Group 3-
SETTING BOUNDARIES

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

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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.

GPS Unit

[Image of a GPS unit being held in a natural outdoor setting]
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.
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 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.
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.
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