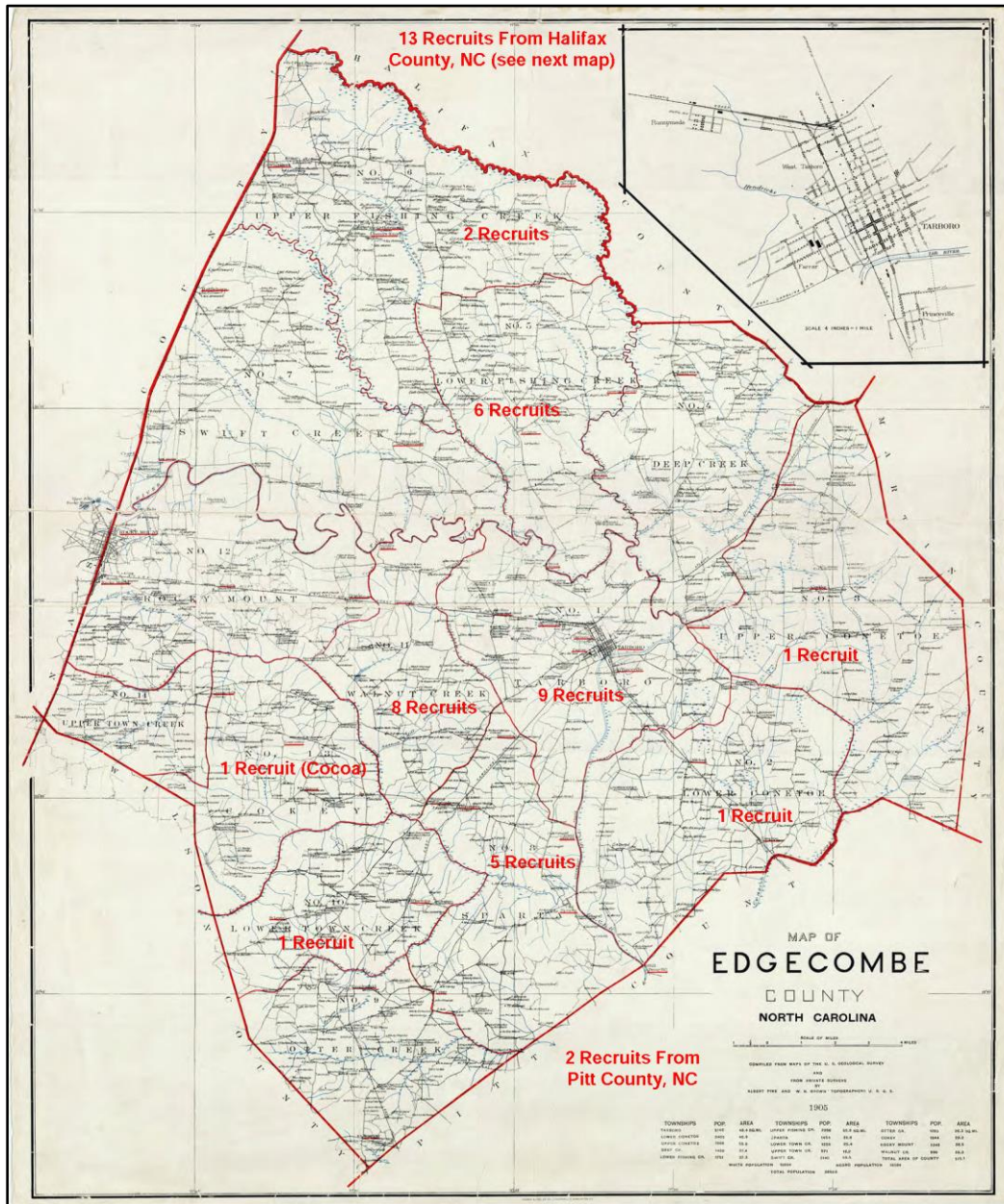


The 1890 Emigration of African American Farmworkers from North Carolina to the Brazos River Bottom in Texas



North Carolina Recruitment Locations by Texas Brazos River Bottom Farmers

By Joe F. Hamrick
August 2022

Texas Exodusters

FORWARD

If you are African American and descend from ancestors who lived in Robertson County, Texas after 1888, and one of the following 39 surnames is in your family tree, you likely have “Texas Exoduster” roots.

Adkinson, Battle, Bell, Biggs, Bradley, Brantley, Bryant, Butler, Camper, Cherry, Cotton, Drone, Flemming, Gray, Gunter, Hart, Hudson, Hyman, Jones, Killebrew, Knight, Mabry, Morris, Norman, Parker, Pittman, Porter, Powel, Price, Seers, Shields, Speight, Staten, Thornton, Vick, Whitaker, Whitfield, Wimberly and Wright.

The 39 surnames are from 51 African American families who emigrated from North Carolina to Robertson County in 1889 and 1890 to work on the Brazos River bottomland cotton farms. They represent a small fraction of the total number who came. How did many of them get here? Horatio Reardon “Rasche” Hearne.

THE EXODUSTERS

The word exoduster was first seen in newspapers in 1879 to describe the mass exodus of thousands of former slaves who emigrated from the old confederacy to dusty “Free” Kansas. As Reconstruction began to break down across the south and the discrimination, disenfranchisement and violence towards African Americans increased, the 1879-1880 exoduster’s headed to the promised land of Kansas and the Great Plains region from every state. They included Black east Texas farmworkers who left the Brazos River bottoms seeking a better life. Fifty miles downriver from Robertson County it was reported “...*The rush from Texas was as great as any other of the southern states, and in this county the hegira was much felt among the white farmers who were dependent upon the blacks to cultivate their land ...*”¹

The 1879-1880 exoduster phenomenon repeated itself a decade later beginning in 1889 and for many of the same reasons, but from a smaller region and with a different direction and destination. The 1889-1890 exodusters headed to Texas and other southwestern states.

The 1889-1890 exodus was mostly centered around the Carolinas and Virginia, with eastern North Carolina becoming the epicenter. The recently organized North Carolina Knights of Labor, a Black farmworkers labor union with a large membership in Tarboro city and Edgecombe County, were in earnest about either being treated fairly or leaving their state. The Black State Immigration Association was also formed with former Black state senator George W. Price at the helm. The association met with President Harrison in Washington D.C.², where their grievances were expressed in writing and verbally - but to no avail. By August 1889, the Immigration Association had already gathered 78,000 names of those willing to move, with the expectation of ultimately signing-up 500,000.³

There were multiple reasons for the 1889-1890 North Carolina exodus. Among them was the oppressive mortgage and lien bond system which reduced Black tenant farmers to a state of economic slavery, the agricultural depression of 1889 caused by successive crop failures, the lower wages paid to African

¹ Brenham [Tx] Weekly Banner newspaper, Jan. 30, 1890, “Exodusting Out Again” byline.

² Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Aug. 11, 1889, “Raleigh N.C. Aug. 10” byline.

³ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Aug. 9, 1889, “Raleigh N.C. Aug. 9” byline

Texas Exodusters

American farmworkers compared to all other workers, and the passage of racist laws and ordinances by many county and city governments. However, the most significant catalyst was likely the passage of the Payne Election Law by the General Assembly in March 1889, which empowered local registrars to arbitrarily disqualify voters for trifling reasons, further increasing the multiple and nearly impenetrable barriers to Black voters. The North Carolina Payne Election Law was unabashedly intended to further disenfranchise African Americans.⁴

In April 1890, government officials at the capital in Raleigh reported that 70,000 exodusters had left the state⁵, which amounted to almost 13% of the total Black population⁶, and with thousands more expected to leave. They emigrated southwesterly, going mostly to Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, but also to the longleaf pine turpentine camps in southern Mississippi and Georgia. No one knows the total number who eventually left, but from early 1889 through most all of 1890, the second North Carolina exoduster movement was a continuous and massive rural-to-rural migration. Exodusting slowly decreased throughout 1890 and was essentially ended in January 1891 by the General Assembly when they passed a law that required the so-called “emigration agents” or “exodus agents”, who recruited, organized and facilitated the departures, to pay a \$1,000 license fee in each county where they were recruiting, with violators facing fines from \$500 to \$5,000 and imprisonment from 4 to 24-months for each offense.⁷

Before the license law was passed, many emigration agents, who were virtually all White, were threatened with death or disappearance, severely beaten, or jailed without cause. The citizens of Scotland Neck in Halifax County “...roughly used an agent...” named Leggett who was “...drubbed at the depot...”⁸ and two days later arrested agent Herbert Weaver who was tried and fined “...for carrying off laborers who were under contract...” and then thrown in the county jail at Halifax.⁹ According to one Robertson County historian, one of the Texas agents who was escorted by vigilantes from an unnamed North Carolina town, was Horatio Reardon “Rasche” Hearne.

THE HEARNE FAMILY

Rasche Hearne was born November 27, 1818 in Lowndes County, Alabama, the third child of seven, born to affluent, slave owning parents, William Hearne, Jr. and Nancy Miles. In the 1830 Lowndes County census, when Rasche was twelve, his father owned 6 slaves and his nearby grandfather, William Hearne, Sr. owned 23 slaves.¹⁰ By the 1840 census, Rasche had moved to Jackson township in Union County, Arkansas¹¹ where he was enumerated as the head of household and owning 8 slaves, some of whom he likely inherited from his recently deceased father and grandfather.

⁴ Frenise A. Logan, “The Movement of Negroes from North Carolina, 1876-1894”, The North Carolina Historical Review, January 1956, Raleigh N.C. AND online at www.NCpedia.org/exodusters.

⁵ Daily Citizen newspaper, Asheville, NC, Apr. 14, 1890.

⁶ 1890 U.S. Federal Census, North Carolina, total population = 1,617,949; and “Negroes in the United States”, 1904, Walter F. Willcox, Table II. Pg-16, % negro in total population 1890, North Carolina = 34.7%.

⁷ Online, www.NCpedia.org/exodusters AND Western Sentinel newspaper, Winston-Salem, NC, Jan. 29, 1891.

⁸ News and Observer newspaper, Raleigh, NC, Apr. 10, 1890, “An Agent Roughly Used” byline

⁹ Fisherman and Farmer newspaper, Edenton, NC, Apr. 11, 1890, “Arrested and Sent To Jail” byline.

¹⁰ 1830 U.S. Federal Census, Lowndes County Alabama, No TWP, William Hearn Jr. Pg-55, William Hearn Sr. Pg-45.

¹¹ 1840 U.S. Federal Census, Jackson, Union County, Arkansas, transcribed as H.R. Horne, Pg-2.

Texas Exodusters

Within two years, Rasche had moved to the fledgling village of Greenwood, west of Shreveport in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, where in 1842 he married his first cousin, Priscilla Hearne, the daughter of uncle Selby Hearne and Elizabeth Ransom. He and Priscilla were surrounded by family in Greenwood, just as they would be 10-years later in Texas. Among them was Rasche's baby sister, Adeline, who married Connecticut born Charles Lewis in 1846 in Bossier Parish. Another younger sister, Frances, married Priscilla's brother, George Washington "Wash" Hearne in 1849 in Bossier. Another of Priscilla's brothers, Christopher Columbus "C.C." Hearne also farmed nearby. Rasche's older brother, Ebenezer "Ebb" Hearne, farmed there, too. All were likely growing cotton in the bottomlands of Cross Bayou north of town. The 1850 slave census for Caddo Parish lists eight Hearne family members and the separate "Hearne Estate" as owning a total of 187 slaves.¹² Within 3-years, they had all moved 200-miles southwest to Robertson County, Texas.

The entire, confusing, mare's nest of Hearne family members farmed beside each other along the east bank of the Brazos River in Robertson County for the next 50-years. It's estimated the Hearne clan eventually owned between 10,000 and 15,000-acres in the rich alluvial floodplains, with perfect soils for growing high volumes of high-quality cotton. By 1896, Rasche alone owned 5,000-acres with 4,000 in cultivation, and it was said that the Hearne and Lewis lands extended for 20-miles along the Brazos.¹³ C.C. Hearne was instrumental in attracting the Houston and Texas Central railroad up from Houston in 1858 by donating land for its right of way. A decade later, Charles Lewis helped persuade the International and Great Northern railroad's east-west line to run through Hearne by donating 700-acres, making Hearne and Robertson County an all-important railway crossroads.¹⁴ Railroads were good for the local citizens and merchants, but they were essential to the cotton farmers profits, providing fast, safe and inexpensive mass transport of their cotton. In the 1860 free person census, every Hearne head of household owned real and personal property in amounts that would make them millionaires or multi-millionaires today. Tragically, the vast majority of their personal property value was from owning other human beings. In the 1860 slave census, seven Hearne families and Charles Lewis are listed as owning a combined total of 281 enslaved people.¹⁵

THE CIVIL WAR

The American Civil War temporarily slowed the wealth accumulation of the Hearne and Lewis families. Charles Lewis and Rasche, C.C. and Ebb Hearne did not go off to war. The 40-plus year-olds served in their local home guard, known as Killough's Company or the Wheelock Home Guard, which included about 81 men, most of whom were from the wealthy "Planter" class.¹⁶ Company roster's list Charles and the 3 Hearne's as Privates, yet Charles, Rasche, C.C., Ebb, and even Wash Hearne, with no service record found, were often referred to as "Colonel" after the war. The only combat veteran found in the family was Ebb's son, William Hearne, who served through the entire war in Company C of the "Robertson Five Shooters", in the 4th Texas Infantry Regiment of General John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade.¹⁷ In 1879, William became

¹² 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedule, Greenwood, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Hearne, Pg-2 through Pg-6.

¹³ William T. Hearne, "Brief Genealogy and History of the Hearne Family", Pg-636, Independence, Missouri, 1907.

¹⁴ Melissa Freeman, "Hearne, Images of America" Pgs-14, 20, Acadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2012.

¹⁵ 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedule, Robertson County, Tx, Lewis and 2-Hearne's Pct-2, 5 Hearne's Pct-3.

¹⁶ National Park Service, Civil War, Soldiers and Sailors Database, online at www.NPS.gov/civilwar.

¹⁷ William T. Hearne, "Brief Genealogy and History of the Hearne Family", Pg-624, Independence, Missouri, 1907.

Texas Exodusters

Chief Deputy Sheriff of Robertson County with much of the sheriff department's budget being funded by bonds from Rasche Hearne for \$15,000 and Col. Charles Lewis for \$10,000.¹⁸

Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, virtually ending the war. On June 19, 1865, or Juneteenth, Union Army General, Gordon Granger, announced General Order No. 3 at Galveston, legally enforcing President Lincoln's January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. The order officially freed an estimated 182,566 slaves in Texas, including 2,258 slaves in Robertson County and 281 slaves owned by the extended Hearne family.¹⁹ The Thirteenth Amendment was officially adopted as part of the U.S. Constitution on December 18, 1865. Legalized enslavement and the ownership of human beings as property had ended in the United States, but it did not end the subjugation and oppression of African Americans.

RECONSTRUCTION

In December 1868, Rasche and Ebb Hearne were two of seven Robertson County plantation owners who had Freedmen Schools on their property, with one more in Owensville. Each school had one teacher. Four were Black and 4 were White, potentially teaching 1,000 Black pupils. "Potentially" because the December Freedmen Bureau School Report for the district states "...*The Freedmen are able this year to send their children to school, but I doubt whether they will be willing to do so...*", possibly, in part, because the school buildings were "...*derelict and...of but little value, and belong to the owners of the land...*"²⁰

By early 1870, Robertson County Freedmen School enrollment seemed to be increasing, at least on the recently inherited plantation of William Hearne, whose father Ebb Hearne had died the previous year. The one-room school house's only teacher was Henry Watts, Jr. who reported in February and March 1870 that the number of Black students enrolled in day school was 75 and the night school was instructing 23.²¹

The 1870 U.S. Federal Census, was the first census that recorded former slaves and family members by their full name, age, occupation, and state of birth. On all previous slave schedules, each slave was reduced to a number listed beside or below their owner's name. In the 1870 Robertson County census there are 5,457 White, 4,530 Black, and 3 Chinese citizens.²² The number of Robertson County African Americans had doubled since the pre-war 1860 census count of 2,258. Statewide, the number of Blacks went from 182,566 slaves in 1860 to 253,475 free colored in 1870, an increase of 70,909.²³ This increase occurred mostly between 1860 and 1865, when slave owners from other confederate states moved their slaves to Texas, away from the fighting and the possibility of Union occupation and emancipation.

It appears from the census at least, that the extended Hearne family and other Brazos bottom farmers had sufficient numbers of Black farm laborers through 1870 and probably until about 1878 when the first south-wide exoduster movement began. The total number of Hearne family farmworkers who exodusted in 1879-1880 is not known, but the evidence suggests there were a few. In December 1879, 50-miles downriver

¹⁸ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, May 23, 1879, "New Sheriff – His Bondsmen, Hearn" byline.

¹⁹ 1860 U.S. Federal Census, State of Texas, Table No. 1 Population by Age and Sex, Slaves, Aggregate, Pg-483.

²⁰ Freedmen School Monthly Report for December 1868, Robertson and Grimes Counties, Tx by J.L. Randall.

²¹ Wm Hearne's Plantation, Report of Schools for Freedmen, Feb. Mar. 1870, by Henry Watts, Jr. Teacher.

²² 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Table III, Texas, Population of Civil Divisions Less Than Counties.

²³ 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Table I. Population of the United States by States and Territories in the Aggregate.

from the Hearne family farms, Washington County reported they had “...lost 1,000 negroes to the exodus...” and the newspaper at Denison Texas, located along the route to Kansas reported “...exodusters were passing through the city all yesterday...” In January of 1880, Wash Hearne paid all the expenses for the return of 18 Black families who had gone to Kansas “...with the understanding that they were to work the crop on the half-share...”²⁴

In spite of the 1879-1880 exodus, the 1880 census for Robertson County shows no decline in the Black population. In fact, the Black and White populations each doubled as the cotton economy recovered from the war's economic depression and hyperinflation, with the increase also partly due to the railroads. In 1880 there were 10,925 Black and 11,386 White citizens compared to 4,530 Black and 5,457 White in 1870. Interestingly, Robertson County had 72 Chinese in 1880, which was more than any other county in Texas, the next highest being Galveston County with 15. All 72 lived in Precinct 1, where Rasche's farm was located, and everyone old enough to work in the fields is listed as “Farm Labor”. Had Rasche found another source of harder working, cheaper labor in the Chinese immigrants?

CONVICT LABOR

Always seeking cheaper labor and more profits, Rasche Hearne and his recently widowed sister, Adeline M. Lewis, began bidding on (and winning) convict labor leases from the State Penitentiary Board. In August 1882 the board met and opened bids for the lease of 800 convicts destined for farm labor on plantations. Adeline successfully leased 125 convicts at \$6 per month and Rasche leased 60 also at \$6 per month. An additional 195 convicts were leased by two other families farming in the Robertson County river bottom, bringing the total to a minimum of 320 convicts. The lease was for 5-years, and only “...colored convicts were allowed to work outside the [prison] walls...” The lessors were “...obliged to furnish commodious prison houses, hospitals, dining rooms with tables and seats and a sufficiency of good, wholesome food...” They lessor also paid an additional 9\$ per month per convict for state expenses such as “...guards, clothing, medicine, etc...” bringing the total lease amount to \$15 per month per convict.²⁵ Fifteen dollars in 1882 would be worth about \$366 in 2019, or conversely, \$15 in 2019 would be worth about \$0.62 in 1882. Sixty-two cents would buy you 1 gallon of molasses in 1882.²⁶

On January 2, 1886, one of the Black hotels in Hearne, named the Crosby Hotel, was completely destroyed by fire. The three suspects were Black convict “trustees” possibly being leased by Rasche Hearne. He was interviewed by a reporter, and Rasche allegedly made the following statement, which if true, is worth noting: “...nine out of ten negroes outside of the penitentiary are as bad as convicts...”²⁷

On June 1, 1887, two months before the 1882 convict leases expired, Rasche and Adeline again placed successful bids. Rasche leased 60 convicts and Adeline 125 for a period of 4-years at the flat rate of \$15 per month for each convict. Sixty more convicts were leased by another Robertson County bottom farmer.²⁸

²⁴ Denison [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan. 17, 1880. “Dusting Back” byline.

²⁵ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Aug. 16, 1882.

²⁶ Inflation Calculatort at www.DaveManuel.com.

²⁷ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan 9, 1886, “The Recent Fire at Hearn, A Rejoinder to the Hearne Interview in the Dallas Morning News” byline.

²⁸ Fort Worth [Tx] Daily Gazette newspaper, Jun. 2, 1887, “Austin Tx, June 1, Bids Opened for Convict Labor” byline.

Texas Exodusters

The convict leases by Rasche and Adeline in June were in spite of the growing uproar in Robertson County by merchants, non-farmers and non-convict-labor farmers who were vehemently opposed to the lease system. The previous February, those citizens petitioned the Texas legislature for a more equitable distribution across the state of the farm labor force, stating that they believed that more than 40% of the state's entire convict farm laborers were located in the vicinity of Hearne.²⁹ A legislative committee later inspected the Hearne area convict labor camps. Five of the Brazos bottom farmers, who together leased more than 400 convict laborers and no doubt included Rasche, travelled to Austin on February 15 with four friends, to express their support for the convict leasing system generally and their opposition to a bill being sponsored by Senator Scott Field, a Democrat and former Robertson County prosecuting attorney. The Bill did nothing to end the convict leasing system, but would require that convicts be more evenly distributed across the state.³⁰ The bill failed, the powerful planters won, the barbaric lease system continued, and so did the opposition.

In January 1889, a contingent from Hearne met with prominent citizens of Houston seeking to abolish the convict lease system. An article covering the meeting stated that “...no town in Texas feels the effect of this pernicious system more than Hearne. Hearne is saddled with nearly 500 convicts working on all the large plantations tributary to her with the exception of three. Now that public sentiment is beginning to take hold of the matter, and other portions of the state are awakening to the importance of abolishing this evil, it is hoped the day is not far distant when honest free labor will not be compelled to come in contact with cheap prison labor ...”³¹

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judge, John N. Henderson, said in his 1897 speech to the National Prison Association meeting held in Austin, that based on his personal observations, the Texas convict leasing system was “...a disgrace to the State and ought to be abolished...” and that in the eyes of the lessors, contractors, and guards “...the life of a convict is not as valuable as that of a dog...the contract system is nothing more nor less than a form of human slavery...”³² The Texas convict labor leasing system was not abolished by the state legislature until 1912.

As former slave owners who continuously sought the cheapest possible labor and who seemed not to care much about any system's humanity or morality, it's doubtful that Rasche and the other Brazos bottom farmers changed their minds about the brutal convict lease system. But perhaps they foresaw its eventual demise and began looking for other sources of cheap labor. In 1889 and 1890, Rasche and the Brazos bottom farmers began recruiting Black exoduster farm laborers from North Carolina. The focus seemed to be on recruiting from river bottom environments like their own, which led them to focus on Edgecombe, Halifax and Pitt Counties, where cotton was king along the fertile Tar River bottomlands.

Although it's not known for certain, Rasche could have received intelligence and help from Hearne family relations who were living and farming near Old Sparta in the Tar River bottom, 8-miles south of Tarboro

²⁹ The LaGrange [Tx] Journal newspaper, Feb. 10, 1887, “Convict Labor” byline

³⁰ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Feb. 17, 1887, “Arrival and Departure of the Committee for the Inspection of Convict Camps, Hearne, Tex” byline.

³¹ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan. 7, 1889, “An Expression from Hearn” byline.

³² Charles S. Potts, “The Convict Labor System of Texas”, Annals of the American Academy, May 1903, pp-84-95.

in Edgecombe County. Five of Rasche's exoduster recruits were from Old Sparta and 9 were from Tarboro, out of 34 total recruits from Edgecombe County (see attached maps). The Edgecombe County Hearnese were affluent planters, whose most recent patriarch was yet another William Hearne (1811-1883), who is buried alongside many other Hearne's in the Hearne Family Cemetery in Crisp, 6-miles southwest of Old Sparta. Any of William's five sons, born between 1854 and 1872, might have assisted Rasche or his agents.

EXODUSTER'S ARRIVE

The news of the exoduster movement was in all the Texas newspapers. One early article published by the Galveston Daily News on February 6, 1889 included a letter from C.E. Landis who lived in Greensboro, North Carolina, 150-miles west of Tarboro, who wrote "...*There is a large number of negroes in this section who are really in need, and though willing to work it is not to be found here. If you know of any point where I can find work for a lot of them, or will find out or ask any party through your columns to write me, you will do a great kindness...*" In April 1889 another Texas article stated "...*the exodus of negroes from North Carolina is assuming large proportions...*"³³ and by September from Durham "...*The Exodus is booming here now, and in eastern North Carolina, the excitement is so great that enough trains can hardly be obtained by the Exodusters...*"³⁴

The exodusters were not just coming to work on Robertson County farms. More than 600 from North Carolina would arrive in Falls, Brazos, Washington and Waller Counties to work on multiple "middle" Brazos bottomland cotton plantations. On Sunday, December 29, 1889 "...*another trainload of negro farmers and their families from North Carolina arrived and have been located on the Brazos bottom plantations of J.S. Fowlkes and William Koppe. The expense of bringing them out was about \$4,000. Others, for the Messrs. Batts, Colonel Sims, and other planters, are expected to arrive soon...*"³⁵ John S. Fowlkes, William Koppe, James Henry Batte and Colonel Milton Walker Sims all lived in neighboring Brazos County and were farming on the east bank of the Brazos River a few miles downriver from the Hearne family farms in Robertson County.

One week later on Sunday, January 5, 1890, the first known exoduster's destined to work on Hearne family farms arrived. "...*a trainload of 200 adult negroes from Georgia and Carolina...*" pulled into Houston on the Southern Pacific where they reboarded cars on the Houston and Texas Central line and steamed to "...*Sutton and Calvert to engage in farming...*"³⁶ Rasche Hearne's manor home was in Sutton. When signing the guest register at exclusive hotels like the Lawlor, Girardin or Tremont on his frequent visits to the Houston Cotton Exchange, Rasche listed Sutton as his hometown. Sutton no longer exists as a populated place, but was a small town 5-miles south of Hearne on the Houston and Texas Central railroad, at what is now the intersection of Farm Road 2549 and U.S. Highway 190 / State Highway 6.³⁷ He and Priscilla's large and elegant home was demolished in 1920 and the wood was shipped to a northern pencil factory.³⁸

³³ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Apr. 2, 1889.

³⁴ The Durham [NC] Recorder newspaper, Sep. 25, 1889.

³⁵ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan. 4, 1890.

³⁶ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan. 5, 1890.

³⁷ Texas State Historical Association, online at www.TSHAonline.org

³⁸ Flatonia [Tx] Argus newspaper, Dec. 2, 1920.

Texas Exodusters

The Brenham newspaper commented on the newly arrived Sutton, Calvert, and Hearne farm hands from North Carolina by adding they would be “...placed on farms in the Brazos bottom to work the farms previously worked by convict labor...”³⁹ while the Temple paper reported “...The fourth car of negro emigrants from North Carolina was dumped at Hearne a few days ago. They are being taken there to work the Brazos bottom farms recently worked by convicts...”⁴⁰ The Galveston daily reiterated “...that a large number of North Carolina negroes had been brought to plantations on the Brazos river in Robertson or Brazos county to take the places of state convicts...”⁴¹

On the morning of February 12, five weeks after the 200-plus North Carolina workers had arrived in Robertson County, three more train cars of North Carolina farm laborers arrived in Houston, accompanied by their emigration agent, Mr. George Ely, and “...destined for Calvert and one or two other points along the Houston and Texas Central line...” Those two other stops were probably Sutton and Hearne, all being successive stations along the Houston and Texas Central line in Robertson County. The trip for Mr. Ely and his charges had been difficult as further described. “...Mr. Ely had been a potent factor in getting these laborers on the cars at the places whence they came and he stated that the White people at one place gave him a written warning not to come there again, but if he did the intimation conveyed was that they would make it warm for him...Before the warning was given him, he was arrested and had to give bond for his appearance to answer the charge. Not only was he arrested, but a gentleman with him was arrested, and both had to give bond...There were probably 150 negroes who went up on the train. The people there would not allow the negroes to get on the cars to leave until they had paid their poll tax, and many of them not having the cash could not do it, so Mr. Ely did it, and shows the receipts that they might get away...”⁴²

Whites in the exoduster's hometowns, and at train stops along the way, often behaved in racist and cruel ways towards the car's occupants, but also cruel were the conditions they often endured inside those cars. A January 6 news release from Atlanta reported that the Richmond and Danville train had arrived there from Goldsboro, North Carolina, 60-miles south of Tarboro had “...brought in 1,300 colored people. Two trains of eleven cars were needed to haul them. The coaches were packed to suffocation with human freight...” Those same two trains left Atlanta on the Georgia Pacific tracks destined for Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas where “...Labor on the large cotton plantations is scarce...” The article also describes how the railroad emigration agents made their deals with the landowners. “...The railroad authorities send an agent among the planters and find how many hands are wanted. The planter agrees to take a certain number of hands, and places a sum of money sufficient to pay traveling expenses, the amount to be returned by the negro in work before he receives any wages. The agent then goes to the Carolinas as the most fruitful field...” If coercion was necessary to entice the prospective recruit to leave, the emigrant agent would show them “...a colored circular embellished with pictures. The first picture represents a negro with his family leaving a broken down cabin home in an old field. The next picture, five years after, represents his new home. He is standing, hoe in hand, in his lot surrounded by frisky mules, hogs and fine chickens. The third picture is that of a comfortable two-story dwelling, with a lawn in front, on which a young darky is cutting grass with a patent rolling machine. At the gate a horse, attached to a fine buggy, is hitched. On the front porch, seated in a comfortable rocking chair, can be seen the pompous colored man, the same “poor

³⁹ Brenham [Tx] Weekly Banner newspaper, Jan. 9, 1890.

⁴⁰ Temple [Tx] Weekly Times newspaper, Jan. 10, 1890.

⁴¹ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan. 10, 1890, “Negro Immigrants” byline.

⁴² Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Feb. 12, 1890, “Warned in Writing” byline.

nigger” who left his North Carolina home a few years before. This catches the darkies every time...” The article ends with this summary “...*The ministers preach emigration; the teachers talk emigration; everybody is half crazy until they are on their way to the enchanted western land...*”⁴³

WHO RECRUITED?

It's not known if Mr. Ely, or other emigrant agents were employed by the Brazos bottom farmers. According to Ivory Carson's 1954 master's thesis, Rasche Hearne made several trips to North Carolina with his farm manager, where he personally recruited farm laborers for himself and several other Brazos bottom farmers who shared in the expense. Carson says that Rasche stopped recruiting “...*after members of a vigilance committee walked him out of North Carolina between suns...*” In 1954, according to Carson, if you asked an elderly African American living in Robertson County if they were born in Texas they would very likely reply “...*No, Suh, Mr. Hearne fotch me out here from North Calina...*”⁴⁴

The North Carolina recruiting trips would have been during 1889 and 1890 when Rasche was 71 or 72-years old. Horatio Reardon Hearne died 6-years later on June 22, 1896 in Houston at the Lawlor Hotel, apparently from a sudden onset of illness and while still in good health, with “...*his hand upon the helm, guiding successfully one of the largest farming enterprises in the south...*”⁴⁵ Shortly before Rasche's death, the Hearne family historian interviewed Rasche and described him as “...*a wonderfully well preserved man, in both body and mind, and still gives his personal attention to all his business, which is large outside the farm...having large interests in four banks...*” The author also describes one of the farm managers as a “...*negro man that Mr. Hearne has had for many years at a salary of \$600 and board per year...*”⁴⁶ It seems that Rasche's health and stamina was good enough to meet the rigors of recruiting forays to North Carolina. And perhaps the manager mentioned is the one who accompanied Rasche to North Carolina, as Carson describes. There is also no doubt that Rasche had the financial means to pay for it all.

Apparently, Rasche's 1889-1890 North Carolina recruiting efforts were not his first. The Meixner family blogspot states that in 1881, Rasche was recruiting farm laborers from among arriving immigrants at New York City's Castle Garden Immigration Center, including their original immigrant Meixner family, Franz/Frank (1848-1890) and Maria (1848-1932) Meixner and their 3 young children, Frank Jr., Antonia, and Harmon. The Meixner story says that “...*Mr. Hearne went to New York City to recruit farm hands from the scores of immigrants who were coming to America and would pay passage on the train to Texas. Somehow Frank [Franz] Meixner got in on this deal. They rode the train from New York to Waco (per Herman Meixner who heard the story from his father Frank Meixner, Jr.) and then took wagons and buggies to Hearne...They lived and worked on the cotton farm...*”⁴⁷

Although no document has been found that places Rasche in North Carolina during 1889-1890, the circumstantial evidence that he personally recruited North Carolina exodusters for his farm and other farms in the Brazos River bottom is convincing.

⁴³ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jan. 7, 1890.

⁴⁴ Ivory Freeman Carson, “Early Development of Robertson County” a Thesis, Hearne Texas, January 1954.

⁴⁵ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jun. 24, 1896.

⁴⁶ William T. Hearne, “Brief Genealogy and History of the Hearne Family”, Pg-637, Independence, Missouri, 1907.

⁴⁷ Online at www.meixnermessages.blogspot.com/2012/08/.

WHY DID THEY COME?

Life and living conditions for African Americans in 1889 North Carolina was terrible - but was it any better in Texas? Race relations in Robertson County after 1865 was much like the rest of Texas, marked by little or no progress for Blacks, institutional discrimination and oppression, frequent violence including murder, lynching and rape, and being terrorized by White Supremacist groups, all with no consequences for the crimes or criminals, that is, if they were White. In 1867 alone, 20 African Americans were shot in Robertson County, without a single assailant going to trial. In 1886, a White attorney from Hearne, O.D. Cannon, shot Black former state representative and attorney, Harriel G. “Hal” Geiger, five times at point-blank range for being “insolent” during a trial in a courtroom full of White witnesses. Not only did Cannon go unpunished, he was elected county judge, and in that capacity during the presidential election of 1896, O.D. Cannon and his armed thugs denied every Black man who showed-up at the courthouse in Franklin the right to vote – at gunpoint. When the disenfranchisement and election results were contested by the former Black state representative from Calvert, Alexander Asberry, who was on the ballot, O.D. Cannon shot him too. Asberry survived, but Cannon went unpunished again and African Americans in Robertson County stayed away from the polls for decades.⁴⁸

One bright spot in Robertson County that was undoubtedly mentioned to potential recruits was Hearne Academy, a school for African Americans founded in 1881 by the Baptist Lincoln Association and located just outside Hearne. The handsome two and a half story wooden structure with six classrooms operated there until 1909 when it was renamed and moved to Fort Worth.⁴⁹ The Academy offered elementary, secondary, college preparatory and industrial studies and was funded by the American Baptist Home Mission, which established 27 Historically Black Colleges in the U.S. including famous Bishop College in Marshall, Texas, that was attended by many Hearne Academy graduates after their college-prep studies.⁵⁰ In June 1892, the president of Hearne Academy, the Reverend and Professor H.M. Williams, reported the school to be in excellent condition with 230 students enrolled.⁵¹ One of the earliest graduates from Hearne Academy was Alexander Asberry.

The promises that might have been made by Rasche and his manager are unknowable, but according to the Hearne family historian, in 1896 Rasche had 800 people working on his farm with 200 of those being “...*negro men laborers, who have families of from two to five persons each, and a house and garden is furnished for each family...*” Rasche also reportedly paid a Black physician to care for the Black farmworkers and laborers and provided any needed medicine from his own apothecary shop. Rasche also furnished “...*four church and school buildings (four Baptist and one Methodist) on the farm for the negroes, and when any one of the four pastors is not fully paid his salary by the negroes, he makes it up himself and says he never loses by it...*”⁵² Perhaps at the end of his life, Rasche overcame some of his racist prejudices?

⁴⁸ Melissa Freeman, “Hearne, Images of America” Pg-19, Acadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2012.

⁴⁹ Texas State Historical Association, online at www.TSHAonline.org.

⁵⁰ American Baptist Home Mission Societies webpage at www.abhms.org.

⁵¹ Galveston [Tx] Daily News newspaper, Jun. 14, 1892.

⁵² William T. Hearne, “Brief Genealogy and History of the Hearne Family”, Pg-637, Independence, Missouri, 1907.

APPENDIX A.
1880, 1890 AND 1900 CENSUS ANALYSIS

In Appendix B, the 51 heads of household appear on the 1900 federal census for Robertson County, Texas and list their birth state as North Carolina. They are also enumerated in the North Carolina 1880 federal census in either Edgecombe (34), Halifax (13) or Pitt (2) Counties located in the northeastern part of the state where nearly all lived in precincts that included the bottomlands of the Tar River and its tributaries. In the 1900 Texas census, the same ancestors lived along the Brazos River bottom in western Robertson County and in some instances had recreated their old North Carolina neighborhoods.

The time period that each family emigrated to Texas was determined by using the 1900 Robertson County census to compare the birth month, birth year and birth state of two siblings. For example, if one child was born in November 1889 in North Carolina and the next child was born in October 1890 in Texas, the family emigrated to Texas sometime between those two months, or about April 1890, plus or minus 6 months. Using the censuses and a few marriage records, 39 surnames and 51 families have been positively identified as 1889-1890 exodusters who moved from northeastern North Carolina to Robertson County.

These names represent only a fraction of the total number of 1889-1890 exodusters that came to Robertson and other counties. Although the 1890 U.S. Census Population Schedule was destroyed by fire in 1921, the U.S. Census Bureau has published tables that summarize the 1890 population in every U.S. county and by justice precinct.⁵³ It's important to note that the 1890 census was conducted beginning in June 1890, so it's likely that most of the exodusters had already arrived. Based on the 1880 and 1890 Robertson County census descriptions of precinct boundaries, it seems the precincts were the same for each census, making a population comparison at the precinct level an "apples to apples" exercise. In 1880 and 1890, census precincts 1, 2 and 5 included the area west of the Houston and Texas Central railroad (U.S. Highway 190 / State Highway 6 today) to the Brazos River, which contained all the Brazos River bottomland farms. This 3-precinct contiguous land area included or abutted the cities of Calvert (1), Hearne (2), and Bremond (5) and represents only about 15% of the total land area in Robertson County. But in 1890, it accounted for 58% of the population increase since 1880. Precincts 1, 2 and 5 had grown by 2,373 people, and it's likely the majority of them were exodusters. The remaining 85% of the county land area grew only by 1,750 people, or 42%.⁵⁴ Also interesting is that a search of the 1880 and 1900 Robertson County censuses, looking only for Black citizens who were born in North Carolina, resulted in an increase of 787 - from 151 North Carolinians in 1880, to 938 in 1900, also likely exodusters.

⁵³ U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of Population and Minor Civil Divisions, Table 5. 1880-1890, for Texas.

⁵⁴ Robertson County Census statistics: Total population: 1880=22,383, 1890=26,506, increase of 4,123. Precincts: Pct. 1 from Calvert west; Pct. 2 from Hearne west; Pct. 5 from Bremond west including Wootan Wells.

APPENDIX B.
51 EXODUSTER FAMILIES IN ROBERTSON COUNTY, TEXAS

ADKINSON, Howell - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-44 Robertson Co TX B: Aug 1852 NC with wife Julia / 1880 census Belvoir, Pitt Co, NC with wife Harriet / 1870 Belvoir, Pitt Co, NC census 18yo son of Austin and Jane ATKINSON / 1900 son Aron ADKINSON B: Oct 1886 NC, son Howell ADKINSON Jr B: Oct 1894 TX.

BATTLE, Jason - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-6 Robertson Co TX B: Mar 1826 NC / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 son (farm hand) Joe BATTLE B: Dec 1880 NC (no other children).

BATTLE, Edward W. - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-14 Robertson Co TX B: Jul 1855 NC with wife Violet / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Violet / 1900 youngest son Walter BATTLE B: Oct 1889 NC.

BELL, Jasper - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-36 Robertson Co TX B: Mar 1875 NC / 1880 census Upper Conetoe, Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census 7yo son of Wade and Bethany BELL / Parents confirmed on Jasper's Calvert, Robertson Co, TX Death Certificate.

BIGGS, Henry - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-19 Robertson Co TX B: Jan 1866 NC with wife Mary / married Mary CONAWAY on Jul 21 1887 in Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 14yo son of Dempsey and Charlotte BIGGS / 1900 son William BIGGS B: Feb 1888 NC, son Hymen BIGGS B: Dec 1890 TX.

BRADLEY, Thomas Tom - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-17 Robertson Co, TX B: May 1851 NC widowed / 1880 census Halifax, Halifax Co, NC with wife Milly / 1900 daughter Ally BRADLEY B: Oct 1888 NC son Lee T. BRADLEY B: Mar 1892 AR.

BRANTLEY, Ben Benjamin - 1900 census JP-3 D-0117 Pg-17 Robertson Co, TX B: Apr 1854 NC with wife Laury / married laura HALL on Feb 15 1886 in Halifax Co, NC / 1880 census Roseneath, Halifax Co, NC 25yo son of Washington and Eliza BRANTLEY / 1900 son Frank BRANTLEY B: Dec 1886 NC, son Ben BRANTLEY Jr. B: Jun 1892 TX.

BRANTLEY, Jack J. - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-30 Robertson Co, TX B: Apr 1861 NC / 1880 census Roseneath, Halifax Co, NC 20yo son of Washington and Eliza BRANTLEY / 1900 son Johnie BRANTLEY B: Nov 1881 NC, son Lathan BRANTLEY B: Oct 1892 TX.

BRYANT, Jim - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-29 Robertson Co TX B: Feb 1854 NC / 1880 census Old Sparta, Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 daughter Sadie BRYANT B; Dec 1888 NC (oldest in 1900).

Texas Exodusters

BUTLER, John - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-7 Robertson Co TX B: Mar 1843 NC / 1880 census Lower Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC / married Penny WHITFIELD Dec 25, 1866 Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 grandson Lafayette BRYANT B: Nov 1889 NC (no other young children).

CAMPER, Trim Sr. or Tru - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-36 Robertson Co TX B: May 1840 NC / 1880 census Old Sparta, Edgecombe Co, NC with same wife Abbie / 1900 son Willie CAMPER B: Mar 1892 TX, granddaughter Rosa MOSLEY B: Oct 1894 NC.

CHERRY, Arden - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-27 Robertson Co TX B: May 1835 NC with wife Mandy / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Manda / 1900 youngest child in household is granddaughter Carry CHERRY B: Jul 1888 NC.

COTTON, Washington - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-53 Robertson Co TX B: Mov 1850 NC / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census 30yo son of Green and Delitha COTTON / 1900 daughter 1st and only child Mary COTTON B: Dec 1892 NC.

DRONE DRONES DRAUGHAN, Garden Godwin - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-13 Robertson Co, TX B: Apr 1866 NC / 1880 census Enfield, Halifax Co, NC 15yo son of Isaac and Letia DRAUGHAN / 1900 widowed with 1 son James DRONE B: Dec 1892 TX.

DRONE DRONES DRAUGHAN, Frank - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-29 Robertson Co, TX B: Jan 1871 NC / 1880 census Enfield, Halifax Co, NC 10yo son of Isaac and Letia DRAUGHAN / 1900 1st born child son George DRONE B: Jan 1896 TX.

FLEMMING FLEMING, Frank - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-28 Robertson Co TX B: Aug 1854 NC with wife Lucy / 1880 census Greenville, Pitt Co, NC 19yo son of Syphax and Matilda FLEMMING / 1900 daughter Etta FLEMMING B: Mar 1890, son Frank FLEMMING Jr B: Sep 1891 TX.

GRAY, Charles - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-14 Robertson Co TX B: Jun 1846 NC with wife Martha and 3 boarders / married Martha DOWD on Dec 22, 1881 in Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 25yo Charles Gray head with 22yo brother Pink GRAY / 1900 3 boarders.

GUNTER, Cary - 1900 census JP-6 D-0121 Pg-33 Robertson Co TX B: Aug 1853 NC with wife Mariah / married Mariah BELL on Jan 29 1880 / 1880 census Enfield, Halifax Co, NC with wife Mariah / 1900 son Johnnie GUNTER B: Dec 1889 NC, daughter Roberta GUNTER B: May 1893 TX (per original census sheet).

HART, Jesse - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-35 Robertson Co TX B: Oct 1839 NC with wife Sarah / 1880 census not found / married Sarah PERRY on Jan 28, 1886 in Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 son Robert HART B: Aug 1888 NC, daughter Ella HART B: Oct 1891 TX.

HUDSON, Allen - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-14 Robertson Co, TX B: Jul 1864 NC / 1880 census Enfield, Halifax Co, NC 16yo son of Eaton and Louisa HUDSON / 1900 1st child and daughter Lessie HUDSON B: Aug 1893 TX.

Texas Exodusters

HYMAN HYMON, Paul - 1900 census JP-7 D-0111 Pg-13 Robertson Co TX B: Jan 1841 NC with wife Louisa / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Louisa / 1900 granddaughter Luvenia HYMON B: May 1899 TX.

HYMAN HYMON, Turner - 1900 census JP-7 D-0124 Pg-5 Robertson Co TX B: May 1835 NC with wife Margaret / 1880 census Lower Town Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Margaret / 1900 son John H. HYMAN B: Apr 1883 NC, granddaughter Della WILLIAMS B: Sep 1891 TX.

JONES, Andrew Drew - 1900 census JP-7 D-0124 Pg-6 Robertson Co TX B: Jan 1842 NC with wife Roberta / married Roberta BRANTLEY on Dec 1 1874 in Halifax Co, NC / 1880 census Roseneath, Halifax Co, NC with wife Roberta / 1900 youngest child son Willie JONES B: Feb 1890 NC.

KILLEBREW, Sandy - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-35 Robertson Co TX B: Mar 1876 NC / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC son of Ephraim KILLEBREW / 1900 niece Celia EDGE B: Oct 1891 TX.

KNIGHT, Noah - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-37 Robertson Co TX B: Jan 1849 NC / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 son Noah KNIGHT B: Nov 1883 NC (per most other censuses) daughter Mittie KNIGHT B: Oct 1891 TX.

MABRY, Joseph - 1900 census JP-5 D-0120 Pg-40 Robertson Co TX B: Apr 1847 NC with wife Winnie (Viney) / married Viney KEY KEA on Sep 10 1867 in Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census Upper Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Viney / 1900 daughter Susanna MABRY B: Aug 1889, son William MABRY B: Apr 1892 TX.

MORRIS, John - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-6 Robertson Co TX B: Sep 1859 NC with wife Ella / 1880 census Lower Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Ella no children / 1900 only child son Julius MORRIS B: Jan 1880 NC.

NORMAN, Harry - 1900 census JP-7 D-0124 Pg-18 Robertson Co TX B: Aug 1821 NC with wife Liza Eliza / 1880 census Upper Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Eliza / 1900 daughter Rindy NORMAN B: Mar 1888, son Anthony NORMAN B: May 1891 TX.

PARKER, Mark - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-8 Robertson Co TX B: May 1850 NC / married Bitha DUNN Jan 2 1886 Halifax Co, NC / 1880 census Halifax, Halifax Co, NC Bitha DUNN in household of Ephraim DUNN in / 1900 daughters Gertrude PARKER B: Dec 1888 NC, Harriett PARKER B: Nov 1892 TX.

PITTMAN, William A. - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-56 Robertson Co TX B: Jun 1870 NC / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 9yo son of Fred and Harriet PITTMAN / 1900 daughter only and 1st child Willie Blanche PITTMAN B: Nov 1897 TX.

Texas Exodusters

PITTMAN, James - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-56 Robertson Co TX B: Oct 1875 NC / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 9yo son of Fred and Harriet PITTMAN / 1900 son only and 1st child James W. PITTMAN B: Feb 1899 TX.

PITTMAN, Etheldred (E.D.) - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-56 Robertson Co TX B: Jul 1872 NC / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 6yo son of Fred and Harriet PITTMAN / 1900 no children.

PORTER, Allen - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-37 Robertson Co, TX B: Dec 1878 NC / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC 2yo son of Readin and Mandy PORTER / Parents Reddin and Amanda confirmed on Allen's Calvert, Robertson Co, TX Death Certificate / 1900 no children.

PORTER, Thomas - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-44 Robertson Co, TX B: Jun 1864 NC with wife Anna / married Indiana (Anna) WILKINS on Jan 8 1885 in Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census Old Sparta, Edgecombe Co, NC Indiana WILKINS is the 19yo daughter of Peter and Julia WILKINS in / 1900 daughter Martha PORTER B: Jun 1887 NC.

PORTER, Kemp - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-44 Robertson Co, TX B: Mar 1869 NC with wife Millie / married Millie KNIGHT on Jan 6 1892 in Robertson Co, TX / 1880 Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC census 10yo son of Lewis and Lucinda PORTER / 1870 Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC census 3/12yo son of Lewis and Lucinda PORTER / 1900 daughter Lucy PORTER B: Sep 1893 TX.

POWEL, Nip Nep - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-7 Robertson Co, TX B: Dec 1847 NC with wife Polly / 1880 census Lower Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Polly / 1900 daughter and youngest child Jennie POWEL B: Sep 1885 TX.

PRICE, Charles - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-22 Robertson Co, TX B: Feb 1870 NC with 25yo wife Litta / 1880 Cocoa, Edgecombe Co, NC census 8yo son of Isaac and Hester PRICE / 1900 daughter Estella PRICE B: Aug 1888 NC, son James PRICE B: Feb 1892 TX.

SEERS SEARS, Fred - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 pg-14 Robertson Co, TX B: Apr 1864 NC with 22yo wife Mitty SEERS and 72yo mother-in-law Sarah WILLIAMS / 1880 census Lower Fishing Creek, Edgecombe NC 5yo granddaughter Mittie WILLIAMS in household with Harry and Pleasant WILLIAMS / 1900 daughter Mamie SEERS B: Oct 1891 TX.

SEERS SEARS, Jacob - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Robertson Co, TX B: May 1835 NC with wife Nancy / 1880 census Enfield, Halifax Co, NC with wife Charlotte SEARS / 1870 census Dalmatia (aka Enfield), Halifax Co, NC with wife Charlotte SEARS / 1900 granddaughter Charlotte SEERS B: Feb 1892 LA.

SEERS SEARS, Antony Anthony - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-14 Robertson Co, TX B: Jul 1861 NC widowed and 2 houses from Fred SEERS / 1880 census Enfield, Halifax Co, NC 11yo son of Tom and Margaret SEARS / 1870 census Dalmatia (aka Enfield), Halifax Co, NC 3yo son of Thomas and

Texas Exodusters

Margaret SEARS / 1900 daughter Ellen SEERS B: Feb 1890 GA and daughter Clara SEERS B: May 1894 TX.

SHIELDS, Hilliard - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-43 Robertson Co, TX B: Dec 1850 NC with wife Mollie / 1880 census Halifax, Halifax Co, NC with wife Mollie / 1900 daughter Bettie SHIELDS B: Sep 1892 TX.

SPEIGHT(S) SPATE(S), Henry - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-26 Robertson Co, TX B: Jul 1862 NC with wife Jane / 1880 census Walnut Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 daughter Annie SPATES B: Mar 1890 NC, son John F. SPATES B: Sep 1891 GA, son George R. SPATES B: Jun 1894 TX.

STATEN STATON, Carey - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-22 Robertson Co, TX B: Jun 1863 NC / 1880 census Lower Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC / married Martha BUTTER Feb 19, 1885 Edgecombe Co, NC / 1900 1st and only child, daughter Lillie STATEN B: Jul 1890 TX.

STATEN STATON, Frank - 1900 census Hammond City D-0125 Pg-11 Robertson Co, TX B: Oct 1867 NC with wife Mary / married Mary Ann SAVAGE on Mar 3 1889 in Edgecombe Co, NC / 1880 census Lower Conetoe, Edgecombe Co, NC in household of brother Jim STATON / 1900 son Dennis STATON B: Jul 1889 NC, son Charlie STATON B: Jun 1892 TX.

THORNTON, Amos - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-14 Robertson Co, TX B: Jan 1851 NC / 1880 census not found / 1870 census Dalmatia (aka Enfield), Halifax Co, NC the 12yo son of R. and Anise THORNTON / 1900 niece Laura J BRADLEY B: Sep 1889 NC and niece Susie Bradley B: Apr 1895 TX.

VICK, Julia - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-20 Robertson Co TX B: Dec 1856 NC widowed / 1880 census Old Sparta, Edgecombe Co, NC married but no husband in house / 1900 daughter Sallie VICK B: Aug 1889, son Luther VICKS B: Mar 1893 TX.

WHITAKER, William H. - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-10 Robertson Co, TX B: Sep 1860 NC with wife Hester / 1880 census Roseneath, Halifax Co, NC with wife Hester / 1900 son Denison WHITAKER B: Sep 1891 NC and son Jesse WHITAKER B: Oct 1894 TX.

WHITFIELD, Henry - 1900 census JP-1 D-0111 Pg-43 Robertson Co, TX B: Mar 1866 NC / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 12yo son of Anderson and Kate WHITFIELD / 1900 daughter Minnie WHITFIELD B: Sep 1891 TX.

WHITFIELD, William - 1900 census JP-5 D-0119 Pg-34 Robertson Co, TX B: Sep 1847 NC with wife Cornelia / 1880 census Lower Fishing Creek, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Cornelia / 1900 son Bud WHITFIELD B: Apr 1887, daughter Mary WHITFIELD B: Jul 1890 TX.

WIMBERLY, Joseph H. - 1900 census JP-1 D-0110 Pg-51 Robertson Co TX B: Mar 1853 NC with wife Phillis / 1880 census Old Sparta, Edgecombe Co, NC with wife Phillis / 1900 daughter Sarah D WIMBERLY B: Apr 1889, daughter Annie I. WIMBERLY B: Jul 1892 TX.

Texas Exodusters

WRIGHT, Joseph Joe - 1900 census JP-2 D-0114 Pg-13 Robertson Co TX B: Aug 1865 NC with wife Polly and 82yo father Phillip WRIGHT / 1880 census Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC 15yo son of Phillip and Joyce WRIGHT / 1900 daughter Mittie B: May 1892 NC, niece Alneetia CHERRY B: Oct 1894 TX.

APPENDIX C.
1880 NORTH CAROLINA CENSUS PRECINCTS OF TEXAS EMIGRANTS

EDGECOMBE COUNTY 1880 CENSUS PLACES (34 Heads of Household)

Tarboro: BIGGS, CHERRY, GRAY, HYMAN (Paul), PITTMAN (William, James and Ethelred),
WHITFIELD (Henry), WRIGHT (9)

Walnut Creek: BATTLE (Jason and Edward), COTTON, KILLEBREW, KNIGHT, PORTER (Allen and
Kemp), SPEIGHTS (8)

Lower Fishing Creek: BUTLER, MORRIS, POWEL, SEERS (Fred), STATEN (Carey), WHITFIELD
(William) (6)

Old Sparta: BRYANT, CAMPER, PORTER (Thomas), VICK, WIMBERLY (5)

Upper Fishing Creek: MABRY, NORMAN (2)

Cocoa: PRICE (1)

Lower Town Creek: HYMAN (Turner) (1)

Upper Conetoe: BELL (1)

Lower Conetoe: STATON (Frank) (1)

HALIFAX COUNTY 1880 CENSUS PLACES (13 Heads of Household)

Enfield: DRONE (Garden and Frank), GUNTER, HUDSON, SEERS (Jacob and Antony) (6)

Halifax (town): BRADLEY, PARKER, SHIELDS (3)

Roseneath: BRANTLEY (Ben and Jack), JONES, WHITAKER (4)

PITT COUNTY 1880 CENSUS PLACES (2 Heads of Household)

Greenville: FLEMMING (1)

Belvoir: ADKINSON (1)

The 1880 census was not found for Jesse HART, who is in Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC in the 1870 census and marries his second wife, Sarah PERRY, on Jan 28, 1886 in Edgecombe Co, NC; and Amos THORNTON who is in Dalmatia (Enfield), Halifax Co, NC in the 1870 census. (2)

APPENDIX D.
MAPS

- 1). Rasche Hearne's Approximate Recruitment Area
- 2). Edgecombe County Recruits by Justice Precinct
- 3). Halifax County Recruits by Justice Precinct



Rasche Hearne's
approximate
recruitment area

1888 northeastern North Carolina
clipped from Rand McNally Map

13 Recruits From Halifax
County, NC (see next map)

2 Recruits

6 Recruits

1 Recruit

9 Recruits

8 Recruits

1 Recruit (Cocoa)

1 Recruit

5 Recruits

1 Recruit

2 Recruits From
Pitt County, NC

MAP OF
EDGECOMBE
COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE OF MILES
0 1 2 3 4

COMPILED FROM MAPS OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND
FROM PRIVATE SURVEYS
BY
ALBERT PIKE AND W. N. BROWN TOPOGRAPHERS U. S. G. S.

1905

TOWNSHIPS	POP.	AREA	TOWNSHIPS	POP.	AREA	TOWNSHIPS	POP.	AREA
TARBORO	5142	40.4 SQ. MI.	UPPER FISHING CR.	2268	55.2 SQ. MI.	OTTER CR.	1005	26.3 SQ. MI.
LOWER CONETOE	2405	40.9	SPARTA	1454	35.8	COKEY MOUNT	1044	29.2
UPPER CONETOE	1868	55.0	LOWER TOWN CR.	1255	25.4	ROCKY MOUNT	3240	26.5
DEEP CR.	1450	37.4	UPPER TOWN CR.	571	12.2	WALNUT CR.	998	26.0
LOWER FISHING CR.	1751	37.3	SWIFT CR.	2140	55.0	TOTAL AREA OF COUNTY		515.1
WHITE POPULATION 10004			NEGRO POPULATION 15554					
TOTAL POPULATION 25558								

