

TEXASESCAPES.COM

TexasEscapes is graciously permitting us to share their web content
With Caldwell County TXGenWeb Project.

No part of Texas Escapes content may be used in any form
Without permission from the editor. Just ask.

Contact: John Troesser, permission@texasescapes.com

JEDDO, TEXAS

Texas Ghost Town
Bastrop County, Central Texas South
FM 713 and 1296
9 miles S of Rosanky
18 miles from Bastrop (as the crow flies)
Population: 25 (estimated)

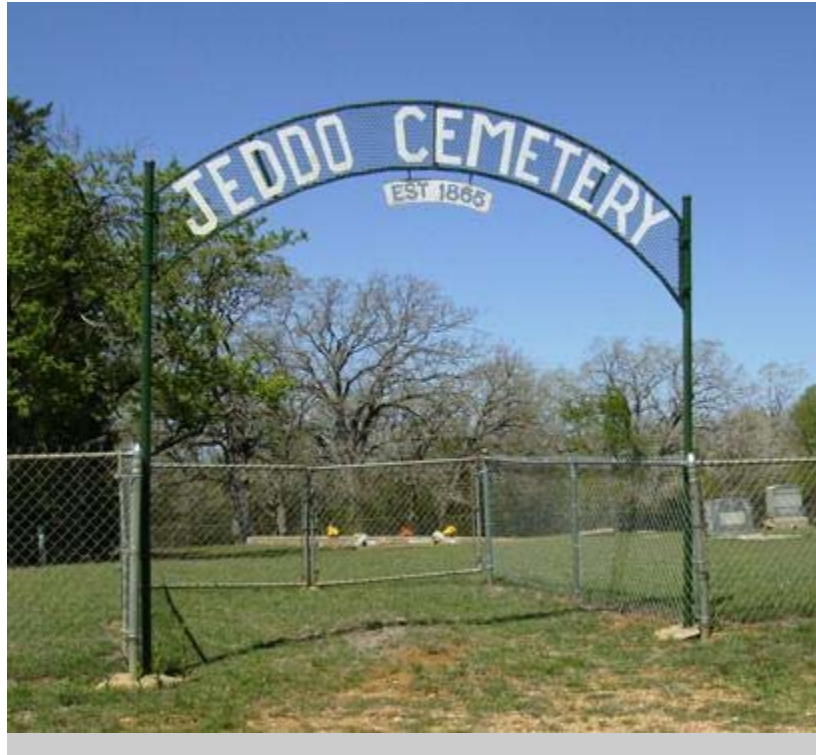


The old schoolhouse in Jeddo
TE Photo, 10-03

History in a Pecan Shell

Jeddo was granted a post office the year it was founded (1874). By 1890 there was one store for the 20 residents and in 1892 two schools reported a combined enrollement of 59 pupils. A mysterious population spike occurred when 560 residents were reported in 1896. It may have been explained as an error except it reoccurred in 1904 when 559 residents were reported. By 1914 it returned to a more likely figure of 12. No record was kept until around 1933, when ten Jeddoans were present for a headcount.

In 1919 a new school building was built and by 1930 there were thirty students with two instructors. Jeddo's post office closed in 1927. The favored figure for the years 1939 to 1990 was a population of 75.



Jeddo Cemetery
Photo courtesy [Sarah Reveley](#), 2009

Jeddo Cemetery

The well-maintained cemetery just north of the main intersection contains the graves of several notable figures - including a veteran of the War of 1812, and **Reverend Benjamin F. Fry**, who earned a 1936 Centennial grave marker for his participation in the Texas Revolution and the Mexican War.



Rev. Benjamin F. Fry Centennial Marker
Photo courtesy [Sarah Reveley](#), 2009

Centennial Marker Text

Rev. Benjamin F. Fry
Participated in the siege of Bexar, 1835
The Battle of San Jacinto, 1836
The Mexican War, 1846
Born in Georgia
September 15, 1800
Died in Texas October 3, 1872
His wife
Nancer Carter Fry
Born in Georgia
Died in 1867



Rev Benjamin F. Fry Grave Texas Centennial Marker
Photo courtesy [Sarah Reveley](#), 2009



Photo courtesy [Sarah Reveley](#), 2009



Graves in Jeddo Cemetery
Photo courtesy [Sarah Reveley](#), 2009



More Jeddo Cemetery scene
Photo courtesy [Sarah Reveley](#), 2009



Lost Graves of Jeddo and An Occurrence at Peach Creek Bridge

by *Velma Fogle*

African American community (St. Phillips Community)

There is a large African American community (St. Phillips Community) that is part of Jeddo. That is probably the reason for the large numbers that seem strange. This community was counted. Originally **St. Phillips Colony**, the colored community was "The Colony" to the whites in Jeddo. The school and churches were segregated but the whites and blacks lived as neighbors on the same economic level. They were all farmers. There were actual strong friendships between some of the whites and blacks.

There are African Americans buried in the Jeddo Community.

Major Marshall Henry Short (a white man) who fought in the Texas Revolution, Mexican War and the Civil War is buried in an unmarked grave in the Jeddo Cemetery. - *Velma Fogle, December 15, 2004*



Jeddo Texas Forum

- **Subject: Lost graves of Jeddo**

I just want to say thank you for the information and picture of the tombstone of James Bownds (Lost graves of Jeddo). James was a brother of two of my great-grandmothers, Eliza Jane Bownds Ponton and Mary Ann Bownds Offield. Thanks for taking the time to share information with others, who would never know it was there. - *Nora Tyler, March 24, 2006*

Lost Graves of Jeddo and An Occurrence at Peach Creek Bridge Jeddo, Texas

by *Velma Fogle*

In Jeddo are ten lost graves located in a pasture on 713 E. directly across from Peach Creek Dr. As far as I know, these graves are unknown to the public. This is a bother to me. My purpose in writing is to let someone know about this cemetery. [There are only] three other people who know these graves exist.



Left - The Tombstone of James Bownds
Right - Tombstone detail
TE Photos, 1-05

Only one grave still has a tombstone and it has been knocked down by the cows. It is the grave of James Bownds (pronounced Bounds) who was killed by Richard Whitehead at the Peach Creek bridge on Peach Creek Dr.



The Bovine Suspects

TE Photor, 1-05

Richard Whitehead stood trial for the murder of James Bownds. He was acquitted.

Richard Whitehead was killed in Rosanky on Sept. 29, 1897 by Philip Davis.

Philip Davis stood trial for the murder of Richard Whitehead. He was acquitted.

Both men had large land grants in Jeddo but each lost land defending himself.

On the murder of James Bownds by Whitehead:

There was bad blood between James Bownds and Henry Lundy. Whitehead, Henry Lundy and a Mr. Coquet were en route to Rosanky on horseback when they met James Bownds at the Peach Creek bridge coming from the opposite direction.

Coquet made haste to get in the trees, Whitehead got off his horse on the opposite side from Bownds with the horse between him and Bownds. Bownds shot at Whitehead and missed but he shot the saddle horn off of the saddle. Whitehead shot, did not miss. I have never checked the court records but I rather think Whitehead was acquitted on self defense. I find it a mystery that Bownds shot at Whitehead instead of Henry Lundy. Maybe Lundy went into the trees.



Peach Creek as viewed from the bridge

TE Photo, 1-05

The original bridge which was built by Jeddo residents (white and black) was used until the flood of 2000 washed it away. (I believe it was 2000 when several such bridges in Bastrop County were destroyed by a flood). It is now a modern bridge easy to drive over without noticing the creek. The original one was a one-way wooden bridge.

By the way, Jeddo is part of an area that was originally Hallmark Prairie.

James Bownds tombstone reads:

In memory of: James Bownds

Born: Feb. 8, 1831

Died: Dec. 18, 1892

He died as he lived

A Christian

On the opposite side of the tombstone is inscribed:

His toils are past

His work is done

He fought the fight

The victory won

© *Velma Fogle Shurtleff, January 5, 2005*

Editor's note: *Velma Fogle is from the corner of Texas where the three counties of Bastrop, Caldwell and Fayette come together. Her knowledge of the area is deep and she has written a history of the St. Phillip's Colony of Bastrop County.*

Jeddo Texas Forum

- **Subject: Thank you**

I just want to say thank you for the information and picture of the tombstone of James Bownds (Lost graves of Jeddo). James was a brother of two of my great-grandmothers, Eliza Jane Bownds Ponton and Mary Ann Bownds Offield. Thanks for taking the time to share information with others, who would never know it was there. - *Nora Tyler, March 24, 2006*