bayou School District No. 8 Scholastic Census, 1855¹⁶⁸

The following 58 children (28 males, 30 females), ages 6 to 16, were enumerated in October 1855 in the Galveston Bay & Cedar Bayou District No. 8, regardless of whether they actually attended school. The order is as it appears on the original handwritten census, which was transcribed by Gifford White in his 1979 book, *Scholastic Census of 1854*. Misspelled names have been corrected according to known documented spellings. See Appendix Image 1 for the original document.

The residence was determined from the 1853-1854 tax records showing the land grant. If the parent did not own property, land grant was not shown on tax records so the nearest neighbor with property listed on the 1850 and 1860 censuses was used. Today, Hannah Nash *labor* is the Wm Scott *labor* today; Walter Little land grant is J.W. Singleton and David McFadden today.

Name	Age	Sex	Parent/Guardian	Residence
Maria B. Cage	11	F	Rufus Cage	Wm Scott (U)
Polly Proctor	10	F	J. Proctor	Walter Little
Casander Proctor	14	M	"	Walter Little
R.P. Boyce	12	M	B. Page	W. Britton
German Boy	8	M	"	W. Britton
Elizabeth Blackgraves	9	F	Dr. Blackgraves	C. Smith
Easter Blackgraves	7	F	"	C. Smith
Rebecca Ann Walker	7	F	G. W. Walker	Undetermined
Elvira Vanhouten	6	F	G. Vanhouten	Chambers Co
Elizabeth Vanhouten	8	F	"	Chambers Co
George Vanhouten	12	M	"	Chambers Co
Henry Ashby	10	M	J. H. Ashby	Wm. Scott (L)
Glenn Ashby	8	M	"	Wm. Scott (L)
Salina Brown	10	F	J. W. Brown	C. Smith
Maria Brown	8	F	"	C. Smith
Margaret Little	14	F	Dr. A. Smith	Wm. Scott (L)
Charles Brooks	12	M	G. Brooks	H. Whiting
Clarissa Brooks	9	F	"	H. Whiting
Christian Rhea	14	M	J. R. Rhea	C. Smith
James Rhea	12	M	"	C. Smith
Julia Rhea	8	F	"	C. Smith
Carl Gurloff	10	M	C. Gurloff	Wm. Scott (L)
Eliza Baker	15	F	Hance Baker	Wm. Scott (L)

Mosley Baker	12	M	"	Wm. Scott (L)
George Smith	12	M	W. S. Smith	Wm. Scott (L)
Angelina Smith	10	F	"	Wm. Scott (L)
Laura Smith	6	F	"	Wm. Scott (L)
Mary Smith	14	F	"	Wm. Scott (L)
E. Jane Davidson	15	F	R. C. Davidson	Hannah Nash
Prentes Davidson	10	M	"	Hannah Nash
John Davidson	14	M	"	Hannah Nash
William Alexander	6	M	B. E. Roper	Hannah Nash
Cecelia Chubb	11	F	Thos Chubb	Hannah Nash
John Chubb	10	M	"	Hannah Nash
Edward Chubb	6	M	"	Hannah Nash
Lavenia Dalton	8	F	Dalton	Wm Scott (U)
William Dalton	10	M	"	Wm Scott (U)
Martha Dalton	12	F	"	Wm Scott (U)
George Overland	8	M	Geo Overland	Wm Scott (U)
William Overland	6	M	"	Wm Scott (U)
Cathrine Hagerman	13	F	Hagerman	Wm Scott (U)
Elizabeth Adams	13	F	Williams ^a	Wm Scott (U)
Napolean Shook	8	M	J. W. Shook	J. Strange
Clarissa Shook	6	F	"	J. Strange
Rebecca Shook	10	F	"	J. Strange
Emma Rundell	8	F	Rundell	N. Lynch
Robert Rundell	9	M	"	N. Lynch
William Statts	10	M	Mrs. A. Statts	N. Lynch
Matilda Statts	14	F	"	N. Lynch
George Statts	15	M	"	N. Lynch
John Statts	8	M	"	N. Lynch
Robert Statts	6	M	"	N. Lynch
Elizabeth Statts	12	F	"	N. Lynch
Mary Brooks	8	F	Spencer Brooks	N. Lynch
Benjamin Brooks	8	M	"	N. Lynch
Mina Lemon	11	F	"	N. Lynch
Howard Jones	15	M	J. B. Jones	Undetermined
Sister Jones	13	F	"	Undetermined

^a Elizabeth Adams was most likely the daughter of Mary Anna Adams, who was married to Austin Mays Williams, a grandson of Wm. Scott.

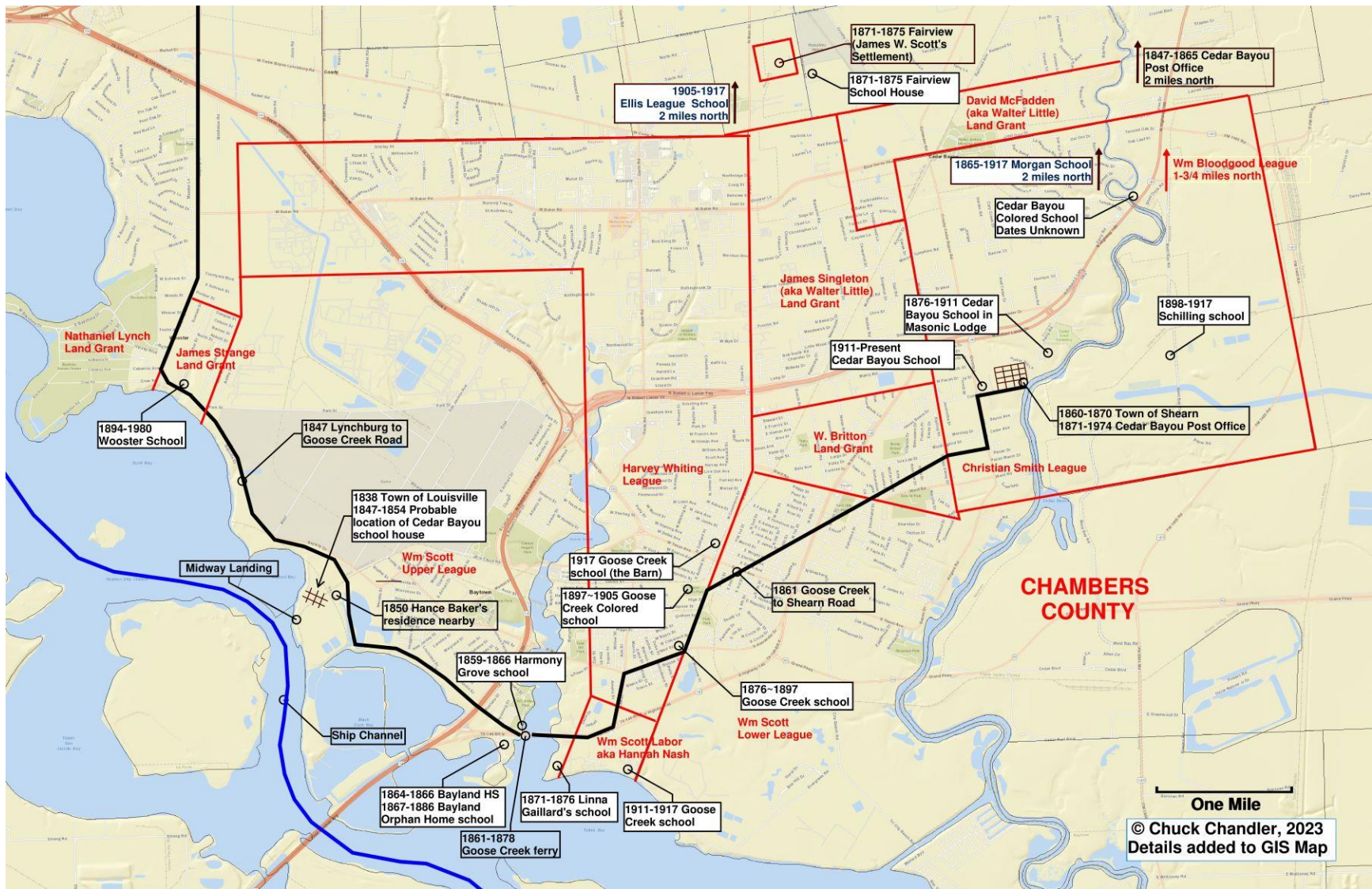
TABLE 2: According to known deeds the census appears to have been mostly taken in order geographically. Those with residence shown on Table 1 as Undetermined are within the "pack" of those whose residence is known, so they are listed here with their neighbors.

Children living near Christian Smith

<u>Land Grant</u>	<u>No. Children</u>
Walter Little	2
W. Britton	2
Chambers Co	3
Undetermined	1
<u>C. Smith</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	15

Children living closer to the Cedar Bayou school in Wm Scott (U)

<u>Land Grant</u>	<u>No. Children</u>
H. Whiting	2
Wm Scott (L)	10
Hannah Nash labor	7
Wm Scott (U)	8
James Strange	3
N. Lynch	11
<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	43



Map 1. When the Cedar Bayou Post Office opened in 1847 on what today is Needlepoint Road in Chambers County, the entire area shown on this map was considered the Cedar Bayou District. The 1850 to 1854 Cedar Bayou School House was located in or near the town of Louisville, laid out by William Scott's heirs in 1838. Development of the town was doomed by the 1844 hurricane and completely destroyed in the 1854 hurricane. The Cedar Bayou Post Office closed during the Civil War, but in 1871 a new Cedar Bayou Post Office opened in the town of Shearn, it became known as Cedar Bayou. Locations of schools were determined from deed records, county commissioner minutes, census records, and contemporary newspapers. Only schools prior to 1919, the year Goose Creek ISD was created, are shown.

District		Galveston Bay & Cedar Bayou	No 8 District	District
8 th	Rufus Leage	Maria B Leage		11
	J Proctor	Polly & Alexander	14	10
	B. Page	R P Boyce & German Boy	12, 8	
	D Blackysam	Elyzabeth & Carter		9, 7
	Elw Walker	Rebecca Ann		7
	J Vanhouten	Elvira Elyzabeth & George	12	6, 8
	J H Ashbey	Henry & Glenn	10, 8	
	Ju Brown	Salina & Maria		10, 8
	Dr A Smith	Margaret Little		14
	G Brooks	Charles & Clarissa	12	9
	J R Rhea	Christian James & Julia	14, 12	8
	le Gurloff	Leard Gurloff	10	
	Nanse Baker	Elyza & Mary Baker	12	15
		Over	11	13

District		District No 8 Continued		
No 8	W S Smith	Angeline George Laura Mary	12	13 10, 6, 14
	R L Davison	E Jane Prenter & John	10, 14	15
	B C Proper	William Alexander	6	
	Thos Chubb	Cecelia, John & Edward	10, 6	11
	Dalton	Larencie William & Martha	10	8, 12
	Geo Overland	George & William	8, 6	
	Hagerman	Catherine		13
	Williams	Elyzabeth Adams		13
	J H Sheck	Napoleon Clarissa & Rebecca	8	6, 10
	Burdell	Emma & Robert	9	8
	Mrs A. Stotts	William Matilda & George	19, 15	
	"	John Robert & Elyzabeth	8, 6	14, 12
	James Brooks	Mary & Benjamin B. Maria Lemon	8	8, 11
	J B Jones	Cecilia & Sister	15	13
		Lotue	28	30

Image 1. 1855 Scholastic Census, Galveston Bay and Cedar Bayou No. 8 District. Transcribed in Appendix, Table 1.

Proceedings of School Directors.

Nov-^r 9th, 1846-

The Petition of Seth Casey, G. J. Massey and others - parents and guardians - of Cedar Bayou, asking the establishment of a school Community - filed this day - and the list of children accompanying the same, being examined, and being satisfied that said petition is in good faith, the establishment of said Community is approved and sanctioned and the same is designated as "Cedar Bayou School Community No 25"; G. F. Jeffrey, W. C. Scott and G. M. Milam are appointed Trustees for said School Community.

And it further appearing that said School Community has a school room of ample size to accommodate the number of children reported, the sum of \$133.⁷⁵ is apportioned and directed to be credited to said School Community as its pro rata share of the available school fund for this scholastic year.

Image 2. Sheet from the Directors School Record establishing the first Cedar Bayou school at the Masonic Lodge. From the Harris County Archive.



Image 3. Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge. Classes were held on the first floor from 1876 to 1911. The building is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark. Image by author.



Image 4. Cedar Bayou Baptist Church was used for classes from 1877 into the 1890s. Image courtesy of Denise Reineke Fischer.

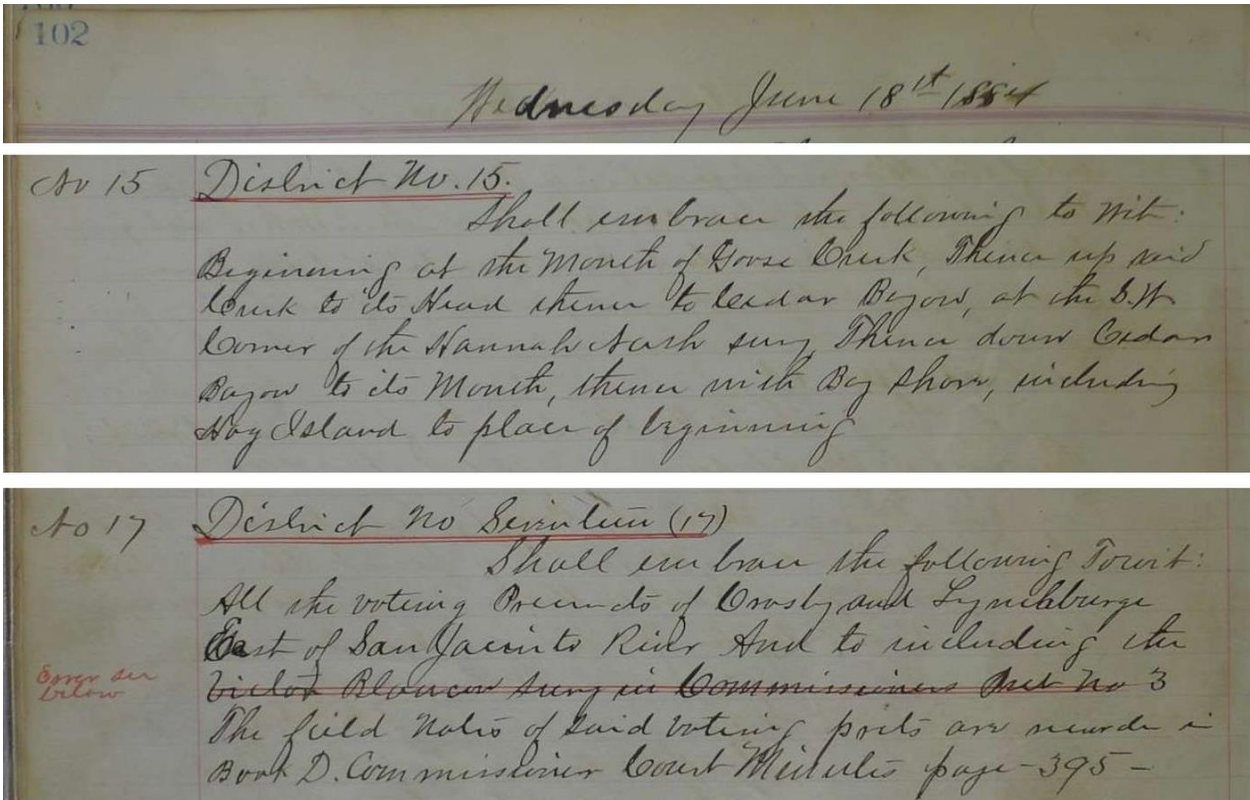


Image 5. Description of School District 15 east of Goose Creek and School District 17 west of Goose Creek. Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Vol E, page p102, June 06, 1884,



Image 6. The Schilling School in Chambers County was built on property donated in 1898 by Nicholas and Linna Schilling. The students were transferred to Cedar Bayou in 1916. Baytown History Museum

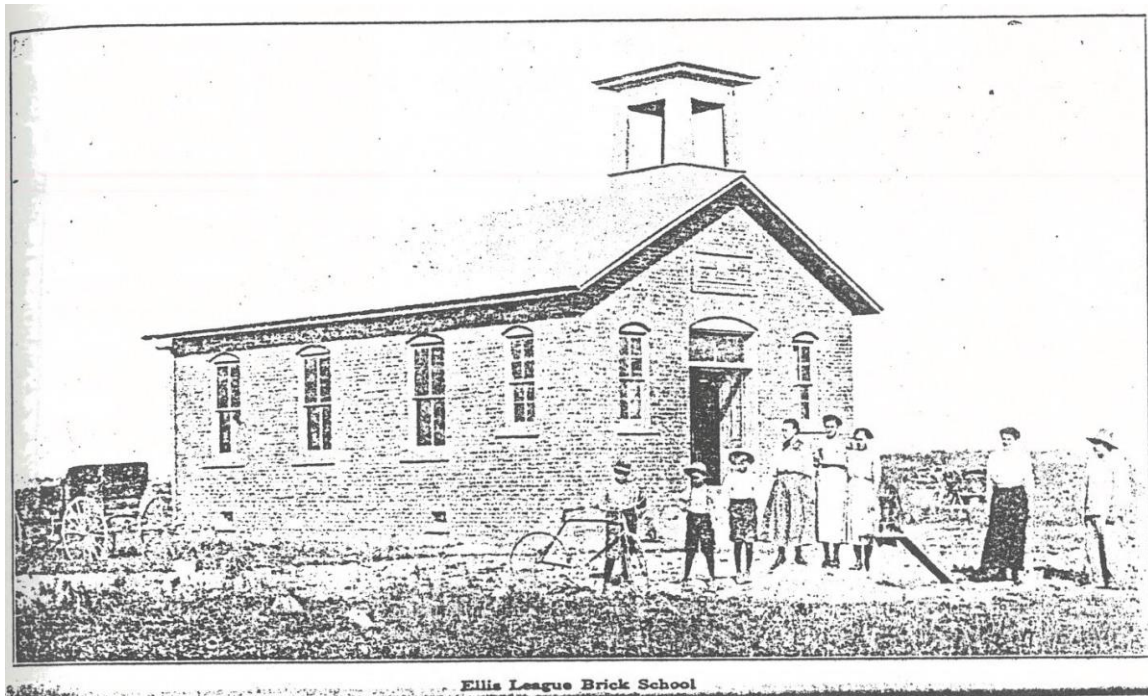


Image 7. The Ellis League School, established about 1904, was replaced by this brick building in 1911. The students were transferred to Cedar Bayou in 1924.

The Galveston Daily News, Feb 11, 1912, p16

No 8 6 8 1 4

15 Edward Ilfrey et ux,
16

To
General Warranty Deed

County Board of Education
School District No 15,

17 The State of Texas, County of Harris Know all men by these presents That we, Edward Ilfrey and E.A. Ilfrey
18 wife of said Edward Ilfrey
19 of the County of Harris, State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of (\$1) and other valuable
20 considerations One Dollar, to us in hand paid by the County Board of Education of Harris Co, Texas.
21 Have granted, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, sell and convey unto the said County
22 Board of Education and their successors in office for the use and benefit of School District No 15,
23 Harris Co, Texas, all of that certain tract or parcel of land, lying and situated near Cedar Bayou, Harris
24 Co, Tex, in the Christian Smith League, Abstract 69 and described as follows, to wit; Beginning on the N,
25 side of the Cedar Bayou and Wooster Public Road at the S.W. corner of a tract of land now owned by W.B. Mc
26 Lean and the S.E. corner of the Edward Ilfrey 30 acre tract, Thence S, 80-1/2° W, 250 feet long the N,
27 side of said public Road to corner a stake, Thence N, 9-1/2° W, 348-1/2 feet to corner a stake, Thence N;
28 80-1/2° E, 250, feet to the W line of said W.B. McLeans tract, Thence S, 9-1/2° E 348-1/2 feet along said
29 W.B. Mc Leans W line to the place of beginning, containing (2) Two acres.
30 To Have and To Hold the above described premises, together with all and singular, the rights and appur-
31 tenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Harris County Board of Educators and their succes-
32 sors in office, forever, and we do hereby bind ourselves, and our heirs, executors and administrators to
33 warra nt and forever defend all and singular the said premises, unto the said Harris County Board of
34 Education and their successors in office, against every person whomsóever lawfully claiming or to claim
35 the same or any part thereof.

36 Witness our hands at Cedar Bayou this 17th day of July A.D. 1911. Edward Ilfrey, E.A. Ilfrey.
37 The State of Texas, County of Harris, Before me, J.W. Ellender, Notary Public in and for Harris County,
38 Texas, on this day personally appeared, Edward Ilfrey and E.A. Ilfrey wife of said Edward Ilfrey, known
39 to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument of writing, and acknow-
40 ledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and considerations therein expressed.
41 and the said E.A. Ilfrey wife of the said Edward Ilfrey, having been examined by me privily and apart
42 from her said husband, and having the same by me fully explained to her she the said E.A. Ilfrey acknow-
43 ledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she had willingly signed the same
44 for the purposes and considerations therein expressed. and that she did not wish to retract it.
45 Given under my hand and seal of office at Cedar Bayou this 17th day of July A.D. 1911. J.W. Ellender.

CLERK'S NOTES—ART. 4606.

1 N.P. in & for Harris Co, Tex.) SEAL).
2 Filed for record July 19th, 1911, at 11,30, O'Clock A.M. Recorded July 20th, 1911, at 1,20, O'Clock P.M.
3 *Wm Jones* Clerk County Court, Harris County, Texas, By *Wm Donald* Deputy
4

Image 8. Harris County Deeds, Volume 272, page 192-193, donation of 2 acres by Edward Ilfrey to Harris County Board of Education.



Image 9. Cedar Bayou school house, built in 1911. It was deemed unsafe for use and razed in 1938. Image courtesy of Frances Jones.



Image 10. Cedar Bayou High School, built in 1928, also known as the "H" Building. It was razed in 1955. Baytown History Museum.

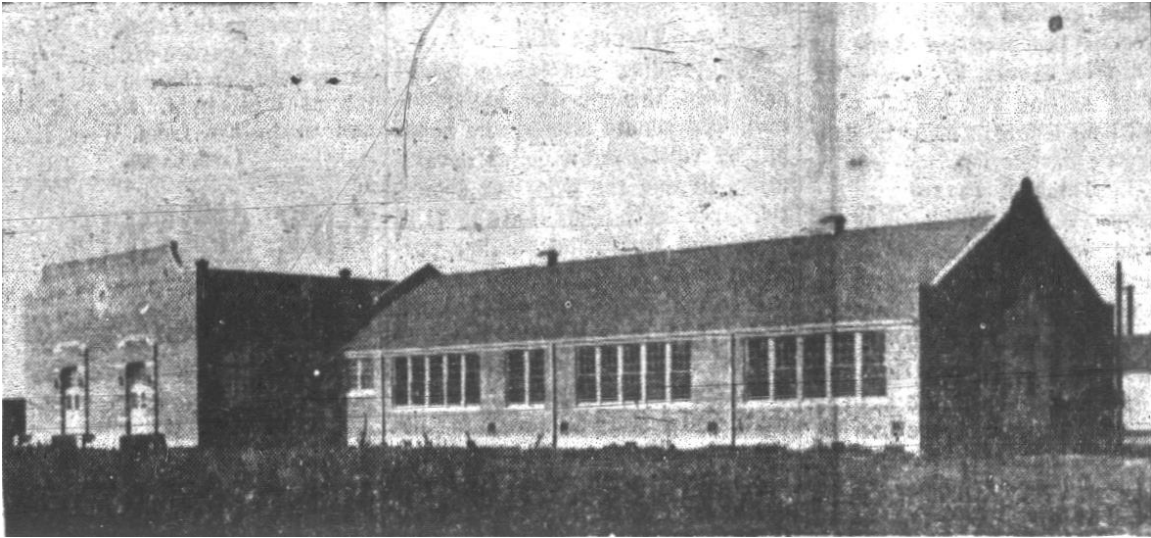


Image 11. Cedar Bayou High School, built in 1938. It was razed in 2001.
The Daily Sun, July 1, 1939, p1.



Image 12. This photograph of some of the Cedar Bayou students was taken in front of their school at the Masonic Lodge about 1907. Baytown History Museum.



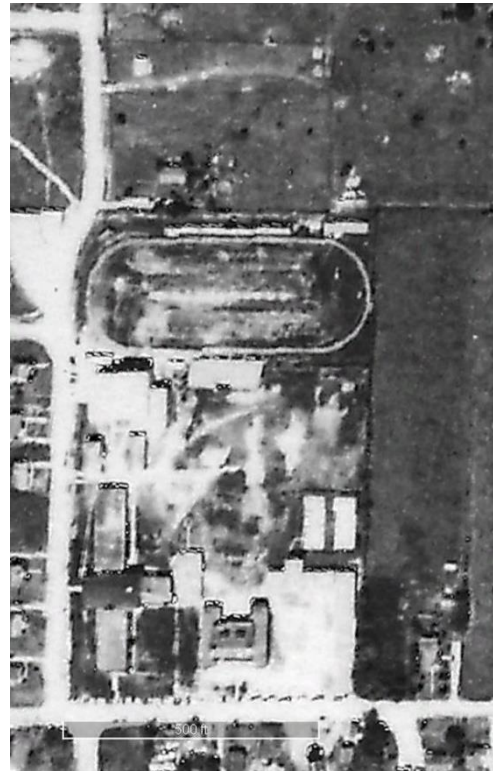
Image 13. This photograph taken in 1918 at Cedar Bayou School shows teachers Gladys Malone, Ida Bond, and Ohmie Wilcox and Principal Plummer Steagall in the back. They were all on School District 15 payroll. Baytown History Museum.



Image 14. This photograph taken in 1918 at Cedar Bayou School shows Bessie Kilgore second from left. She was the oldest alumnus to attend the 1992 Cedar Bayou reunion. Baytown History Museum.



1944



1953



1995



2023

Image 15. These four aerial images from Google Earth show the growth of the Cedar Bayou campus over the years. The 1944 picture shows the 1928 "H" building and the 1938 high school to the west. The 2023 image shows the original two-acre 1911 school ground in red.



Image 16. Cedar Bayou Junior School, 2023. Image by author.

NOTES:

¹ Sponsored by Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

² All known school locations in School District No. 15 and Cedar Bayou ISD are shown in Appendix Map 1.

³ Member, Harris County Historical Commission.

⁴ Member, Harris County Historical Commission.

⁵ The rather lengthy context is necessary to untangle a 125-year-old Baytown myth that the Methodist church and its associated school were built in 1847 at the school's present location in the Christian Smith League. This confusion came about for two reasons. First, there has been a general misunderstanding about the extent of the Cedar Bayou district in 1850 as viewed through a modern day lens. This comes from an 1897 history of the Cedar Bayou Methodist Church in which the oldest members they interviewed while writing the history disagreed about the location of events that happened 45 years before. The other misunderstanding came from Amelia Williams's 1935 book, *Following General Sam Houston, 1775-1863*, that erroneously attributed an event that happened on the Fourth of July 1845 at Cedar Creek in Washington County to Cedar Bayou in Harris County. The details are more fully explained in [The Methodist Church at Cedar Bayou, 1844-1886](#), by Chuck Chandler (downloads as a pdf). Published in the *Heritage Journal*, an annual publication of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society, Volume 17, 2021, p54.

⁶ "Some ten years since, Mrs. Penn, wife of D.C. Penn Esq., commenced a small Sunday School at her private residence on the San Jacinto, Harris County, Texas. ... She found a few willing to receive instruction. She persevered and now beholds the result. A very neat and comfortable country church and a very good week-day school." *Texas Wesleyan Banner*, May 22, 1850, p24. Available on microfilm at the Methodist Archive in Conroe, Texas.

⁷ "First the Union Sunday Schools, then the Weekday Schools, then the Churches, ... One of the neatest country church edifices in the State (Manayunk) is on the San Jacinto. It owes its origin to a Sunday school. Some fifteen miles above Manayunk another church is being modeled on the same plan which also owes its origin to a Sunday school. ..." [South-Western American \(Austin, Tex.\), June 30, 1852, p3](#).

⁸ *Pioneer Sketches, Cedar Point to San Jacinto*, by the Robert E. Lee Library Club, 1931. pages 9 & 75. This is according to Richard Hogue Dickson (1831-1931), whose brother-in-law, J. R. Hamilton, was the father of William S. Hamilton, the Cedar Bayou Methodist preacher. Dickson, a devout Methodist, lived in the area in 1850 and attended this church.

There are a lot of misinterpretations on page 75. Some of the following details would have been unknown to Dickson because he didn't live in the area continuously. Most of these details are mentioned elsewhere in the narrative and notes. Alexander Island was not known by that name until 1868, when Robert Alexander bought Adams Island. All those churches in the circuit didn't exist all at the same time. The 1-1/2 acres school tract was donated by Mary Jones, not Ashbel Smith. Fairview School was on the James W. Singleton grant, nowhere close to Wm Scott. Since J.R. Hamilton taught Richard Dickson logarithms and Dickson was the source, Dickson considered him as a teacher. J.R. Hamilton and his wife apparently followed the son, San Jacinto circuit preacher Rev. William S. Hamilton (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/239948986/william-scudder-hamilton>). J.R.'s name does not appear in any minutes of the Methodist Conferences anywhere in the country from 1839-1851 but that's not surprising. He was probably what was called a "Local Preacher," not ordained and not assigned to a circuit. His wife Sarah Hamilton died in 1850 and is buried at Cedar Bayou Methodist cemetery. All these issues are not surprising since Grandpa Dickson was remembering them 80 years later.

⁹ The Cedar Bayou school house served as a voting place for Precinct 8 from 1850 to 1852. [Telegraph and Texas Register, February 21, 1850, p3](#); [July 4, 1850, p3](#); [October 16, 1850, p3](#); [July 30, 1852, p3](#). The school started by Sarah Penn, called the Manayunk School, also served as a voting place for Precinct 10 through 1857. [Weekly Telegraph, January 28, 1857, p3](#).

¹⁰ "HARRIS COUNTY ELECTION BEATS. - Company Beat No 7 – To consist of all that part of the county of Harris embraced within the following limits, to wit: commencing at the mouth of Cedar Bayou, thence running up the said bayou to the intersection of the road leading from Houston to Liberty, on J. Scott's survey; thence

westwardly along the said road to the San Jacinto River; thence down said the river and San Jacinto Bay, to the place of beginning. Place of election, Louisville, Scott's Landing." [Telegraph and Texas Register \(Houston, Tex.\), Feb 15, 1843, p3.](#) [The same boundaries describe Precinct 8 in 1850.]

- ¹¹ In 1862 there were two voting places in the Goose Creek Precinct that had been renumbered as Precinct 9. "Election Notice," [The Tri-Weekly Telegraph, July 11, 1862 Page 2.](#) The following year, Goose Creek Precinct 9 was divided into Cedar Bayou Precinct (or Beat) 8 and Goose Creek Precinct (or Beat) 9. [The Weekly Telegraph, July 28, 1863, p2.](#)
- ¹² The [1862 Webster Dictionary](#) contains dozens of references to "common school" but, curiously, does not define the term itself. Under Schools, it defines primary school as "a school for instructing children in the first rudiments of language and literature; called, also, common school," (p988). The dictionary defines normal school as "an institution for training up persons to teach common schools," (p756). It also describes an Academy (what we would today call high school) as "holding a rank between a university, or college, and a common school (p262).
- ¹³ "Harris County," [Texas State Gazette, September 16, 1854, p3.](#)
- ¹⁴ "Effects of the Storm," [The Texas Ranger. \(Washington, Tex.\), October 5, 1854, p2.](#)
- ¹⁵ Texas agreed to give up claims on some of its northern and western territory in exchange for ten million dollars of relief on debt incurred during the time of the republic. [TSHA Online: Compromise of 1850](#)
- ¹⁶ [Telegraph and Texas Register, October 6, 1841, p2.](#)
- ¹⁷ *Texas Scholastics, 1854-1855*, p89. See 1854 Scholastic Census in the Appendix.
- ¹⁸ This could have been Rev. Benjamin A. Kemp. [Historical Sketch of Parker County and Weatherford, Texas](#), by Henry Smythe, 1877. pp32-33. In 1868 he was the preacher for the Cedar Bayou Circuit.
- "Texas Methodist Conference. Austin District, Blanco, B. A. Kemp. Galveston District. Lynchburg, W. Reese. Cedar Bayou, to be supplied." [The Belton Independent, December 4, 1858, p1.](#)
- "Appointments of the Preachers of the Texas Annual Conference. Columbus District. Eagle Lake colored mission, B. A. Kemp. Galveston District. Lynchburg, James Rice." [The Tri-Weekly Telegraph, Wednesday, November 30, 1859, p2.](#)
- "Appointments of Methodist Conference. Huntsville District. Trinity, B. A. Kemp. Galveston District. Harmony Grove, James Rice. [The Tri-Weekly Telegraph, Tuesday, November 27, 1860, p2.](#)
- "Appointments of the Texas Conference for the Ensuing Year." Columbus District. Bellville, B. A. Kemp. [The Tri-Weekly Telegraph, Friday, Nov 21, 1862, p2.](#)
- ¹⁹ [Ashbel Smith, M.D., University of Texas.](#)
- ²⁰ "The Court appointed R. K. Cage, Dr. Ashbel Smith, and Dr. Wm H. Howard as school examiners for the ensuing year." Harris County Commissioners Court minutes, Vol A, p193, May 1858.
- ²¹ "Friday, May 20, 1859. We learn from our friend Dr. Smith that a new post office has been established at Hageman's Landing, named Baytown. A school under charge of Mr. and Mrs. Kemp is to be opened in that neighborhood. There are pupils enough there to make a full school." " [The Weekly Telegraph, May 25, 1859, p1, c3.](#)
- ²² "... thence on the north side of Mrs. Lang's prairie field nearly direct to the Goose Creek crossing near Harmony Grove School House, thence along Mrs. Anson Jones' road to her north gate, thence nearly direct to Shearn on Cedar Bayou. ... and that John Rundell be appointed [road] overseer from Lynchburg to Harmony Grove. Harris County Commissioners Court minutes, August 19, 1861, Vol B, p008.
- The crossing near Harmony Grove was a ferry licensed to Samuel D. Page. It was mentioned in the minutes of the Bayland Orphan Home December 4, 1871.
- ²³ [1860 Census, Harris County Texas, Precinct 6, p5.](#) Other persons of interest: James Rice, 37, Methodist minister. William Hardy Bryan, 20, private teacher (to the Bryan children). Elizabeth F. Adams, 18, private teacher (to the Rundell children).

[1860 Census, Harris County Texas, Precinct 8, p6](#). Other persons of interest:

J.C. Woodruff, 18, not enumerated as a teacher, but boarded with Mary Jones and was a known teacher at Harmony Grove school; E.A. Stocking, 36, Methodist Minister; R.L. Harris, 23, School Teacher; Jeremiah Proctor, 39, Methodist Minister; A. Elledge, 57, Baptist Minister.

²⁴ *Postmaster Appointments for Harris County, Texas*, p 220. Baytown Post Office, Simon Hageman, Postmaster, established Mar 12, 1859, discontinued Jan. 23, 1867. Original at National Archives.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/535338:1932>

Transcription at [Jim Wheat's Postmasters & Post Offices of Texas, 1846-1930](#).

²⁵ "May Day in Houston - ... responses were made by Misses Lewis of Galveston, and Woodruff of Harmony Grove in a likewise becoming style." *Texas Christian Advocate*, May 10, 1860, p2. Julia Catherine Woodruff Kern,

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96671510/julia-catherine-kern..>

²⁶ [1860 US Census, Harris County Precinct No. 8, p6](#).

²⁷ "The Sabbath School Celebration Today," [The Weekly Telegraph, May 1, 1860 Page 1](#).

"The Sunday School Celebration at Houston," [The Civilian and Gazette, May 8, 1860, p1](#).

²⁸ ... crossing Goose Creek at the Harmony Grove School House, thence along Mrs. Anson Jones' road to her north gate Harris County Commissioners Court, August 19, 1861, Vol B, p008. This crossing was on a ferry later licensed to Samuel D. Page. April 1868, Vol C, p085.

²⁹ In mid-1863 Rev. C.C. Preston was recruited by Dr. John L. Bryan to move from Louisiana to Texas as a school teacher (he was introduced at the July 11, 1863 Harmony Grove Circuit Methodist Conference as "Visitor Rev. C.C. Preston from Louisiana"). As Principal and Teacher, he successfully ran the Harmony Grove School and the Bayland High School from 1864 through 1866.

Preston was not a trustee of the Orphan Home and his name does not appear on the charter, but according to *Orphan's Home at Bayland, Harris County, Texas*, by Ashbel Smith and Henry F. Gillette (Houston, Texas - A. C. Gray & Co, Printers and Book Binders, 1871), p5, "In 1866, the Rev. C. C. Preston presented a petition to the Legislature of Texas, then in session, asking for a charter to incorporate an institution for the support and education of the orphan children of Texas, to be located at Bayland, Harris county, and to be styled the 'Bayland Orphan's Home.'. A bill was accordingly introduced into the Legislature and passed." On Feb 4, 1871, Smith and Gillette were appointed to write a history of the home and at the May 6, 1871 board meeting, the trustees of the Bayland Home instructed the committee to publish this history in pamphlet form, along with a list of names of the inmates. The pamphlet is available at the Sterling Municipal Library in Baytown, Texas. A transcript can be accessed at: <http://genealogytrails.com/tex/gulfcoast/harris/baylandorphanhome.html>.

The Trustees voted on May 18, 1867 to "purchase the premises from Rev. C. C. Preston" – (Bayland Orphans Home Minutes, page 4). Preston continued working with the home as a travelling agent but disappeared on a fund raising trip up north. ([Galveston Daily News, December 4, 1867, p2, c5](#)).

In February 1869, Dr. Bryan's widow agreed to accept \$4000 for the property (Minutes, page 7; Harris County Deed Record Vol 9A, page 23 et seq, C.C. Preston, by Trustee to Trustees of Bayland Orphans Home, Recorded June 2, 1870). A fundraising campaign ensued.

³⁰ Preston had previously been principal of the Male Academy at Mooresville, Alabama.

"(c5) "Public attention is invited to the Advertisement of Mr. C. C. Preston, late Principal of the Male Academy at Mooresville, Alabama, who proposes to open a School for the instruction of youth in this place."

(c7) "THE PUBLIC, Are respectfully informed that C. C. Preston, A. B., late Principal of the Male Academy of Mooresville, Ala., has opened a Male School in this place. TERMS. All under 12 years of age, \$25.00. All over 12 years of age, \$30.00. Payment invariably in advance."

[The Southern Argus \(Columbus, Miss\), January 7, 1840, p3, c5 and c7](#)

³¹ [The Southern Argus \(Columbus, Miss\), February 19, 1841, p4, c4](#).

³² "St. Landry High School," [The Planters' Banner, \(Franklin, Attakapas Co, La\), January 3, 1852, p3](#).

"Bellewood High School," [Natchitoches Union, September 18, 1862, p2](#).

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- ³³ Preston was introduced at the July 11, 1863 Quarterly Conference meeting at Harmony Grove as a visitor from Louisiana.
- ³⁴ "Baytown High School," [Tri-Weekly Telegraph, November 18, 1863, p2, c6.](#)
- ³⁵ "Bayland Orphan Home," [Houston Post, September 2, 1907, p36, c6.](#)
- ³⁶ The Harmony Grove building was erected in 1856 on the 25-acre Bryan Homestead. [The Methodist Church at Cedar Bayou, 1844-1886](#), by Chuck Chandler, 2022.
- ³⁷ Harris County Deed Book, Vol 11, p68, Nov 13, 1871.
- ³⁸ "Bayland High School," [Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph, August 16, 1865, p3.](#)
- ³⁹ The October 14, 1865 meeting of the Lynchburg circuit called for the next meeting to be held at Harmony Grove. But the following meeting was held February 12, 1866 at the Bayland High School. After existing for more than five years (from before July 21, 1860 through October 14, 1865, as shown in the Lynchburg circuit QC minutes), there was never another meeting at or mention of Harmony Grove.
- ⁴⁰ "An Act to Incorporate the Orphan's Home at Bayland, Harris County Texas," [The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897 Volume 5 Page: 1,257](#), approved September 24, 1866, for 25 years.
- ⁴¹ After the orphan home was established Preston moved to Baltimore where he started another school ("Cambridge Ferry Neck, Trappe, MD." by Wilson M. Tyler [Easton Star Democrat, Oct. 22, 1927](#)) and died in 1869 ("Death of Dr. Preston," [Baltimore Sun, February 25, 1869, p2](#)).
- ⁴² Mary Smith McCrory Jones (1819–1907) was the last First Lady of the Republic of Texas, as wife of [Anson Jones](#), the last president of the Republic. She was the first president of the newly founded [Daughters of the Republic of Texas](#) in 1891. [Mary Smith Jones, TSHA Online.](#)
- ⁴³ "Mrs. Mary Anson Jones is Dead," [The Houston Post, January 1, 1908, p10, c3.](#) The obituary states that her children attended school in Galveston until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, when a school was established by the Kemps. The timing of the schools in her obituary appears to be incorrect which is not surprising, given that the events in question occurred nearly a half century earlier. Anson Jones died in 1858 and Mary Jones first moved to Galveston where her children attended school, and then moved to Goose Creek in 1859 (HCDR V-418, 460 acres from Henry G. Smith [Ashbel's brother] to Mary Jones) where her two youngest children attended the Harmony Grove school.
- ⁴⁴ Lucilla Penn, daughter of Sarah Penn, attended the Manayunk school and then Bayland High school. She also taught at the Bayland Orphan home, in 1868. [Galveston Daily News, November 1, 1868, p1.](#)
- ⁴⁵ "Cromwell Anson Jones - ... at the age of 15 years [1866] he was the master of a small school at Baytown." [The Galveston Daily News, January 21, 1888, p3.](#)
- "In reference to the action brought by C. Anson Jones against the Home for services rendered C.C. Preston in 1867..." Minutes of the Bayland Home, June 7, 1873, p85.
- ⁴⁶ "Judge C. Anson Jones," [Fort Worth Daily Gazette, January 2, 1889, p6.](#)
- ⁴⁷ The minutes of May 18, 1867, show income of \$675.00 "Cash from pay Scholars." It is unknown how many students were then enrolled, but in 1865, tuition for Bayland High School was \$50 per 10 month session and \$200 if board were included. [Tri-Weekly Telegraph, August 21, 1865, p4.](#) However, a year later, Superintendent Henry Gillette stated that there was just one pay scholar. ("Bayland Orphan's Home. Up the Bayou." [Flake's Bulletin, Friday, May 29, 1868, p4 c3.](#))
- ⁴⁸ There are numerous entries in the minutes through 1880 demonstrating that Bayland was a public school.
- "Proceeds from Tuition as [Public Common School](#) Teacher for Month of April, 1876." May 27, 1876, p130
- "Cash from Treasurer," Oct 14, Nov 21, 1878, p166 [197]
- "Cash from Public School Money." Mar 10, Apr 9, June 3 1879, p167 [198]
- "Cash from Public School Money." May 18, 1880, p167 [198]

After 1880, entries show neither cash from Treasurer nor Public School Money, but other sources show continued use of the facility for public education, suggesting that the Public School Money was not specifically recorded as such in the minutes. In June 1880 Bayland Orphan Home had 46 inmates [The Galveston Daily News, March 8, 1880, p4](#) and at the close of 1882, the home had 30 inmates with further decrease expected [The Weekly Democratic Statesman. \[Austin\], January 18, 1883, p5](#). In July 1883 Bayland School Community had 35 students. [The Galveston Daily News, July 31, 1883, p1](#), so at least some of those students were likely not inmates of the home.

On May 15, 1884, Rev. T.E. Woodson was appointed Superintendent of the home. In 1886-1887, he was named as a teacher at Bayland in School District 17, the only known county school district record naming a teacher for Bayland. School Ledger, 1030-A-03, Harris County Archive.

⁴⁹ The Bayland Orphan Home appears in School District No. 17 records in 1888-89 with no teacher and no money spent. School Ledger, 1030-A-03, Harris County Archive.

Bayland Orphan Home Minutes, July 14, 1887, p228.

⁵⁰ Harris County Deed Book, Vol 5, p514. Dec 7, 1867, Charles Stewart to Thomas B. Gaillard, 75 acres.

Harris County Deed Book, Vol 5, p515. Dec 7, 1867, S.A. Franck to Mary M. Gaillard, 100 acres.

⁵¹ "Goose Creek's Schools," [Goose Creek Semi Weekly Tribune, May 12, 1925, p5](#).

⁵² "Confederate Fortifications to Guard Ship Channel Were Only Short Distance from Causeway," [The News Tribune, July 28, 1933, Section VII, p6, c3](#). Available on microfilm at Sterling Library, Baytown, TX.

⁵³ "The Rise of Area Schools," by Bonnie Hazel Martin, [The Baytown Sun, March 3, 1968, p4](#).

⁵⁴ [Lynch, Nathaniel \(unknown-1837\). TSHA Online](#).

⁵⁵ "Education," [Telegraph and Texas Register, June 13, 1837, p4](#).

⁵⁶ Bayland to North County Line road, Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes April 1868, Vol C, p085.

⁵⁷ "Beginning at a stake in the West Boundary line of the Benj. Barrow Survey and the North West corner of Fairview School House tract, thence ...," HCDB Vol 19, page 767, W.C. Scott to F.H. Stocking.

⁵⁸ "Beginning at a stake in the West Boundary line of the Benj. Barrow Survey and the North West corner of Fairview School House tract, thence ...," Harris County Deed Book 32, p086. F.H. Stocking to R.C. Epperson, 1.3 acres, Feb 4, 1885.

⁵⁹ [Winnie McGee Yarrington \(1854-1926\)](#) is known as a school teacher through oral tradition, passed through Tommy Clayton's family. She was 17 years old in 1871.

⁶⁰ [The Methodist Church at Cedar Bayou, 1844-1886](#), by Chuck Chandler

⁶¹ [Patriot Ancestor Album](#), p 46. Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

⁶² [Martin Ellis Family Genealogy](#).

Brooks had bought 100 acres from John Rhea in today's Cedar Bayou community in 1847, but the 1860 census shows him still living immediately north of Mary Jones, who owned the land which later became Pelly.

Jane Brooks property was located in the vicinity of today's Goose Creek Park where West Texas Avenue crosses Goose Creek. Harris County Deed Book G, page 197, Harvey Whiting to Jane Brooks, Jan 1, 1841, 400 acres.

⁶³ "Gilbert rites to be held Thursday," [The Daily Sun, June 27, 1945 Page 1](#).

⁶⁴ Director's School Record for Harris County, 1876, [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) (accessed at Harris County Archives). Fairview and Bayland schools do not appear in any of the three parts of the school record.

⁶⁵ In a 1931 interview, Grandpa Dickson "recalled vividly his difficulties in trying to master the problems of logarithms in the early school." When he attended this school he was about 19 years old. This indicates that he was being tutored by his brother in law in a private school setting, rather than attending a primary school. He said that his classes were taught in a "small one-room log cabin on the present site of the Cedar Bayou Methodist

Cemetery.” It is notable that he did not say log church or log school house, further showing that this was not what they considered the Cedar Bayou school house. [Houston Chronicle, June 22, 1931, p3.](#)

⁶⁶ The Baptist Church was formed about 1860 in Chambers County in the John Steele land grant and was moved to Harris County in 1877. The church was dissolved in 1896. History of the Cedar Bayou Baptist Church, Sterling Library, Baytown, Texas.

The deed from J.T. Pounds to C.M. Milam was drawn up November 22, 1876 (Harris County Deed Book, Vol 17, Page 66. J.T. Pounds to C.M. Milam for Christian Church, 1 acre, July 26, 1877).

See Appendix, Image 4.

⁶⁷ "... a road leading from the store of Rosamond Milam & Brothers on Cedar Bayou, Harris County to the store of C. F. Ilfrey of said Bayou ..." Harris County Commissioners Court minutes Vol C, p664, May 16, 1878.

The road was surveyed and a map drawn in 1897. Harris County Map Book 2, page 25 - Ilfrey's Store & Milam Crossing, surveyed.

⁶⁸ The Methodist church at the Christian Smith league was built in 1858 and the town of Shearn was laid out in 1860, but the town did not begin to thrive until about 1870. [The Methodist Church at Cedar Bayou 1844-1886.](#)

⁶⁹ "Correspondence - Cedar Bayou P.O.," [Houston Mercury, July 9, 1873 Page 2.](#)

⁷⁰ "[Written History](#)," Cedar Bayou Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M.

⁷¹ "John Peter Sjolander, Aged Poet, is Honored on Birthday," [Houston Chronicle, April 2, 1930, p2.](#)

⁷² "John Peter Sjolander, Bard of the Bayou..." [The Daily Sun, March 24, 1938, p1.](#)

⁷³ "We have *determined* [italics by Stocking] to build a commodious chapel; the place has become entirely too straight for us. Can't you come over and see us this spring or summer. E.A. Stocking. Cedar Bayou, Feb 25, 1858." "Revival at Cedar Bayou." *Texas Christian Advocate*. March 16, 1858, p1.

⁷⁴ Harris County Deed Record, Volume X, p493. Seth Cary names Wm Shepherd as Agent for the town of Shearn.

⁷⁵ Charles F. Ilfrey, Postmaster, applied for the Cedar Bayou Post Office Oct. 12, 1870. Original at National Archives.

[Reports of Site Locations, 1837 – 1950;](#) (Firefox browser)

[Reports of Site Locations, 1837 – 1950;](#) (Other browsers)

The Cedar Bayou Post Office was established on October 12, 1870. Original at National Archives.

[Records of Appointment of Postmasters and the Establishment of Post Offices;](#) (Firefox browser)

[Records of Appointment of Postmasters and the Establishment of Post Offices;](#) (Other browsers)

Note that the Baytown (March 12, 1859) and Bayland (March 31, 1868) Post Offices are also on this page.

Transcription at [Jim Wheat's Postmasters & Post Offices of Texas, 1846-1930.](#)

⁷⁶ [Gammel, Hans Peter Mareus Neilsen. The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897 Volume 8,](#) book, 1898; Austin, Texas. accessed August 26, 2018, University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History.

⁷⁷ [Ashbel Smith \(August 13, 1805 – January 21, 1886\)](#) was a pioneer physician, diplomat and official of the Republic of Texas, Confederate officer and first President of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas.

⁷⁸ [Director's School Record for Harris County, 1876, Part 1,](#) page 12 (image 7). (downloads as a pdf)

⁷⁹ "Col. Ashbel Smith now runs the entire school machine of Harris County, being Superintendent," [The Galveston Daily News, April 15, 1875, p4.](#)

Ashbel Smith of Texas: Pioneer, Patriot, Statesman, 1805-1886, by Elizabeth Silverthorne, Texas A&M University Press, 1982, p185.

⁸⁰ See Appendix, Image 2

⁸¹ [Director's School Record for Harris County, 1876,](#) Part 1, page 66 (image 19).

⁸² [Director's School Record for Harris County, 1876,](#) Part 3, Circular No. 2, (image 14).

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- "Houston Local Items. The Schools." [Galveston Daily News, Wednesday, November 15, 1876, p4.](#)
- ⁸³ See Appendix, Image 3
- ⁸⁴ "Written History," Cedar Bayou Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M.
- ⁸⁵ "The Rise of Area Schools," by Bonnie Hazel Martin (see item [F] on page 4).
- ⁸⁶ "The County Schools," [Galveston Daily News, July 31, 1883, p1.](#)
- ⁸⁷ Public Free Schools law, enacted January 30, 1884. [Gammel's Laws, Volume 9, p 575.](#) Section 29. It shall be the duty of the County Commissioners Court of all counties not exempted from this section to subdivide their respective counties into convenient school districts ... Cedar Bayou became School District No. 15.
- ⁸⁸ [Gammel's Laws, Volume 9](#), pp 584-586. Sections 71-79. Counties exempted from the district system.
- ⁸⁹ "School District No. 15 shall embrace the following to wit; Beginning at the mouth of Goose Creek; thence up said creek to its head; thence to Cedar Bayou at the S.W corner of the Hannah Nash survey; thence down Cedar Bayou to its mouth; thence with the Bay Shore, including Hog Island to place of beginning." Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Vol E, p102, June 06, 1884. See Appendix, Image 5.
- ⁹⁰ School District 15 Account Register, 1886. Harris County Archives.
- ⁹¹ "The Dark Corner." [Galveston Daily News, November 24, 1886, p8.](#) This was probably the Goose Creek school, also known as the "Briar Patch school." According to the School District 15 Account Register, it was not in session in 1887-1888.
- ⁹² "Cedar Bayou Chips," [Galveston Daily News, September 19, 1889, p5 c3.](#)
- ⁹³ "Cedar Bayou Topics," [Galveston Daily News, November 23, 1889, p3 c3.](#)
- ⁹⁴ [Southern Banner \(Brenham, Tx\), April 10, 1890, p3.](#)
- ⁹⁵ Public Free Schools law, enacted May 20, 1893. Gammel, Hans Peter Mareus Neilsen. *The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897*, Volume 10, pp 612-638, book, 1898; Austin, Texas. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph6733/m1/626/>: accessed March 31, 2023), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History.
- ⁹⁶ Chambers County Commissioners Court Minutes, Volume B, p176, August 14, 1893. Chambers County was exempted from the 1884 school law requiring districts to be created until the law was revised in 1893.
- ⁹⁷ "Victoria Walker-Retired Teacher Recalls Career," [The Baytown Sun, February 19, 1984, p15.](#)
- ⁹⁸ The 1884 school law, amended but still in effect in 1893, allowed children belonging to a community lying on a county line to be transferred to an adjoining community in the other county. [Gammel's Laws of the State of Texas, Volume 9, p 578, Section 8, Article 7, Section 41, p46.](#)
- ⁹⁹ "Victoria Taylor Walker," Texas Historical Marker (2020), by John Britt. THC Atlas Marker Number 22752. "Who was Mrs. Walker?" by J. Warren Singleton, [The Baytown Sun, June 4, 2017, p12.](#)
- ¹⁰⁰ "Written History," Cedar Bayou Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M.
- ¹⁰¹ Teaching certificates were issued on an annual basis and Linna Gaillard's certificate was renewed on August 3, 1877. [Director's School Record for Harris County, 1876](#), Pt 1, Page 28. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57665789/linna-ellen-schilling>
- ¹⁰² "Goose Creek Schools," [Semi-Weekly Tribune, May 12, 1925, p5, c2](#)
- ¹⁰³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/151471193/pink-mary-lewis>
- ¹⁰⁴ Appendix, Image 12. This is not the entire student population.
- ¹⁰⁵ Cedar Bayou received \$655.50 from the state with \$6 allowed per student. "County School Apportionment," [Houston Chronicle, September 1, 1907, p15.](#)

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- ¹⁰⁶ "Harris County's Schools," [Houston Post, August 15, 1909, p13](#).
- ¹⁰⁷ "Cedar Bayou School," [Houston Chronicle, March 3, 1911, p5](#). At a citizens meeting on February 28, 1911, John Kilgore, Edward Ilfrey, and Chris Casey were elected a committee to pursue a bond issue to build a brick school on two acres of land donated by Ed Ilfrey. (This was not an action by the elected school board.)
- "Cedar Bayou News," [Houston Chronicle, April 14, 1911, p13](#). Curiously, the newspaper reported that "the voters of this precinct voted unanimously" to issue bonds to build the two new schoolhouses, but then stated, "The vote was 38 to 15."
- ¹⁰⁸ See Appendix, Image 9
- ¹⁰⁹ See Appendix, Image 7
- ¹¹⁰ Harris County Deed Record, Volume 272, Page 192, See Appendix, Image 8.
- ¹¹¹ *The Tri-Cities Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), July 28, 1933, p35. On microfilm at the Sterling Library.
- ¹¹² "To Build School Houses," [Houston Chronicle, July 16, 1911, p13](#).
- ¹¹³ Tommy Clayton wrote: In discussing this building with former teachers and students, they described it as brick exterior. I remember it as white stucco and we called it the stucco building. The 1912 Harris County School Report shows a picture of it with brick exterior. However, the August 23, 1930 Board Minutes state that "the old building was refurbished with plaster and stucco".
- ¹¹⁴ "Brick School for Cedar Bayou," [Houston Chronicle, Nov 5, 1911, p28](#).
- ¹¹⁵ "First Teacher Recalls 'How it was' Back in 1911," [The Baytown Sun, June 1, 1975, p1](#).
- ¹¹⁶ "[The Goose Creek Oil Field](#)," Texas Historical Marker, (2022), by Chuck Chandler. THC Atlas Marker Number 23535,
- ¹¹⁷ "Big Gasser Gave Kiddies Vacation," [Houston Post, February 11, 1917, p10](#).
- ¹¹⁸ "17 County Schools Close March 31; Funds exhausted," [Houston Chronicle, March 23, 1917, p7](#).
- ¹¹⁹ An unpublished book, *Genealogic Notes concerning the Pioneer Families & Landowners in the Cedar Bayou District before 1915*, by Leon van Meldert, names area pioneer families Wiggins, Pelly, Duke, Gaillard, Jones, Leger, Scoregga, Tabb, West, Whiting, (Ashbel) Smith, Lynch, Burnet, and Isenhour, who lived in the Cedar Bayou District, but would not be considered as Cedar Bayou today.
- ¹²⁰ "Cedar Bayou Independent School District," [Gammel's Laws of Texas, 1917-1918 \[Volume 18\] Page: 977](#).
- ¹²¹ "School District No. 15 boundaries were geographic and included all the schools within the district. Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Vol E, p102, June 06, 1884.
- ¹²² See Appendix, Image 6
- ¹²³ "Cedar Bayou School Growing," [Houston Post, September 20, 1916, p8](#).
- ¹²⁴ The wording of the 1917 law creating Cedar Bayou ISD states that School Districts 15, 12 & 13 were "divested of control of the public free schools within their limits."
- ¹²⁵ [Gammel's Laws of Texas, 1917-1918 \[Volume 18\] Page: 980](#). "SEC. 13. The fact that the educational facilities of the territory within the said Cedar Bayou Independent School District are insufficient for want of adequate school buildings and insufficiency of funds to provide school buildings and adequate schools, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity, necessitating the suspension of the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days, and the same is hereby suspended and this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted."
- ¹²⁶ Today, Goose Creek Consolidated ISD holds all the extant Goose Creek ISD and Cedar Bayou ISD records, but there are no existing Cedar Bayou ISD records from 1917-1920 among them. The first entry in the oldest surviving Cedar Bayou ISD minutes book on September 17, 1921 showed the district to be 400 dollars in debt, indicating that the minutes for the years 1919-1921 have been lost. Most Harris County school district records were lost in a 1928 fire at the Harris County Department of Education and the surviving records are preserved at

the Harris County Archives.

[Houston Daily Post, Wed, June 6, 1917, p12 c3](#). "MADE INDEPENDENT DISTRICT. Cedar Bayou has been made an independent school district by the State department of education, and another election of school trustees will be necessary. A building will be constructed at Goose Creek, where two acres of land were deeded for school purposes years ago. There are 230 children of school age at Goose Creek."

[Houston Chronicle, April 5, 1918, p12 c3](#). "An election to select two county school trustees and an election for school trustees in the independent and common school districts of Harris County will be held Saturday. One county trustee is to be elected in Precinct No. 1 and in Precinct No. 2. In each of the 48 common school districts three trustees will be elected and three in each of the five independent school districts."

¹²⁷ "Most of County Schools to Open Doors Monday," [Houston Chronicle, September 16, 1917, p6](#). Cedar Bayou teachers: H. B. Steagall, Ida Bond, Ohmie Wilcox, Gladys Malone. Includes details about the new compulsory attendance requirements and mentions a new temporary 6-room school at Goose Creek. Photos of these four teachers are in the Appendix, Image 13.

¹²⁸ "Audit of School District Accounts, 1917-1920," Harris County Archives

¹²⁹ "Institute to Precede the Opening of Rural Schools," [The Houston Post, September 10, 1916, p39](#).

The only teacher named in the Goose Creek school in 1916 was Cora Lazenby. After the school annex was built, they hired a second teacher during the Fall 1916 term for Goose Creek.

¹³⁰ "County Schools open Monday in Most Districts," [Houston Chronicle, September 15, 1918, p6](#).

The list names 11 teachers in the Cedar Bayou district: A.H. Plummer, Eunice Mulkay, Una May Thompson, Mary Louise Bartlett, Mrs. M. Ardella Grant, Ola Rainey, Mrs. Roy Simmons, Elsie Duke, Marybelle Duke, Mrs. F.H. Gurley, and Eunice Flowers.

¹³¹ "Most of County Schools to Open Doors Monday," [Houston Chronicle, September 16, 1917, p6](#). *Development of Education in Texas*, Eby, p230.

¹³² "Creating the Goose Creek Independent School District in Harris County," [Gammel's Laws of Texas, 1919 \[Volume 19\] Page: 504](#).

¹³³ "Amending Act Creating Cedar Bayou Independent School District in Harris and Chambers Counties," [Gammel's Laws of Texas, 1919 \[Volume 19\] Page: 1,403](#).

¹³⁴ Tommy Martin Clayton, [Find a Grave](#).

¹³⁵ History of the Schools at Cedar Bayou, 1845-1954, by Tommy Clayton. 1992. The unpublished manuscript is held by Sterling Municipal Public Library.

¹³⁶ See Appendix, Image 14

¹³⁷ Cedar Bayou ISD Minutes, Aug 10, 1923.

¹³⁸ See Appendix, Image 10

¹³⁹ "Work to Start on Playgrounds as Plans Okehed," [The Daily Sun, December 6, 1933, p3](#).

¹⁴⁰ "Engineer Urges Bayou to Abandon Old Building," [The Daily Sun, October 29, 1938, p1](#).

¹⁴¹ See Appendix, Image 11

¹⁴² "Bayou Stadium to Seat 2,000," [The Daily Sun, August 3, 1946, p6](#).

¹⁴³ [Find a Grave; John Matthew Kilgore](#)

¹⁴⁴ [Find a Grave; Charles Duran Massey](#)

¹⁴⁵ [Find a Grave; Victoria Taylor Walker](#)

¹⁴⁶ "85-Year-Old John Kilgore Remains 'Young at Heart'," [The Baytown Sun, September 15, 1963, p8](#).

¹⁴⁷ Minutes of the Trustees Meetings of Cedar Bayou Independent School District, 1919-1954.

No school trustee elections were held in Cedar Bayou in 1909 and 1910.

Houston Chronicle, April 8, 1911, p6. R. D. Smith and A. M. Dahlquist elected school trustees at Cedar Bayou.

Houston Daily Post, Fri, 12 Apr 1912, p13. R. J. Tompkins elected school trustee at Cedar Bayou, by vote of 13-3.

Lists of elected trustees not found in 1913, 1914.

Houston Daily Post, Sun, 8 Jun 1913, p20. School census. Cedar Bayou, white 134, colored 34, total 168.

Houston Chronicle, August 1, **1915**, p24. Current school trustees for Districts 1-49. "15. Cedar Bayou -- **John Kilgore**, A. H. Dahlquist, E. O. Sjolander."

Houston Daily Post, Sat, 15 Apr 1916, p14. School census. Cedar Bayou, white 170, colored 19, total 189.

Houston Chronicle, March 28, 1928, p11. "John Kilgore, president of the school board of the Cedar Bayou independent school district" ... announced award of contract for a new 10-room elementary school, for \$43,700. The auditorium will seat 400 persons.

Houston Chronicle, April 8, 1934, p1. "John Kilgore was re-elected at Cedar Bayou."

Houston Chronicle, March 21, 1940, p11. "John Kilgore, a member of the school board for more than a quarter century ..."

Houston Chronicle, April 7, 1940, p6D (image 46). "It was Kilgore's first defeat in 15 years."

Houston Chronicle, May 3, 1940, p4B (image 28). "Mr. Kilgore recently retired from active service with the school board, having served 30 years."

¹⁴⁸ "Hogg Island Ferry Is Out," [*The Daily Sun*, May 3, 1937, p1.](#)

¹⁴⁹ "Victoria Walker-Retired Teacher Recalls Career," [*The Baytown Sun*, February 19, 1984, p15.](#)

¹⁵⁰ "Checking out the campus," [*The Baytown Sun*, August 3, 2007, p1.](#)

¹⁵¹ "County Court Puts Approval on Election," [*The Baytown Sun*, March 8, 1954, p1.](#)

¹⁵² "Cedar Bayou Jr High is Now Official," [*The Baytown Sun*, April 20, 1954, p1.](#)

¹⁵³ "Major Part of Cedar Bayou Annexed by City Council in Surprise Action," [*The Baytown Sun*, August 26, 1955, p1.](#)

¹⁵⁴ "Cedar Bayou Elementary – Bowie New Name Here," [*The Baytown Sun*, April 3, 1956, p1.](#)

¹⁵⁵ "School Bond Issue Huge success," [*The Baytown Sun*, October 1, 1990, p1.](#)

¹⁵⁶ "Construction clicking along," [*The Baytown Sun*, March 28, 1993, p86.](#)

¹⁵⁷ "Early and main-in voting dates for GCCISD announced," [*The Baytown Sun*, April 2, 1999, p1.](#)

¹⁵⁸ "Reaction to bond package mixed among Highlanders," [*The Baytown Sun*, April 11, 1999, p1.](#)

¹⁵⁹ "Election Results, Bond Failure Indicate Ironies," [*The Baytown Sun*, May 4, 1999, p1](#)

¹⁶⁰ "GCCISD bond issue passes by wide margin," [*The Baytown Sun*, October 4, 1999, p1.](#)

¹⁶¹ "Notice to Proposers," [*The Baytown Sun*, March 26, 2001, p12.](#)

¹⁶² "Shovels Signal Cedar Bayou Junior School Construction," [*The Baytown Sun*, September 14, 2001, p5.](#)

¹⁶³ "Goose Creek Officials Report Smooth Opening Day," [*The Baytown Sun*, August 20, 2002, p1.](#)

¹⁶⁴ The new field was under construction in September 2021 and completed by January, 2022. Google Earth Historical Imagery.

¹⁶⁵ Appendix, Image 16

¹⁶⁶ Appendix, Image 15

¹⁶⁷ [Public School Review, Cedar Bayou Junior School.](#)

¹⁶⁸ Appendix, Image 1