

HONORING THE SUGAR LAND 95 FORT BEND ISD

BACK TO BONDAGE: FORCED LABOR IN POST RECONSTRUCTION TEXAS is a comprehensive report finalized in August 2020. It details the discovery, exhumation, and bio-archeological analysis of Bullhead Convict Labor Camp (41FB355), located at the site of the James C. Reese Career and Technical Center Campus in the Fort Bend Independent School District. As finalized, the estimated 500-page report documents the work and contributions of various researchers, scholars, and authors including Reign Clark, Catrina Banks Whitley, Ron Ralph, Helen Graham, Theresa Jach, Abigail Eve Fisher, Valerie Tompkins, Emily van Zanten, and Karissa Basse. To request a copy of "Back to Bondage," please visit www.fortbendisd.com/SL95report.



Fort Bend ISD is providing this publication as an important learning tool to our community and audiences across the state, nation, and world, as we strive to educate about the state-sanctioned convict leasing system, which followed the end of slavery in the United States. By publically sharing this information related to the history, lives, and deaths of individuals impacted by the convict leasing system, we hope to bring awareness to the racial injustices of the past and to properly memorialize the "Sugar Land 95" in the future. Produced by Fort Bend ISD with the assistance of Reign Clark, lead archeologist of the Bullhead Camp Cemetery discovery, this publication serves as a detailed summary of two and a half years of the exhumation, research, and educational efforts aimed at properly honoring those found — The Sugar Land 95.

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BACKGROUND

In October 2017, construction of the James C. Reese Career and Technical Center (JCRCTE Center) began. What set out to be a routine period of construction turned into international news when a forgotten and unmarked cemetery was unearthed on land purchased by Fort Bend ISD to build the school.

After months of excavating, archaeologists discovered the remains of 95 people, presumably 94 men and 1 woman. It was concluded that these people were part of a state-sanctioned convict leasing system, which operated in Texas after the abolition of slavery until the turn of the 20th century. In response to community input,



the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees decided to re-inter the remains of those found in their original resting places located on the site of the JCRCTE Center.

The discovery of the Sugar Land 95 has taken Fort Bend ISD on an unprecedented journey of twists and turns, all in the name of honoring those found and shedding light on the hidden history of the place we call home.

SUGAR LAND 95: RECORDS OF THE DECEASED

Based on extensive analysis and in-depth research, the archaeologists determined that the remains were likely those of men who labored and died on the Bullhead Convict Labor Camp. These convict laborers were part of a horrific and state-sanctioned prison labor system. In total, there were 95 bodies exhumed from this forgotten cemetery. Laboratory analysis has concluded that the remains of the men who labored and died on Bullhead Camp showed signs of disease, repeated injury, and gunshot wounds likely sustained during escape attempts.



They endured the indignity of corporal punishment, hunger, insufficient clothing, exposure, and severe overwork. The study of their remains was an opportunity to reveal the results of another form of slavery that lasted for nearly 50 years past the end of the Civil War. The data presented here provides a close look at the tragedy that befell the men who died on Bullhead Convict Labor Camp between 1879 and 1909.

Photo of excavated, covered remains

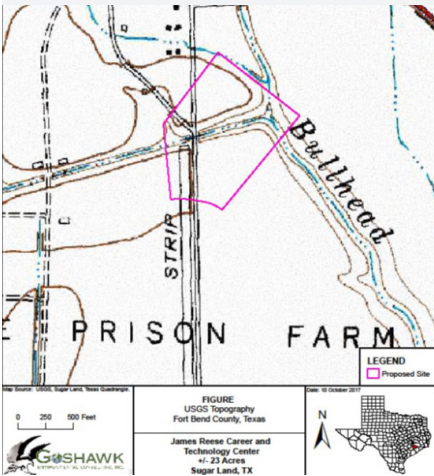
THE INITIAL DISCOVERY

On February 19, 2018, a contractor working at the construction site of the FBISD's James C. Reese Career and Technical Center uncovered the first remains. A forensic analysis followed, determining that they were human bone fragments.

Under the guidance of the Texas Historical Commission, an archeological firm led the exhumation. They also studied the

remains for further analysis and historical research to gain a better understanding of what was found.

What was unearthed during the study was shocking. Through archival research, exhumation, and intensive laboratory study, the cemetery was found to be associated with the 19th century Bullhead Convict Labor Camp.



Aerial map of proposed James C. Reese Career and Technology Center



X-ray image of healed gunshot wound to the jaw



CONVICT LEASING: A NEW FORM OF SLAVERY

Prior to the American Civil War, the main economic driver in the former Confederate States was large-scale agriculture, which was heavily dependent on forced labor in the form of chattel slavery.

Convict labor was used to rebuild the southern economy. Their free labor was instrumental to the success of many industries, as they were used to mine coal, build railroads, mill lumber, as well as farm on



cotton and sugar plantations. Convict labor was even used to quarry the granite used to build the Texas State Capitol. The demand for convict labor grew as profits increased, thereby leading to the increased arrest of Black people. It was not uncommon for Black men to be arrested for minor crimes, given overinflated sentences, or even convicted based on false charges.

Vagrancy statutes — laws that penalized individuals who were unemployed or homeless — brought about the

increased incarceration of newly freed Black people. These laws perpetuated the convict leasing system and set the stage for the discriminatory Jim Crow laws that governed America throughout the mid-20th century.

With the emancipation of slaves and the death of more than 250,000 men of all ages as a result of war, a serious deficit of farm labor devastated the economy of the southern states. At the end of the war, the southern states slid into an economic downturn due to this lack of labor.

Ratified in 1865, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. According to popular belief, this amendment freed all slaves throughout the country following the war. However, upon reading the text of the amendment, it states, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, nor any place subject to their jurisdiction."

It was soon realized that this clause within the amendment allowed a ready source of inexpensive labor by using prisoners, as long as they had been convicted of their crime by a court. In no time lawmakers across the old south began passing laws to continue their pre-war practice of using convict labor — a new form of slavery.

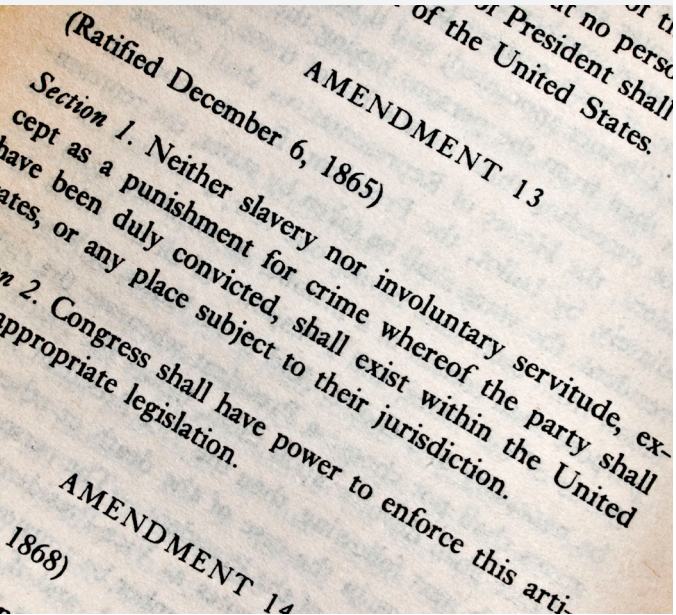


Photo of convict laborers at work on the granite columns for the Texas State Capitol construction circa 1885, Austin History Center



CONVICT LEASING IN TEXAS

By the time the war ended in 1865, there were approximately 1,000 prisoners housed in Huntsville Prison. To offset the costs of maintaining the prison, lawmakers explored ways to make it more self-sufficient. By 1871, the governor of Texas approved a contract to lease the Huntsville Penitentiary to Ward, Dewey, and Company, a company which then leased the labor of prisoners to private individuals and corporations.

The company was responsible for feeding and clothing the prisoners at the main penitentiary and the

private outside camps. Typically, Anglo convicts were sent to the wood-cutting camps of East Texas and Hispanic convicts were sent to work on the railroad. Black convicts were sent to cultivate crops — primarily cotton and sugarcane — often on the same plantations from which they were freed only six years prior.

This original system had many problems, ranging from abuse and neglect of convicts to the extortion of funds from labor leaseholders. These issues resulted in Ward, Dewey, and Company losing its lease in 1876.



Photo courtesy of Library of Congress

LABOR CAMPS IN SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

After receiving numerous proposals, in January 1878, the State awarded a five-year contract to two partners, Edward H. Cunningham and Littleberry A. Ellis of Cunningham and Ellis. The men made a fortune in lease payments, much of which they put into the acquisition of more land.

Cunningham, a resident of Bexar County, began acquiring land in Fort Bend County, Texas that would eventually total 12,500 acres. Ellis, previously owing land in Brazoria County, purchased active labor camps and agricultural fields in Fort Bend County. Eventually, Ellis owned 5,300 acres, which he named Sartartia Plantation after his daughter. Using the labor of convicts, Cunningham and Ellis were able to create one of the largest sugar plantations in the country following the Civil War.

Convict leasing reached its peak during Cunningham and Ellis’ reign over the prison system. Together, by 1880, Ellis’ Sartartia Plantation and Cunningham’s Sugar Land Plantation utilized 365 convicts, while leasing out hundreds more to local plantations in need of low-cost labor. Although they were only about 30 percent of the Texas population, Black people made up 50 to 60 percent of the prison population during the convict leasing period from 1871 to 1911.

The prison camps established by these men did not cease operation when their lease of Huntsville Penitentiary ended in 1883. Prison labor continued on newly minted state prison farms including the Harlem State Farm, the Central State Farm, and the Imperial State Farm, to name a few.



Agricultural artifacts unearthed at FBISD site



BULLHEAD CAMP & CEMETERY

- The Bullhead Camp and Bullhead Camp Cemetery were situated on the land once known as Sartartia Plantation, which was owned and operated by L.A. Ellis and his family.
- Named after its position along the Bullhead Bayou Creek, the labor force that lived and worked at this site operated under six different names.
- Between 1880 and 1910, the inmate population at the Bullhead Camp ranged between 57 and 387.
- Results of analysis has determined the 95 individuals found at the Bullhead Camp Cemetery were of African descent.

TIMELINE & NAMES OF THE LABOR FORCES ON BULLHEAD CAMP

It is understandable that camp names shifted when a leaseholder sold or bought a piece of land where convict labor was used. The labor forces also changed names when new leaseholders took over a labor force or when a camp was renamed due to the sale or abandonment of a camp.

The biennial reports indicated Ellis held leases for convict labor in Waller, Brazoria, and Fort

Bend counties at different times. The dates of Ellis’ land sales and purchases in all three counties corresponded to the name changes of the labor forces on his various camps, as documented by the state penitentiary.

To summarize, the labor forces leased on Bullhead Camp were known by the following names for the time-frames listed below.

Labor Force Name at Bullhead	Use of Name Begins	Use of Name Ends
J.A. Freeman Camp	About Nov. 1875	End of July 1880
L.A. Ellis Camp #2	Beginning of Aug. 1880	About April 1885
L.A. Ellis Camp #1	About April 1885	About Dec. 1896
C.G. Ellis Camp #1/Ellis Camp #1	About Dec. 1896	April 8, 1907
*Imperial Sugar Co. purchased	April 8, 1907	Feb. 17, 1908
Imperial Prison Farm Camp #1	Feb. 17, 1908	*Dec. 31, 1911

**Imperial Sugar Co. held leases for labor from the prison before they sold to the State, but no deaths were found*
***The Imperial name lasted until the opening of the Central Unit #1 Prison in 1932*
****End of convict labor era and founding of Old Imperial Prison Farm Cemetery*

DATA COLLECTION ON THE BULLHEAD CAMP

Information about the men who died on Bullhead Camp was obtained from original Texas State Penitentiary documents, including, but not limited to, official conduct cards, convict records, and additional public death records for Fort Bend County.

A complete collection of biennial reports of the Texas Penitentiary Board (pictured) were found at the Texas State Library and Archives. These records provided details of leaseholders’ concerns and the

camps to which the labor forces were sent.

In addition, three years of original reports from the chief inspector of the Texas Prison System to the Governor were found at the State archives. These rare documents included information about the transition of the labor force between the years of 1875 and 1910. This discovery provided a way to determine labor force date ranges and the deaths associated with the cemetery discovered at the JCRCTE site.

Report of Penitentiary Board.				
EXHIBIT No. 9.				
Locations of convicts on hand October 31, 1888, and number of escapes and deaths from November 1, 1886, to October 31, 1888.				
Forces.	Locations.	On hand.	Escaped.	Died.
Hall, Hutchings & Co.	Brazoria county	85	1	2
E. H. Cunningham	Fort Bend county	134	7	11
J. A. Ellis, Camps Nos. 1 and 2	Brazoria county	69	3	31
L. A. Ellis, Camp No. 3	Waller county	143	15	7
H. B. Hearne	Robertson county	54	3	9
T. W. House	Fort Bend county	66	1	4
H. L. Lewis, Camps Nos. 1 and 2	Robertson county	129	5	6
W. W. Walls	Robertson county	50	2	1
H. K. White	Burleson county	37	2	1
R. J. White	Robertson county	73	2	2
Ed. Wilson	Robertson county	55	2	1
Rodgers & Hill	Brazos county	133	1	8
Wm. Hearne	Robertson county	120	3	4
Harlem	Fort Bend county	105	4	17
Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, No. 1	Railroad	33	5	1
Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, No. 2	Railroad	57	5	2
Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, No. 3	Railroad	38	4	1
Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, No. 4	Railroad	51	1	1
Missouri Pacific, No. 1	Railroad	105	4	1
Missouri Pacific, No. 3	Railroad	59	4	3
Houston and Texas Central, No. 1	Railroad	54	1	2
Houston and Texas Central, No. 2	Railroad	51	1	2
Huntsville prison proper	Waller county	612	3	57
Huntsville prison, outside	Waller county	195	3	63
Cherokee county	Cherokee county	618	19	8
Task prison, outside	Cherokee county	227	4	1
Deaths and escapes en route				
Total number of convicts on hand Oct. 31, 1888		3302		

Convict locations, Texas Penitentiary Board biennial report 1888b, courtesy of Texas State Library

CONVICT RECORD, TEXAS STATE PENITENTIARY,														
AT HUNTSVILLE, WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS.														
Registral No.	NAME	Age	Height	Weight	Color	Mark	Place of Birth	Marital Status	Time of Arrival	Time of Discharge	Time of Death	Time of Burial	Remarks	Remarks
5322	Frank Robinson	30	5' 11"	150	Black		Missouri	Single	July 1879	July 1881	July 1881	July 1881	Discharged June 1881	
5323	Perry Dennis	31	5' 7"	140	Black		Missouri	Single	July 1879	July 1881	July 1881	July 1881	Discharged Oct 9	
5324	Sam Lovings	33	5' 8"	139	Black		Missouri	Single	July 1879	July 1881	July 1881	July 1881	Discharged May 1881	
5325	Joe Thomas	29	5' 7"	140	Black		Missouri	Single	July 1879	July 1881	July 1881	July 1881	Discharged May 1881	

STATE PENITENTIARY, HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS.			
Reg. No.	NAME	LOCATION	PUNISHMENTS
5338	Jack Hudson	Huntsville	From 7/18/79 to 7/18/81 for throwing away shoes
7492	Montgomery	Huntsville	From 10/18/81 to 10/18/82 for fighting
Died Dec. 12, 1893			
Consumption			

Example of Convict Record, Texas State Penitentiary 1888, courtesy of Texas State Library (above)

Example of Inmate Conduct Card, Texas State Penitentiary 1893, courtesy of Texas State Library (left)

ROSTER OF DECEASED AT BULLHEAD CAMP: CONTEXT AND VALIDITY OF THE DATABASE

The data presented in the following pages include physical and locational information for each inmate identified in archival records as having died on Bullhead Camp. The information was finalized after many months of extensive research, with the final names being determined as recently as the summer of 2020. It was not until all records were studied that the list of names was complete. The data help create a precise timeline detailing its use as a forced labor camp and increases our understanding of the brutal treatment and unimaginable conditions that caused the death of the men buried at the Bullhead Camp Cemetery.

The following roster is a list of men who are thought to be buried in some of the 95 unmarked graves found at the cemetery. The list includes 71 men who labored and died on Bullhead Camp between 1879 and 1909, as well as one man (Steve Newman) who is recorded to have

been buried on Ellis’ land but was not a prisoner, and two men (Israel Newsom and Alfred David) who labored at Bullhead Camp but were buried at the Old Imperial cemetery.

The records used to create this list indicated that these men were located at the Bullhead Camp at their times of death, but did not indicate where they were buried. Without conducting Ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis, it is not possible to name any individual buried at Bullhead Camp Cemetery with certainty. Conducting aDNA analysis, connecting a living descendent to the deceased individual, and successfully working back through genealogical records, are the only ways to successfully know the connections between the 74 men named on the roster and the remains of the deceased known as the Sugar Land 95.

DATA SUMMARY

- The median age of death among the identified convicts was 24. The youngest fatality was William Nash at 16, serving four years for theft. He died of “brain congestion,” possibly from a traumatic brain injury.
- The most common causes of death were congestion of the brain/bowels/organs, gunshot following attempted escape, pneumonia and sun stroke. This likely indicated very poor living and working conditions.
- The median sentence length was five years. Yet, more than half of these Bullhead convicts died within a year of their arrival at the camp; 78% died within two years.

Convict Name, Number	Height, Weight, Color	Employment (Trade)	Native State/Country	Marital Status	Reason for Conviction	Sentence in Years	Date, County and Age of Conviction	Date Received at Penitentiary	Date, Last Camp of Residence and Age of Death	Death Details	Notes
Pope, Nathan 8202	5' 11" 150 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary	5	29 Nov 1879 Fayette 18 y/o	11 Dec 1879	13 Dec 1879 Freeman 18 y/o	Killed during escape at Freemans	Died after 2 days at Freeman Camp during escape attempt.
Norton, Jonathan 7533	5' 5" 155 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Assault w/ intent to murder	6	25 Apr 1879 Bastrop 27 y/o	7 May 1879	16 Dec 1879 Freeman 27 y/o	Pneumonia	Died after 7 months at Freeman Camp.
Powell, Esau 4940	5' 9" 180 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Theft	6.5	23 Nov 1875 Fayette 27 y/o	25 Nov 1875	26 Feb 1880 Freeman 32 y/o	Chronic diarrhea	Died after 4 years and 2 months on Freeman Camp. Scar on right knee
White, William 8222	5' 10" 160 Mulatto	Laborer	AL	Yes	Theft of Mare	5	14 Dec 1879 Wilson 26 y/o	15 Dec 1879	20 July 1880 Freeman 26 y/o	Escape attempt Freemans	Died after 7 month on Freeman Camp. Punished July 1880. On 18 Jun 1880 census.
Stroud, Garrison 5731	6' 189 Mulatto	Laborer	TX	Yes	Not stated	7	25 Jan 1877 Robertson 23 y/o	3 Feb 1877	9 Sept 1881 LAE #2 27 y/o	Caught in machinery at camp	Sent to Freeman Camp 19 Nov 1879. Camp name changed to Ellis Camp #2 in August 1880. On 18 Jun 1880 census.
Boone, Harry 9351	6' 150 Cop-per	Laborer	TX	No	Theft	5	16 April 1881 Washington 20 y/o	26 Apr 1881	27 Sept 1881 LAE #2 20 y/o	Dysentery	Died after 5 months on Ellis Camp #2. Scars right arm and left wrist.
Bonner, William 7537	5' 8" 165 Black	Laborer	AL	Wid-ow-er	Theft	7	3 May 1879 Bastrop 30 y/o	7 May 1879	30 Dec 1881 LAE #2 32 y/o	Pneumonia	Sent to Freeman Camp 12 May 1879. Escaped, recaptured 26 May. Camp name changed to Ellis Camp #2 in August 1880. Escaped from Ellis Camp #2 on 3 Feb 1881, recaptured on 15 Mar 1881. Punished 18 Apr 1881. On 18 Jun 1880 census as Mat Bonner.
Cruse, Michael 9687	5' 6" 153 Mulatto	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary	2	23 Sept 1881 Jefferson 18 y/o	13 Oct 1881	8 Feb 1882 LAE #2 18 y/o	Tree fall	Died after 4 months on Ellis Camp #2. Small scar on right neck.
Froch, Sebe 9967	5' 10" 160 Black	Laborer	GA	Yes	Theft	5	10 Dec 1881 Washington 60 y/o	4 Jan 1882	17 June 1882 LAE #2 60 y/o	Result of amputation of a limb	Sent to Ellis Camp #3 outside Fort Bend County 31 Jan 1882, transferred to Ellis Camp #2 in FB County. Ellis Camp #3 may have been renamed to Ellis Camp #2 and this inmate may have died at the Brazos River Camp. Escaped, recaptured 20 Apr 1882.
Cartinas, Manuel 118	5' 2" 130 Mex.	Laborer	MEX	No	Burglary	2	8 Feb 1882 Travis 25 y/o	5 March 1882	5 Oct 1882 LAE #2 25 y/o	Congestion of brain and stomach	Died after 1 month on Ellis Camp #2. Punished 22 Jun 1882 at another camp.
Brewer, George 9807	5' 10" 180 Black	Team-ster	NY	Yes	Theft of cow	2	31 Oct 1881 Cherokee 39 y/o	28 Nov 1881	18 Nov 1882 LAE #2 40 y/o	Complications of illness	Died after one month at Ellis Camp #2.
Fuller, Hardy 9588	5' 4" 122 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Theft of yearling	2	15 July 1881 Jackson 28 y/o	30 Jul 1881	29 Dec 1882 LAE #2 28 y/o	Meningitis	Died after 17 months on Ellis Camp #2. Scars on right side.
Davis, Lewis 1166	5' 7" 152 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Assault w/ intent to murder	5	3 July 1883 Lavaca 24 y/o	25 July 1883	26 Oct 1883 LAE #2 24 y/o	Congestion of bowels	Died after 3 months at Ellis Camp #2. Punished for laziness 3 Aug 1883. Scar left thigh.
Garcia, James 2241	5' 7" 145 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Assault w/ intent to murder	5	20 May 1884 Guadalupe 19 y/o	29 May 1884	28 Oct 1884 LAE #2 19 y/o	Unknown	Died after 5 months at Ellis Camp #2. Scars on forehead and right shin.
Newman, Steve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27 Nov 1885	N/A	Pauper buried at Sartartia by L.A. Ellis and A.M. Ellis



Convict Name, Number	Height, Weight, Color	Employment (Trade)	Native State/Country	Marital Status	Reason for Conviction	Sentence in Years	Date, County and Age of Conviction	Date Received at Penitentiary	Date, Last Camp of Residence and Age of Death	Death Details	Notes
Odam, Bill 9979	5' 4 1/2" 150 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Theft of person	6.5	2 Dec 1881 Anderson 23 y/o	5 Jan 1882	30 June 1886 LAE #2 27 y/o	Pneumonia	Sent to Ellis Camp #2 and name of camp changed to Ellis Camp #1 in 1885. Died after 3 years, 9 months on Ellis Camp #1. Received 15 lashes for disobedience 18 Aug 1883, 15 lashes for indolence Oct 1883, 15 lashes for playing sick Feb 1884, 15 lashes for bad conduct Aug 1884, 9 lashes for indolence Oct 1884. Scars on chest and right arm.
Chambers, John 9385	5' 5" 139 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Theft of mule	7	10 May 1881 Lee 26 y/o	16 May 1881	28 July 1886 LAE #2 32 y/o	Pneumonia	Sent to Ellis Camp #2 and name of camp changed to Ellis Camp #1 in 1885. Died after 5 years, 2 months on Ellis Camp #1. Punished for slighting work July 1883, received 15 lashes for trying to burn building 28 Apr 1885. Scars on shins and on left of head.
Darby, Aaron 1702	N/A 169 Black	Farmer	TX	No	Theft	7	1 Oct 1883 Caldwell 18 y/o	15 Oct 1883	29 Oct 1886 LAE #2 18 y/o	Heart clot	Died after 3 years at Ellis Camp #2. Punished for indolence 1 Apr 1884.
Brown, Peter 4131	5' 7" 120 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary, theft of property over \$20 value	2 + 2=4	7 Oct 1886 Washington 23 y/o	25 Oct 1886	17 Dec 1886 LAE #1 23 y/o	Pulmonary congestion	Died 47 days after arriving at Ellis Camp #1, left eye entirely out and lid closed over it.
Rollins, Newton 6446	5' 8 1/2" 162 Black	Laborer	TN	Yes	Man-slaughter	5	11 Nov 1877 Houston 22 y/o	11 Dec 1877	5 Jan 1887 LAE #1 32 y/o	Pneumonia	Died after 17 months on Ellis Camp #1. Scars on forehead and back.
Hagell, Will 4558	5' 9" 165 Dark Mulatto	Laborer	TX	No	Assault with intent to murder	5	31 May 1887 Wood 22 y/o	3 June 1887	20 Jan 1888 LAE #1 22 y/o	Pneumonia	Died 4 months after arriving at Ellis Camp #1; scars over right eye, right leg, left arm, right hand, and on head
Varnes, John	5' 9" 160 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Horse theft	7	16 Dec 1885 Jackson 32 y/o	14 Jan 1886	23 Jan 1888 LAE #1 34 y/o	Pneumonia	First sent to Ellis Camp #3 on 14 Jan 1886 which may have been in Fort Bend County at that time. Moved to Ellis Camp #1 on 3 Apr 1887. Died after 9 months on Ellis Camp #1. Scars on left leg just above knee and on left arm just above wrist.
Rhodes, Ike 5014	N/A N/A Black	N/A	N/A	N/A	Theft of cattle	2	20 Feb 1888 Lavaca N/A	2 Mar 1888	5 Mar 1888 LAE #1	Heart Clot	Died 3 days after arriving at Ellis Camp #1 before description was taken.
Dixon, Ben 4999	5' 10" 200 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Murder 2nd degree	5	17 Feb 1888 Trinity 23 y/o	23 Feb 1888	28 Mar 1888 LAE #1 23 y/o	Pernicious Fever	Died 32 days after arriving at Ellis Camp #1; scars on forehead and over right eye; shot scar between eyes.
Parker, Gus 5013	N/A N/A Mulatto	Farmer	N/A	No	Swindling of property over \$20 value	2	20 Feb 1888 Lavaca N/A	2 Mar 1888	24 May 1888 LAE #1 N/A	Congestive fever	Died 22 days after arriving at Ellis Camp #1; scars on left little finger and both calves.
Williams, Riley 5147	5' 7" 140 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary, theft of money over \$20	2 + 2=4	3 April 1888 Fort Bend 25 y/o	21 April 1888	26 May 1888 LAE #1 25 y/o	Congestion	Died after 1 month at Ellis Camp #1. Round scar on right jaw, scar on left cheek, scar on stomach.
Corey, Henry 5215	5' 8" 156 Mulatto	Laborer	TN	No	Robbery	2	25 Apr 1888 Dallas 29 y/o	9 June 1888	27 June 1888 LAE #1 29 y/o	Killed by Guard M. D. Jarnett while attempting to escape	Died after 10 days on Ellis Camp #1. Scars on left shoulder and back.



Convict Name, Number	Height, Weight, Color	Employment (Trade)	Native State/Country	Marital Status	Reason for Conviction	Sentence in Years	Date, County and Age of Conviction	Date Received at Penitentiary	Date, Last Camp of Residence and Age of Death	Death Details	Notes
Franklin, Ben	5' 3" 180 Black	Laborer	MO	Yes	Assault with intent to murder	5	25 May 1888 Fayette 39 y/o	12 June 1888	26 July 1888 LAE #1 39 y/o	Congestive fever	Died after 2 months on Ellis Camp #1. Listed in convict record under alternate names and convict numbers Frank Farquar #1233 and Ben Franklin #5638. Scars on left jaw, left side of head, right shoulder, right shoulder blade, right hip. Toes off both feet.
Collins, Joseph 5227	5' 9" 157 Mulatto	Laborer	LA	No	Aiding felons to escape from an officer	7	21 May1888 Guadalupe 24 y/o	4 June 1888	10 July 1888 LAE #1 24 y/o	Killed by Guard M. D. Jarnett while attempting to escape	Died after 1 month on Ellis Camp #1. Scars on left cheek and over right eye.
Granville, Alex 5229	5' 5" 165 Black	Laborer	AL	No	Assault w/ intent to murder	2	22 May 1888 Fayette 26 y/o	12 June 1888	7 Aug 1888 LAE #1 26 y/o	Typho-malarial fever	Died after 2 months on Ellis Camp #1. Scars on backbone and on right ankle near instep.
Allen, Sam 5341	5' 8" 165 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Theft	3	7 June 1888 De Witt 20 y/o	9 Aug 1888	3 Sept 1888 LAE #1 20 y/o	Epileptic convulsion	Died after 1 month on Ellis Camp #1. Burn scar on right arm.
Shelton, Jim 4634	N/A 160 Brown	Rail-road	TX	No	Burglary	2	7 Dec 1887 Colorado N/A	29 July 1889	31 Dec 1888 LAE #1 N/A	Dropsy	Was at all three of Ellis's Fort Bend camps. Died two days after arriving at Ellis Camp #1.
Jessie, George 5840	5' 8" 158 Black	Farmer	TX	No	Burglary, assault w/ intent to murder	2 + 2=4	26 June 1888 Grimes 24 y/o	7 July 1889	4 Sept 1889 LAE #1 25 y/o	Heart disease	Died after 2 month at Ellis Camp #1. Scars on right hip, nail off on left index finger, several scars outside of left knee, long scar right side of head.
Davis, Phil 5863	5' 6" 163 Black	Cook	CAN	No	Burglary, theft of property over \$20 value	2 + 2=4	24 May 1889 El Paso 26 y/o	22 July 1889	12 Sept 1889 LAE #1 26 y/o	Paralysis of heart	Died after 2 month at Ellis Camp #1. Right thumb off at first joint, Scars on back of left hand, on 3rd finger right hand, on right side of neck, on upper lip.
Davis, John 5360	5' 10" 165 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Burglary	2	27 Sept 1888 Colorado 25 y/o	5 Oct 1888	16 July 1889 LAE #1 26 y/o	Congestion of brain	Died after 9 months at Ellis Camp #1. Received 11 lashes for indolence 18 Oct 1888, 9 lashes for indolence 15 Apr 1889, 9 lashes for med leisure 30 May 1889. Scar over left eye, little finger stiff and crooked left hand, scar on left leg, between knees and caused from burn.
Gray, Morris 5340	5' 6" 145 Black	Laborer	MS	Yes	Assault with intent to murder	2	30 June 1888 De Witt 40 y/o	9 Aug 1888	18 July 1889 LAE #1 40 y/o	Sun stroke	Died after 11 months on Ellis Camp #1. Received 9 lashes for indolence 9 Sept 1888, 11 lashes for laziness 11 Feb 1889, 11 lashes for laziness 30 May 1889. Scar on left shin.
Nevils, Jerry 5356	5' 9" 173 Copper Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Cattle theft	5	17 Sept 1888 Walker 28 y/o	17 Sept 1888	21 July 1889 LAE #1 29 y/o	Sun stroke	Died after 9 months at Ellis Camp #1. Received 11 lashes for indolence 15 Nov 1888, 11 lashes for indolence 8 Feb 1889, 11 lashes on 26 Mar 1889, 11 lashes on 30 May 1889, 17 lashes on 28 Jun 1889. Gunshot scar back part of left arm near shoulder, gunshot scar left breast, gunshot scar right forearm.
Mitchell, Josh 5622	5' 10" 174 Black	Farmer	TX	No	Man-slaughter	2	16 Feb 1889 Lavaca 23 y/o	13 Mar 1889	21 July 1889 LAE #1 23 y/o	Sun stroke	Died after 4 months at Ellis Camp #1. Received 13 lashes for indolence 29 Apr 1889, 11 lashes for indolence 25 Jun 1889. Long scar back of right leg, pistol shot wound on right hip.
Whitfield, Dempsey 5430	5' 7" 160 Black	Laborer	GA	Yes	Burglary	2	2 Nov 1888 Washington 19 y/o	2 Nov 1888	24 July 1889 LAE #1 20 y/o	Sun stroke	Died after 8 months on Ellis Camp #1. Received 11 lashes for indolence 26 Mar 1889, 11 lashes for indolence 14 April 1889, 11 lashes on 25 Jun 1889. Shot scar on crippled right hand.

Convict Name, Number	Height, Weight, Color	Employment (Trade)	Native State/Country	Marital Status	Reason for Conviction	Sentence in Years	Date, County and Age of Conviction	Date Received at Penitentiary	Date, Last Camp of Residence and Age of Death	Death Details	Notes
Terry, Henry 5878	5'8" 165 Black	Cook	TX	No	Theft	2	26 July 1889 Galveston 25 y/o	1 Aug 1889	28 Aug 1889 LAE #1 25 y/o	Sun stroke	Died after 27 days at Ellis Camp #1. Small scar on left thumb and no nail on right thumb.
Williams, John 5913	5' 7" 165 Black	Farmer	TX	No	Burglary	2	12 Sept 1889 Cass 25 y/o	29 Sept 1889	13 Nov 1889 Ellis #1 & 2 25 y/o	Internal hemorrhage and dropsy	May have died at Ellis Camp #2 (South camp). Died after 1 month at Ellis Camps. Received 13 lashes for laziness. Scars on left cheekbone and right knee.
Baker, George 6138	5' 6" 145 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary	2	6 Jan 1890 Austin 25 y/o	21 Jan 1890	29 Jan 1890 LAE #1 26 y/o	Killed during escape attempt	Died after 8 days at Ellis Camp #1. Shot while trying to escape and was hit in side, one in back, one in hip.
Thomas, Jeff 5928	5' 5" 162 Black	Farmer	TX	Widower	Theft of property over \$20 value	2	3 Oct 1889 Harrison 24 y/o	9 Oct 1889	25 May 1890 Ellis #1 & 2 25 y/o	Abscess of liver & dropsy	May have died at Ellis Camp #2 (South camp). Died after 6 months at Ellis Camps. Received 12 lashes for indolence. Disfigured leg? Scars left foot, right shin.
Cole, Coleman 6355	5' 6" 160 Copper	Farmer	TX	Yes	Robbery	5	21 May 1890 Fayette 28 y/o	8 June 1890	16 June 1890 LAE #1 28 y/o	Congestive convulsions	Died after 8 days at Ellis Camp #1. Cut scar on top of head.
Scott, West 6218	5' 1" 147 Dark Mulatto	Farmer	TX	No	Theft	2	5 Mar 1890 Smith 18 y/o	25 Mar 1890	21 July 1890 LAE #1 18 y/o	Killed during escape attempt	Died after 3 months at Ellis Camp #1. Killed while trying to escape by Guard James Clark and hit with 10 (buck)shot. Scars on right temple, right groin, left shoulder blade.
Stephens, Wm. 6139	5' 7" 190 Brown Negro	Farmer	TX	Yes	Horse theft	5	6 Jan 1890 Austin 23 y/o	21 Jan 1890	31 Aug 1890 LAE #1 23 y/o	Dropsy	Died after 6 months at Ellis Camp #1. Escaped and was recaptured 29 Jan 1890. Scar on left jaw and over left eye.
Nichols, Wm. 5891	5' 6" 162 Black	Blacksmith & Cook	KY	No	Theft of property over \$20 value, burglary	3 + 2=5	1 Aug 1889 Webb 24 y/o	27 Aug 1889	4 Sept 1890 Ellis #1 & 2 25 y/o	Congestive chill	May have died at Ellis Camp #2 (South camp). Died after 11 months at Ellis Camps. 12 lashes for indolence. Scars on forehead, shot wound right forearm, knife wound left hand, neck.
Smith, Davy 5146	5' 7" 137 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Burglary, theft of money over \$20	2 + 2=4	3 April 1888 Fort Bend 21 y/o	21 April 1888	16 Nov 1890 LAE #1 23 y/o	Run over by tram car	Died after 19 months on Ellis Camp #1. Cut scar 1.5 inches long under chin.
Anderson, Tom 6447	5' 6" 144 Black	Farmer	TX	Yes	Assault with intent to murder	2	11 Aug 1890 Rusk 22 y/o	22 Aug 1890	30 Mar 1891 LAE #1 23 y/o	Dropsy	Died after 7 months on Ellis Camp #1. Scars on left neck, left knee, back of head, right and left rump. First finger left hand disfigured.
Boon, Aus. 6541	6' 4" 170 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary	5 + 2=7	22 Oct 1890 Panola 26 y/o	9 Nov 1890	20 Jun 1891 LAE 27 y/o	Sun stroke	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of three camps, Scars left temple and back of head
Adams, Loyd 7139	N/A N/A N/A"	N/A	N/A	N/A	Assault, intent to murder	5	N/A Guadalupe N/A	19 July 1891	29 July 1891 LAE N/A	Sun stroke	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of three camps. Died after 10 days at the Ellis Camps before description was taken.
Williams, Will 8301	5' 11" 152 Mulatto	Farmer	TX	No	Theft of a horse	5	21 April 1892 Bandera 21 y/o	2 July 1892	17 Jan 1893 LAE 22 y/o	Pleurisy	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of three camps. Died after less than 6 months on Ellis Camps. Cut scar on forehead, burn scar on right side neck, cut scar right knee, scar over right eye.
Lee, Sam 8603	5' 8" 155 Black	Hostler	IA	No	Burglary and theft	3 + 3=6	26 Oct 1892 Grayson 22 y/o	2 Nov 1892	3 Mar 1893 LAE 22 y/o	Escape attempt	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of three camps. Died after 4 month at Ellis Camps. Scars on back right wrist and over right eye.

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THE SUGAR LAND 95

Convict Name, Number	Height, Weight, Color	Employment (Trade)	Native State/Country	Marital Status	Reason for Conviction	Sentence in Years	Date, County and Age of Conviction	Date Received at Penitentiary	Date, Last Camp of Residence and Age of Death	Death Details	Notes
Crawford, William 7999	N/A 180 Black	Cook	TX	Yes	Forgery	2	31 Mar 1892 Washington 20 y/o	21 Apr 1892	23 June 1893 LAE 21 y/o	Pistol shot while escaping	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of three camps. Died after 1 month at Ellis Camps. 10 lashes for insolence. Scar from barbed wire side of right calf.
O'Dair, Wafer 9356	6' 2" 178 Dark Mulatto	Laborer	TX	No	Rape	5	10 May 1893 Milam 23 y/o	27 May 1893	8 July 1893 LAE 23 y/o	Sun stroke	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of 3 camps. Died after less than 1 month on the Ellis Camps. Boil scar back of right hand, teeth very uneven, knife scar on back, figure of man and letters tattooed on forearms.
Nash, William 8035	5' 4" 151 Black	Cook	GA	No	Theft of property over \$20 value	4	19 Apr 1892 McLennan 16 y/o	27 Apr 1892	3 Sept 1893 LAE 16 y/o	Congestion of brain	Ellis Camp number not noted. Died after 8 months on Ellis Camps, not clear which camp. Scars on forehead, left temple, right wrist, small of back. Fourth finger each hand disfigured.
Simons, Hence 7178	5' 9" 142 Black	Mill Man	TX	Yes	Horse theft	8 + 7 =15	7 Aug 1891 Rusk 25 y/o	12 Aug 1891	6 Sept 1893 LAE 27 y/o	Consumption	Ellis Camp number not noted. Could have died at any of three camps. Died after 25 months at Ellis Camps. Escaped and recaptured 29 Aug 1892. Scars on forehead, both knees, both shins, left arm.
Baldwin, Mack 6273	5' 8" 160 Copper	Laborer	TX	No	Assault with intent to murder	5	21 Mar 1890 Liberty 20 y/o	13 Apr 1890	4 Mar 1894 LAE #1 24 y/o	Escape attempt	Died after nearly 4 years at Ellis Camp #1. Killed while trying to escape. Round scar right kneecap, scar on right elbow
Glass, Jim 11346	5' 7" 181 Mulatto	Laborer	TX	No	Murder 2nd degree	10	19 Oct 1894 Smith 21 y/o	4 Oct 1894	9 July 1895 LAE #1 22 y/o	Pernicious malaria	Died after 9 mo. on Ellis Camp #1. Escaped, recaptured 23 Jan 1895, received 20 lashes for escaping 28 Feb 1895. Ledger describes 20 lashes administered on 13 May 1895 for independence and laziness but it was crossed out. No. 10 shoes.
Jackson, Ed 15725	5' 9" 165 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Theft of a horse	2	11 Oct 1897 Burnet 20 y/o	24 Nov 1897	30 Aug 1898 CG Ellis 1 20 y/o	Malaria	Died after 8 months at Ellis Camp #1, Scar right groin and left shin, No. 10 shoes.
Tollison, Allie 15724	5' 9" 160 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	Fraudulently disposing of a mortgaged property	2	27 Oct 1987 Lavaca 25 y/o	2 Nov 1897	8 Feb 1899 CG Ellis 1 26 y/o	Pneumonia	Died after 13 months at Ellis Camp #1; Long scar left back; scars on upper lip, back of head, left elbow, right thigh, right big toe; No. 10 shoes.
Blacksom, John 6798	5' 10" 150 Black	Hotel Waiter	LA	No	Burglary	2 +2 2+2 2+2 = 14	17 Mar 1891 Brazos 18 y/o	25 Mar 1891	10 July 1899 CGE #1 25 y/o	Drowned	Died after 19 months at Ellis Camp #1. Received 9 lashes for Insolence 29 Jul 1893, 10 lashes for laziness and cutting cane badly 30 Nov 1893, 13 lashes for impudence 23 June 1896, and 20 lashes for refusal to work 9 Nov 1896. Scars left arm, right knee, right thigh, left shin, left foot near toes. No. 9 shoes.
Adams, Abe 16540	5' 9" 154 Brown	Laborer	TX	No	Theft of a horse	2	20 Apr 1898 Lavaca 25 y/o	27 Apr 1898	10 July 1899 CGE #1 26 y/o	Drowned	Died after 15 months on Ellis Camp #1. Burn scars all over rump, 1 1/2" shot scar center of breast, two short scars below elbow, scar on left shoulder. No. 8 shoes. Ex-convict, previous #6451.
Miller, Joe 15762	5' 7" 130 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary	2	5 Nov 1899 Bexar 18 y/o	11 Nov 1897	29 July 1899 CG Ellis 1 22 y/o	Malaria	Died after 19 months at Ellis Camp #1, shot scar back left hand, two scars right hand, cut on right calf, No. 7 shoes.
Berman, Joe 15738	5' 10" 180 Black	Laborer	TX	Yes	26 cases of burglary and theft	2 +2 2+2 2+2 = 12	9 Oct 1897 Bexar 38 y/o	9 Nov 1897	21 Jun 1900 CG Ellis 1 40 y/o	Malaria	Long cut on right side, cuts on back of left hand and inside left knee, No. 12 shoes.

Convict Name, Number	Height, Weight, Color	Employment (Trade)	Native State/Country	Marital Status	Reason for Conviction	Sentence in Years	Date, County and Age of Conviction	Date Received at Penitentiary	Date, Last Camp of Residence and Age of Death	Death Details	Notes
Mitchell, Jack 19734	5' 5" 150 Dark Brown	Railroad Laborer	TX	Yes	Theft of a horse	4	25 Oct 1900 Harris 33 y/o	1 Nov 1900	12 Nov 1900 CG Ellis 1 33 y/o	Pernicious Malarial Fever	Died after 11 days on Ellis Camp #1. Scar on head, shot scar on left leg, cut scar right arm, shot scar right thigh, scar left shoulder, scar right shoulder. No. 8 shoes.
Miller, Dump 20288	5' 9" 165 Mulatto Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary with intent to commit theft	2	10 Apr 1901 Bexar 20 y/o	480	11 July 1901 CG Ellis 1 20 y/o	Pernicious Malarial Fever	Died after less than 3 months on Ellis Camp #1. Scar on back muscle of left arm. Scar above right nipple? No. 9 shoes.
Robinson, Arthur 22134	5' 10" 160 Black	Laborer	TX	No	Burglary	3+2 3+2 =10	25 Oct 1902 McLennan 20 y/o	29 Oct 1902	9 Dec 1902 LAE #1 20 y/o	Killed by Dog Sgt J. H. Veal while attempting to escape	Died after less than 2 months on Ellis Camp #1. Also used alias Arurther Johnson. Scars over left eye, left arm, back.
Walker, Henry 23280"	5' 10 1/2" 170 Dark Brown	Laborer	TX	No	Attempt to commit arson	5	26 June1903 Bastrop 23 y/o	13 July 1903	11 Sept 1905 Ellis #1 25 y/o	Struck by lightning at 11:40 AM and instantly killed	Died after 14 mo. on Ellis Camp #1. Scar left side of head near eye, long cut scar over left eye, 2 large scars back of head, small pox scars all over body, cut scar below right elbow, 2 scars left shin, one upper front tooth out. Ex-convict #16897 under alias Henry Quigley. No. 9 shoes.
Jackson, Andy 22151	5' 7" 170 Dark Brown	Laborer	MS	Yes	Assault with intent to commit murder	2	20 Oct 1902 Panola 53 y/o	6 Nov 1902	16 Nov 1903 Ellis #1 54 y/o	Pernicious Malaria	Died after 12 months on Ellis Camp #1. Long cut scar on forehead, scar top right shoulder, long cut scar on breast, 2 scars on right hip, scar on right shin. No. 9 shoes.
Owens, Travis 25975	5' 8" 150 Brown	Laborer	TX	Yes	Sodomy	5	25 Oct 1905 Lamar 25 y/o	8 Dec 1905	13 Dec 1905 Ellis 1 25 y/o	Pneumonia	Died after 5 days on Ellis Camp #1. Was sick on arrival from prison and was never put to work.
Brown, Robert 23868	5' 4" 155 Brown	Cook	GA	No	Burglary	5 + 3 =8	13 Jan 1904 Harris 18 y/o	2 Feb 1904	26 Jul 1909 Imperial 23 y/o	Sunstroke	Served time on numerous camps and at Huntsville. Died after 17 months on Imperial Farm. Received 20 lashes for laziness on 25 Nov 1904, 20 lashes for laziness 18 June 1905, 25 lashes for impudence to guard on 20 July 1905, 25 lashes for laziness on 16 June 1907, 25 lashes for disobedience on 15 June 1908, 25 lashes for laziness on 23 Jun 1909. Small scar right side of neck, 1/2" scar right cheekbone, small burn scar on back of left hand. Dim scars between right and left knees and ankles. No. 7 shoes.
Newsom, Isreal 31951	5' 9" 145 Dark Brown	Laborer	TX	Wid-ow-er	Perjury	2	31 May 1911 Burleson 37 y/o	6 Jun 1911	10 Feb 1912 Imperial 38 y/o	Heart Failure	First burial at the Old Imperial Prison Farm Cemetery, died 10 days after the end of the Convict Labor Era. This burial marks the end of use of the Bullhead Camp Cemetery. He served time at Huntsville Prison, on the railroads, Harlem Farm, Cunningham Camp #5, Imperial Sugar Company (1911), and Imperial State Farm where he spent the last nine days of his life.
Davis, Alfred 20948	5' 10" 166 Dark Brown	Laborer	TX	No	Rape	25	7 Nov 1901 Houston 25 y/o	15 Nov 1901	7 Mar 1912 Imperial 37 y/o	Pneumonia	Second burial at the Old Imperial Prison Farm Cemetery, died 67 days after the end of the Convict Labor Era. Davis was logged as ex-convict #14312 under alias Alford Davis. He served time at Huntsville Prison, Imperial Sugar Company (1911), and Imperial State Farm where he spent the last month of his life.

A CEMETERY FORGOTTEN

Prior to the discovery at the James C. Reese Career and Technical Center, there was no evidence that the Bullhead Camp Cemetery existed. The only reference to a cemetery associated with Bullhead Camp was noted in the 1909 Record of the State Senate Investigation of the Prison System (below).

It is uncertain how the Bullhead Camp Cemetery got lost to history. One theory is that, as time progressed and with the ending of private leases, the state-

operated convict leasing system expanded its infrastructure by building dormitories, administrative offices, and guard houses. With the establishment of the Imperial State Prison Farm came the construction of a hospital, several farm roads, and other buildings. Without proper markings and record keeping, is can be assumed that the Bullhead Camp was abandoned by the state-run prison system.

By the turn of the 20th century, progressive reforms brought attention to the inhumanities and atrocities faced by convict laborers. Texas officially abolished the convict leasing system in 1911. Although convict leasing ended, convicts continued to be exploited as state-run farms maintained operations. Racism continued to be a major influence in the criminal justice system following convict leasing, as Black people persisted being disproportionately arrested and placed into the prison system.

seen them buried. All except one buried with convict clothes on; coffin is made of rough lumber, clothing consisting of a shirt and pants. Coffins are made by the convicts on the camp, lined with nothing. Generally have on each camp what is known as "convict graveyard." The Bullhead camp had a grave-yard about three hundred yards from the camp in the corner of a pasture. Yes, sir; as a rule, always put on a clean suit. In some instances I have seen new suits put on; other instances, washed suits. Yes, sir; never seen but one buried in citizens' clothes. An old convict died under Captain Harris' nephew; asked Captain Harris to bury him in citizens' clothes; that's the only one I ever seen buried in citizens' clothes. I never heard of them communicating with relatives before burying. One guard, as a rule, and three or four trustees go and put the corpse away. Yes, sir; about the ordinary depth of a grave. Had two dug myself, and buried two while I was sergeant. Same old style been the custom. I remember putting a pillow under one convict's head last year, and I think had a little sheet, but as a rule just lay them in the coffin, pine box. Put the name and registered number on the head of board.

FINAL REST: THE REINTERMENT

Throughout this journey, Fort Bend ISD has maintained its commitment to treating the remains with dignity and respect. We understand the historical significance of the Sugar Land 95, as it sheds light on the injustices of the past, which in many ways impacts our current society. Today, the remains of the Sugar Land 95 are reburied in their original resting places. In November 2019, FBISD held a solemn ceremony to honor the individuals, which included songs, speakers, and a bell that sounded 95 times in honor of each unnamed individual.

The Bullhead Camp Cemetery is open for the community to visit and pay their respects to those lives lost at the site.

Bullhead Camp Cemetery

12300 University Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Visitation hours are 3:00pm to dusk, Monday – Friday
and 8:00 am to dusk on weekends



Photo of Bullhead Camp Cemetery sign (above)

Photo of bell ringing during "Blessing the Ground" ceremony on Nov. 17, 2019 (right)

FBISD GOALS AND ACTIONS TO HONOR THE SUGAR LAND 95

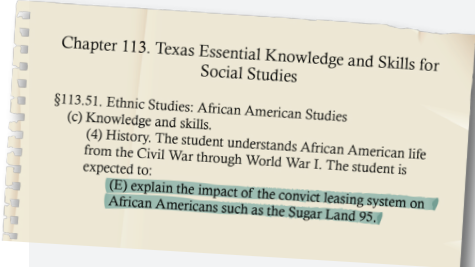
FB1 — Locally Adopted Standard to Address Local History in FBISD

As a school district, our core mission and responsibility is to serve students of Fort Bend ISD, therefore it is our duty to educate our students and future generations about the discovery and its place in history. Prior to the start of the 2019–20 school year, the District’s curriculum team developed a local Social Studies standard that was adopted by the Board of Trustees, and the standard was implemented in August 2019 so FBISD students are able to learn about this important piece of local, state, and national history. The standard allows for the seamless integration of local history, including significant events, individuals, and the Sugar Land 95 discovery into the current curriculum of grades 4, 5, 7, 8, and U.S. History.

The local standard reads: “The student understands how historians use information acquired from a variety of sources to interpret local history, while applying critical thinking skills.”

Sugar Land 95 TEKS Adopted into New African American Studies Course

In April 2020, The Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) approved an African American studies course for high school students, as the second ethnic studies course available to students in the state of Texas. The course and its corresponding TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) will include information regarding convict leasing in the state, and specific references to the Sugar Land 95.



This was achieved after SBOE representatives Pat Hardy and Aicha Davis attended a presentation

delivered by FBISD, which made them aware of this monumental part of history being left out of the textbooks and state standards. With collaboration and support, the SBOE representatives proposed an amendment to the course that was drafted by FBISD. The amendment was unanimously approved. During the upcoming school year, FBISD staff will work to develop a robust local curriculum for the course, based on the use of primary sources and critical thinking skills.

Community Education Program — Found and Not Forgotten: The Sugar Land 95

Over the past few months, FBISD has developed a community education program to honor the commitment of bringing awareness and information about the discovery to our broader community. The cornerstone of this program is a dynamic keynote presentation that is sure to touch the hearts and minds of audience members.

“Found and Not Forgotten: the Sugar Land 95” takes participants on a tour across time and place to help participants develop an in-depth understanding of the system of convict leasing as it existed in Texas.



This deep dive into the local history of Fort Bend County, will allow participants to increase their content knowledge of a long lost part of American History. Participants will walk away with the necessary content and historical context to engage in sharing this history with peers, students, and fellow community members.

The program also includes a variety of educational resources and tools to assist with teaching and learning about the system of convict leasing and the discovery of the Sugar Land 95.

This program is available for community groups, local organizations, government agencies, as well as other school districts. If you are interested in benefiting from this valuable learning experience, please contact the Coordinator of Community and Civic Engagement, Chassidy Olainu-Alade at Chassidy.Olainu-Alade@fortbendisd.com.

ONGOING DNA STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

The only method to positively identify the individuals exhumed from Bullhead Camp Cemetery is to conduct Ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis, followed by intensive genealogical investigation. By combining the results of these studies, researchers hope to narrow down possible identities and compare data to local populations to find descendants, thus confirming the identities of at least some of the individuals from the cemetery population.

Researchers associated with the Bullhead Camp Cemetery Project have volunteered their time, effort, and considerable skill to conduct studies pertaining to the identification of individuals within the cemetery population. The group consists of public and private sector geneticists, genealogists, isotope specialists, and archaeologists who formed a partnership called the Principal Research Group.

In September of 2019, the Texas Historical Commission issued a permit for the purpose of



conducting aDNA analysis and isotopic studies of tooth and bone samples collected from the population of Bullhead Camp Cemetery. Those materials, first curated at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, were sent on loan to the University of Connecticut (UConn) for the purpose of aDNA extraction and preliminary analysis of the samples. Othram, Inc., of The Woodlands, Texas, will continue with analysis by performing sequencing and conducting searches of available databases to find descendants.



Lastly, genealogical investigations will be conducted to determine exact kinship of living descendants to individuals buried at Bullhead Camp Cemetery. Over the following decade, the study will result in, at least, a greater understanding of those who died and were buried at Bullhead Camp Cemetery. At best, this study will provide the identification and personal stories of many of the individuals among the Bullhead Camp Cemetery population and, hopefully, their living descendants.

How can I help?

We are pleased to announce that the University of Connecticut has established a permanent fund to support the DNA extraction and related costs for the Sugar Land 95.

The UConn Foundation is collecting funds to support this research which includes but is not limited to analysis, comparisons to existing databases, public outreach, and genealogical studies. Donors will receive a tax letter from the UConn Foundation for deductions.

**At the time of this writing, aDNA extractions have not yet begun due to shutdowns relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, and no data has yet been collected. Once the laboratory at UConn reopens, aDNA extraction will commence.*

- TO DONATE:
- Call the UConn Foundation at 860-486-5000 and ask to make a gift by phone
- Visit www.giving.uconn.edu and in the “Search” type “23598” and/or “Sugar Land 95 Fund” and follow directions to make a gift
- Checks made payable to the UConn Foundation, Inc. with memo of “23598 Sugar Land 95 Fund” can be mailed to:
Attn: Data Services
UConn Foundation
2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206
Storrs, CT 06269-3206

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND A LOOK AHEAD

FUTURE MEMORIALIZATION OF THE SUGAR LAND 95

At this time, the work to properly memorialize the Sugar Land 95 is incomplete. There is still much to be done in order to honor their lives and legacies, and to educate our community about their contributions to the history of our county, state, and nation.

In the near future, the FBISD Board of Trustees will discuss the design of an education exhibit within the James C. Reese Career and Technical Center. This exhibit will serve as a permanent memorial that will be used to continue

educating our students and the community about the Bullhead Camp discovery at the site. Additionally, the permanent grave stones will be installed within the coming weeks, which will officially mark the exact location of each grave found during the exhumation.

FBISD remains open to collaboration with government entities and community organizations who seek to assist in accomplishing greater goals in properly memorializing the Sugar Land 95.

SPECIAL THANKS

It is with great appreciation that FBISD thanks all of the groups and individuals who have assisted in our efforts to educate and honor the Sugar Land 95. We give special thanks to the hosts of community members who dedicated their time and efforts to serve as members of various committees and sub-committees throughout the years.

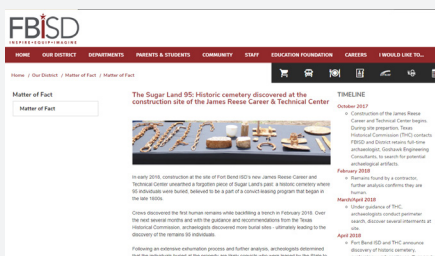
Many thanks to the numerous contractors, researchers, and government agencies that assisted in ensuring the work related the Sugar Land 95 discovery was done with integrity, as to honor those individuals found at the Bullhead Camp Cemetery.

Additionally we thank the Fort Bend Museum for their support and willingness to assist in educating the community about the history of convict leasing in Fort Bend County.

We give special recognition to the Fort Bend Historical Commission Cemetery Committee and the Fort Bend Black Heritage Society for collaborating with the District in submitting the application for a Historic Texas Cemetery Designation. By gaining this designation, we will be able to apply for an Official Texas Historical Marker for the cemetery.

STAY UP TO DATE

The Sugar Land 95 web page is where community members and the general public can easily access all news releases, Frequently Asked Questions, and video updates. Please visit www.FortBendISD.com/Sugarland95.



To request a copy of the full report, "Back to Bondage," please visit www.fortbendisd.com/SL95report.

FBISD also regularly makes announcements and provides updates related the Sugar Land 95 by posting on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. To follow developments and community engagement events, please follow: @FortBendISD @FBISDEngages #WhoaretheSugarLand95

Acknowledgment

Mr. Reginald Moore An Example of Compassionate Citizenship

This publication would not be complete without the acknowledgment of the late Mr. Reginald Moore for his faithful commitment and persistence in raising awareness of the state-sanctioned racial injustices in the convict leasing system.

After many years of research and advocacy, Mr. Moore's legacy of being a compassionate citizen within our own community is one that should be highlighted. He dedicated his life to bringing awareness to the convict leasing system and emphasizing the cultural significance of the Sugar Land 95. Guided by his faith, he used his voice to speak for the voiceless.

He was never afraid to engage in tough conversations aimed at bringing awareness to the injustices of the past and improving our diverse community in the future. Mr. Moore is the reason why hundreds of thousands of people now know about the Sugar Land 95, and why future students in Fort Bend ISD will learn about this important part of our local history.



The Old Imperial Farm Cemetery, where Mr. Moore was steward and caretaker. It is adjacent to the Bullhead Camp Cemetery found at site of the James C. Reese CTE Center.