

# Group 3

# **Group 3- SETTING BOUNDARIES**

**Mapping fence lines along Wyatt  
Chapel Cemetery/Pond Creek using  
GPS technology**

**Tommye Butcher, Tammy Oldani,  
Tammy Crannie, Shaun Wegscheid,  
Andreana Reeves, Rene DeLaFuente,  
and Stacey Rogers**

# Rationale for fence line investigation

- Liendo and Alta Vista plantations recorded over 1000 slaves between 1822-1865
- Oral histories indicate this land was set aside as a slave burial ground for both plantations
- Earliest record of death was in 1898 as evidenced by engravings on headstones, so where is everyone?
- Pond Creek most likely formed the northern and western boundary of designated land area. Fence now found alongside dry creek bed.
- William Reed, “Prairie View, Texas”, *Handbook of Texas Online*. Electronic documents, [http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/PP/hgp\\_12.html](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/PP/hgp_12.html), accessed March 19, 2009.

# GPS Unit



# Creek bed



# Description of fence

Three strands of barbed wire connected to a variety of wooden posts



Some strands of barbed wire were embedded in the side of trees.



Fence was obstructed by dense brush and foliage.





Fence post

# Data were plotted in ArcGIS



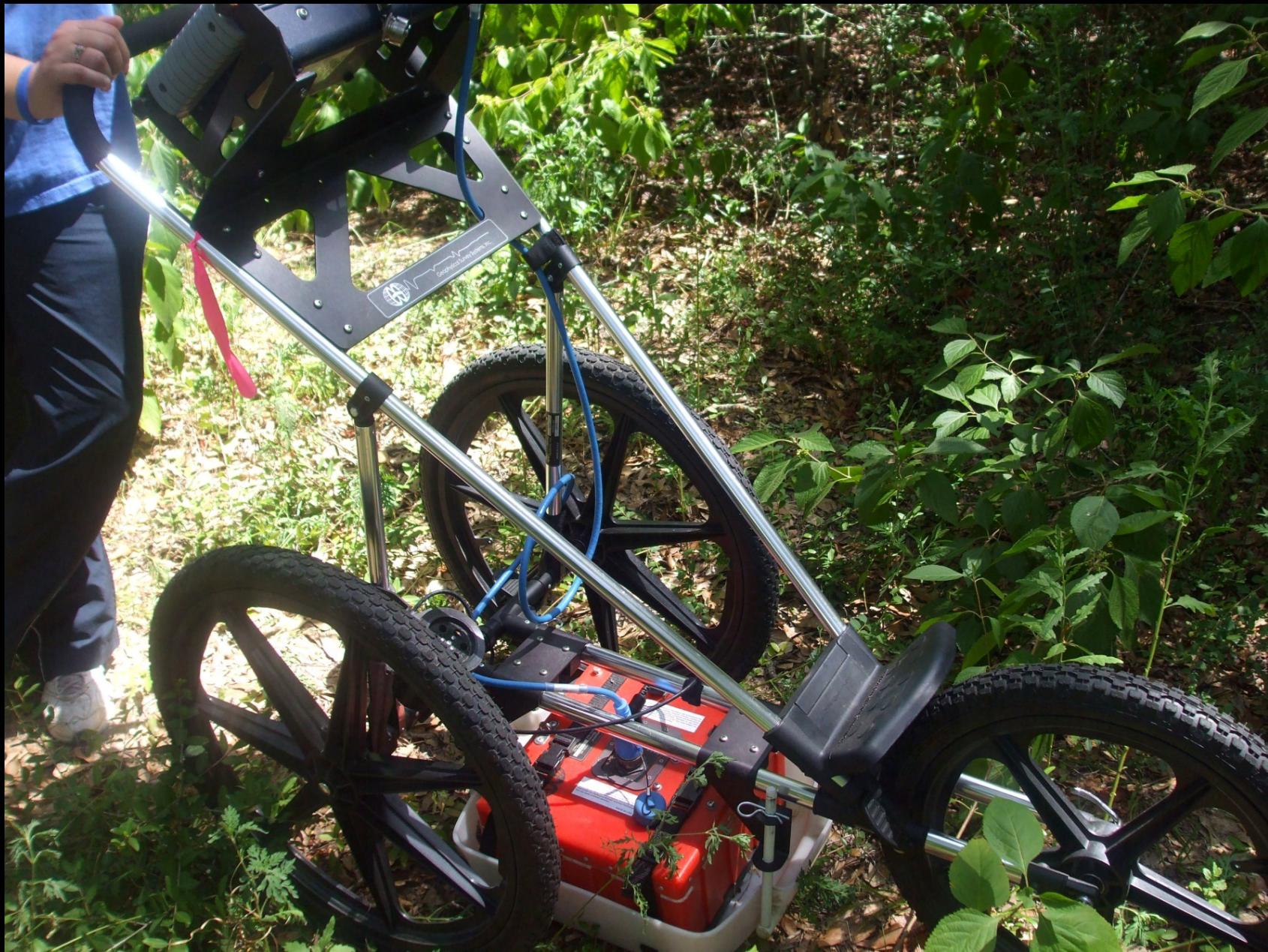
# Fence line GIS map



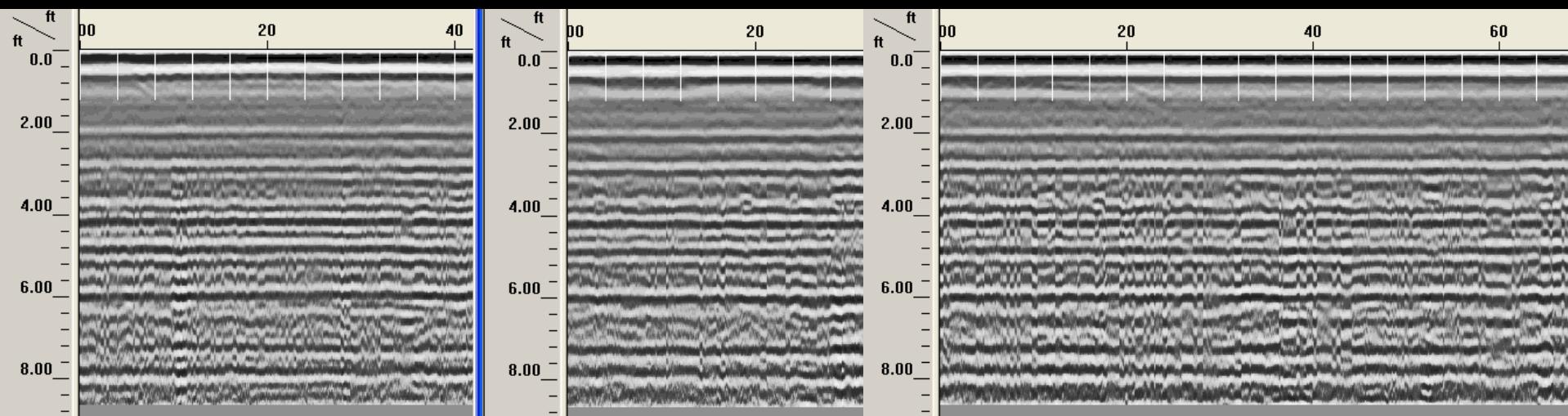
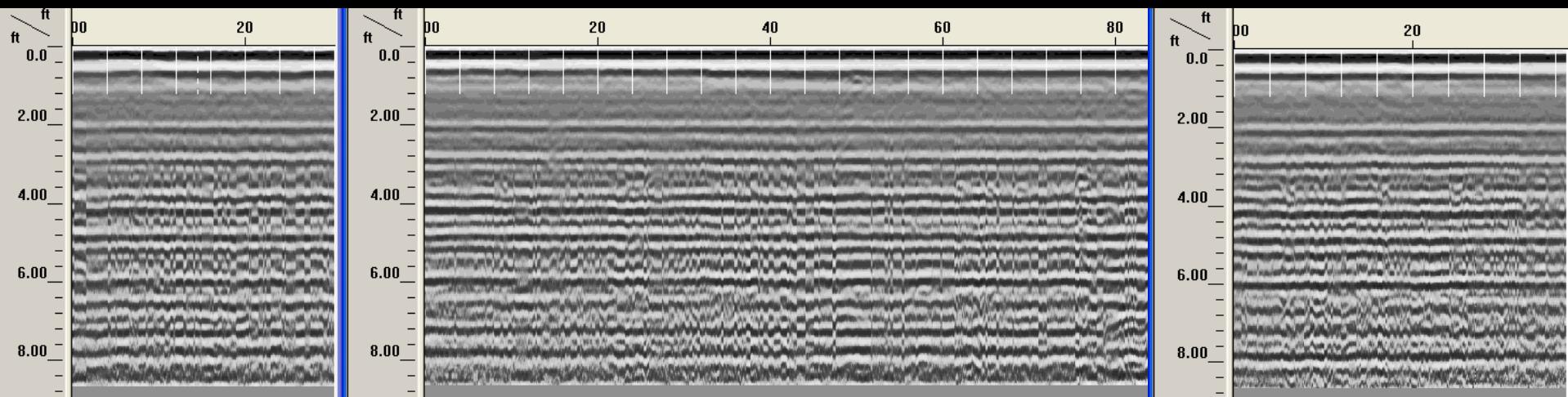
# GPR Lines

- Based on suggestion that the older part of the cemetery was further east, lines were collected in the open pasture and the clearing just north of the fence line and river bed.
- No anomalies were found in this area.
- Conclusion- We should focus our effort closer to the main clearing.

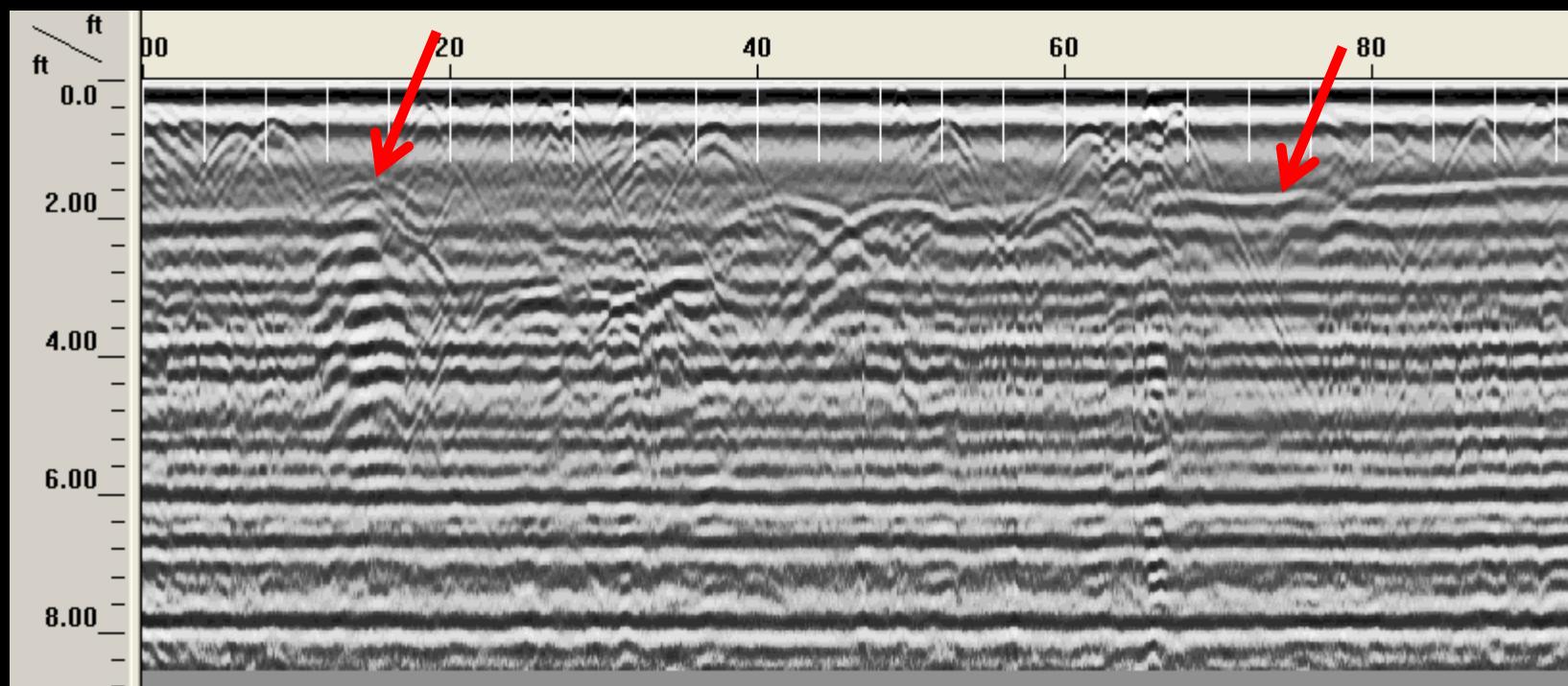
# GPR Unit



# GPR Lines 11-16



# GPR Line 30- Anomaly



Acquired N-S in main clearing, note the shallow horizon around 2 ft at southern(right) end of line, also possible metal anomaly at northern end

# Location of Anomaly on GPR Line 30

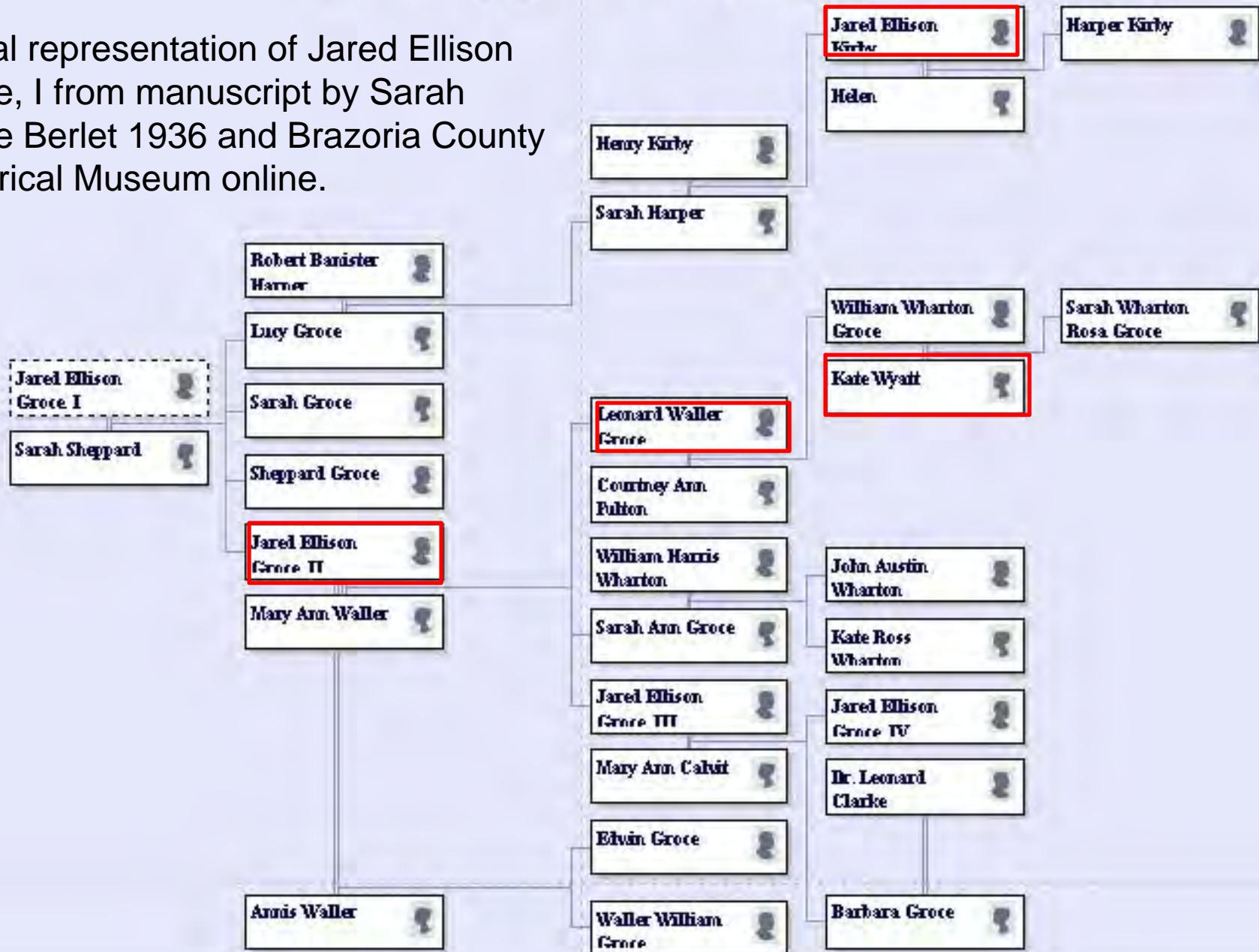


# Implications of research and recommended future GPR Runs/GPS studies

- We hypothesize that burial grounds exist beyond those areas containing headstones, markers, or identified grave shaft anomalies.
- We recommend future GPR runs between the fence line and the main clearing.

# *Close Family of Jared Ellison Groce, I*

Partial representation of Jared Ellison Groce, I from manuscript by Sarah Groce Berlet 1936 and Brazoria County Historical Museum online.

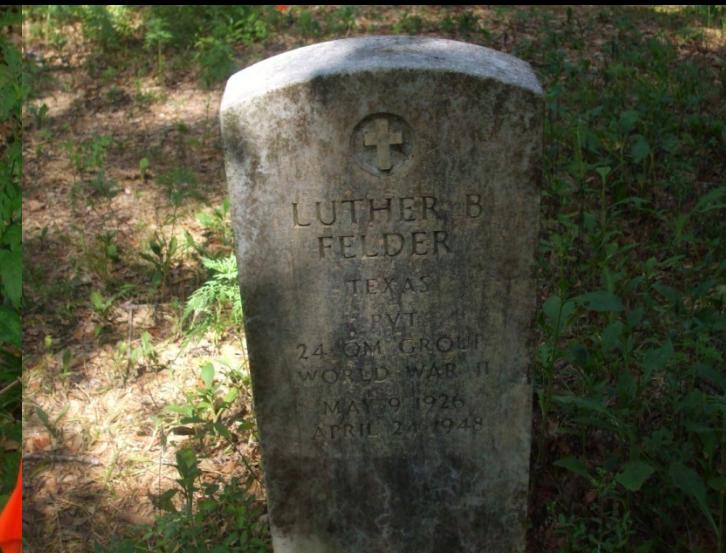
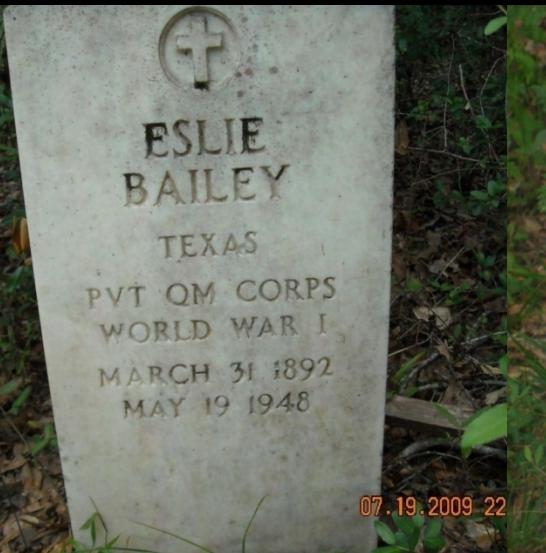


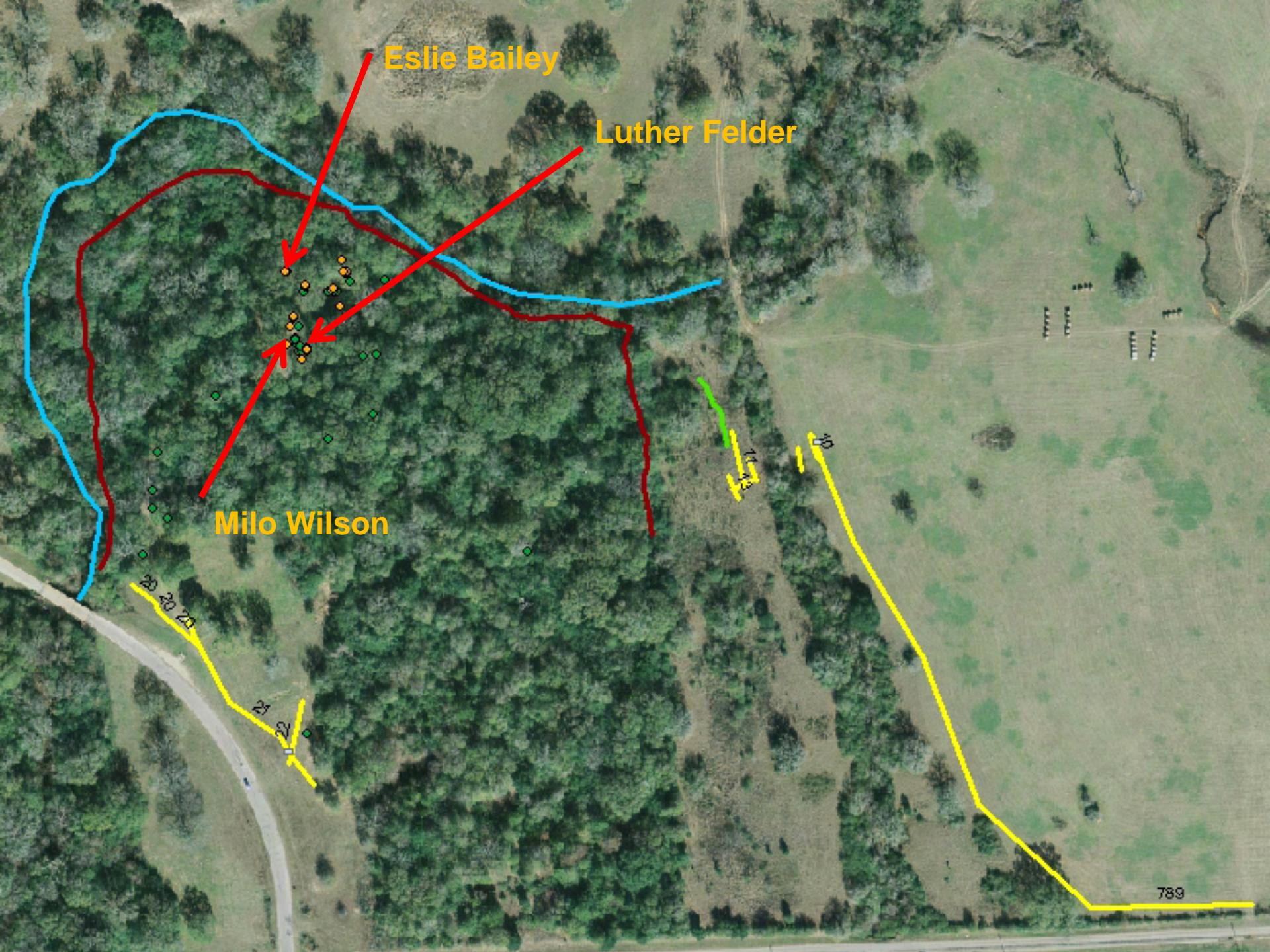
# Important relationships

- Jared Ellison Kirby is the great nephew of Jared Ellison Groce II.
- Leonard Waller Groce and Jared Ellison Kirby were cousins once removed.
- Kate Wyatt married Jared Ellison Groce II's grandson.

# Wyatt Chapel Veterans

- We requested the military records for the three military headstones (Felder, Wilson, Bailey) in the cemetery. The response received on Eslie Bailey was that all records were destroyed in a fire in 1973.





Eslie Bailey

Luther Felder

Milo Wilson

789

# Related Church Information

- Wyatt Chapel Baptist Church
- Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church –est. 1925 Original trustees were C. Smith, T. Smith, and Milo Wilson.
- Mt. Corinth Baptist Church- erected about 1858. In 1891, trustee for that church was G.W. Wyatt. Church was destroyed in 1900 by a storm, but immediately rebuilt. Deacon- J.D. Wyatt.

# Interesting Anecdote

- Oral history from one of Kirby's slaves tells the story of buried treasure along Pond Creek
- Kirby died before sharing the location with his wife
- Students used to dig along the creek in hopes of finding this treasure