

American
Revolutionary Soldiers
Buried in Texas



Clovis H. Brakebill



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Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

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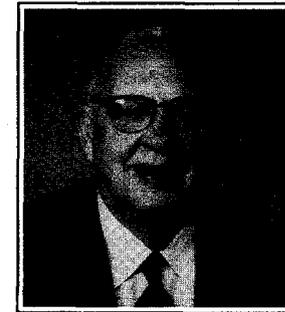
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This book was written based upon resources listed in the bibliography, from interviews with descendants, from visits to cemeteries and information from others. Neither The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution nor the author can guarantee absolute accuracy.

The Author



Clovis H. Brakebill is a native Texan having been born near Bonham, Fannin County, in December 1920. He lived there until entering Texas A&M University in 1938. After graduation he proudly served his country as a member of the 42nd (Rainbow) Infantry Division in the Artillery as a combat forward observer in France and Germany during WWII. After the war, he served in the occupation of Austria. At the time of his release from active duty, he held the rank of captain. He finished his military service in the U.S. Army Reserve.

After a career in insurance and consulting, he retired from Tillinghast, Nelson and Warren, consultants and actuaries, in 1986.

He was accepted as a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1973, serving as President of the Texas Society SAR in 1982-83. In June 1986 he was elected President General of the National Society.

He is descended from eleven confirmed patriots or soldiers who served in the American Revolution against England. He also is a member of numerous hereditary organizations including The Military Order of The Crusades, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America, The Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia and others.

In 1994 he compiled and published for the National Society a Revolutionary War Graves Register containing the burial sites of more than of 54,000 courageous soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Shortly thereafter, he began compiling data for the biographies of those soldiers who chose Texas as their final home and resting place.

Clovis now lives in Dallas, Texas.

June 1998

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

FOREWORD

This book contains the story of the Soldiers of the American Revolution who are buried in Texas. Although the burial sites of most of these brave men are known, some of the sites are lost forever.

The information contained in this book has been confirmed from many sources as is indicated in the bibliography and includes data from numerous descendants and the Pension Files for the Soldiers of the American Revolution. Most of the graves have been inspected and photographed, but the photographs are not included in this book.

The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, in 1976 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, installed several bronze plaques to memorialize the brave Soldiers of the American Revolution who were buried in Texas. That effort was the beginning of this project which did not get underway until 1990.

There are several names on the plaque for which no documentation has been found that they were soldiers of the American Revolution. This factual information may be found in the future. One man listed on the plaque is buried in a state other than Texas.

Many people have assisted in this publication, including compatriots, friends, and several whom we had never met before this project was begun. My thanks to each of you for your assistance.

Many new friends have been very helpful in furnishing materials and services not available in 1976. My thanks to you, also, for your very important contributions.

Outstanding references were books about two of the soldiers. One was *Law of the Heart* by Dorothy Genry and was a biography of William Smeathers. The other was the autobiography by James P. Collins titled *A Revolutionary Soldier*.

Over the years I have had outstanding support from The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution through various administrations. Thank you.

There may be more brave soldiers of the American Revolution who are buried in Texas, especially those who served under Galvez. I regret that their names were not known when this book was published.

I thank each of you, both reader and contributor, for your intense interest in American and Texas history.

Clovis H. Brakebill
Former President General of
The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

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JOHN ABSTON

John Abston was born January 2, 1761 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He was the son of Captain Joshua Abston and his wife, Rachel Clement. Captain Abston served as an Ensign in the Pittsylvania County Militia 1770-1775. When the colonies severed relations with England early in 1775, the Committee of Safety met in Richmond, Virginia on September 27, 1775 to organize for their defense. Joshua Abston was appointed as a Captain in the Colony of Virginia Militia which position he held until 1781.

Early in the Revolutionary War, the British blockaded our seaports to cut off supplies. Among the items that could no longer be imported was salt-petre, a necessary ingredient of gunpowder. John Abston's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Clement, remembered that a mixture of salt and salt-petre had long been used at hog killing time to cure hams and shoulders as they hung from the rafters in the meat houses. Although he was seventy-five years old, the old gentleman dug up the floor of his meat house, boiled the soil, strained the liquid through straw and thus was able to reclaim much needed salt-petre. It is said that he was the first person in the colony to do so with help of a young neighbor. They were able to make fifty pounds of gunpowder each day in the little mill at his home, "Clement Hill". In this way, patriot Benjamin Clement was able to keep those long American rifles firing.

John Abston volunteered for Revolutionary War service in 1779, when he was only eighteen years old as did so many other young, patriotic Virginians. He was in the Battle of King's Mountain.

John Abston married Frances Thurman on July 25, 1789 at Chatham,

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Virginia. They became the parents of two sons, Jesse and Stephen. After the war, they lived in Kentucky for a few years; then in the mid-1830's John moved his entire family to a farm near Independence, Jackson County, Missouri.

While in Missouri, the following deed was executed by John Abston:

This deed made and entered into this twenty-fourth day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-eight by and between John Abston of the one part and Jesse Abston and Stephen Abston, sons of the before named John Abston, all of the County of Jackson and the State of Missouri. Witnesseth: That the said John Abston for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he has and bears unto the said Jesse Abston and Stephen Abston and also for and consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid by the said Jesse Abston and Stephen Abston, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has given, granted, aligned, (sic) enfeoffed and confirmed unto the said Jesse Abston and Stephen Abston - their heirs and assigns, the following Negro slaves for life. That is to say unto him the said Jesse Abston, the same John Abston hereby and by these presents gives, grants, alines, enfeoffs and confirms the following Negro slaves for life, to wit: Abram, Tim, Nancy, Ann, Mary and her children, namely Pleasant, Waiston and Milly; and unto said Stephen Abston he, the said John Abston, hereby and by these presents gives, alines, enfeoffes and confirms the following Negro slaves for life, to wit: Jim, Houston, Milly and her children, namely John, David, Anthony and Unicy, to have and to hold said Negroes unto the said Jesse Abston and Stephen Abston and their heirs and assigns, as above and specified as set forth except that the said John Abston hereby and by these presents reserves said Negroes unto himself should they or any of them be necessary for his support and maintenance during his life. In witness whereof the said John Abston has hereunder set his hand and seal the day and year first herein written.

signed/ John Abston

JOHN ABSTON

State of Missouri:

County of Jackson:

Be it remembered that John Abston who is personally known to the undersigned clerk of the Circuit Court within and for the County aforesaid, to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument of writing, is a party thereto this day appeared before me and acknowledged that he executed and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed and purpose therein mentioned.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunder set my hand and affix the seal of the Court at office in Independence this 26th day of August AD. 1848.

Sam D Lucas, Clerk

This document is recorded in Collin County, Texas Volume L, page 90.

At sometime in the early 1850's, John Abston and his son, Jesse, converted their bank notes into gold bars, put them safely in a small trunk carried on a wagon pulled by oxen. Thus, John Abston began his trip, a journey to the great State of Texas.

When the family reached the Red River, they found a very turbulent river on the rise following recent heavy rains. With great difficulty, they were able to cross the river and saved all of their possessions, including the gold bars and their faithful slaves.

Soon, Jesse became ill with a fever and died. He was given a Christian burial in an unmarked grave near Melissa, Texas. The family subsequently settled on farmland in Collin County near the Lavon community.

John Abston first applied for his Revolutionary War pension July 7, 1855 when he was ninety-eight years old and nearly blind. The affidavit did not comply with the regulations which necessitated his filing a more formal affidavit in February 1857 as follows:

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

State of Texas:

County of Collin: In Chambers Feb'y 4th AD 1857

On this Fourth day of February AD 1857 personally appeared before me George H. Pegues, Chief Justice and Judge of the County Court of the County and State aforesaid (in vacation) John Abston a resident of the County of Collin and State aforesaid, aged ninety-six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: To wit, that he volunteered in the "Army of the United States" in latter part of the winter season in the year AD 1779 at Jasper Mountain, Pittsylvania County, Virginia under Capt. John Ellis whom he served but a few weeks.

The Company then went with Capt. Ellis, and this affiant was transferred to and went under the command of Capt. Rose at the Town of London in Bedford County where they formed the main Army. He states that he served under Capt. Ellis and Capt. Rose and some other Captain, whose name he has forgotten, for two years and some few days and was discharged at New London, Bedford County, Virginia on the ____ day of _____ AD 178_.

He recollects that he was discharged as aforesaid a few months after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.

That when he entered the service he resided in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and his father, Joshua Abston, at the time of his enlistment, was a Captain in the Virginia Militia.

He states that the troops marched from New London towards Richmond where they turned south and went to North Carolina. He states that he was in the Battle of King's Mountain and was encamped for a short time at Ninety Six.

JOHN ABSTON

The only staff officer he now has any recollection of was Col. Washington. That Thomas Smith, Thomas Hancock, and William Stranger volunteered at the same time he did. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his service – his discharge having been destroyed by fire, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

Signed: John Abston by making X as his mark

Attest: Anthony Bewley

Sworn to and subscribed by the said John Abston the day and year aforesaid. Witness my hand and the seal of said Court, this 4th day of February AD 1857. George H. Pegues, Chief Justice of Collin County, Texas

N.B. The scrawl below the name and mark of the applicant is the attempt he made at signing his name and his blindness and extreme old age prevented his making it more legible hence the reason for having him make his mark. Geo. H. Pegues, Chief Justice.

His claim for a pension was denied because, at age ninety-six years he could not present documentary evidence of his service or the testimony of comrades who could state that he was a soldier of the American Revolution

John Abston died February 4, 1857 and is buried in the small Abston Family Cemetery located adjacent to Lake Lavon in Collin County.

His grave is marked with a Sons of the American Revolution bronze plaque and by a gray granite marker which reads as follows:

IN MEMORY
OF

JOHN ABSTON
REV. SOLDIER

1757 - 1856

ERECTED BY
RICHARD ROYAL CHAPTER
D.A.R.

Numerous descendants of John Abston are members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



A Texas State Historical Marker has been erected at the Abston Cemetery and reads as follows:

ABSTON CEMETERY

JOHN ABSTON (1761-1856), A SOLDIER IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WAS A NATIVE OF VIRGINIA. IN THE 1830'S ABSTON AND HIS FAMILY MOVED TO MISSOURI. IN 1853 HE MOVED TO COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS WITH THE FAMILY OF HIS SON JESSE. FOLLOWING JESSE'S DEATH THAT YEAR, THE FAMILY MOVED FARTHER SOUTH IN THE COUNTY. JOHN ABSTON AND JESSE ABSTON'S WIDOW, SARAH, PURCHASED LAND IN THIS AREA IN 1854.

A SMALL PLOT OF LAND WAS SET ASIDE AS A FAMILY BURIAL GROUND. JOHN ABSTON'S BURIAL HERE IN 1856 WAS THE FIRST IN THE CEMETERY. THERE ARE THIRTY-SEVEN MARKED GRAVES, INCLUDING THOSE OF SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF THE ABSTON AND RELATED FAMILIES. ALL BUT ONE OF THE STONES BEAR 19TH CENTURY DEATH DATES.

ACCORDING TO FAMILY TRADITION, SARAH ABSTON AT ONE TIME GAVE A SMALL HOUSE AND PARCEL OF LAND TO A FORMER SLAVE, ELIAS BELLEW, WITH THE AGREEMENT THAT HE WOULD MAINTAIN THE CEMETERY. AS A RESULT, THE GRAVEYARD HAS ALSO BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE OLD BELLEW CEMETERY.

DESCENDANTS OF THOSE INTERRED IN THIS CEMETERY STILL RESIDE IN COLLIN COUNTY. THE GRAVEYARD STANDS AS A REMINDER OF THE AREA'S HERITAGE.

(1988)



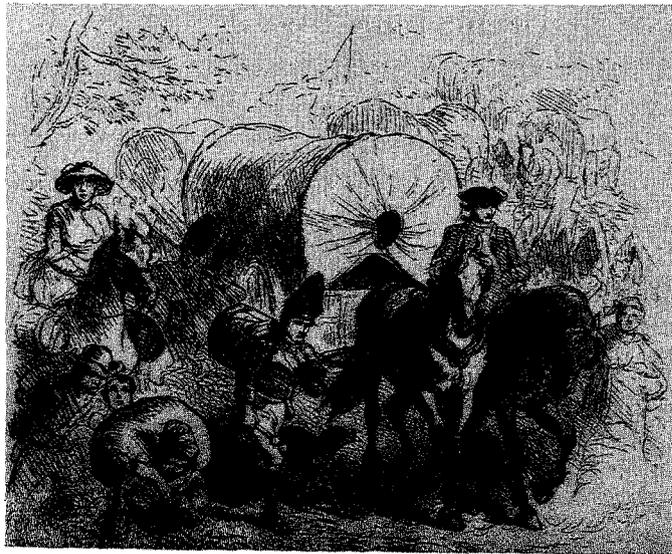
JAMES ADAMS

James Adams was born circa 1754 in Albemarle County, Virginia. He served for three years in The Virginia Continental Line and from 8 February 1882 he was a captain in the Virginia Militia. On March 4, 1776 he married Mary Irvine while living in Virginia.

He received Military Warrant #1039 as recorded in Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds. He apparently lived in the Bardstown, Kentucky area before coming to Texas where he died in the early 1800's.

James Adams is reportedly buried in Orange County, Texas but his grave has not been located.

There are descendants who are members of either the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution or the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



BAILEY ANDERSON

He was born November 13, 1753 in Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, VA. Before the American Revolution, his family moved to the Newberry District near Spartanburg, SC.

Bailey Anderson enlisted in 1776 as a private in the South Carolina troops to fight the Indians on the Pee Dee River. He also participated in the battles of Musgrove's Mills, Black Stocks, Ninety Six and the first siege of Augusta. His service in the army was for about two years.

In 1795 he moved to Kentucky and became a member of the state legislature. He next moved to Indiana where he lived in a tree until he could build a cabin. He married in about 1812 and a son was born to him and his wife. In 1818 he decided to move once more and this time it was to Texas. On a float trip down the Mississippi River his wife died and she was buried in an unmarked grave by the river.

Bailey Anderson and his son came first to San Augustine, Texas in 1819 and finally settled in the Ayish Bayou District, now San Augustine County, in 1821. Bailey commanded a Company at the Battle of Nacogdoches in August 1832 and fought at the Siege of Bexar in December 1835.

On December 14, 1935, the administrator of Pensions wrote the following letter:

Bailey Anderson was born November 13, 1753; the place of soldier's birth and names of his parents are not stated.

While residing in Ninety Six district, South Carolina, he volunteered in 1776 and served six weeks as a private under captain Gordon and Colonels Brandon and Richardson in the South Carolina troops against the Indians on the Reedy River. While living on "Long Island" on the Holston River in Virginia (which was later Tennessee), he vol-

unteered the next year and served six months as a private in Captain Thomas Price's company, Colonel Christian's Virginia regiment, against the Cherokee Indians. He then returned to Ninety Six District, volunteered and served six weeks as private in Captain Thomas Gordon's South Carolina company. He enlisted and served another tour of six weeks under the same captain. He volunteered and served about two months as a private in Captain Parson's South Carolina company and was at the Battle of Managrove's Mills. He volunteered in the same year as the Battle of King's Mountain occurred and served as a private in Captain Bridges' South Carolina company under Colonel Clarke of Georgia, was at the first siege of Augusta, length of this tour about two months; he was also in another tour in that year and was at the Battle of Black Stocks. He volunteered and served about one month as a private in Captain Farrow's South Carolina company and was at the siege of Ninety Six. He was out on several other occasions against the Indians and Tories, making his service about two years in all.

Bailey Anderson was allowed pension on his application executed August 27, 1833, while residing in that part of the country situated between the eastern and western branches of the Sabine River in Texas. His application was executed in the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Bailey Anderson lived, also, in Indiana, Arkansas and Kentucky and was a member of the State Legislature from the last named state.

The pension received by Bailey Anderson was \$80.00 per year.

Following the Texas Revolution, Bailey moved to Harrison County where he died on August 1, 1840 at age eighty-seven. He is buried in the Old Family Cemetery near Elysian Fields. His grave is not identifiable in the small, overgrown family cemetery.

A Texas Historical Marker is in Elysian Fields on land which was given to Bailey Anderson by the State of Texas for his service in the Texas Revolution. Several men have become members of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution as descendants of Bailey Anderson.

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BENJAMIN W. ANDERSON

Benjamin Anderson was born in 1751 in South Carolina and joined the Continental Army in South Carolina after his father was killed by the Tories. He obtained a grant of 800 acres of land in Georgia but soon moved on to Alabama before joining more than 100 members of the Anderson family to come to Nacogdoches County, Texas.

Benjamin was married twice. He was the father of nine children by his first marriage to Polly Rebecca Cureton and sixteen children by his second marriage to Margaret Jane Williams.

Anderson served as a private in a militia group during Texas' fight for independence from Mexico. He loved horse racing and rode race horses until he was ninety-six years old when he broke his leg during a horse race. He died on September 14, 1853.

He is buried in the Blackjack-Attoyac Cemetery 3.9 miles north from Chireno, Nacogdoches County, Texas. There are several members of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution who descend from Benjamin Anderson.

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JOSEPH DE LA BAUME

Joseph de la Baume was born in 1731 near Avignon in the Languedoc region of southern France.

He was a captain in the French Army that fought in the United States during the American Revolution. He served as a company commander in a regiment commanded by Vicomte de Bonneville. Joseph was present with the troops at Yorktown when the British surrendered in 1781.

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After the American Revolution, Joseph de la Baume visited Louisiana and was stranded there when the French Revolution occurred because he was identified with the royalist government. He came to Texas in 1800 and requested permission from the Spanish to remain in Texas with the following letter to Commandant-General Nemesio Salcedo written from Nacogdoches on August 4, 1803:

"Wishing to continue following the Spanish flag....as soon as I learned that Louisiana had been ceded to the French Republic, I moved to this settlement of Nacogdoches last year with the required permission from General Don Pedro de Nava. Knowing that this is too small a settlement for the exercise of my profession of physician and herb-doctor, and likewise a poor market for the sale of farm products raised by my eight Negroes, I most humbly and earnestly beg Your Lordship to allow me to move, along with my family and property to Bexar or La Bahia. This is a favor which I hope to receive through the kindness of Your Lordship and which I will enjoy without ever violating the superior orders of Your Lordship."

In 1804, de la Baume was listed in the Nacogdoches territory as a widower with one mulatto female servant, four sons and eight Negro slaves. The next year he declared that he was a French native of the Languedoc. In 1806 he stated that he was married for the third time, to Feliciana, a mulatto of thirty years. Joseph was then seventy-five years old. His previous wives, Ana Maria Kentree of Ouachita, Louisiana and Louise Cuturie of Nacogdoches, apparently had died. Children from his second wife were Victorine, Joseph, Gertrudis and Sancir Pedro.

de la Baume finally settled in Bexar (San Antonio) where he built a sturdy stone home in a grove of cottonwood trees near the Alamo. The Texas Census reported him as being sixty-six years old and farming, with a twenty-six year old wife, four sons, two daughters and six slaves. His birth date reflects that he was seventy-five years, as has been reported previously.

For a few years the aged veteran of the Revolution prospered but in 1813 when the Spanish royalist forces re-conquered Texas he lost his wealth. He was caught up in the political turmoil, imprisoned for seven months and fined 7,000 doubloons.

JOSEPH DE LA BAUME

After Mexico won its independence from Spain, Emperor Iturbide, in 1823, appointed de la Baume to inspect the Los Almagres ore deposits near the Llano River. The mission was never completed because of fierce encounters with the Comanche Indians in the area.

In 1828, at age ninety-seven, de la Baume received the first concession of land on the El Capote Ranch in present Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties. This six league tract was a gift from the Mexican government because la Baume had lived in Bexar since 1806 and he had been promised land. The deed was issued in 1832 by the State of Coahuila y Texas. At his death, his children inherited the land.

In 1833, de la Baume was 102 years old. At this time he applied for a US Veterans pension for service in the American Revolution stating that he was poor and unable to work. His lawyer was Stephen F. Austin who had known him since 1821. Attorney Sam Houston certified the application of de la Baume but it was rejected by the United States government.

Joseph de la Baume died in 1834 and left a will dated April 4, 1834 at Bexar. Some say he was buried in Bexar while others say he was buried near Bellville in Austin County. The file contains correspondence to the effect that de la Baume was buried near Bellville. There are photographs of a grave-size plot enclosed by limestone rocks where, according to tradition, de la Baume is buried. There is no identification on the grave. On October 29, 1971, Franz W. Zeiske, a columnist for *The Bellville Times* wrote a letter about the grave and that 'Deaconess Waiters, a pleasant Negro woman and her son William, will escort you (a historian) to the grave'. There are pictures of Deaconess Waiters and her son standing by the stone enclosed grave. Descendants of Joseph de la Baume still reside in Texas.

In February 1998 an attempt to find the grave site in the Bellville area was unsuccessful.



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JOHN JAMES CEDAR

He was a soldier in the British Army but deserted. He then served in the Continental Army. He was born in England in 1761 and came to Nacogdoches, Texas in 1803. He is buried on Palogacho Creek in Nacogdoches County.



JOHN BAPTISTE CHAISON

A citizen of France, John Baptiste Chaison was born in Nova Scotia on August 7, 1745. He emigrated to France with his parents because of his family's loyalty to France after Nova Scotia was ceded to England.

John Baptiste Chaison returned to America soon after the American Revolution broke out in order to take an active part in the Colonies' fight for freedom from England. He was very active in hostilities from Canada to South Carolina.

He served with Colonel Benedict Arnold at the Siege of Quebec, with General Sullivan at Germantown and with General Lafayette at Brandywine. He was wounded at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina and again fought with Lafayette at Yorktown where he witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis to General George Washington.

After the war, Chaison settled in Louisiana. In 1832 he moved to Jefferson County, Texas, where he became a successful tobacco farmer. He raised a family of fourteen children and was survived by his wife of twenty-seven years when he died in Jefferson County, Texas on July 20, 1854 at the age of one hundred and nine years.

He was buried in the Jirou Cemetery, which in 1854 was on the north edge of Beaumont. Many years later the cemetery was abandoned. Today,

JOHN BAPTISTE CHAISON

his grave is located near a major freeway in a congested part of Beaumont. The property is occupied by a church and the actual grave is under an asphalt parking lot.

A grave marker was placed by his grave in 1944 by The Daughters of the American Revolution. The marker is now located in Piplin Park on the west bank of the Neches River near downtown Beaumont. A Texas Historical Marker is also located in Piplin Park. The marker erected by The Daughters of the American Revolution reads as follows:

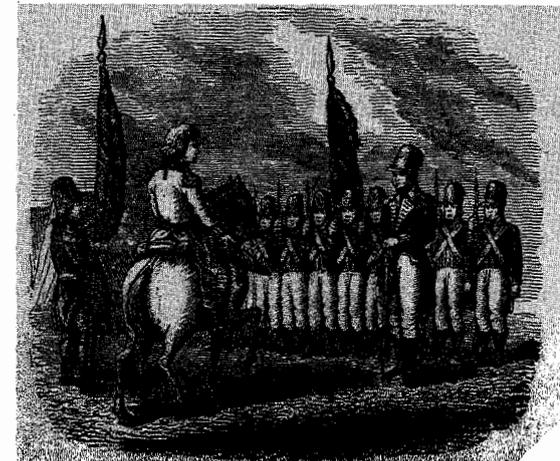
REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

1775

1783

JONAS CHAISON

PLACED BY THE
COL. GEORGE MOFFETT CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION



JEAN BAPTISTE CHAISON
(AUG 7, 1745 - JULY 20, 1854)

JEAN BAPTISTE ("JONAS") CHAISON WAS BORN IN NOVA SCOTIA, OF FRENCH PARENTS. AFTER IMPRISONMENT BY THE BRITISH DURING THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, HE AND HIS PARENTS FLED TO FRANCE, WHERE HE SOON WAS ORPHANED. HE RETURNED TO NORTH AMERICA AND JOINED THE CONTINENTAL ARMY IN 1775 AT QUEBEC TO TAKE REVENGE AGAINST THE BRITISH. CONTINUING IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, HE SERVED WITH LAFAYETTE AT BRANDYWINE, 1777; FOUGHT AT GERMANTOWN, 1777; WAS WOUNDED SERVING UNDER GREEN AND MARION AT EUTAW SPRINGS, 1781; AND FOUGHT UNDER LAFAYETTE'S COMMAND AT YORKTOWN, 1781.

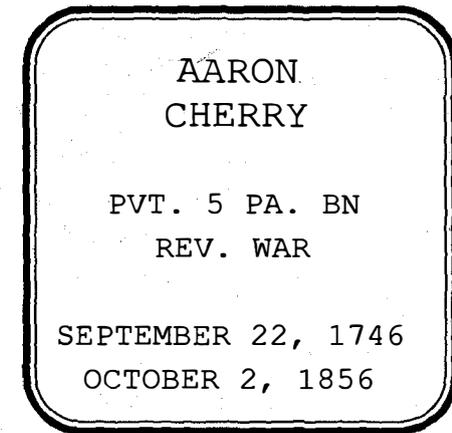
COMING TO WESTERN LOUISIANA AS A CATTLE RAISER AND FARMER ABOUT 1785, HE MARRIED MARIE LeBLANC AND HAD EIGHT CHILDREN. ABOUT 1840 HE MOVED TO BEAUMONT TO LIVE WITH HIS SON McGUIRE CHAISON (1809-1859). HE WAS STRONG AND HEALTHY OF MIND AND BODY AS LONG AS HE LIVED UNTIL 1854. DYING AT A FEW DAYS UNDER 109 YEARS OF AGE, HE WAS BURIED IN JIROU CEMETERY (3 mi. N). HE WAS ONE OF THE FEW MEN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INVOLVED IN TEXAS HISTORY. THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MARKED HIS GRAVESITE IN 1944. THE DAR MARKER WAS MOVED TO PIPKIN PARK WHEN A CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1969 IN THE EXTINCT JIROU CEMETERY.

Texas Historical Marker 1976



AARON CHERRY

Information on his Revolutionary War service is limited to the inscription on his government tombstone which reads as follows:



It is not known who placed the tombstone at the grave site which is located on the Plantation Ranch that is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Daniels of Liberty, Texas. The Plantation Ranch is located on the east side of the Trinity River near Romayor in North Liberty County, Texas.

According to published Cherry Family History, Aaron Cherry was born in 1746 in Virginia of Huguenot parents. In 1834, Aaron Cherry and his sons settled in Liberty County, Texas on the banks of the Trinity River at the site of the very small town of Romayor. Not only were the Cherrys farmers and ranchers, they also traded with the Alabama and Coushatta Indian tribes in the area.



American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

BENJAMIN CLARK

He was born in Dobbs County, North Carolina in January 1758. At age seventeen, Benjamin Clark enlisted in the North Carolina Militia. He served his young country well and rose to the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant.

A letter from the Veterans Administration, Washington, DC dated July 28, 1937 confirms the military service of Benjamin Clark. His pension claim is S-31611. The letter further states that Benjamin Clark enlisted in 1775 or 1776 in Duplin County, NC where he was then residing. He served as private and quartermaster under Captains Michael King, Daniel Williams, Love, Dodd, Pipkin, Mobley and Thomas James. He also served under Colonels James Kenan, Brown and James Moore in the North Carolina troops. He was in the battle at Cape Fear and in some other skirmishes.

The length of his services was not stated in the letter. He was allowed a pension on his application executed October 3, 1832 while residing in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

After the Revolutionary War, Benjamin moved to South Carolina, then to Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri Territory and Arkansas. He came first to Texas in 1819 and finally settled his family in Red River County about 1833. He and his wife were the parents of five sons and five daughters. Four of their children remained in Arkansas while the others moved to Texas.

Along the way, in addition to being an adventurous pioneer, he also became a Methodist minister. At his new Texas home, he spent much of his time in traveling and preaching in the small churches in the area. His Bible bears the signatures of Sam Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar and Arkansas Acting-Governor Robert Crittenden.

JAMES POTTER COLLINS

Benjamin Clark died in February 1838 and is buried in the Clarksville Cemetery. His original grave stone became unreadable over the years and was replaced by a new stone several years ago. It reads

BENJAMIN CLARK, SENIOR
BORN JANUARY 1758, DOBBS CO, N.C.
DIED FEBRUARY 1838, CLARKSVILLE
QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT
NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Nearby is the grave of his Negro servant. His marker reads as follows:

"UNCLE " GEORGE
BELOVED AND FAITHFUL
SERVANT OF
BENJAMIN CLARK



JAMES POTTER COLLINS

Many years ago James Potter Collins wrote *Biography of a Revolutionary Soldier* which gives factual and colorful account of the life of a front line soldier during the American Revolution and the remainder of his life. He was living in Louisiana at the time his book was written.

Chapters in this outstanding autobiography include Trouble among the Tories, Minute men, Skirmish with the enemy, Scouting, Battle of King's Mountain, Battle of Cowpens, A hazardous adventure, Ferretting out

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Tories, Return home, The Indians, Religious views, Hunting, The days when I went courting, Marriage, Drunkenness, Death of my wife, Second marriage, Horse purchase, A strange disease, Visit to a celebrated doctor, Preaches a sermon, Mysterious cure, Encounter with Indians, Removal to Tennessee, Last Remarks, and several other very interesting chapters.

An excerpt from his book will be included later.

Collins was born of Irish descent on November 22, 1763 in what was then Tryon County, North Carolina. Tryon County is now (1998) York County, South Carolina.

At the time of the invasion of the British troops, James Potter Collins enlisted in Moffit's Minute Men, a company of volunteers. He served both as a courier and as a combat rifleman. He was in combat at the Battle of King's Mountain and at the Battle of Cowpens.

After the Revolutionary War ended, Collins enlisted in the militia and for several years assisted in keeping the peace between the pioneer settlers and the Creek and Cherokee Indians. Like many of his fellow veterans, he grew restless and moved west exploring and settling land in Georgia, Tennessee and Louisiana.

In 1836, James Potter Collins was seventy-four years old and living in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, northeast from Baton Rouge, when he wrote his autobiography. This was fifty-five years after the Revolutionary War. After completing his memoirs, he again became restless and went to Red River County, Texas to visit his son-in-law, John East. He liked Texas so much that he remained until his death in 1844, at the age of eighty-one. He was buried on the Collins farm north of Clarksville and near the Red River.

The river has, over the years, changed its course many times. Thus, the grave of this great American Patriot of the American Revolution has been destroyed and forever lost.

JAMES POTTER COLLINS

James Potter Collins filed the following Declaration in order to obtain a pension for his service as a soldier of the American Revolution:

*In Third District Court, Parish of East Feliciana:
State of Louisiana:*

On this 8th of April, 1834, personally appeared in open court, before Charles Bushnell, presiding judge of the State and District aforesaid, James P. Collins, a resident of the said Parish of East Feliciana and the State of Louisiana, aged 70 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832:

I entered the service of my country in the year 1780, not long after the fall of Charleston, South Carolina in what is now called York District, under the command of Col. John Moffit, a militia colonel, and was always under his command while in service. We were nothing more than Militia Volunteers and a scouting party that scoured the Districts of York and _____, sometimes crossing the Broad River to the west, in Union, and the Districts above, and sometimes passing into Rutherford, Lincoln and Mecklenburgh, in North Carolina.

The first action I ever witnessed was with Lord Hook, as he was called, near Fishing Creek, after he had burnt Hill's Iron Works, where his party was defeated and himself killed. My Captain was then John Henderson. The next matter of note, we joined General Lumpkin at Fishing Creek sometime in August, where we were defeated with considerable loss. I was then under Capt. John Chambers and Lieut. Bryant, the latter of whom was lost in the action.

The next was at King's Mountain when Ferguson was defeated. The principal leaders there were Colonels Campbell, Sevier, Shelby, Williams and Cleveland. I was that day under Major Chronical, who was killed in the action. My Captain's name was Watson, who was wounded, so that he died a few days after. We never were attached to any troops but on our own, for more than three or four days at a time that I remember, and that always for

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

our safety, (for the odds were against us) or to assist in checking the progress of the enemy.

Next we joined General Morgan, near Cowpens, when Tarlton attacked us and was defeated. I do not remember what Captain I was under on that day; — my Lieut. was James Venable.

We had several brushes with small parties like our own in which we would get a man or two wounded, and sometimes a horse or two killed, which perhaps is not worth naming in detail. I remember a Col. Howard under General Morgan, at the Battle of Cowpens, and Col. Washington of the Cavalry.

I left the service in 1783, and received a written discharge from Col. Moffitt, but not believing it would be of any service to me after the war, I took no care of it, and it has been lost for many years. I was discharged in York District, South Carolina. I do not now know of any person living who served with me by whom I can prove my service — but for my character for truth and veracity, I refer to the Honorable Thomas W. Scott, Parish Judge of the Parish of East Feliciana, the Rev. Ezra Courtney, a clergyman of the Baptist Church in said Parish, and to Lindsay Davis, James C. Chapman, Bartholemew Burnet and John Bennett, my neighbors, when I left the service.

I was young and careless, and having never been wounded in my country's cause, I never expected to call on her for a pension, which caused me to be careless in preserving the evidence of my service.

In 1785 I left South Carolina for Georgia, when I was at the surveying and settling of most all the upper part of the State, say on Broad River, Agechen, Aconee, Apalache and Oakmulgee, and was at the Shoulderbone Treaty, where the Apalache and Oakmulgee Lands were purchased, and in the time had to be in several brushes with the Cherokees and Creeks, who were both hostile.

To establish the truth of what I now state, there are several men of good character in this parish who have known me more than thirty years, who

JAMES POTTER COLLINS

also know that I associated with their fathers who lived through the Revolution, and while living considered me a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

In 1810, as well as I now remember, I removed from Georgia to the Tennessee Valley in the State of Tennessee, and from Tennessee, I removed to Louisiana in 1820, and lived nearly a year in the Parish of St. Tammany, from whence I removed to the Parish of St. Helena, and in January 1822, I removed to the Parish of East Feliciana, where I have lived ever since.

Signed: James P. Collins

On September 23rd 1853, Elizabeth Hawsey gave an affidavit regarding the children of James P. Collins and his wife, Mary Anderson, both deceased. Elizabeth had known the Collins family for thirty-five years and their children were Susan Collins Powers, James D. Collins, Sophia Collins, Ann Summerville, and Frances Collins East.

From the autobiography of James P. Collins and in his unique style, now is included a story of his philosophy and an infantryman's view of the Battle of Cowpens which followed the Battle of King's Mountain:

However, affairs could not long remain in this situation. The British and Tories were still in strength below, and also on the west side of Broad River; besides, Georgia was infested with them. It became necessary for us to be again in motion; the Tories were mustering up in small parties, to seek revenge, and we, again set out to chastise them.

Those Ponders, of whom I have before spoken, were still using all their exertions. It was determined, if possible, to get hold of some of them. For that purpose, we passed above King's Mountain, and got into ranging ground, but they eluded us. Here, I was put to a trial that I have not forgotten, nor will ever forget. We had caught the old father of the clan that we were in search of; he was a very old, grayheaded man,

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and was brought before the colonel and threatened with instant death unless he would tell where his sons were.

The old man declared he did not know, but being still threatened, he fell on his knees and began to beg for his life. He no doubt thought his life was at stake. While he was in this situation, a man in the company took me aside, and holding a long spear in his hand, with a handle perhaps six or eight feet long, said, "I want you to take this spear and run it through that d__d old Tory; he ought to die." "No." said I, "he is too old; besides the colonel would never forgive me; he is a prisoner and he don't intend to kill him." "Oh," said he, "I can easily plead you off with the colonel;" then putting his hand in his pocket he drew out of a purse of money, saying, "Here is twenty dollars — (showing silver) — I will give you this to kill him." I felt insulted.

I thought he underrated my real character, and thought that through my youth and inexperience, he would bribe me to do a deed that he himself would be ashamed of. I turned away saying, "It will take but one to do it, and you can do it as easily as I can." I thank God, I escaped the temptation for I verily believe had I committed the deed, the ghost of that old man would have haunted me to this day; but I thank God, I never had the desire to take away the life of any man, even my own worst enemy.

A man in battle, or in the heat of passion, might deem it necessary, but after much reflection, I am inclined to think that no man, possessed of the spirit of real patriotism, would seek revenge by taking away his enemy's life. At all events it gave me a dislike to the man that made the proposal, and I never thought favorably afterwards. I knew him a number of years after; he at last ran distracted and died so, and I have often thought that he was rotten at the core, and consequently remorse had overtaken him, for something wrong.

JAMES POTTER COLLINS

However, the poor old Tory was set at liberty, after getting a friendly admonition from the colonel.

The report from an infantryman of the Battle of Cowpens:

It was not long until it became necessary for us to seek safety by joining Morgan, who was encamped at the Cowpens, but we were not permitted to remain long idle, for Tarleton came on like a thunderstorm, which soon put us to our best mettle. After the tidings of his approach came into camp, — in the night, — we were all awakened, ordered under arms, and formed in order of battle by daybreak.

About sunrise on the 17th January, 1781, the enemy came in full view. The sight, to me at least, seemed somewhat imposing; they halted for a short time, and then advanced rapidly as if certain of victory. The militia under Pickins and Moffitt, was posted on the right of the regulars some distance in advance, while Washington's cavalry was stationed in the rear. We gave the enemy one fire, when they charged us with their bayonets; we gave way and retreated for our horses, Tarleton's cavalry pursued us; ("now," thought I, "my hide is in the loft;") just as we got to our horses, they overtook us and began to make a few hacks at some, however, without doing much injury.

They, in their haste, had pretty much scattered, perhaps, thinking they would have another Fishing Creek frolic, but in a few moments, Colonel Washington's cavalry was among them, like a whirlwind, and the poor fellows began to keel from their horses, without being able to remount. The shock was so sudden and violent, they could not stand it, and immediately betook themselves to flight; there was no time to rally, and they appeared to be as hard to stop as a drove of wild Choctaw steers, going to a Pennsylvania market.

In a few moments the clashing of swords was out of hearing and quickly out of sight; by this time, both lines of the infantry were warmly engaged and we being relieved from the pursuit of the enemy began to rally and prepare to redeem our credit, when Morgan rode up in front, waving his sword, cried out, "form, form, my brave fellows! Give them one more fire and the day is ours. Old Morgan was never beaten." We then advanced briskly,

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and gained the right flank of the enemy, they being hard pressed in front, by Howard, and falling very fast, could not stand it long.

They began to throw down their arms, and surrender themselves prisoners of war. The whole army, except Tarleton and his horsemen, fell into the hands of Morgan, together with all the baggage.

After the fight was over, the sight was truly melancholy. The dead on the side of the British, exceeded the number killed at the battle of King's Mountain, being if I recollect aright, three hundred, or upwards.

The loss on the side of the Americans, was only fifteen or sixteen, and a few slightly wounded.

This day, I fired my little rifle five times, whether with any effect or not, I do not know. Next day, after receiving some small share of the plunder, and taking care to get as much powder as we could, we (the militia) were disbanded and returned to our old haunts, where we obtained a few day's rest.

Note: James Collins had only a shotgun when he first entered the army. This "little rifle" is one that was given to him by his colonel after a losing skirmish against the British sometime before the Battle of King's Mountain.

This autobiography by James P. Collins, American patriot and Revolutionary War soldier, was published in 1859, fifteen years after his death.



WARREN DAVIS

Warren Davis was a native of Virginia having been born in Prince William County in 1766. He was a combat soldier during the American Revolution. While serving under General William Henry Harrison, he was taken captive by the Indians. He was in danger of being executed when the Chief

WILLIAM DELAFIELD

established a bond with him and adopted him into the tribe, thus saving his life.

He married Mollie Kincheloe in Nelson County, Kentucky. They later lived near Cape Girardeau, Missouri before moving to San Augustine County in 1820.

He died on March 26, 1838 and was buried in an unmarked grave in the Upper Chireno Cemetery, Chireno, Texas.



WILLIAM DELAFIELD

William Delafield was born in 1763, probably in Mecklenburg County, Virginia.

He enlisted at sixteen in the Mecklenburg County Militia commanded by Captain Reuben Vaughn. According to the records of Mecklenburg County, a muster roll of Captain Reuben Vaughn for the year 1779 lists "Delifield" as a member of his company serving as a substitute for James Ramey. This "Delifield", no doubt, is William Delafield as his father, Nicholas Delafield, was too old to serve in the active military. It was customary for a very young man, during the Revolutionary War, to serve as a substitute for an older member of his family.

As a boy before the American Revolution, William was sometimes in trouble. His actions earned him a reputation as a rebel. In 1785, following the Revolutionary War, Delafield was charged with horse stealing and sentenced to death. This incident in the life of William Delafield, while not adding great luster to his family's history, does provide substantial information about this young American patriot.

A petition, dated May 4, 1785, for the pardon of William Delafield follows:

*To His Excellency Patrick Henry, Esquire, Governor of Virginia.
Sir, The power of pardoning for Felonious Offences being left with you & the Hon'ble the council of state, we beg leave to address you in behalf of William Delafield now under sentence of death for horse stealing. —Although we execrate the crime & are also sensible that most rigorous infliction of the laws of our Country should attend its conviction —Yet, Sir, as the Mercy of our country thro' your excellence (word unintelligible) is often extended to Offenders of this rank; permit us, urged by a hope, that (as this is the first) it will be the last offence of this nature the unhappy man will commit; to offer our Intreaties, accompanied by our wishes, that he may receive a pardon.*

We might here mention several alleviating circumstances, that might operate with your Excellency in this consideration; but will only observe the anxiety of an aged Father for an only Son, a Father whose Tenor of life (from a long couple of acquaintance) has ever been esteem'd moral & irreproachable; —& the Son (this instance excepted) as far as we know or have heard has never been charged with offence.—

The sincere desire we are persuaded that rests with your excellency, to comply with every request of this sort, —not incompattible, with the security and dignity of the Citizens over whom you preside; & the instances that have been attended with Happy effects during you administrations, prompts us to Hope our Request will be granted. —& with the Highest Respect subscribe ourselves

Sir, your excellencys most obedient & most Hbe servts.

*Mecklenburg
May 4th 1785*

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Sam Hopkins Jr.</i> | <i>Tingle Jones Sr.</i> |
| <i>Wm. Taylor</i> | <i>Tingle Jones Jr.</i> |
| <i>Saml. Venable</i> | <i>Richd. Swepson</i> |
| <i>Thos. Field</i> | <i>Sam Goode</i> |
| <i>Henry Walker</i> | <i>Richd. Clausel</i> |

The signers of this petition were prominent in Mecklenburg county before 1800, and the fact they signed it attests to the high regard they had for Nicholas Delafield (father). Six of the ten signers were officers during the Revolutionary War.

On May 14, 1785, William Delafield was pardoned on condition that he “labour three years in the same manner that Criminals lately pardoned are obliged to work”. Apparently the conditions of his pardon did not please young Delafield, for on Sunday, July 24, 1785, he with others escaped from the public jail in Richmond. A reward of twenty pounds was offered for each of the “Malefactors that shall be delivered to the Keeper of the Public Gaol”.

The *Virginia Gazette* of Williamsburg, on July 30 and August 6, 1785, printed the following description of William Delafield:

William Delafield a Virginian about 5 feet, 10 or 11 inches high with a swarthy complexion, black hair, a good set of teeth, a round handsome face, stout and well made and about 21 years of age. He had on a brown linen shirt and trousers, a corduroy waistcoat, much worn and the wind skirt off, and an old hat and took with him a blue cloak and a pair of shoes.

This was, indeed, a most colorful portrait of young William Delafield.

With the publication of this description, Delafield decided to locate elsewhere. He began a journey that took him through the Carolinas and into Georgia, where he settled in 1786. He later moved to Alabama.

It is not known whether William Delafield maintained contact with his father after leaving Virginia; however, in his father's will, dated October 16, 1790 and proved on April 13, 1795, he was bequeathed one shilling sterling. Nicholas Delafield left the remainder of his estate to his wife, Mary Delafield, and after her death to his step-son, Edward Cox.

William Delafield married Nancy (surname not known) in Georgia during the early 1790's. It is not known how many children William and

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Nancy had, but they had a least two sons: John (1794-1862) and Nicholas (1798-1855/1860).

William next appears in public records in 1820 when he is listed as Wm. Derrifield in the US census for Hall County, Georgia.

In 1827, "William Dellafield" of Hall County drew in the Georgia Land Lottery on the basis of his service during the Revolutionary War. William Delafield was again listed in the 1830 US Census for Hall County, Georgia. Sometime before 1832, both William and his son, Nicholas, moved to Alabama, where they received land grants in Barbour County in 1836. William Delafield was now seventy-three years old.

William Delafield is not found in the 1850 US Census, however, it is known that after 1850 he moved from Alabama to Harrison County, Texas to be with his son, Nicholas, who had settled there in 1846.

A firebrand in his youth, Delafield mellowed with age. He became a kindly old man, known as "Uncle Billy", who took great delight in recounting tales of "The War" to his neighbors and their children while he sat in a rocking chair. He had only one leg and it is believed that he had lost his leg as a result of an Indian uprising on the Georgia frontier many years earlier.

He died in 1860 in his ninety-seventh year and was buried on the family's farm cemetery near LaGrone's Chapel, in western Harrison County.

The life of William Delafield reflects so well what has been called the westward movement in United States history. Born in Virginia during the reign of King George III, he died in Texas during the presidency of James Buchanan. Notwithstanding an episode in his youth, William Delafield was a respected member of his community wherever he lived.

Perhaps the most descriptive epithet for William Delafield is "Pioneer" — one who prepares the way for others.

In 1972 a Texas Historical Marker was erected near the LaGrone Chapel containing the following inscription:

WILLIAM DELAFIELD

1763 - ca 1860

A veteran of the American Revolution lived in this area as a patriarch of a family whose history typifies the western movement of the people of the United States.

Son of Nicholas Delafield, a cooper in the English Navy in the 1740's and an artisan living in Mecklenburg County, Virginia as early as the 1760's. William Delafield, as a lad served in the militia company of a neighbor, Captain Reuben Vaughn during the year 1779 when the former American Colonies — joined together since 1776 as the United States — were revolting against the tyranny of George III of Great Britain.

In 1785, William Delafield, then 22, moved to Georgia. There he brought up a family and in 1827 was awarded land on the basis of his Revolutionary War service. By 1832 he and a son, Nicholas, lived in Alabama where in 1836 both received land grants in Barbour County. The son, in 1846, settled here in Harrison County.

By 1850 William Delafield also lived here where he was known to neighbors as an elderly man who sat in a rocking chair relating stories of old times. He had lost a leg, probably in frontier fighting in Georgia against the Indians.

His descendants include persons who have obtained distinction in military and civilian life in Texas and other states.



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JOHN DOLLARHIDE

John Dollarhide was born in North Carolina in 1751. As a frontiersman, he first entered military service in 1780 in a company of North Carolina Militia commanded by Captain John Douglas.

His affidavit for a pension follows:

Sabine Parish State of Louisiana:

On this 26th day of May 1846 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Probate now sitting, John Dollarhide, a resident of aforesaid State and Parish, aged ninety-five years, who being duly first sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1778 as a volunteer under Captain John Douglas for a term of six months, that he was at the Battle of King's Mountain and that his commanding officer on that occasion was Colonel Cleaveland and that there the Americans took a number of Tories and hanged several of them.

A short time after that engagement he was discharged and returned home where he remained but a short time when he again volunteered and went out under Captain Benjamin Douglas, a brother to his first captain, and served again six months and was in the Battle of Cowpens. Then his company joined General Green's army and was put in General Morgan's command when General Green divided his army. Morgan commanded at Cowpens, and this battle was fought in January 1781.

Soon after this battle, Morgan and Green's armies came together again and crossed Dan River, but soon turned back and marched to Guilford's Court House where they had a battle in March. The army then marched toward Camden where a battle took place under General Green and where the Americans were defeated.

Soon after this his term of service expired. He was discharged and returned home where he remained a few months when he again went into

JOHN DOLLARHIDE

service and in the different terms served more than one year. That he was last discharged by Colonel Butler and the names of Green, Morgan, Lee and Sumpter are familiar names to him as commanding officers in the Carolinas, that he recollects being in Spartanburg District, SC and Rutherford County, NC, that he crossed Broad River in their march from the Cow Pens to Guilford Court House and passed near Catawba Spring (NC) but his memory being bad, has forgotten many places which he passed, that he finally left the army in the year 1782, that he was born in 1757, that he has a record of his age in an old family Bible now at home.

That at the time he entered the service, he lived in Orange County, North Carolina, that he has since lived part of his time in Tennessee, part on Mississippi River and for the last 26 years in this state, and that he now lives in Sabine Parish, State of Louisiana, that he went into service as a volunteer, that he never had a commission or was more than a private, that Parson Alford, Mr. Edmundson, Mr. Parrish or any of my neighbors, I believe, would certify to my character as an honest and respectable man.

That he knows of no living witness by where he could prove his service, that he has delayed applying for a pension because he got his discharge burnt with his house many years since and was then of the impression that nothing but positive proof would have any weight with the government and that his poverty prevented him from going back to North Carolina to seek a witness, that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except for the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state, that he has a helpless wife now 98 years old and that he is very poor and not able to work.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

signed/ John X Dollarhide

J. H. Alfred, clergyman, and William H. Edmondson gave affidavits attesting to the honesty and reliability of John Dollarhide.

His claim was denied because proof of service could never be found by the Commissioner of Pensions. (Note: Many applicants could not produce their discharge from service, yet they were granted a pension.)

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John Dollarhide married Nancy Chittington in North Carolina. She died in Angelina County in 1849 at the age of 102. The 1850 US census for Angelina County listed John Dollarhide, age 100, as a farmer who was born in North Carolina. At the time of the census, he was living with his son, Cornelius Dollarhide.

John Dollarhide and others in his family are buried in the small Dollarhide Family Cemetery about five miles southeast from Diboll, Texas on land that is now privately owned by the Dollarhide Hunting Club. The cemetery is surrounded by the private club situated on what was once the Dollarhide plantation.

A memorial grave stone was erected in August 1989 and reads as follows:

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

JOHN DOLLARHIDE

1751 - 1853

PRIVATE IN THE CONTINENTAL LINE
IN THE ARMY
1780-1782

FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF THE COWPENS, KING'S MOUNTAIN
AND OTHERS

WIFE

NANCY CHITTINGTON DOLLARHIDE

1747 - 1849

MARRIED CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

BERNARD D'ORTOLANT

On the opposite side of the granite stone is this inscription:

GRAVES OF JOHN DOLLARHIDE AND HIS WIFE; GRANDSON
CORNELIUS DOLLARHIDE (1801-1861), HIS WIFE, LEODOCIA
BROWN DOLLARHIDE (1810-1849) AND
THEIR THREE CHILDREN.

JOHN HAD TWO SONS, JAMES D. AND
ASAHEL S. GRANDSON CORNELIUS,
HIS WIFE, CHILDREN AND GRANDPARENTS
MOVED FROM LOUISIANA
TO ANGELINA COUNTY AND SETTLED HERE IN 1846.

ERECTED BY DESCENDANTS OF DAVID C AND LEDOCIA
DOLLARHIDE ALLBRITTON
JULY 1989



BERNARD D'ORTOLANT

Bernardo D'Ortolant's Spanish service record in Louisiana was recorded on December 31, 1787, and it established him as a veteran of the American Revolution. He was born in Bordeaux, France circa 1753. In 1797 D'Ortolant was a lieutenant of the Natchitoches, Louisiana Cavalry Militia where he had served for over fourteen years. In 1778 he had been a sub-lieutenant in Louisiana and had seen service against the English. D'Ortolant was a very stout person and his personal qualifications included known valor, sufficient application, much capacity and good conduct.

Bernard D'Ortolant probably came to Louisiana while in his early twen-

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ties and shortly afterwards married Marie Anne Grappe at Natchitoches in October 1776. She was the daughter of an old Louisiana family. They settled on a plantation near Grand Ecore, and D'Ortolant became a planter and a member of the Presidential Guard at Natchitoches. He journeyed to San Antonio with de Mezieres in 1779, leading a small troop at the orders of Bernardo de Galvez, governor of Louisiana. By the end of 1779 he had returned to Natchitoches with his militia company and was under active consideration early in 1780 for the post of Indian agent in Texas following the death of de Mezieres.

During his return from San Antonio, D'Ortolant was in charge of driving 10,000 head of cattle from San Antonio to Louisiana for the use of Bernardo de Galvez in his efforts against the British along the Gulf of Mexico coast.

D'Ortolant did not get the post of Indian agent; however, he became captain commanding the militia at Natchitoches. He was also recorded as Captain of the Cavalry of Militia and he was also a widower by 1793.

The year 1795 was an active one for D'Ortolant. Pro-French elements in Natchitoches had to be suppressed with the use of the Louisiana Regiment and the militia under his command. He went to San Antonio to report on the activities of Citizen Edmond Genet, an agent of the French revolutionary government who was planning a French invasion of Louisiana. Shortly thereafter, in 1796, D'Ortolant settled with his sons and slaves near Nacogdoches. The 1797 Louisiana census listed him as a Captain of the Militia, Battalion of Louisiana, Natchitoches — even though he lived in Nacogdoches and was soon to head the militia there. He was a widower again by his second wife, Catherine Bardon of New Orleans and at the time he lived with two sons, ages 12 and 15, and nine slaves.

Thereafter he resided on his ranch eight leagues from Nacogdoches on the Arroyo Loco. This ranch was on the site of the old Presidio Nuestra Senora de los Dolores. When Lieutenant Ramon Musquiz chased and arrested Philip Nolan in March 1801, D'Ortolant, a lieutenant of the local militia, was placed in charge of the Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches.

WILLIAM EAKIN

In later years documents record his troubles with his creditors and his several civil disputes. He was placed under house arrest in 1806 for beating a slave.

At sixty-six, the aging veteran was under suspicion for being too friendly with the schemes of General Octaviano D'Alvimar, Napoleon's agent, to instigate revolt in New Spain. D'Alvimar entered Texas illegally from the United States and was placed under house arrest in Nacogdoches while the Spanish authorities decided his fate. The actual role of D'Ortolant in this matter is not clear.

Bernard D'Ortolant died in Nacogdoches circa 1822. The exact location of his grave has been lost; however, it is reasonably believed that he was buried in the Old Spanish Cemetery which was located near the Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches. The Old Spanish Cemetery operated from 1800 to 1820. The Nacogdoches County Courthouse now covers the Old Spanish Cemetery.



WILLIAM EAKIN

The following is found on page 56 of "Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Tennessee - 1974," compiled by Lucy Womack Bates and revised in 1979 by Helen Crawford Marsh.

Eakin, William: b 1764 - d July 11, 1840 Shelby County, Texas. Service in South Carolina Line. Age 68 in 1832. Pension List of Bedford County, TN: 1834 P.L.W. Buried at San Augustine, Texas. m. February 5, 1793/4 in York District, SC to Elizabeth _____. She is buried in Shelby County, Texas. REF: A-1 Armstrong - 2,000 Tennessee Pensioners. Pension No. W.3530. Revolutionary Soldiers and Patriots of Bedford County, TN by Marsh.

The declaration of William Eakin to receive a pension follows:

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

State of Tennessee:

County of Bedford:

Court of Pleas and Guardian Sessions now sitting, May term, 1833.

On this 7th day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, personally appeared in open court William Eakin, a resident of Bedford County aforesaid, aged sixty-seven years and seven months, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein shown; to wit,

That he entered the Service of the United States in York district, South Carolina on the 16 of November 1780 as a volunteer and private soldier in a company of volenteeres (sic) commanded by Captain Joseph Haws and Lieutenant Benjamin Raionu, who were under the command of Colonel James Hathorn and was marched to Brandon's Mill upon Fairformist River in the Union District, S. Carolina where we was kept for some time.

Applicant says he was then marched to Ninety Six where he was kept for six or seven weeks, and from there he was marched to the Fishdam Ford on Broad River, Fairfield District, where he remained some time, and from there to Wynsborough where he says he was stationed upwards of two months, and from that place he was marched to Lands-ford (sic) on the Cataba river, and from there to what was then called the old Nation-ford (sic) where he says the volenteers under Colonel Hathorn were encamped for some time, and from there he was marched to the mouth of Pachatett River where it intersects Broad River, and from that to Biggenses Ferry on the Cataba where he remained in service until the latter part of May or first of June 1781, when he says he was discharged in writing signed by Colonel Hathorn

WILLIAM EAKIN

for a tour of six months for which he claims a pension. Deponant states that he has long since lost his discharge, not knowing it would ever be of service to him, he took very little care of it.

Applicant states he was born in the York District, State of South Carolina on the 8th day of October in the year 1765, agreeable to his Father's family record and that he has a copy of the same in his possession at this time.

He further says that there was not any Regular troops with the army when he served, and that he was not acquainted with any Regular officers or the name or number of any Regiments except the Regiment he belonged to which was called Colonel Hathorn's Regiment of Volenteers Mounted Gunmen, and that he understood that the troops under Colonel Hathorn was ordered into service by General Sumpter.

This applicant says that he was a citizen and resided in York district, South Carolina when he entered service and continued to be a citizen of said District until the year 1810 when he removed to the State of Illinois and in 1812 he removed to Bedford County, Tennysee, where he has lived ever since, and where he now lives.

Deponant states that the foregoing Declaration contains the most correct History of the general circumstances of his service that he is able, at this stage of life, to give and that he has no documentary evidence whatever, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can perceive who can testify as to his service.

This applicant hereby relinquishes all and every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in the United States.

He further says that he is known to the Rev. Richard W. Morris, Allen Perry, Esq., and Edward Whitworth in his present neighborhood, Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Signed/ William Eakin (Seal)

Attest: Samuel Kisick, Clk.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

This Declaration was accepted and William Eakin, private soldier, South Carolina, was entered on the pension rolls of West Tennessee at the rate of \$40 per annum. A Certificate was issued 17th of June 1833. The award was recorded by Daniel Boyd, Clerk in Book 6, Volume 7, Page 11, (Bedford County, TN).

Following the death of William Eakin, his widow, Elizabeth Eakin filed the following declaration:

State of Texas:

County of Shelby:

Before the undersigned, Elhanah Samford, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, personally came Mrs. Elizabeth Eakin, a resident of Shelby County, Texas, aged about 80 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Acts of Congress, granting pensions to the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers.

That she is the widow of William Eakin who was a soldier in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War; that he served, she thinks, in the South Carolina State troops; that about the year 1834 while her said husband was a resident of Bedford County and the State of Tennessee, he made application to the Pension office of the United States for a pension; and a pension was granted to him for life, the certificate bearing date about the year 1834.

Her said husband was placed on the pension list roll of Nashville, Tenn. Agency where his name remained until the date of his death, which occurred about the 11th day of July AD 1840.

That in drawing the arrears of pension due her said husband, the pension Certificate was returned to the proper office at Washington City. All of which facts in reference to the granting of a pension to William Eakin, his

WILLIAM EAKIN

name being on the roll of the Nashville, Tenn. Agency, his certificate having been returned to the proper office at Washington City, etc., etc.

She presumed are matters of record and she would beg to have to refer to and make said records a part of this declaration. She further says she was married to said William Eakin on the 5th day of February to the best of her recollection in the year AD 1798 or 1794 in York district and State of South Carolina; that she is informed and believes that there is no record of said marriage in existence, nor is there any person now alive, who was present at said marriage so far as (she) knows or believes.

She would, therefore, beg leave to have to refer to the accompanying proof as the best that she can furnish of the facts of her marriage to said William Eakin. She further says her and her said husband lived together from the date of their marriage until the 11th day of July AD 1840 when he, the said William Eakin, died in the County of San Augustine and the State of Texas. That she has not intermarried but still remained the widow of the above named William Eakin, and that she now resides in Shelby county, Texas where she has resided ever since her said husband's death.

Elizabeth Eakin (Signed with an X as her mark)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four. I further certify that I have personally known Mrs. Elizabeth Eakin, above named, for about fourteen years and that I believe her statements above made to be true and correct. I further certify that from age and bodily infirmity, she is unable to go before a Court of Record, therefore, this Declaration is sworn to before me at her residence.

Witness my hand this 8th day of March AD 1854. E. Samford, J.P.

Elizabeth Eakin received a pension certificate dated 26th day of April 1854 in the amount of \$20 per annum as a surviving widow of William Eakin, a soldier of the American Revolution.



WILLIAM GATES

William Gates was born in North Carolina before 1760. That he served as a soldier in the American Revolution is proven by the an entry in the North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Volume I, Book 1, Folio 27 which reflects payment number 3460 to William Gates on June 12, 1783 in the amount of seven pounds, seventeen shillings and six pence plus interest to October 23, 1783 in the amount of three shillings and one pence for a total payment of eight pounds, no shillings and seven pence.

There is no reference to any engagements in which he might have participated. However, The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution have accepted his services as a soldier in the American Revolution.

William Gates was married to Catherine Hardin, daughter of Benjamin Hardin III, also a soldier in the American Revolution. They were married in North Carolina between 1780-1782. Between 1783 and 1806, William and Catherine became the parents of Sarah, Samuel, Hannah, Charles, Amos, Ransom, Jake and William.

With his young family, William began the quest, as did so many of the Revolutionary War veterans, for cheap and plentiful land on which was to be found abundant wild game. In about 1785 the Gates family moved west into the District of Kentucky.

William signed a petition which was certified in July 1788 which reads as follows:

NUMBER 56

TO THE HONORABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA——

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon humbly sheweth that every other county in the District of Kentucky have been indulged with the advantages of public warehouses for the reception of tobacco and that your Petitioners living near the Courthouse and on Licking Creek in the most populous part of said County — too far remote from either of the other — inspections to remove their tobacco by land without much labour and expense and your petitioners, fully sensible of the disposition of your Honorable House to do Justice and upon all occasions to afford relief to such of the community as you conceive is entitled to your patronage, we, your petitioners, therefore pray that an inspection for the reception of tobacco may be established on the south fork of Licking Creek at the confluence of Stoner and Hinkson's forks of said Creek and in the fork near Isaac Ruddles Mill which your petitioners conceive will be of great publick utility and of singular advantage to them provided the article of tobacco should continue to be of value and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed by names)

Note: The request was granted in an act entitled "An Act for establishing an inspection of tobacco on the lands of Isaac Ruddle, in the County of Bourbon."

By 1790, William Gates and his family had moved from Bourbon County south to Lincoln County. Following is a petition, also signed by William Gates on October 23, 1790:

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

NUMBER 74

TO THE HONORABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA:

The Petition of the inhabitants of Lincoln County residing on the reserved lands for the officers and soldiers of the State aforesaid on the waters of the Cumberland River and parts adjacent doth respectfully shew —

That your Petitioners find themselves sensibly aggrieved by their distance from Courts of Justice, it being near two hundred miles from this Settlement to Lincoln Courthouse, by which, when business renders our attendance indispensably necessary, we are frequently exposed to much danger in traveling through an uninhabited country, being subject to fines and other inconveniences, when from high waters, enemies near our frontiers or other causes, it is impossible to attend —

We, therefore, most humbly Pray the General Assembly to grant a county to be laid off including these settlements.....

..... the appointment of officers by your Honorable Body or by election of the inhabitants of said town as your wisdom sees fitt—

To levy, collect and appropriate such sums of money as the persons appointed for that purpose may conceive necessary for the following uses:

- 1. To regulate and to improve the market, the streets, and highways of the Said Town and its vicinity —*
- 2. To establish and preserve the peace and good order of the Town and aforesaid and its vicinity —*
- 3. A power to remove and prevent nuisances.*

In fine your Petitioners would beg leave to suggest to your Honorable House, their wish that the limits within which the said powers may be exercised shall extend to one mile in each direction from the courthouse in said town,

And, your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, etc.
(Signed with names)

WILLIAM GATES

Note: The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act Concerning Certain Regulations in the Town of Lexington and County of Fayette. Trustees were to be elected by all within one mile possessed of twenty-five pounds in property, except negroes and mulattoes. Trustees could erect market houses, appoint clerk of market, repair streets and impose taxes not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Note: These petitions reflect the high degree of interest that a young William Gates had in the growth and development of new lands and communities.

In a few years, he again became restless. William and his family moved to Cadron Settlement on the Arkansas River in Missouri in about 1810. After a few years in Missouri, he again wanted to make a home where the land was fertile and plentiful, where wild horses abounded and where there was an abundance of wild game. He chose Texas, which would become an independent nation in a few years.

His group reached Nacogdoches on December 27, 1821 where his son Charles decided to settle in beautiful East Texas. William continued on across the Texas plains and rivers until he reached the Brazos River. It was the type of land that William Gates most desired. He settled in the rich Brazos River bottom lands near Washington-on-the-Brazos, which would later become the first capital of the Republic of Texas.

William Gates was a member of Austins' "Old Three Hundred Colonists" and received a land grant of two sitios of land from the Mexican government on July 16, 1824.

William was listed on the Texas census taken in March 1826 as a farmer and stock raiser, age over fifty.

While visiting his son Charles in San Augustine County, William died on August 6, 1828. He is buried in an unmarked grave in San Augustine County, probably on land, at that time, owned by his son in the Ayish Bayou area.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

As William was a horse trader, it is believed by his family that he was accidentally trampled by stampeding horses and killed. He was buried on the farm and then horses were run over his grave to hide it from marauding Indians and wild animals.

William Gates was an asset wherever he lived throughout his life of nearly seventy years. He was a very independent adventurous young man and he added great stability to his family and his country, wherever he lived. He was, first and always, a loyal Patriot.



ALEXANDER HODGE

Alexander Hodge, called a "Hero of Two Republics", was born in 1760 to a Welsh family in Pennsylvania. He served in both the American Revolution and the Texas Revolution.

While still a young teen-ager, Alexander Hodge moved to Edgefield, South Carolina with his father. At age eighteen, he first served in the American forces. He saw action in the partisan warfare of North and South Carolina under General Francis Marion and General Thomas Sumpter.

Following the American Revolution, Alexander Hodge married and moved to Oglethorpe County, Georgia, where most of his eleven children were born. Before 1810, the Hodge family had moved west into Kentucky and then Tennessee. By 1815 he and his family had crossed the Mississippi River into the Missouri Territory. They lived for ten years in Spring River Township, Arkansas, during which time Alexander Hodge met Stephen F. Austin and decided to bring his large family to Texas in order to take advantage of the land ownership that was available.

In the spring of 1825, the Hodge family left Arkansas for Texas. Their first stop was on the Red River to raise a crop of food and fodder during the summer. The Hodge caravan arrived at Austin's colony in Southeast Texas in December 1825. As part of the first colony of settlers they received land in what is now Fort Bend County.

ALEXANDER HODGE

Following is a letter written by Alexander Hodge to Stephen F. Austin:

*District of Victoria
1st November 1826*

Dear Sir:

I arrived in this colony last December and have failed to make application for land yet expecting to have met with you in this section before now. I have my family all with me to settle for life. I wish to procure land in the lower section of country. I have four sons. Two married and two single, all of age, who wish to procure land.

Be so good as to write me where it is probable I shall get land and how and when etc.

s/ Alexander Hodge

N.B. You will please enter my name in your list as applying for land last Dec. A.H.

Note: Alexander Hodge received title to one league of land in present Fort Bend County on April 22, 1828.

Hodge's land was located on the Brazos River and became known as Hodge's Bend Plantation and it became a stopping place for travelers between San Felipe Colony and Brazoria. Hodge was appointed *comisario* and *alcade* for his district by Stephen F. Austin.

When the Texas Revolution occurred in 1836, Alexander Hodge was seventy-six years old, yet he participated in the struggle for independence of Texas. He was a leader of the women and children in the Runaway Scrape which occurred within the sound of the Battle of San Jacinto where Texas won its independence from Mexico. Hodge and his group were in a nearby grove of trees while they waited for the outcome of this furious but brief decisive battle. A granddaughter later recalled the old patriot standing against a tree deep in thought with his hat pulled low over his forehead.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Alexander died on August 17, 1836 and was buried in the family cemetery on his plantation. The cemetery is known as Hodge's Bend Cemetery and is located a few miles northwest from Sugarland, Texas.

The pension number for Alexander Hodge is S 8737. The pension certificate indicates he received a pension of \$88.88 per year for service as a private for eleven months, and as a lieutenant for four and two-thirds months during the American Revolution. He was entered on the pension rolls of North Carolina on March 12, 1836, record #23,662. Also noted on this record: "Dead — see letter to Pension Agent, July 8, 1857." This information is recorded by E. C. Brown, Clerk, in Book E, Volume 6 ½, Page 58.

The following letter is from the Commissioner of Pensions, regarding Alexander Hodge:

January 4, 1910

*Hon. Ezekial S. Chandler, Jr.
House of Representatives
My dear Mr. Chandler:*

In reply to your letter, I have the honor to advise you that Alexander Hodge, Sur. File No. 8,737, applied for a pension August 28, 1833 while a resident of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

He stated that he was born November 1, 1763 in Ireland and resided at Providence, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina when he enlisted and served as follows:

1778 under Captain James Jack, Colonel Thompson, three months

1779 under Colonel Francis Lock, was in Battle of Stono; five months

1780, 2nd Lieutenant under Captain Samuel Flennekin and Colonel Polk and Colonel William R. Davis; was wounded in Battle of Hanging Rock; three months

ALEXANDER HODGE

1782; 2nd Lieutenant under Captain Martin, Colonel Davis; was in Battle of Guilford; three months.

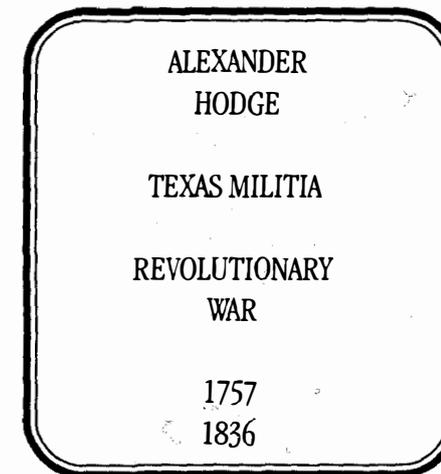
1782 - engaged in pursuit of deserters; 15 days, served as guard to Commissary Davie; five weeks. Was in Battle of Camden.

His claim was allowed. He died September 24, 1836; there is no family data on file.

Very Respectfully,

Commissioner

His grave stone in the Hodge's Bend Cemetery is as follows:



There is a Citizen of the Republic of Texas plaque on the headstone.

A large stone monument was erected in Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston which read as follows:

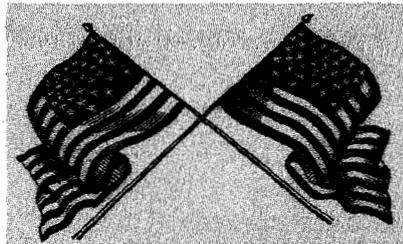
ERECTED IN 1908 BY
LADY WASHINGTON
CHAPTER D.A.R.
IN MEMORY OF

ALEXANDER HODGE
ONE OF MARION'S MEN

BORN IN PENNSYLVANIA, 1760
DIED IN TEXAS, 1836

A HERO OF TWO
REPUBLICS

Another historical event in which Alexander Hodge was memorialized in 1972 by the following Texas Historical Marker placed on US. Highway 90 near Dayton, Texas:



THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE

FAMOUS FLIGHT OF TEXIANS TO ESCAPE SANTA ANNA'S INVADING MEXICAN ARMY. TALES OF ALAMO BUTCHERY ON MARCH 6, 1836, AND CONTINUING RETREAT OF GEN. SAM HOUSTON'S ARMY PROMPTED COLONISTS TO ABANDON HOMES AND PROPERTY AND SEEK REFUGE IN EAST TEXAS.

FAMILIES LEFT BEDS UNMADE, BREAKFAST UNEATEN AND RAN FOR THEIR LIVES, TRAVELING IN WAGONS, CARTS, SLEDS, ON FOOT OR BY HORSEBACK, DROPPING GEAR AS THEY WENT.

MANY LIBERTY COUNTIANS REMAINED AT HOME UNTIL MID-APRIL, HELPING REFUGEES STRUGGLE TOWARD THE SABINE IN ORDER TO CROSS TO SAFETY IN THE UNITED STATES. TERRIBLE HARDSHIPS PLAGUED THE RUNAWAYS TRYING TO FERRY THE SWOLLEN TRINITY RIVER. IN RAIN-SOAKED CAMPS MANY CHILDREN DIED OF MEASLES AND OTHER ILLS. WADING THROUGH FLOODED BOTTOM LANDS, THE WAYFARERS CAME WITH RELIEF TO THE PRAIRIE AND THE SAMARITANS IN LIBERTY.

AFTER RESTING A FEW DAYS, TENDING THE SICK AND BURYING THE DEAD, MOST OF THE WANDERERS MOVED ON TOWARD LOUISIANA. EAST OF LIBERTY STRAGGLERS HEARD THE CANNONADING AT THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO ON APRIL 21, 1836. FEARING THAT SANTA ANNA'S LEGIONS HAD WHIPPED THE RAGGED TEXIAN FORCES, THEY HURRIED ON. BUT SHORTLY HEARD THE JOYFUL NEWS: "TURN BACK". FREEDOM HAD BEEN WON FOR THEM BY SAM HOUSTON'S ARMY.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

In 1975 a Texas Historical Marker was placed at the entrance to the Hodge's Bend Cemetery which reads:

HODGE'S BEND CEMETERY

A VETERAN OF "SWAMP FOX" FRANCIS MARION'S SOUTH CAROLINA BRIGADE DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, ALEXANDER HODGE (b.1760) BROUGHT HIS FAMILY TO TEXAS IN 1825. HODGE WAS PROMINENT AMONG THE "OLD THREE HUNDRED" SETTLERS; HIS SONS FOUGHT IN THE TEXAS REVOLUTION. HIS 1828 LAND GRANT FROM STEPHEN F. AUSTIN, NAMED HODGE'S BEND, INCLUDED THE SITE FOR THIS CEMETERY. FIRST GRAVE HERE WAS THAT OF HIS WIFE RUTH, WHO DIED IN 1831. HODGE WAS BURIED HERE IN 1836. THE CEMETERY CONTAINS ABOUT 75 GRAVES, INCLUDING THOSE OF HODGE' DESCENDANTS AND OTHER EARLY SETTLERS IN THE AREA. THE LAST BURIAL HERE WAS IN 1942.



THOMAS BLAIR HOGG

Thomas Hogg was born April 16, 1768 on his father's plantation on the Enoree River in the Newberry District of South Carolina.

At the beginning of the American Revolution he was eleven years old and helped hide cattle and grain from the British. Before the war was over, he had served as a private in the militia alongside his father and two uncles in the 5th South Carolina Regiment. On June 24th, 1785 Thomas Hogg was paid "one pound on account of duty in the Militia as Private before the reduction of Charleston".

By 1790 he had married Martha Chandler and was living on his own

THOMAS C. HOLMES

farm in the Newberry District. There he began a career as a planter and lawyer. He served in the War of 1812.

He and his family lived in Georgia in 1814 where he served in the Georgia legislature from 1814 until 1818. In 1819 he moved to Alabama and again served in both houses of the Alabama legislature. In 1836 he moved to Choctaw County, Mississippi, and again was elected to the state legislature.

In 1848 he moved to Cherokee County, Texas to be near his son, Thomas Hogg. He died in 1849 at the age of 81. He and his wife were buried in the family cemetery on the Hogg Plantation east from Rusk.

He was the grandfather of James Stephen Hogg, the first native born Texan to serve as governor of Texas.



THOMAS C. HOLMES

Thomas C. Holmes was born in Wayne County, North Carolina in 1759 and he married Elizabeth Jourdon in 1794. He died in Farrsville, Newton County, Texas in 1861 and is buried in Farrsville Cemetery.

He served as an express rider and private in Captain Benjamin Harrison's Company, First South Carolina Regiment, commanded by Colonel C. Pinkney, under General Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox." He participated in the battles of Slippery Bridge and Eutaw Springs and he was also present at the capture of Fort Scott.

His affidavit for a pension follows;

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

County of Newton:

State of Texas: To wit

Personally appeared this 17th day January, AD, 1854, before me a Justice of the Peace for County aforesaid, Thomas C. Holmes, also of said County, who being sworn according to law deposes and says that he is now ninety-four years old, that early in the Revolutionary War when about sixteen years of age, he entered the service of the United States under General Marion, that he gave the first information about Col. Simes who was taken prisoner, that he served under Capt. Ben Harrison and Gov'r Caswell, that he was wounded in the knee at the Battle of Slippery Bridge.

That while in the service of Gen'l Marion, he was an Express Rider and carried expresses from General Marion to Generals Washington, Greene and Gov. Caswell.

That he was married in the year 1794, that his wife is still living, that he has a son, Thomas Holmes, Jr. who is now fifty-one or fifty-two years of age, that he was married in Wayne County, North Carolina, that he was at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, at the taking of Fort Scott, and he thinks at Fort Moultrie. That he was with Marion at a fight on the Big Tee Dee.

That when he entered the army under Marion, he ran away from his grandfather and in order to prevent discovery, assumed the name of Gwinn, that he went by the name of Thomas Gwinn while in the Revolutionary War under Marion. That he is the same and identical Thomas Gwinn who served aforesaid, that he served in the capacity of Express Rider during his whole service aforesaid. That he has never received from the Government of the United States any Bounty Land or pension for his services aforesaid. That he has lost or mislaid any and every evidence of his services aforesaid he may have had. That his discharge or discharges, if any, have also been lost. That he was honorably discharged from the service of the United States after his period of service with Marion, and that his memory is still very clear and distinct concerning things that occurred during his early life and, indeed, of all his past life. That his health is uncommonly good for a man of his extreme age.

THOMAS C. HOLMES

That he refers for more particular proof of his services to the Rolls of the Revolutionary War under Marion and others which bear his name throughout, his term of service as Express Rider or Private in that capacity.

That he now claims a pension under the Act of 1832, at the rate of forty dollars a month, which was the pay of an Express Rider and any Bounty Land that he may be entitled to under the Laws of the United States, that if the Act of 1832 be not applicable to his case, he claims the benefit of any other act under which he may claim for his services aforesaid. That he has never asked for a pension because he did not need it, but now he does need it and he asks for it, if any.

That he hereby appoints and constitutes W. G. Lenthen of Washington, DC to be his attorney with full powers of arbitration to prosecute to a conclusion this, his claim against the United States for pension or Bounty Land or both if it may be, and to do all lawful things he may do on the premises hereby ratifying all his legal acts.

Signed: Thomas C. Holmes

Thomas Gwinn

Witnesses: Jackson McGee and Nathan P. Wise

Sworn to, subscribed and acknowledged by the said Thomas C. Holmes alias Thomas Gwinn in my presence and in the presence of the two witnesses appearing. And I do certify that I believe the said affidavit is of the age he swears he is, that he is the same person he swears he is, that he is known to me to be a truthful man, that his memory appears to be good concerning everything he speaks of, that he is in good health for one of his age, that I have full confidence in all that he has said of himself herein, and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in this his said claim prepared by the within applicant. This seventeenth day of January AD 1854. Signed: David McMahon, Justice of the Peace.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

The following affidavit was given by two sons of Thomas C. Holmes on March 17th 1855:

State of Texas:
County of Newton:

Before me John Moore, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared W. H. J. Holmes, a citizen of the said State and County, to me well known, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is fifty-three years old and that he is the son of Thos. C. Holmes, Sen'r. who has always, from said affiant's earliest recollection, claimed to have served in the Revolutionary War in the Second Regiment of South Carolina, that he served under the name of Guinn or Thomas Guinn and was employed during the whole of said war as an Express rider and private.

I have often a great number of times heard him give an account of killing a British captain to save the life of, I think, Col. Henry, and of General Marion giving him the horse and equipment of the said Captain for so doing, and he often, years ago, would speak of Marion and his officers rejoicing (sic) when he brought them their commissions. He often told of the contrivances he used to keep the dispatches from falling into enemies' hands in case he should be taken, and further, that the said affiant has passed his whole life among good riflemen but never has known one who could equal his father in the quickness and certainty of his aim before he lost his sight, that he and his brothers had often endeavoured to persuade his father to apply for a pension but that he always refused because he said he did not serve for money and could get along without it, but that now he has become old and helpless and does need it and affiant further says that he has often seen a scar on his father's knee which extends entirely across the knee and looks like the result of a very bad wound which his said father has always declared he received in battle during his said service in the Revolutionary War.

And also personally appeared before me Charles Holmes, a resident and citizen of the State and County aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is forty-three years old and a son of Thos. C. Holmes, Sen'r. and the foregoing deposition of his brother, W. H. J. Holmes

THOMAS C. HOLMES

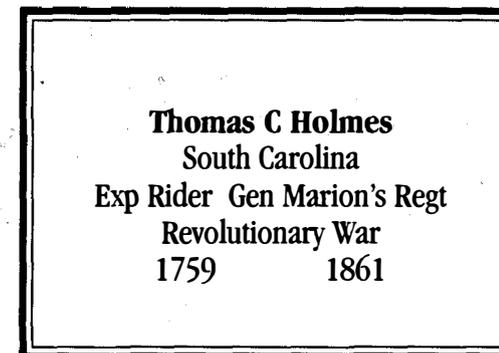
being read over to him, the said affiant says that his said father has always represented himself in the way therein set forth as far back as his recollection will extend, and that all of the facts thus set forth have ever been a tradition in the family and further, said deponents say not.

Signed: W. H. J. Holmes (Signed with an X as his mark)
Charles Holmes (Signed with an X as his mark)

In the presence of—
George Dougherty
Jordan Dougherty

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of March AD 1855.
John Moore, Justice of the Peace.

His grave has a modern US Government bronze tablet marker which reads:



Thomas C. Holmes was living in Newton County before 1835 because he is listed on the Mexican census of 1835. During his lifetime, he was known as "Goldie Holmes" because he always paid off any major transaction in gold.



American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

ZACHARIAH LANDRUM

Zachariah Landrum was also called Zacharias, Zack and Z. He was born in 1766 in South Carolina. He grew up to be tall, of stocky build, fair complexioned with sandy hair and gray blue eyes. Zack was the third generation of his family to serve in the American Revolution. It is not known what his duties were during the war against England; however, on July 23, 1784, at age eighteen, he was certified by Colonel James Jackson for Bounty Warrant #6 in Franklin County, Georgia. The certification reads as follows:

State of Georgia: Richmond County:

This is to certify that Zachariah Landrum hath satisfactorily done his duty from the time of passing an act at Augusta, to wit: on the 20th of August 1781 until the total expulsion of the British from this state and the said Zachariah Landrum cannot, to my knowledge or belief, be convicted of plundering and of trespassing the country and is therefore, under the said act entitled to a bounty of two hundred and fifty acres of good land free from taxes for ten years.

Given under my hand and by this county the 23rd day of July, 1784.

signed/ Jas. Jackson, Lieutenant Colonel

Also accompanying the order for a land grant was this undated statement:

To his Honor John Houston, Esq. and the Honorable Executive council. The petition of Zachariah Landrum praying he may have the within land granted him in Franklin County and he will pray.

signed/ Zachariah Landrum

On July 30, 1784, Zachariah Landrum received Land Warrant #774 for 287 1/2 acres of land in Franklin County, Georgia. He was on the tax

ZACHARIAH LANDRUM

list for 1793 in Wilkes County, Georgia, as a white male over 21 years of age, however this list showed that he owned no land and owed a tax of 1 shilling, 9 pence.

In 1794, Zack Landrum was listed in Warren County, Georgia, on Rocky Comfort, and the listing showed 1 Poll, no land and a tax of 1 shilling, 9 pence.

He married Letitia Tine in 1794 or 1795 and his first child was Sarah, born in 1796 in Warren County, Georgia. Letitia was the daughter of Henry Tine, a Revolutionary War soldier who fought in the Georgia Line and also received a land grant in Georgia.

Zachariah Landrum was in the 'Mississippi Territory' in Tombigbee before 1803; then, on October 15, 1807, he was in that part of the state that later became Washington County, Alabama. This is verified because on this date Zachariah was appointed 'lawful attorney for John VanZant of Washington County, Alabama for the settling of land in Jefferson County, Georgia.'

Tract Book 1, St. Stephen's Meridian of Marengo County, Alabama shows that on May 1, 1819 Zachariah Landrum received certificates #209 and #1000 for land.

In 1825, Zachariah was getting restless and desired to move west. Marengo County, Alabama Deed Book A, page 219, shows that Zachariah gave to his son, William, the slaves Emaniell, age 7, and Franky, a one year old girl. Then on August 8, 1825, he deeded to his other son, John Landrum, slaves Nero, age 12 years and Chaney, age 5 years. On November 20, 1829, Zachariah sold his land, 150 acres in Marengo County, to a Samuel Frisbie for \$200 as well as another parcel of 200 acres.

Zachariah Landrum and his wife were now ready to take their final journey — to Texas. He was now sixty-four and she was fifty-four years old. They, their two sons and one daughter, and their families, became part of a caravan of settlers traveling in wagons to the Mexican State of Coahuila y Texas. On January 20, 1830, the caravan arrived at Old Stone

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Fort in Nacogdoches where they found protection from the Indians. On May 22, 1830, Zachariah went to the 'Municipality of Washington', Town of St. Felipe d' Austin, which he called Austin, to apply for his Colonization of the Spanish Land Grant in the 'State of Coahuila y Texas.'

He had been raised as a 'devout ole Baptist' but while he was in Nacogdoches, he had taken the 'Catholic Oath' and he said 'he had met all requirements of the law and that he was ready to colonize'. He signed his petition with a firm and bold signature — "Z. Landrum".

On April 10, 1831, Zachariah Landrum received one League of land (4,428.4 acres), situated on a stream called 'Bedie Creek', near Iron Mound League (surveyed for Empresario Stephen F. Austin). It was near a trading post called 'Town Creek', which after 1837 was called "Ole Montgomery".

The following is the granting of land to Zachariah Landrum from the State of Coahuila and Texas as recorded in April 1831 in Transcribed and Translated Deed Record C - Spanish Grants, Volume C, pages 155-157, Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas:

I, Citizen Miguel Ardiniega, Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Government of this state, for the division and occupation of lands and execution of titles to the new colonists in the enterprise of colonization of Empresario Citizen Stephen F. Austin out of the ten littoral (shore) leagues of the coast. Whereas, Zachariah Landrum has been received as a colonist in the colonization enterprise contracted with the government of the State of Coahuila and Texas by Empresario Stephen F. Austin on June 4, 1825 on folio 855 of this book of records and the said Zachariah Landrum having proven that he is married and finding in his person the requirements provided by the law of colonization of the State of March 24, 1825, in the conformity with the said law, and the instructions which govern me, dated September 4, 1827, and additional article dated April 25th of the past year, 1830, and in the name of the State, I give, grant and confirm in real and personal possession one league of land unto said aforesaid Zachariah Landrum, which land has been surveyed by surveyor Elias R. Wightman, previ-

ZACHARIAH LANDRUM

ously appointed for the purpose with the following situations and bounds" (note: a complete description followed.)

His rugged life and hardships make it understandable why Zachariah Landrum, with his long sandy hair and whiskers, never wore anything but buckskins with long fringed jackets, a coon-tailed cap and handmade rawhide half-boots for shoes. It is known that on his trip from Alabama to Coahuila y Texas he drove the first full blooded Durham dark red cattle to the eastern part of Texas.

At sixty-seven years of age, Zachariah became ill from his many hardships and he made his will on July 11, 1833 which is entered in the Montgomery County Will Book A, p. 222. His will, probated May 27, 1840, read in part, as follows:

I, Zachariah Landrum, of the jurisdiction of Austin, in Texas, being sick and wishing to dispose of my worldly estate do make and ordain the following:

I give and bequeath unto my wife, Letitia Landrum, all my estate, both real and personal except such as is here-in-after excepted, to be disposed of by her at any time in such manner and upon such terms as she may think proper to do.

It is my will and desire that the league of land (4,428.4 acres) granted to me by the authorities of the Estate of Coahuila and Texas, on which I was to reside be equally divided.... (note: the land was then divided into specific portions as gifts to his son, John Landrum, to William M. Rankin, husband of his daughter Sarah Landrum, to son William Landrum, to Jeremiah Worsham, husband of daughter Catherine Landrum and to John Springer, husband of daughter Elizabeth Landrum).

Letitia Landrum, his beloved companion and wife was named as executrix.

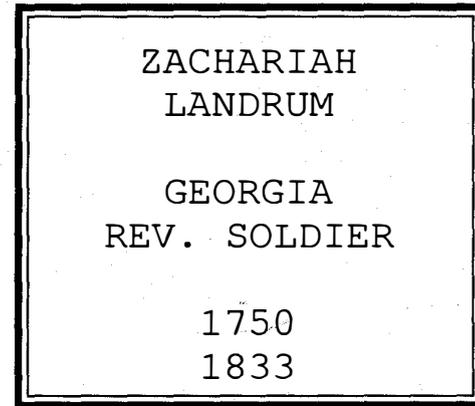
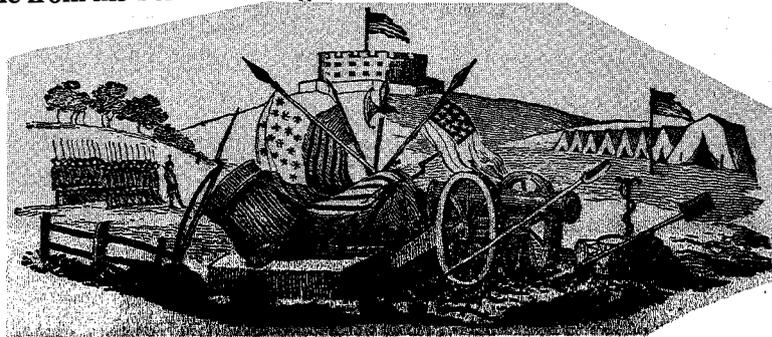
American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

With a weak hand, he could only sign his will with an X. His will was duly witnessed by Raleigh Rogers, Richard Smith, William W. Ford, Mat Hubert, Ezekiel Springer, Polly Ann Rogers and Jesse Grimes.

On July 19, 1833, only eight days after signing his will on his beloved 'one League of Land', Zachariah 'passed on'. He was buried in a small plot on a hill top, covered with scrub trees. His wife and their children marked his grave with an above ground vault, approximately four feet high and constructed of hand made bricks molded by slaves on their plantation.

The site is about two miles south from 'Ole Montgomery' and one mile west of Texas Highway 149. Originally, the site was known as the Landrum-Springer Cemetery and later it was re-named the Springer Cemetery. In 1998, this small cemetery is located in an overgrown, wooded area on the Will Terrell farm. (The wife of Will Terrell was a descendant of Zachariah Landrum.) The graves are practically inaccessible unless there is a guide available and there are very few guides who know where the grave is located. Letitia Landrum is buried by the side of her husband. A daughter and others are buried in the small cemetery which has not been maintained for many years.

On October 2, 1965, the grave site was once again cleaned and the Margaret Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed bronze DAR markers on the graves of Zachariah and Letitia Landrum that indicated that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and that she was the wife of a soldier of the Revolution. The ladies also arranged the crumbled pink bricks around a USA grave stone made from marble from his beloved Georgia, which reads as follows:



Thus, over these markers now are the oaks and crepe myrtle trees and trailing vines continually swaying in the hilltop breezes which look down to the beautiful grass covered valley nearby blanketed with bluebells in which red cattle are grazing in the pasture of Zachariah Landrum and his descendants; and overhead, in the wintertime, geese fly and honk on their v-shaped flight for security and safety.

Some things never change. Never in over a hundred years do some things change!

Zachariah Landrum had voluntarily staked his life so that his beloved America could be a land of free men seeking free destinies. It is well that the Daughters of the American Revolution honored him in 1965. It would have been a disgrace to all America to have let his memory and his deeds die. Patriotism is still alive when those who care, pause to honor memories of those brave Revolutionary Soldiers and say, 'Forget, Never!'



JAMES LEMMON

This historical account of James Lemmon, a Soldier of the American Revolution, appeared in the *Dallas Morning News* on June 27, 1948 in connection of the dedication of a Daughters of the American Revolution grave marker on July 5, 1948. Appropriate information has been added.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

The story of James Lemmon is a straw in the wind of the story of Texas. But you have to go back a lot further to get it, back to around 1752 when a young Virginia major and his militia were sent to tell the French commanders at Venango and Fort La Boeuf in Northwest Pennsylvania to get out. The young major was named George Washington. In his command were two Scotch-Irishmen recently of County Tyrone, Ireland — Robert and John Lemmon.

In 1754 they went back with Major Washington when he was sent to rout the French at Duquesne, where Pittsburgh is now, and failed. They went back with him and Braddock the following year.

The Lemmon family settled down near Hagerstown, Maryland after the Indian War, carved farms out of the wilderness, grew restive at the annoyances an inept Parliament and tyrant put on Americans. In 1765 when Patrick Henry and George Washington were eloquently protesting the stamp tax, a son, James Lemmon, was born to Robert Lemmon.

James Lemmon grew up on resentment. When he was five years old, people talked of five Bostonians killed by the Red Coats who had been quartered among them. When he was eight, nearby Baltimore forced the captain of the "Peggy Stuart" to burn his ship and tea cargo. A great deal of the time he heard mentioned George, George, George — George Washington. Then when he was ten, war was declared and their George Washington was put in command.

Father Robert Lemmon was made a captain of Maryland Militia, Uncle John Lemmon was made a captain in the Virginia Militia and young James Lemmon fretted. "When could I go to war?" he asked. Like all of the Lemmon family, he was big for his age.

In 1777, when he was twelve, he went with "Uncle George" when George Washington needed friends. General Washington's soldiers had been driven back through New Jersey where the colonials refused to sell to his hungry ragamuffins the beeves they kept for the pursuing General Howe and the British soldiers.

At Brandywine, Captain John Lemmon was killed. General Howe and

JAMES LEMMON

the British then captured Philadelphia where during the winter of 1777-78 the British were dined by the Tory sympathizers while General Washington's tatterdemalion starved and suffered at Valley Forge.

James Lemmon, according to his great, great granddaughter, lived and starved with "Uncle George" and was also a messenger between the commander and other Colonial forces. It was safer for a boy than for a man and all loyal men were desperately needed.

But in a year, a tall boy became a tall man and was now big enough to handle a rifle. James Lemmon became a private in Captain George Wall's company in the 4th Virginia Regiment. Later he would serve under leaders whose men harried Cornwallis in the low countries. These men were Colonel William Harden and General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox.

When Cornwallis had been trimmed down to size and had been hemmed in on the narrow peninsula at Yorktown, and the French fleet had sailed up to prevent a British escape, and Washington and Lafayette attacked from the front, James Lemmon was there. And no one was happier when Cornwallis surrendered and his "Uncle George" was vindicated through victory in the American Revolution.

In December 1783, James Lemmon was paid 19 pounds, 11 shillings and 8 pence for his services during the American Revolution. James Lemmon, the veteran soldier of the Revolution, was still only in his teens.

Three years later, his father took the family to another new land, the place the Indians called "Kentucke", meaning bloody ground. There the Lemmons carved another farm out of the wilderness.

Around 1800, James Lemmon married Sarah Carr and took his new bride into New Indiana where he cleared another farm and helped bring civilization to the area. Seven children, including three sons, were born to Sarah and James Lemmon. Their names were John, George and Hardin and the boys were named after the early heroes of James Lemmon — John Lemmon, his uncle who was killed at Brandywine, George Washington, his

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

commander and Colonel William Hardin under whom he served in the low countries (Carolinas).

In 1815 after his wife, Sarah, died, James Lemmon sold his farm and moved further west to Illinois, taking all of his children with him. There he found abundant land and established another farm. Soon, he married Amy Rawlins, with whom he fathered eight more children, including Francis Marion Lemmon, named after another of his favorite generals, the Swamp Fox of South Carolina.

In 1844, James Lemmon was aging and his hair had long ago turned white. At that time, a cousin of his wife, decided to come to Texas and join the Peters Colony in the Dallas area. He asked Robert Allen Lemmon, a young son of James, to help him with the caravan when it moved across the country. When young Robert Allen Lemmon saw the rich black land in the Lancaster community, he quickly filed his claim. Unfortunately, young Lemmon had no money, he was too young and he had no family to justify the homestead claim of 640 acres. The determined Robert Allen Lemmon walked back to Illinois to try to persuade his aged father to again sell his farm, move to Texas and take out the land grant in his own name.

James Lemmon, the white bearded warrior who had fought the Red Coats and the redskins, who had carved three farms out of the wilderness of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, who had two wives and had fathered fifteen children still had one more fight in him. And so in 1845, and nearly eighty, James Lemmon sold his farm in Illinois and moved to Texas, then a new and savage Republic of Texas. He is reported to have brought with him in his leather bound trunk several letters from General Washington. None of these letters has been found in recent years.

Three miles south of Lancaster, amid the rolling plains of the great and fertile black lands, James Lemmon stopped for the last time and, again, helped bring civilization to another great wilderness.

In late June 1858, as his new country sizzled with heat, James Lemmon became ill. On July 4th, the anniversary of his country's birth, he had a spell and shortly after noon, James Lemmon passed to his eternal reward.

JAMES LEMMON

On July 5th he "was neatly and carefully buried" in Edgewood Cemetery just south from Lancaster.

Ninety years later on July 5, 1948, the grave of James Lemmon was honored by the placing of a Revolutionary Soldier's plaque near his headstone. In 1998 the headstone is barely readable. It has this inscription:

A CHILD OF THE REVOLUTION

JAMES LEMMON

DIED

JULY 4, 1858

AGED

89 YEARS

Amy Lemmon, his wife,
buried in Myrtle Cemetery
Ennis, Ellis Co, Tex.

James Lemmon, although a child when he became a messenger for General Washington, very quickly became a man as he undertook several missions before he was given a rifle. He was, indeed, a true patriot.



ABLE ALLISON LEWIS

Able Lewis was probably born in South Carolina circa 1761. He married Martha (Patsy) Wofford in about 1795 in Old 96th District, South Carolina.

His service as a soldier in the American Revolution was as follows:

1775 - Service in the Northeast St. David's Parish Volunteer Company under Captain Robert Lide.

1778 (December) - 1779 (August) - Served in the Third South Carolina Regiment as an enlisted man.

1780-1781 - South Carolina Militia for four hundred seventy-seven days.

Able Lewis was in a horse unit during the Revolutionary War. Accordingly, he furnished his own horse. As the Colonies had limited funds, many of the soldiers provided for their horses, guns, ammunition and clothing. In many areas the soldiers obtained their sustenance from the land in the area of their service. Able lost one horse in combat and was subsequently reimbursed for his personal loss.

A company payroll for Able Lewis contains the following information:

Pay period: 1st March to 1st July 1779

Amount of pay: 26.66 dollars

Amount of time for pay: 4 months

Amount of Continental and State pay: 120 days

Pay per day: 1 3/4

Amount: F. 80

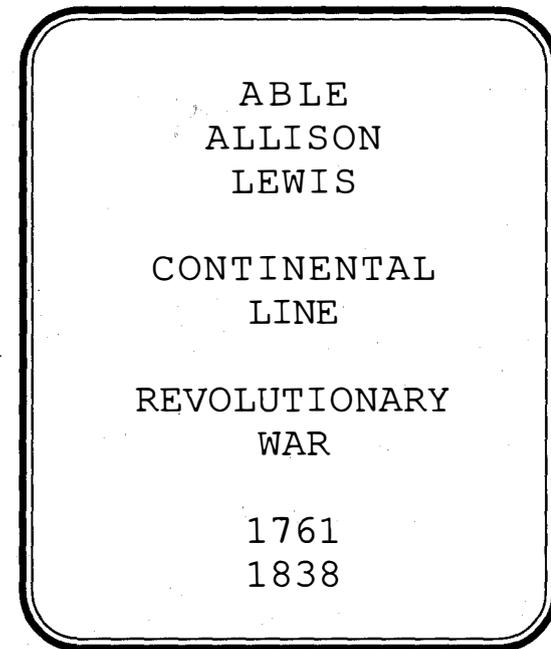
Able served 477 days service as a private on horseback in Captain Thomas Price's Company from the State of South Carolina, Ninety Six District.

*Signed: A. M. Woods, Captain
Year 1784*

After the Revolutionary War, Able Lewis lived in Potosi, Washington County, MO. His son, George Washington Lewis, was born in that area. In about 1824, Able and his family came to Texas. He received one league and labor of land (4,428.4 acres) in Panola County. It is noted that Able was over six feet tall and heavily built.

He lived the final years of his life in Sabine District, Texas which is now San Augustine County. He is not listed on the 1835 census for the Sabine District, however, his widow Martha Lewis, two sons, George and Burrell and a daughter, Sarah are listed along with two maid servants.

He is buried in the Chapel Hill Cemetery about six miles east from San Augustine, Texas. His grave is the oldest in this historically marked cemetery. Although his death date is shown on the grave marker as 1838, he died before 1835 since he was not listed in the 1835 census. His grave marker has the following inscription:



MARK LOTT MANNING

Mark Lott Manning, Sr., a soldier of the American Revolution, came to Walker County, Texas from Conecuh County, Alabama, in 1847 at the age of ninety-seven. He died in May 1850 at 100 years of age. He is buried in the Manning-Brimberry Cemetery about twelve miles north from Huntsville, Texas.

Following his service to his young nation in the Revolutionary War, he lived in North Carolina before moving to South Carolina where he resided in 1810 with his wife and five children. He is listed on the 1810 US Census for South Carolina.

He served under General Francis Marion, the 'Swamp Fox'. His service with General Marion is verified from the Treasurer's and Comptroller's Papers and Pay Vouchers that are in the North Carolina Department of Archives and History and Voucher #4256, State of North Carolina, Halifax District.

From South Carolina, the family of Mark Manning moved to Conecuh, Alabama where they lived for many years. His will was written in Conecuh County in 1840 and it was probated in Walker County after his death in 1850. Many bequests were made including the giving, in 1847, of his slaves to his five children who were then living in Walker and Montgomery Counties.

His grave in the Manning-Brimberry Cemetery is marked with this inscription on the grave stone:

MARK MANNING
NORTH CAROLINA SOLDIER
REVOLUTIONARY WAR
1750 1850

A Daughters of the American Revolution marker was attached to the tombstone on May 2, 1971.

In 1972, a Texas Historical Marker was erected on the access road of Interstate 45 about 7 miles north from Huntsville. It has this inscription:

**NEAR GRAVESITE OF
VETERAN OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION
MARK MANNING
1750 - 1850**

Served in American Revolution from Halifax District of North Carolina, his native state. Later lived in South Carolina and in Conecuh County, Alabama coming to Texas at 97 to live with sons who had large land grants and helped to settle Walker County.

Some 20 or 30 veterans of the American Revolution followed the Nation's westward movement to Texas, perpetuating here their devotion to freedom and liberty.

Manning's sons fought in the Texas Revolution before he came to the new Republic. Manning is buried in family cemetery (2 mi. NE)

A descendant of Mark Lott Manning, Sr. is a member of The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



JOHN PARKER

"Elder" John Parker was born September 5, 1758 in Baltimore County, Maryland. He was killed and scalped by Comanche Indians at Fort Parker, Limestone County, Texas on May 18, 1836.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

John Parker moved from Maryland to Culpeper County, Virginia early during the Revolutionary War. He served first as a private in a company commanded by Captain Fields in a Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Slaughter in a brigade commanded by General Nathaniel Greene. He next served under Captain Collier in Colonel Alexander's Virginia Regiment. For reasons unknown today, during the war he was called "High Johnny".

John married Sarah White in Virginia in 1779 and three of their sons were born in Virginia before he took his family to Georgia where another son was born. The family then decided to go west and traveled over the mountains to Tennessee where sons Silas and Benjamin were born. Again the Parker family moved, this time to Crawford County, Illinois, where in 1827 a granddaughter named Cynthia Ann was born. John, a little brother of Cynthia Ann, was born in 1830.

While living in Illinois, John Parker, who had become a leader in the Pilgrim Destination Baptist Church was made an elder.

In 1832, "Elder" John Parker made a trip to Texas to seek permission from the Spanish authorities to build a church in the wide and beautiful land south of the Red River Valley. At the time, Mexican law prohibited the establishing of any Protestant or evangelical organizations within the jurisdiction of the Roman Church. "Elder" Parker was very excited when he returned to Crawford County, Illinois in the spring of 1832 for the Mexican authorities had given him permission to build his church far from San Antonio, primarily, because his was an ongoing, active, organized faith.

Before he returned to Texas, John Parker filed the following application for a pension for his service during the American Revolutionary War:

*State of Illinois:
Coles County;*

Personally appeared before the Judge in open court on the 6th day of May in the year 1833 in the County aforesaid the same now sitting and constituting the Circuit Court of said County, John Parker, a resident of the

JOHN PARKER

United States of America in the County of Coles and State of Illinois aforesaid, whose age is seventy-four years (74) and who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That the said Parker entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Said Parker volunteered under Captain Fields, Colonel Slaughter Commanding the Regiment in General Greene's Brigade. He entered the service of the United States in the year 1777, month of October – the day of the month not being recollected and was discharged from said service in eleven months afterwards.

That again he entered the service as a drafted man under Captain Collier of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander – the month and day not being recollected when he entered the said service, but recollects distinctly that it was in the latter end of the year 1777 – that he marched through Winchester, Virginia, thence through Beisor Town, Pennsylvania and was stationed on a creek called "Ten Mile" in P. State. That he continued in said service during the period above mentioned respectively for the term of twelve months, making two entire years.

The Declarant was in no engagement with the enemy and has no documentary evidence of said service having been rendered by him – for no reason, the same having been lost for many years and that there is no person living within his knowledge by whom he can prove the existence of said documentary evidence. His discharge was given to him by Captain Collier.

That the Declarant was born September 6th in the year 1758, Baltimore County, State of Maryland and that the only record of his age now in existence is taken from his father's family Bible now in his possession.

The Declarant lived in Culpeper County, Virginia when he engaged in the services of the United States. He has lived since that time seventeen years in Georgia, that he removed from there into Hickman County, Tennessee, thence to the Territory (now State) of Illinois in the year 1815 where he has ever since resided.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

That he recollects the names of no Continental or Militia officers, those above named excepted.

He now lives in the County of Coles in the State of Illinois aforesaid. That the following gentleman, a clergyman, and others have known him and will make the certificate required, with whom consequently he is well acquainted. That there is no other person to his knowledge by whom he can prove his said service than Miles Hack, Griffin Lipsoward, and W.M. Woodall.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll or agency of any state.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Signed: John Parker

I, Griffin Lipsoward, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with John Parker, the above named applicant and that I am personally known to his services as a Revolutionary Soldier, as he in his declaration has therein alleged and declared, I being in the army with him.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid. Signed: Griffin Lipsoward.

We, Miles Hack, a clergyman resident in the County of Coles, State of Illinois, aforesaid, and W. M. Woodall, residing in the same County and State and being neighbors of the aforesaid John Parker, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with the above declarant, John Parker, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, and that we believe him.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid. Signed: Miles Hack and W. M. Woodall.

John Parker received a pension of \$80.00 per annum commencing March 4, 1831. Pension certificate # 22363 was issued October 22, 1833 by the Illinois Agency.

JOHN PARKER

It took a year for the organization of the trip to Texas to be completed. The many challenges and hardships to be encountered were carefully explained to the group of followers. In July 1833, a caravan of twenty-five ox-drawn wagons left Crawford County with Texas as their destination. Each family was to receive one league of land when certain conditions were met in Texas. A league contained 4,428.4 acres.

The journey was long, tortuous and very difficult. It took the group through wild and unexplored country inhabited mostly by various tribes of Indians. After several weeks of slow travel through the wilds of present day Missouri and Arkansas, they crossed the muddy waters of the Red River and headed into Louisiana Territory by mistake. Later the caravan crossed the Sabine River into Texas and made its way to Austin's Colony where they rested and did major maintenance on the wagons which were now in poor condition.

"Elder" John Parker then led his little group of survivors to Fort Houston which was near the present site of Palestine. There they were able to get adequate supplies and fresh oxen for their final travel on their long journey to the fertile land on the Navasota River in Central Texas. In December 1833, the family of "Elder" John Parker, once a Revolutionary War soldier, began clearing the trees from the land and built a stockade for protection from the Indians. The stockade was located between the present small towns of Groesbeck and Mexia. The stockade became a fort and living quarters were built for the thirty-one members of the Parker group.

In the spring of 1834, the men worked in the fields preparing to plant the crops. The women kept the fort and the children. This was their routine for two years, all the while "Elder" John Parker was preaching the gospel to whomever would listen.

The Alamo had fallen on March 6, 1836 and Santa Anna had been defeated on April 21, 1836 at San Jacinto. The settlers at Fort Parker were very nervous and cautious with fear of the Mexicans and the marauding Indians.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

On the beautiful morning of May 19, 1836, while the men were in the nearby fields and the women were taking care of the fort, a large war party of Comanche Indians approached the fort under a white flag. Then the massacre began and five of the settlers were killed. Cynthia Ann Parker and her young brother, grandchildren of "Elder" John Parker, were kidnapped by the Indians. Cynthia later became the mother of Quanah Parker, the great Chief of the Comanche Indians.

"Elder" John Parker was killed and then scalped. He was buried in a mass grave at Pioneer Cemetery near Fort Parker.

The Daughters of The American Revolution installed a marker at the restored Fort Parker that reads as follows:

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER
JOHN PARKER
1758 1836

PLACED BY
COL. GEORGE MOFFETT CHAPTER, D.A.R.
BEAUMONT, TEXAS
1946



A marble slab marker in Pioneer Cemetery has this inscription:

HERE REST THE MARTYRS
OF
FORT PARKER
KILLED BY
COMANCHE INDIANS
MAY 19, 1836

ELDER JOHN PARKER
BENJAMIN F. PARKER
SILAS M. PARKER
SAMUEL M. FROST
ROBERT FROST

IN MEMORY OF THOSE
WHO LAID FOUNDATIONS
OTHERS HAVE BUILT UPON

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Another marble marker is in Pioneer Cemetery which has this inscription:

DEDICATED TO
THE FORT PARKER MARTYRS
MAY 21, 1989

THIS OAK TREE REPLACES THE OLD HISTORIC TREE UNDER WHICH THE "FIVE MARTYRS" WERE BURIED IN 1836. THE OLD TREE WAS LATER DESTROYED BY LIGHTNING, AGE AND DECAY

Another granite marker in Pioneer Park has this inscription:

IN HONOR OF
PIONEER HEROES
OF
CIVILIZATION

—

FAMILIES IN FORT

—

ELDER JOHN PARKER
NIXON
KELLOGG
JAMES W. PARKER
DUTY
FROST
BEN PARKER
DWIGHT
PLUMMER

TOTAL 34 PERSONS

John Parker and his sons and daughters helped to establish two Republics. His family served the new Republic of Texas as statesmen, Rang-

CHARLES POLK

ers, businessmen, representatives and soldiers just as "Elder" John Parker had served the young United States.

There are several members of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution who are descendants of John Parker, proud Revolutionary War soldier.



CHARLES POLK

Charles Polk was born on January 18, 1760 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and died in San Augustine County, Texas on October 16, 1848.

After the American Revolution he married Margaret Baxter in Cumberland County, PA. before moving to the western part of Tennessee. He migrated to Texas in about 1839, settling in San Augustine County.

Charles files the following petition for a Revolutionary War pension:

The State of Texas:

San Augustine County District Court October 23rd AD 1846:

On this 23rd day of October 1846 personally appeared in open Court now sitting, Charles Polk, a resident of San Augustine County, aged eighty-six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declarations in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832:

The applicant, now eighty-six years of age and named Charles Polk, a native of Mecklenburg County in North Carolina who was born on the 18th day of January 1760 was too young to be subject to Militia service in the year 1776 but in said year last named volunteered and as a volunteer was assigned in the company commanded by Captain James Jack and served in said Company during the Cross-Creek expedition against the Tories.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

This company was part of the Mecklenburg Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, Lieutenant Colonel Adam Alexander and Major William Davidson. William Alexander was a Lieutenant in this Company. He served the tour in the Rifle Company of Volunteers commanded by his father at the mouth of Cape Fear, to wit: where the British Fleet then lay. He served under his father in said Company at Charleston, South Carolina. The officers in said Company were Captain John Potts, Lieutenant John Lemons. Before going to Charleston, General Rutherford had command, at Charleston it was under command of General Lee.

He was in the engagement at Sullivan's Island and under the command of General Moultrie.

He served a tour also under Captain James Jack at Snow-Camp on Rayborn's Creek in South Carolina after the Tories were defeated. Colonel Thompson then commanding – from this point he was sent home to attend his cousin William Polk who was wounded in this engagement.

He served also a tour of duty under Captain _____ Wiley and was present when this company had a skirmish with the Tories at Delany's Lane where four of the Tories were killed and four were taken prisoners.

He was present at Colson's defeat at the mouth of Rock River when that station was taken from the British and Tories by General Davidson who later received a wound.

He was under the command of Major Davy when the British took the town of Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and then serving in the company commanded by _____ Wiley, Captain, and James White, Lieutenant, also when Captain Bogan and about twenty-four privates from Anson County (who were the only Whigs from that county) joined in putting down the Tories.

He was in the engagement at Batis Ford under General Davidson who was there killed.

CHARLES POLK

He was a private in Captain Fletcher's company who were in camp for some time on Robert Lee's plantation on Rocky River where they took in twelve or fifteen hundred stand of arms from the Tories. He was also in the same company on the Pee Dee River receiving arms of the Tories when the battle was fought at Guilford Court House.

His service in the Company of Mounted Rangers under Captain Wiley and Lieutenant McCaleb from Rocky Mount on the Catawba River to the Great Pee Dee. On Lynch's Creek, Brown's Creek, and Lane's Creek in South Carolina – Lieutenant McCaleb was chiefly in command of the privates who were actively engaged as above stated.

While in the service he was part of the time under the command of his uncle, Major Charles Polk, at other times, his uncle Colonel Thomas Polk, who commanded the 4th Regiment, had command of the Militia among whom this applicant was serving at the time.

He was a private in the company commanded by Charles Polk (who afterwards was a Major) and in which Ray (I think Thomas Ray) was Lieutenant at the taking of Colson's Station at the mouth of Rocky River, and when the Anson and Montgomery Tories delivered up their arms.

He believes that _____ Bracken was Lieutenant in Captain Thatcher's Company on Rocky River when the Tories delivered up their arms at that place.

He served in the Revolution as a private for not less than three years, and continuously, he thinks, from the taking of Charleston until the close of the Revolution and never received any commission.

He served in divers companies, principally under Lieutenants McCabe, Ray, William Ramsey, John Lemons.

Under Captains John Polk, Charles Polk, Oliver Wiley and Fletcher. Under Majors James White, Charles Polk, _____ Wiley.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Under Generals Rutherford (chiefly until Gates defeat at which time he was captured), Sumpter, Lee, and Thomas Polk

He received a discharge from Capt. Oliver Wiley, one from Captain Charles Polk. What become of them, he knows not.

He was eighteen years of age when the Oath of Allegiance, of which the certificate is hereunto appended, was administered to him; and this certificate, in conclusion that it may be, is perhaps, the only evidence now available to him that he was a citizen of the United States at that time, seventy years ago, since which persons have born and have died of old age. Some of the most brilliant scenes of that era have faded upon his memory until scarcely a vestige remains behind to admonish him that such things once were, hence the impossibility of detailing events of that period in the order in which they transpired.

He resided in North Carolina when he entered service, afterwards in South Carolina, Tennessee, and now Texas.

He also served as a sergeant in a Mounted Spy Company from Stewart County in Tennessee for five months and twenty-eight days in the year 1814 being ordered into service then by Generals Johnson, Fletcher. To the latter this applicant refers for information acquired in the State of Tennessee. For services during the late War with England, this applicant received his pay.

He has never received any pension from any State or from the United States for services rendered during the Revolutionary War by him, nor has he at any time heretofore applied for any and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State. He served at short intervals from the commencement to the close of the War of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court, the day and year aforesaid.

Signed: Charles Polk (Seal)

*Owen Roberts - District Judge
of 5th Judicial District of the
State of Texas.*

EDMUND QUIRK

The claim of Charles Polk was denied by the United States Pension Office because he was unable to furnish satisfactory proof of service in the Revolutionary War, and service in the War of 1812 did not provide a pension under the Act of Congress passed on June 7, 1832.

He is buried in the Lynn Flat Cemetery about one half mile north from Cushing, Texas. Descendants of Charles Polk have become members of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



EDMUND QUIRK

He was born in Virginia about 1759. He served in the Virginia State Troops during the Revolutionary War. Following the War he married Ana Maria Alsop. They were the parents of William Quirk and three daughters. Before 1780 they moved westward into Kentucky.

In 1795, Edmund Quirk did more westward traveling and came to Nacogdoches in Spanish Texas. In 1800, he purchased 12,000 acres of land on both sides of Ayish Bayou in San Augustine County. According to an unusual Bill of Sale found in the Deed Records of San Augustine County, Book G, page 389, this transaction included all of the buildings, three cows, three work oxen, one bull, all horses in the pasture, all domestic fowls, all farming equipment and the existing farm crops. It was apparent that Edmund Quirk, known to the Mexicans as Raymondo Quirk, had bought an ongoing farm already under cultivation.

In 1807, Edmund petitioned the government for a copy of the decree of title. After a thorough search had been made at the archives in San Antonio, the document was found resting among the papers filed in 1800. It was noted that there was not a clear title to the property and the title remained unperfected until 1828.

Sometime before 1828, Quirk became involved in the Revolutionary movements in Texas which disturbed the provincial authorities and Quirk

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

probably considered that then was not the time to pursue a clear title to his property. However, in 1828 he again petitioned for a title and after a complete survey of the land, the entire record, which was very voluminous by then, was transcribed and given to Edmund Quirk as his certificate of title. Even then the title came under scrutiny and it was not until 1843 that the courts finally resolved all of the many questions relating to the title of the land. These events are recorded in the Deed Records of San Augustine County, Book G, page 389.

In August 1812, a small "army" initiated a move for an independent Texas. This "army" was very small and was under the command of Don Bernardo Gutierrez, a Mexican revolutionist. The "army" also included Edmund Quirk. They skirmished with the Mexican troops in and around Nacogdoches. Finally, the Mexican soldiers retreated in the direction of San Antonio. The Mexicans were again defeated, this time at San Antonio. The next engagement was at Medina where the American soldiers were nearly wiped out and overwhelmingly defeated. The Anglos fled before the Mexican soldiers and lost many of their compatriots until they reached the Spanish bluff of the Trinity River. Only ninety-three Americans escaped and reached Natchitoches, Louisiana.

All of the settlers of East Texas who participated in this tragedy, including Edmund Quirk, were captured and spent many months in a prison known as the Alamo in San Antonio. Quirk either was released for an unknown reason or he escaped from his confinement in the Alamo. He next appears in history near Natchitoches where he farmed until about 1818 when returned to San Augustine County in Mexican Texas. In that year he began assigning portions of his land on the Ayish Bayou to his three sons-in-law according to the Deed Records of San Augustine County, book B. page 94.

In 1833, Edmund Quirk sold two square miles of his land to the men who laid out the town of San Augustine. Edmund Quirk was killed by John Bodine in San Augustine County 1835 on the eve of the Texas Revolution, a cause dear to his heart just as was the American Revolution so many years before.

The location of his grave in San Augustine County is not known.



ROBERT RANKIN

Robert Rankin was born in Virginia in 1753.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he joined the Virginia troops of the Continental Army. He participated in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown in Pennsylvania and in the battle of Stony Point in New York in 1779. In 1780, he was captured and taken prisoner by the British at Charleston, SC. He was later exchanged and then promoted to lieutenant, in which capacity he served until the end of the Revolutionary War.

The war over, Rankin and his family moved to Kentucky while it was still a part of Virginia. He became interested in politics and served as a delegate to the convention which drafted the first constitution of Kentucky. Rankin moved to the Mississippi Territory in 1811 and then to Texas in 1832.

In 1835 he received a land grant, part of which is the site of the very small town of Cold Springs, San Jacinto County, about 35 miles east from Huntsville.

Robert Rankin died in 1837 and was initially buried near his home in Cold Springs, San Jacinto County. In 1936, his remains were reinterred in the Texas State Cemetery, Austin.

After the war ended, Robert married Margaret Berry in Virginia. Some of his descendants have become members of the Texas Society of the Sons of The American Revolution.

At the head of his grave in the Texas State Cemetery is a granite head stone inscribed on both sides. On the side facing the grave, under the Seal of the State of Texas and a Citizen of Texas Plaque is the following inscription:

ROBERT RANKIN

BORN IN VIRGINIA, 1753 - DIED
IN COLD SPRINGS, SAN JACINTO
COUNTY, TEXAS, 1837

Erected by the State of Texas
1936

On the opposite side of the granite marker are these words:

ROBERT RANKIN WAS AN OFFICER IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY. VIRGINIA TROOPS, 1776, IN THE SAME COMPANY WITH HIS NEAR KINSMAN, JOHN MARSHALL, WHO LATER BECAME CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES * HE PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE, GERMANTOWN AND STONY POINT AND IN THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTOWN* THREE OF HIS SONS. JOSEPH, JOHN KEITH, AND JAMES RANKIN, SERVED IN THE WAR OF 1812 * JOSEPH WAS MASSACRED BY INDIANS AT FORT MIMS IN ALABAMA IN 1813 * JOHN KEITH AND JAMES RANKIN DIED IN TEXAS, AS DID TWO OTHER SONS, FREDERICK AND THOMAS, WHO HAD SERVED IN THE ARMY OF TEXAS

There is also a flat granite marker at the head of the grave with these words:

LT. ROBERT RANKIN

1753 (SEAL OF THE CINCINNATI) 1837

ORIGINAL MEMBER
VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

PLACED BY THE LONE STAR ASSOCIATION
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI



OWEN SHANNON

Owen Shannon was born circa 1762. He served in the American Revolution from Georgia and is listed in "Georgia's Roster of the Revolution" by Lucian Lamar Knight. He married Margaret Montgomery in Wilkes County, Georgia on October 22, 1792. They were the parents of five daughters and two sons. He received a bounty land grant for Revolutionary War service of 287 1/2 acres of land in Franklin County, Georgia.

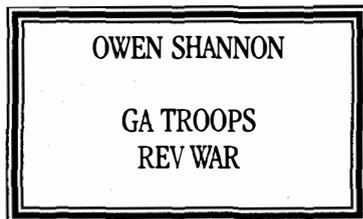
In 1821, Owen Shannon and his family came to the Mexican State of Coahuila y Texas. In 1825, Owen and his sons, John and Jacob, were mustered into service in the Texas Militia in the Ayish Bayou District.

He and his sons are listed on the June 9, 1826 muster roll of the Ayish Bayou District. When Owen was seventy years old, he and his wife received their league of land (4,428 acres) in Montgomery County from Stephen F. Austin. For several years, Owen and Margaret, his wife, operated the Montgomery Trading Post on their league of land. The location of the Trading Post was on Little Lake Creek about 2 miles north from present day Montgomery.

Owen Shannon died in 1834 on his property and he is buried in an unmarked grave there. His widow, Margaret Shannon, operated the Trading Post for several years until her death in 1854.

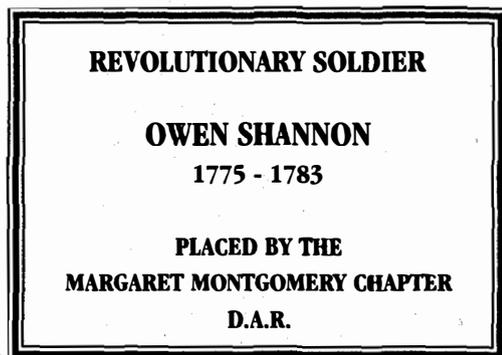
American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

A memorial grave marker for Owen Shannon is located in the cemetery of the First Methodist Church in Montgomery and reads as follows:



A bronze plaque "Citizen of the Republic of Texas 1836-1846" is affixed to the grave marker

The site has also been marked by the Margaret Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Their plaque reads as follows:



The Last Will of Owen Shannon is as follows:

I, Owen Shannon, being of weak in body yet strong of mind, make and establish this my last will and testament. I will and bequeath all of my property, real and personal, to my wife, Margaret, to dispose of, use through life, to will, bequeath or in any way to dispose of that she may wish or think right.

His personal property is mentioned in the following enumeration: *six Negroes, names and ages as follow: Nancey, age forty-five years, Lydia, age twenty-three, Thomas, age nineteen. Marinda, age sixteen, Joseph, age eight and Lewis age six years. Two horses, thirty head of*

OWEN SHANNON

age twenty-three, Thomas, age nineteen. Marinda, age sixteen, Joseph, age eight and Lewis age six years. Two horses, thirty head of common stock cattle with what hogs I have together with all of our household and kitchen furniture.

The real or landed property as follows: — one quarter league of land being in the neighborhood of Lake Creek, a part of which tract have agreed to let William Clark have for so much as I wish for from him of the tract on which I now live and improved, say, not more than two hundred acres.

Now to the intent that this, my will, may have full effect, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 12 April 1835.

Signed: Owen Shannon

There were seven witnesses to the will.

On June 19, 1835, a court in Austin, Texas ordered an inventory of the estate of Owen Shannon be taken. Following is the inventory as taken by Jessie Grimes, Matthew Hubbert and William Sheppard:

1 Negro woman named Nancy, valued at	\$ 250.00
1 Negro woman named Lydia, valued at	275.00
1 Negro man named Thomas, valued at	625.00
1 Negro girl named Marinda, valued at	475.00
1 Negro boy named Joseph, valued at	325.00
1 Negro boy named Lewis, valued at	200.00
1 Bay horse, valued at	40.00
1 Grey horse, valued at	20.00
30 head of meat cattle, valued at \$5.00	150.00
Household and kitchen furniture, valued at	100.00
Farming utensils, valued at	15.00
1/4 of a league of land including lake residence and improvement of the deceased	<u>600.00</u>
Total	\$3,275.00

A descendant of Owen Shannon became a member of The Texas Society of The Sons of the American Revolution in March 1976.



American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

ISAAC SIMPSON

Isaac Simpson was born about 1760, probably in Virginia. He was a soldier in the American Revolution from Virginia.

In the 1810 US Census he was living in Wythe County, Virginia. The name of his wife is not known but they were the parents of seven children: Elizabeth married John Engledow, Rhoda married a Yarbrough, Patsy married William Dean, Polly married a Foster, Julia married a Morrow, James and John Simpson.

It is believed that Isaac Simpson lived in Tennessee before coming to Nacogdoches County in about 1834. He is listed in the 1835 Texas census. Isaac died in 1840 and did not leave a will. After his death, his estate paid to the estate of John Engledow, his son-in-law, the sum of \$300 for the expenses of Isaac to come to Texas and for his room and board for five years.

Isaac Simpson's grave has not been located but it is believed that he is buried on the Old Engledow Farm northeast from Nacogdoches in the Engledow Family Cemetery. Isaac had made his home with his daughter and son-in-law after coming to Texas.



WILLIAM SMEATHERS

This veteran of the American Revolution had his name spelled variously as Smeathers, Smithers and Smothers in the source material used in this report. In every instance, however, all references are to the same individual. William Smeathers was the kind of man who found even the ragged edge of frontier settlement too tame for his taste. He spent most of his life drifting further and further west, always searching for the perfect hunting grounds.

He was born either in 1759 or 1760 to a pioneer family on the Holston River in western Virginia. William was never concerned with the exact year of his birth. He was orphaned at twelve when his father was scalped by

WILLIAM SMEATHERS

Indians and his mother died of grief and shock several days later. Young Smeathers grew up on the frontier; at twenty he was an experienced Indian fighter, frontiersman and an expert with his rifle.

As a young patriot, William Smeathers fought with Colonel Isaac Shelby's marksmen at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. In 1781 he fought at Eutaw Springs and Guilford Courthouse. Years later, Kentucky Governor Isaac Shelby made a statement that he endorsed the heroic conduct of the man, Bill Smithers, at the Battle of King's Mountain and that Will Smithers carried an honorable discharge from General Greene after the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

After returning to his home on the Holston River in western Virginia after the Revolutionary War, William married Nancy Cecilia Fitzpatrick in 1781. The wedding ceremony was strictly "frontier vintage" and is quoted from *Law of Heart* by Dorothy Gentry as follows:

And now, by the authority vested in me by the State of Verginny and before God, by the tall pines around us reaching up into the blue skies above us, by the rushing boldness of the Holston River that flows to the great rivers beyond us, by the heavens and earth surrounding us, and in the presence of these friends and witnesses gathered here for this occasion, I hereby pronounce you man and wife; and what God hath therefore joined together, let no man put asunder.

Early in 1782, William and his new wife, "Cece" left the Holston River area of western Virginia and migrated to Lexington, Kentucky. They remained there for only a short time because William felt the area had become over populated which hindered his hunting and Indian fighting.

William then moved further west to near Hartford which is located in present day Ohio County. There he continued his hunting, both Indians and wild game. He and "Cece" soon started their family with their first daughter, Jane, being born in 1782. Two other children were born before his loving wife, "Cece", died in 1789.

While friends looked after his children, William traveled and hunted. His travels took him to Tennessee where he met and, in 1793, married Mary

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Winters. They became the parents of three children before moving back to Hartford in Kentucky.

Soon Hartford became "too crowded" for Bill Smeathers so he moved further west and in 1798, he settled his family at Yellow Banks on the Ohio River in western Kentucky. Here he built a cabin for his wife and family, cleared an acre of land for a garden and then disappeared into the woods again to hunt for deer, bear and occasionally Indians with equal vigor, expertise and success.

He was the first man in the area of Yellow Banks and his cabin became the nucleus of the city known now as Owensboro, Kentucky. William Smeathers is credited with being the founder of Owensboro. Much has been written about Smeathers and Owensboro, including an historical novel, *Law of Heart*, which is about the life and times of William "Bill" Smeathers.

When the War of 1812 was fought, William Smeathers, ever the patriot, was appointed a Captain of a company of Mounted Spies in the Kentucky Militia. This unit had about six weeks of service in 1812.

As always, interesting people create both fact and tradition. According to family tradition, Smeathers visited the Texas gulf coast and camped on Galveston Island before Jean Lafitte's pirate band set up shop there.

In 1821, he and eleven other men accompanied Stephen F. Austin on the young Empresario's first inspection trip to Texas. At age sixty-two, he was a guide, woodsman and Indian fighter in Texas without peers. While Austin returned to the United States to recruit settlers, Smeathers and four others remained behind. At a bend in the Brazos River, where the city of Richmond now stands, they built a crude fort and awaited the arrival of Austin and his 300 colonists. A Texas Historical Marker has been erected to commemorate their efforts.

William "Bill" Smeathers spent his last years in his new home on the banks of the Brazos River near Columbia, Brazoria County, Texas. He died there on August 13, 1837. The solitary grave of this Texas pioneer, brave

WILLIAM SMEATHERS

veteran of the American Revolution, frontiersman and Indian fighter, has been lost.

The following obituary appeared in the *HOUSTON TELEGRAPH* in August 1837:

At Columbia, on the morning of the 13th inst. in the 71st year of his life, Mr. William Smeathers who was one of the earliest pioneers of this country, having resided in Texas nearly seventeen years, subject to all the privations of a new and then uncultivated country and bravely maintaining himself single-handedly on a frontier against the assaults of numerous hordes of predatory savages in many a hard-fought fray, was claimed by death. His course is finished and he has gone to his final audit. In his death his country has lost a bold and hardy defender and his family has lost a kind parent.

One author wrote the following about William Smeathers in a *HISTORY OF DAVIS COUNTY, KENTUCKY*:

Nature had been liberal in her gifts to Smothers. In personal courage he was inferior to no man and he was endowed with a good understanding. The operations of his mind were quick and there was a sprightliness and point in his conceptions which never failed to interest his listener.

In conversation, he rarely descended to vulgarity and never affected the coarse manner or rude speech of the ruffian. His voice, like his mind, was clear and distinct; and if he had received a thorough education he would have been a shining light in the land. But his love of fun was his controlling passion and led him into many improprieties and may have clouded his memory with crime.

In person, he was five feet eleven inches high; his hair and beard were dark brown; his eyes were prominent and a clear, deep blue; his complexion was fair; and the expression of his countenance was playful and intelligent.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Whatever he did seemed to be performed deliberately. He spoke the truth, except when he was planning some mischief and then his fertile imagination readily invented whatever was necessary to the success of his scheme. On these occasions he could invent the most marvelous and miraculous lies, giving all the particulars and attendant circumstances. Incredulity itself would be silenced by his earnestness of tone and minuteness of detail.

While living in the Owensboro, Kentucky area, William Smithers (Smeathers) met with Washington Irving, the famous author, who later wrote in his "Sketchbook" as follows:

I was gazing with vexation after a herd in full scamper, when I was startled by a human voice. Turning around, I saw a man at a short distance from me, in a hunting dress.

Q. "What are you after, my lad?" cried he.

A. "Those deer," replied I, pettishly; "but it seems as if they never stand still."

Q. Upon that he burst out laughing. "Where are you from?" said he.

A. "From Richmond."

Q. "What! In old Virginny?"

A. "The same."

Q. "And how on earth did you get here?"

A. "I landed at Green River from a broad-born."

Q. "And where are your companions?"

A. "I have none."

Q. "What?—all alone?" "Where are you going?"

A. "Any where."

WILLIAM SMEATHERS

Q. "And what have you come here for?"

A. "To hunt."

Q. "Well," said he, laughingly, "You'll make a real hunter; there's no mistaking that! Have you killed anything?"

A. "Nothing but a turkey; I can't get within shot of a deer: they are always running."

"Oh, I'll tell you the secret of that. You're always pushing forward and startling the deer at a distance, and gazing at those that are scampering; but you must step as slow, and silent, and cautious as a cat, and keep your eyes close around you, and lurk from tree to tree, if you wish to get a chance at a deer. But come, go home with me. My name is Bill Smithers; I live not far off; stay with me for a little while, and I'll teach you how to hunt."

I gladly accepted the invitation of honest Bill Smithers. We soon reached his habitation; a mere log hut, with a square hole for a window, and a chimney made of sticks and clay. He lived here with a wife and child. He had girdled the trees for an acre or two around, preparatory to clearing space for corn and potatoes. In the meantime he maintained his family entirely by his rifle, and I soon found him to be a first-rate huntsman. Under his tutelage I received my first effective lessons in woodcraft.

After I had passed ten or twelve days with Bill Smithers, I thought it time to shift my quarters, for his house was scarce large enough for his own family, and I had no idea of being an encumbrance to anyone. I accordingly made up my bundle, shouldered my rifle, and set out in quest of a Nimrod of the wilderness, one John Miller, who lived alone nearly forty miles, and I hoped would be well pleased to have a hunting companion.

While Bill Smothers lived on the banks of the Ohio, he became a host to his many friends. At Yellow Banks he was able to trade cured

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hams, buffalo meat, honey, dried venison, and buffalo robes to the river boatmen who stopped at his home. They in turn provided him with provisions not enjoyed by his friends.

A Kentucky Historical Plaque has been erected in Owensboro, Kentucky which reads as follows:

BILL SMOTHERS PARK

Site of home of William Smeathers (Bill Smothers), who in 1797-98 made first permanent settlement at Yellow Banks, now Owensboro. Officer in Kentucky's "Corn Stalk" Militia in 1803 and on expedition up the Wabash River against the Indians in the War of 1812 under General Samuel Hopkins. He then went to Texas as an Indian Hunter and guide. Died there, 1837

This marker is located on the grounds of the Ohio County Museum, Hartford, KY:

MAN OF COURAGE

William Smeathers took part in American Revolution and War of 1812; helped erect fort here and at Vienna (later Calhoun) in early 1780's. He was the subject of a sketch by Washington Irving, 1797. Smeathers served on first grandjury of the Court of Quarter Sessions at Hartford, 1803. Joined Stephen F. Austin in Texas, 1821, as one of "Old Three Hundred."

WILLIAM SMEATHERS

Next is the wording on a Texas Historical Monument in Fort Bend, County:

SITE OF FORT BEND

BUILT IN NOVEMBER 1821 BY WILLIAM LITTLE, WILLIAM SMEATHERS. CHARLES BEARD, JOSEPH POLLY AND HENRY HOLSTER - ITS NAME WAS GIVEN TO THE COUNTY WHEN CREATED IN 1837.



American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Another Texas Historical Marker was erected two miles south from Hallettsville in June 1977 as follows:

WILLIAM SMOTHERS

(1760 - 1837)

A VETERAN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A NATIVE OF VIRGINIA, WILLIAM SMOTHERS WAS ORPHANED AT 12 WHEN INDIANS KILLED HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER DIED OF SHOCK. IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HE FOUGHT AT KING'S MOUNTAIN, GUILFORD COURTHOUSE, CAMDEN AND EUTAW SPRINGS. HE MOVED TO KENTUCKY IN 1781, BUILT TWO FORTS NEAR THE PRESENT HARTFORD, ORIGINALLY CALLED "SMOTHER'S STATION" AND IN 1798 FOUNDED AN OHIO RIVER PORT THAT LATER BECAME OWENSBORO. HE WAS A LEADER IN CIVIL AFFAIRS IN EARLY KENTUCKY, WAS A MILITIA CAPTAIN AND COMMANDED TROOPS IN THE WAR OF 1812. SMOTHER'S PARK IN OWENSBORO IS NAMED IN HIS HONOR. SMOTHERS SCOUTED IN TEXAS BEFORE 1820, RETURNED IN 1821 WITH THE EXPLORING PARTY OF STEPHEN F AUSTIN AND HELPED BUILD FORT BEND FOR THE SAFETY OF THE "OLD 300" SETTLERS IN 1824. MEXICO GAVE HIM A LAND GRANT IN 1826. HE AND TWO SONS HELPED SETTLE DEWITT'S COLONY, RECEIVING LAND GRANTS IN THE VICINITY OF THIS MARKER. FEARLESS AND A SKILLFUL GUIDE, HE OFTEN HUNTED WITH HIS FRIEND JIM BOWIE. REPUTEDLY HE TOMAHAWKED BEARS IN HAND TO HAND COMBAT. MARRIED TWICE. HE WAS AN ANCESTOR OF MANY LEADING TEXANS. HE DIED IN 1837 AFTER SEEING A SON AND THREE GRANDSONS HELP TO WIN THE WAR FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE.



SAMUEL SMITH

Samuel Smith was born in a public inn in Albemarle County, Virginia, on August 29, 1765 while his parents were enroute to a new home in North Carolina. He married Mary Jarrett on February 28, 1797 in Buncombe County, North Carolina.

At their home near Saxapahaw, Alamance County, North Carolina, young Samuel began helping in the garden by the time he was five years old. Nothing more is known about his early days. At the age of sixteen in 1781, Samuel moved with his family some 250 miles to the west in the Blue Ridge Mountain area of McDowell County. This area was the home of the Cherokee Indians who were not only still loyal to King George but frequently proved their fealty to him by taking scalps of the colonists at every opportunity.

The American Revolution was drawing to a close and General McDowell, the commander of the Old Fort nearby, conceived a very serious undertaking to end the war and to bring peace between the white settlers and the Cherokee Indians. To accomplish this effort of peace, a message had to be sent some 250 miles through wilderness and hostile Indians to the head Cherokee Chief at the Cooswattee Towns, about twenty miles from Rome, Georgia.

Samuel volunteered and was selected because he was unknown to the warring Cherokee's. He apparently had not previously been involved in any of the battles between the settlers and the Indians. Samuel was to deliver a letter containing a proposal to end the hostilities in exchange for white prisoners, and he was to return with the Chief's answer.

At the time of this journey, there was not a white man living west of the Blue Ridge on North Carolina soil. Samuel Smith was just eighteen years old but he was eager to make the journey. He was accompanied by an interpreter whose name was "Yellow Bear" and by a mulatto man to help with the mundane details.

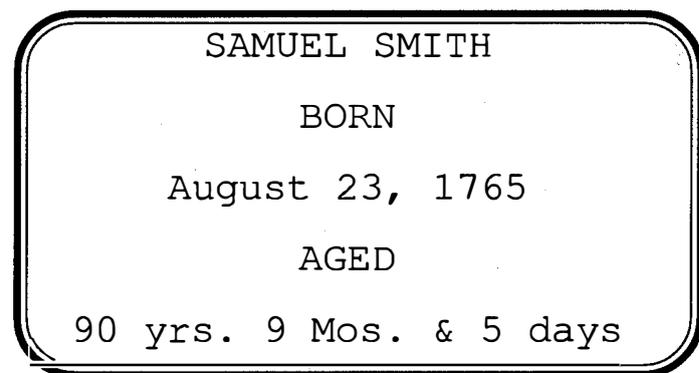
American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

On their journey they were stopped many times by various groups of Indians. "Yellow Bear" always was successful in convincing the challenging Indians of the need for passage on to the Head Chief. After about three weeks, they reached their destination and Samuel Smith delivered the letter. The Chief said that he needed to think the matter over. After about ten days, the Chief accepted the proposal and sent his reply. Samuel was escorted all of the way to be sure that General McDowell received the message.

This perilous adventure by young Samuel Smith to bring peace between the American and the Cherokee allies of the British was very successful.

Young Smith soon married and raised his family in North Carolina. It was not until some thirty-eight years later, in 1845, that Samuel led a caravan from North Carolina to Nacogdoches, Texas. The veteran of a great mission during the Revolutionary War came to Texas still seeking adventure, more breathing room and a chance to make his fortune. His son, Bennett Smith, preceded him and had sent encouraging reports. He settled in Rusk County where he died on May 27, 1856 at age ninety. He is buried in a hero's grave in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery near New London, Rusk County, Texas.

His tombstone reads:



A descendant of Samuel Smith is a member of the Dallas Chapter of The Sons of the American Revolution.



JOHN SORELLE

This family name has been spelled many ways, including Sorrell, Sorel, Sorell, Sorelle, etc. depending upon the mood of the scribe who was writing at the moment. However, whenever the name is written, specific reference is made to the descendants in Texas of John SoRelle who died in Fayette County, Texas in 1841.

Initially, our John SoRelle, who was born in Virginia circa 1763, spelled his name "Sorrell". He used this spelling when he lived, after the American Revolution, in North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. During his later years and after he came to Texas, the spelling of the name was "SoRelle".

The cause of this change in name can possibly be traced to events in Alabama as described in the following story concisely told in *Alabama: A Guide to the Deep South* by the writers of Alabama WPA, as follows:

*Murrell was active in the 1830's, and many traditional tales are still current regarding his exploits. His gang included a "preacher", "Reverend" Sorrell, and his daughter, a beautiful young song leader. The "evangelist", Sorrell, was by some accounts, Murrell himself. The gang would go into a community and start a camp meeting. The fiery eloquence of Sorrell, strongly supported by songs and looks of the girl, would bring great throngs to the arbor. Many who attended the meetings rode or drove fine horses, and some brought slaves to care for the animals and small children. While Sorrell was rousing the congregation to an emotional frenzy, part of the gang would wander casually outside, pick out the best of the horses and, when possible, some com-
plaisant slaves, and depart unnoticed. Then Alabama headquarters of Murrell and his gang were, according to tradition, in Dallas County between Selma and Carlouville, and ballads and tales about them are told all over Alabama.*

John A. Murrell became quite notorious in the area and it is believed that John Sorrell, in order to prevent and to avoid confusion, began writing his name as John SoRelle.

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Nothing is known of his exploits during the American Revolution. However, John SoRelle, as John Sorrels of Wilkes County, Georgia on July 1792, gave a power of attorney to his "trusty friend," Robert Adams, to collect pay due him for his services during the Revolutionary War.

His request for back pay was in the form of an affidavit as follows (not edited):

This day personally appeared before us John Sorrel & made the following oath (VIZ) that he was a new levy or nine month man from Burke county, n. Carolina (sic) & from Captain John Harding company of militia that he met the troops & after being marched to Moors creak & was furlowed & when he was called upon he marched to South Carolina in the year 1779 & served the term of Nine months in the forth North ridgment commanded by Colo Lot Thackston & in Capt Goodmans company & Joel Lewis Lieut that he served his time out faithfully & obtained his discharge & that the depreiation of his pay he has not received him selfe nor no one by his order & that he never sold nor bartered his pay to no one Except to Robert Addams to whome he has Acknowledged a power of Attorney to sworn & subscribed to before us this 24th day July 1792.

signed/ John Sorrels

*Jas. McLean, J.P.
Jesse Heard, J.P.*

There are records listing John Sorrel's name for service in South Carolina in the National Archives. These records also list him as a soldier in the Siege of Charleston in 1780. (Microcopy M 853 Roll 89, first item on the film in National Archives, Washington, DC)

John Sorrel's service was attested to by a fellow soldier, Edward Bell of Lincoln County, North Carolina; by his "Mess Mate", Captain James Mackey of Burke County, North Carolina and by Joel Lewis of Surrey County, South Carolina. All of these papers may be found in the North Carolina Archives.

JOHN SORELLE

John SoRelle never claimed a pension from the US Government. He did receive his back pay and allowances in the amount of twenty-six pounds, sixteen shillings and ten pence (\$67.10) on August 13, 1792.

On 10 and 19 August 1784, he was granted "Headright No. 935" for 200 acres of land in Wilkes County, Georgia. Also, by a warrant dated March 31, 1789, he was granted an additional thirteen acres of land.

About 1789, or earlier, John SoRelle married Mary "Polly" Watts of Greene County, Georgia. They became the parents of twelve children while they lived in Georgia.

From the land sales records in Dallas County, Alabama, for the month of January 1819, it appears that John SoRelle was making frequent trips from Greene County, Georgia, to buy parcels of land at auction. These transactions are recorded in the Old Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Records and Military Warrants, 1817-1853.

In 1835, John SoRelle was listed as a trustee of the "Airy Mount Male and Female Academy" in Salem, Alabama. John and his family also became interested and active in the Baptist Church while in Dallas County, Alabama. Many years later, the descendants are still involved in the affairs of the Baptist Church.

1828 was not a good year for John SoRelle, financially. There were too many purchases on credit and too little cash to pay the debts. Property values depreciated greatly. There was also the possibility of a scandal because of the connection of the Sorrell name with the outlaw Murrell and his "gang".

John SoRelle and his family decided to move to Texas where there was abundant land and the environment somewhat friendlier.

Apparently he arrived in Galveston, Texas on the steamer "Cumanche" (sic) on December 16, 1837 because there was an item in the *Galveston Telegraph and Register* commending the captain of the ship for his concern for comfort of the passengers. The letter was signed by John Sorrell and other passengers. This would indicate the SoRelle

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families traveled overland to New Orleans and then took a steamer to Galveston and then went overland to Fayette County to live for the remainder of his life.

It is thought that John SoRelle became a member of the Plum Grove Baptist Church located in Plum, Fayette County. The SoRelle descendants were active in the Plum Grove Baptist Church for many years.

Good land was plentiful when John SoRelle and his family moved to Texas. He purchased several tracts of land including a quarter league (approximately 1,100 acres) of the "Thomas Alley Grant" near La Grange, Fayette County as recorded in the Fayette County Deed Records, Deed Book A: pages 289-290, 341.

John SoRelle, patriot and soldier of the American Revolution, died in Fayette County, Texas, on September 27, 1841 at the home of his daughter in La Grange. His will was written and recorded in Dallas County, Georgia on June 2, 1841. It is believed that he was buried in Plum, Fayette County, but the location of his grave has been lost over the years. There is speculation that he is buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery at the nearby community of West Point. There are several members of the SoRelle family buried in this old cemetery.

John SoRelle's Will as recorded in Will Book A: pages 194-5, Dallas County, Alabama:

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Sorell, of the County of Dallas and the State of Alabama, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following; viz.,

1st after the payment of all my just debts and funeral expences, I devise, bequeath and direct as follows:

2nd I give and bequeath to my daughter, Celia Cooper and her bodily heirs for their own use and benefit, all of the property heretofore loaned to her, to wit: two Negroes, a boy and girl known by name of Gant and Caroline, a horse, two cows and calves and two beds of furniture which brings her upon a level with what my other children have heretofore had.

3rd I give and bequeath all the remaining part of my estate, real and personal and perishable to my children, namely my sons Wiley J. Sorell, Seaborne J. Sorell, John M. Sorell, James M. Sorell and Thomas B. Sorell and my daughters Matilda Webb, Nancy Browning, Rebecca Adams, Mary Webb, Celia Cooper, Margaret Pylant and the bodily heirs of Catherine Barnes, late the wife of John E. Barnes, now deceased, to be divided among them equally subject however to the restrictions and conditions following: as regards my sons Wiley J. and Seaborne J. Sorell viz Wiley J. Sorell to have equal share after deducting what I have paid for him; to wit, five thousand eight hundred and fourteen dollars paid in the Gantley case and others. Seaborne J. Sorell to have an equal share after deducting the amount I have paid for him, viz. about five thousand dollars.

The shares of my daughters to go to them and the heirs of their bodies and shall either of them die without bodily heirs, then her or their share to descend and be equally divided amongst her brothers and sisters or their legal heirs.

I hereby revoke all other and former Wills by me heretofore made.

Lastly, I nominate, constitute and appoint my son, James M. Sorell, and my son-in-law, Henry Adams, executors of this my last Will and testament. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this second day of June AD. 1841.

signed/ John Sorell

(Seal)

Signed, sealed and executed in the presence of G. R. Evans, Nicholas Bagget and James Craig.

Among the papers on file in Dallas County, Alabama, is an inventory including an unpaid charge by John W. Buchanan in the amount of \$20 for making the coffin in which John SoRelle was buried.

Located in The Records of the Alabama State Archives is this obituary which appeared in the *Wetumpka Argus* (Elmore County, Alabama) on December 8, 1841:

JOHN SORELLE

DIED: On a visit to his daughters in Texas, after a protracted illness, MR. JOHN SORELLE, in the 78th year of his age.

The subject of this notice was a native of Georgia. In 1819 he removed to Alabama and settled near Cahaba, of which place he has since been one of the most respected and respectable residents.

His uprightness of character and amiability of deportment had deservedly endeared him to a large circle of friends, who, with his numerous children and relatives are left to deplore his loss. His loss will long be deplored by the church of which he was a member. In early life he saw the utter vanity of all earthly things and became a member of the Baptist Church and for upwards of forty years has shown by his strict Christian precepts and example, that he sought a city whose "builder and maker was God." His friends mourn not those having no hope, for he died exulting in bright prospect of an unfading crown of righteousness. He now rests from his labors and from all the disorders that afflicted his body, from all the temptations that disgusted his soul. He will have no more conflicts with the powers of darkness or the corruptions of his own nature. Sin and sorrow has ceased eternally. He is now freed entirely and forever from every evil.

"And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, write 'Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them'."

"He now can bathe his weary soul
In seas of Heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across his peaceful breast."



WILLIAM SPARKS

William Sparks was born near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, on April 3, 1761. His great great grandfather, William Sparks, immigrated from Hampshire County, England to Maryland about 1663.

He joined the Rowan County Militia Volunteers in the Revolutionary War.

After the close of the war, William Sparks moved with his parents to lands east of the Oconee River in Georgia. He married Mary Polly Fielder in Georgia. In 1811, William and Mary Polly moved to Lawrence County, Mississippi.

Children of William and Mary born in Georgia were Richard, John, James, Sarah and Edith. Children who were later born in Mississippi were Levi, Nathan and William Matthew.

William Sparks continued to migrate westward and in about 1834 he and his son, Richard, were living in the Old North Church Community in Nacogdoches County where he obtained more than 2,200 (one-half of a league) acres of land.

A grandson, Dr. John Marion Sparks, donated ten acres of land on which the Old North Church was built. William Sparks was a deacon in this church for about four years when he asked to be relieved of his duties due to the infirmities of old age. He died in 1848 and he is buried in the Old North Church Cemetery, north from Nacogdoches, Texas.

William filed an affidavit in order to obtain the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 which granted pensions to veterans of the American Revolution. His affidavit follows:

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

State of Texas
County of Nacogdoches] SS

On this 14th day of September AD 1846 personally appeared before the Honorable District Court of said County now sitting in open court, William Sparks, a resident of Spark's Settlement in said County of Nacogdoches and the State of Texas, aged eighty-five years on the 3rd day of April last, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That this applicant entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Shortly before this applicant entered the service his father, Matthew Sparks, removed with him from the Yadkin River in the county of Wilkes and the State of North Carolina across the Blue Ridge to a place on New River in the said county of Wilkes which is now about two miles from the county seat of Rowan County, North Carolina. Also shortly before I entered the service, the Cherokee Indians had committed depredations and murdered five persons, I think, three children and two women, near the head of the Catawba River at least above John's River to a place then I think in Burke County, North Carolina.

In part of the county in which I lived, after the war had lasted several years, all of us capable of bearing arms were divided into four classes, as I can remember, by lots. I fell into the fourth class.

About this time it came to the turn of my class to enter the service, and while we were making preparations to do so Capt. John Cleaveland (nick-named Devil John) son of Col. Benjamin Cleaveland, who afterwards fought at King's Mountain, and who then resided near our former residence on the Yadkin, came over to our settlement on New River, and proposed to my class to volunteer to go with him against the Cherokee Indians saying that this would be accounted the same as the same length of service against the British against whom we were preparing to go. Four of my neighbors of my class - viz: John Baker, Izrael Campbell, John Waters and George Humphries, with myself, accepted John Cleaveland's proposition and in obedience to his order rendezvoused at Wilkes Court House (Wilkesboro) and entered the service under the said John Cleaveland as our Captain on the 15th day of August ____ (from old age and consequent loss of memory this applicant

WILLIAM SPARKS

cannot state positively in what year this was, but he does recollect that it was when he had just entered his seventeenth year and several years before the battle of King's Mountain.)

At Wilkesboro, which was the place of general rendezvous for the North Carolina troops raised for those expeditions, Capt. Cleaveland's Company was filled to the number of about sixty, and about one thousand in all rendezvoused here. We were all mounted gunmen, and nearly all armed with rifles, tomahawks and butcher knives, each man and myself amongst the rest furnishing his own horse, arms and equipment. At the end of about two days we took up the line of march by Pleasant Gardens on the Catawba, crossed John's river, then by Cathey's Fort to Turkey Cove on the Catawba, a distance, I suppose, of about one hundred miles from Wilkesboro.

At Turkey Cove we remained about two weeks collecting beef and other provisions for the campaign. Here we were joined by the rest of the North Carolina forces, making our number from twelve to fifteen hundred; and here the Commander-in-Chief was taken by General Charles McDowell of Pleasant Gardens, Burke County, North Carolina, in which position he continued throughout the campaign. At this place my Captain John Cleaveland was informed by letter that his wife was dangerously ill, and went home, and did not again return to us.

Myself and my New River neighbors, Baker, Campbell, Waters and Humphreys, at the request of Captain Cleaveland, were permitted to join Captain John Beverley's Company in which we remained to the end of the of the campaign. I do not remember positively what was made of the rest of Cleaveland's company, but I believe that as Beverly had not before a full company, they all joined him. My Regiment was commanded by Colonel Benjamin Hearn of Wilkes County. The Captains under him were as far as I remember, John Cleaveland and John Beverly, and I think others whom I do not recollect. Colonel Joseph McDowell, brother of our General, commanded the Burke's County Regiment there was also a Major McDowell in under Colonel Joseph McDowell, I think his given name was also Joseph, and that he was a cousin of the General and this Colonel. I do not remember any of the other North Carolina officers.

At the end of about two weeks we marched from Turkey Cove up the Catawba in the east side along an old Indian Trace and crossed the moun-

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tain through a gap, the name of which I do not recollect, struck the waters of Swannanoa River, went down the same and crossed the French Broad River just above the mouth of the Swannanoa. Here a foot company from Wilkes County, in which was my uncle James Sparks marched behind us, built a station, and remained to guard the frontier until our return from Indian Country. (Here I saw my uncle on my return.)

From the mouth of Swannanoa, we proceeded across Richland Creek and then Hominy Creek. Here we met and were joined by twelve or fourteen hundred mounted gunmen from South Carolina. I do not remember their commander or any of their officers except a Major Lytle, and him, I recollect and from his afterwards in the course of the campaign accidentally killing one of his own men by the name of Morrison in an Indian skirmish.

The whole army then proceeded across another ledge of mountains and then crossed the Tuckaseege River. The night we crossed this river, a scouting party of thirty or forty of our men under Major McDowell were attacked by a party of Indians of whom they killed two or three and made prisoners of a woman and child, an old man and one or two boys. The old Indian was shot the next day by a friendly Indian, a servant of Colonel Miller, NC., who I think was with us, but in what capacity I do not recollect. I regret to say that I believe all the prisoners were murdered except two boys.

We then marched on to the Tennessee River, a distance of twenty or thirty miles, where we found several Indian villages on the Southeast side of the River, which gave every indication of having been but recently deserted. We remained some two weeks destroying the houses, corn, beans and everything of utility in and about these villages.

We then received orders one evening that on the next morning we were to march to the Valley Towns, some seventy or eighty miles further on, but in the morning these orders were countermanded, I have never known why. We next proceeded about a day's march up a river, the name of which I forget, on the southeast side of the Tennessee to a large town surrounded by villages where we spent several days more in destroying the town and vil-

WILLIAM SPARKS

lages and everything in and about them. Rumor afterwards stated, and I believe truly, that the devastation committed by us on this campaign was the cause of the death of many hundreds of Indians from starvation.

After spending a week or two more in endeavoring through our scouts in vain to find the Indians, we commenced our return and march and retraced the same route as well as I can recollect. When we recrossed the station near the mouth of the Swannanoa the foot company were still left there to protect the frontier and remained for some time afterwards.

To the best of my recollection, the South Carolina troops parted from us at Hominy Creek where they joined us. The North Carolina troops then marched on and returned to the Yadkin at or near Wilkesboro where we disbanded.

From this service I received a written discharge from Captain John Beverly which I kept for many years, but at length, not deeming it of any use, it was long since lost or destroyed. On this tour we marched a distance of which we deemed about five hundred miles and back; and I served in it as a private mounted rifleman (furnishing my own horse, arms and equipment) at least four months, I believe longer for I feel confident that I did not (reach) home until after Christmas and I know I returned home as soon as I was discharged. On this expedition I know I received no pay, but the best of my recollection, the privates were promised twenty dollars per month each and the same remarks apply with the truth to all my revolutionary services; for I received no pay for any of them.

Upon my return from this campaign the Militia Company, in the bounds of which I resided, was organized into a company of mounted minute men under Andrew Baker as Captain and my brother, John Sparks, as Lieutenant. In this company I served 'til the close of the War of the Revolution. We furnished our own horses, arms and equipment. Our part of the country was almost constantly infested with robbing and murdering parties of Tories, British and Hessians, and I was either out in pursuit of such parties or in obedience to the orders of my Captain, held myself in readiness to march at a moments warning. On many and almost constant scouting parties, pursuits and expeditions in which I was engaged during this period, from

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

my great age and infirmities, I can recollect but one, so as to able to state the particulars and that only from the personal interest of my family in it. I will proceed to state it.

In less than one year after my return from the campaign against the Cherokeees above detailed, a party of Tories, about one hundred-fifty in number, robbed my father, taking a horse, saddle and bridle, six guns, all our pewter (we had no silverware in those days) and whatever else they could carry. My company immediately called out and other mounting in all to about one hundred and fifty mounted gunmen under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleaveland. We pursued the above named Tories a distance of between sixty and seventy miles and overtook them in Cox's settlement near the Virginia line. They were feasting, frolicing and many of them drunk. We killed and wounded twenty-five or thirty of them in a fight, made prisoners of nearly all the rest, of whom we hung five or six, the balance of the prisoners were discharged by Colonel Cleaveland upon their promise not to molest the patriots in the future. In this expedition I was engaged three weeks.

I received no written discharge during the war except the one from Captain Beverly above mentioned. I have no documentary evidence of my service and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service.

This applicant further states under oath that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than three years as a private volunteer mounted rifleman, always furnishing his own horse, arms and equipment and for service, he claims a pension. This applicant was born in Rowan County near Salisbury in the State of North Carolina on the 3rd day of April AD. 1761. He has no record of his age but he believes his brother, Jessie Sparks, residing in Hickman County in the State of Tennessee has a copy of the record of his age, the original having been lost.

When called with service, this applicant lived in Wilkes County, North Carolina, and remained there 'till the close of the Revolutionary War

WILLIAM SPARKS

when he removed with his father to what was then Franklin County, afterwards Jackson and now Clark County in the State of Georgia and settled about four miles from Athens in that State. There this applicant resided 'till the year 1811 when he removed to Lawrence County, Mississippi, thence to Holmes County in that State where he lived 'till March 1836, when he removed to this county and vicinity where he has ever since resided.

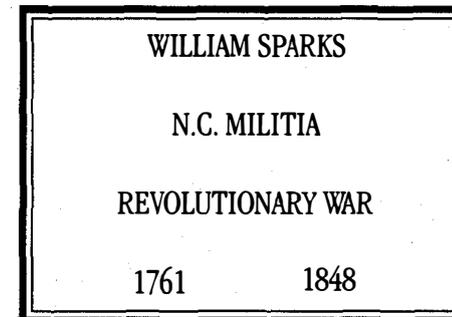
In his service, he was at all times a volunteer. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever for a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

signed/ William X Sparks

*Sworn to and subscribed before me this
14th September 1846.*

*R. Parmalee, CDCo.
by H. _____ Deputy*

There are no records to indicate a pension was ever paid.
On May 27, 1992, a grave marker was dedicated at the Old North Church which reads as follows:



Several descendants of William Sparks are members of The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



JEREMIAH STELL

Jeremiah Stell is listed on the Texas Plaque for Revolutionary Soldiers. He was born circa 1760, probably in Prince George County, Virginia. His Stell ancestors settled near Richmond in the early 1700's. Indeed, they were early American pioneers.

As a young man, he participated in skirmishes in the southern Virginia area. There is no evidence that he applied for or obtained a pension for his service.

On October 19, 1786, Jeremiah Stell and Sally Lewis Wynne were married in Amelia County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Revolutionary War Captain John Wynne.

Their first child, George Washington Stell, was born in Amelia County, Virginia in 1787. Other children were born in Georgia. Soon after 1800, Jeremiah and his family felt the need for more good land and the open spaces. As so many other veterans of the Revolutionary War, Jeremiah moved his family west. They settled in Wilson County, Tennessee, near the present city of Lebanon. The family grew and prospered. George Washington Stell became a Captain in the Tennessee Militia and fought in the Creek Indian War in 1812. He later fought with General Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812 at the Battle of New Orleans. After moving to Texas, he became one of the founders of Paris, Texas.

Sometime later, Jeremiah's wife, Sally, died. In the 1830's, Jeremiah, his children and grandchildren moved again — this time to Red River County, Texas. They settled in western Red River County which was to become Lamar County in 1840. On December 6, 1839, Jeremiah received a single man's land grant of 320 acres. His land was where the present day community of Marvin is located, about six miles southeast from Paris.

He was no longer living by December 1845. Contact has been made with a descendant who still lives on the Stell farm in the Marvin Community. She knew very little about her ancestor, only that he came to Lamar County from Tennessee, that he died in the early 1840's and was buried on

his farm. The grave had only a wood marker which the grazing cattle eventually destroyed. Several searches have been made in recent years but the grave of an American Patriot is forever lost.



DAVID STRICKLAND

David Strickland's affidavit for a pension for Revolutionary War service was filed in the Territory of Missouri, Southern Circuit as follows:

On the 26th day of July 1819, before me the subscriber, Judge of the Circuit Court in said Territory, personally appeared David Strickland, aged 60 years, resident of the County of Wayne, in said Circuit and Territory, who, first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War."

That the said David Strickland enlisted first for a term of 5 months on the 1st day of July 1775 in Litchfield in the State of Connecticut in the Company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Tuttle of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Webb, at the expiration of which time he enlisted for the term of one year at Boston in the State of Massachusetts in the said Company and Regiment.

Thirdly, that he enlisted for a term of 3 years in February 1777 at Reytown in the State of New York in the Company commanded by Captain Warner of the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Samuel Willis, from which last mentioned Regiment he was transferred to the Company commanded by Captain Ely of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Return J. Meigs.

Fourthly, that he enlisted for the term of one year in the year 1778 at Watertown in the State of Connecticut, in the Company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Edwards of the Battalion commanded by Major Penny.

Fifthly, that he enlisted for the term of one year in 1782 at the last

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mentioned place in the Company commanded by Captain Jabez Fitch; that the Battalion and all the Regiments aforementioned were in the line of the State of Connecticut on the Continental Establishments, that he continued to serve in the _____ Corps or in the service of the United States until the end of the War (during the last two enlistment's as first sergeant). When he was discharged from service at Horneck in the State of Connecticut, that he was in the battles of White Plains, Scot Plains and Stony Point.

And that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the services of his country for support and that he has none of this evidence now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to and declared before me this day and year: July 26, 1819.

s/Richard S. Thomas.

David Strickland was allowed a pension beginning in 1819. He was sixty years of age (born 1759) and a resident of Wayne County, Missouri Territory. In 1823, he was residing in Miller County, Arkansas. His pension file number is S35084.

Anita Puckett, a descendant of David Strickland, was visited in Clarksville, Texas on October 5, 1992. She advised that her ancestor had died in Red River County, Texas circa 1825. He had lived on a farm north from Clarksville on the Red River in an area known then as Pecan Point. She believed David Strickland was buried in a grave on his farm that was near the banks of the Red River. During the years, the river has many times flooded and changed its course. The grave, and the remains of David Strickland, washed away during the flooding of the river. The farm area has been searched many times over the years but no trace of the grave has ever been found.



JAMES THOMPSON

James Thompson was born in 1759 in North Carolina. He married Mildred Williams.

After the American Revolution, his family first lived in Alabama before settling in Daingerfield, Texas. He died in 1841 and was buried at the Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery at New Hope near Daingerfield.

In 1930 his remains were moved from the Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery to the Jenkin's plot in the City Cemetery of Daingerfield. Before the removal of the remains, The Daughters of the American Revolution had erected a marker at his grave which read "James Thompson, Pvt., N. C. Militia, American Revolution." The DAR marker was moved to the City Cemetery but it is now missing. There is also a Sons of the American Revolution marker at the grave site.

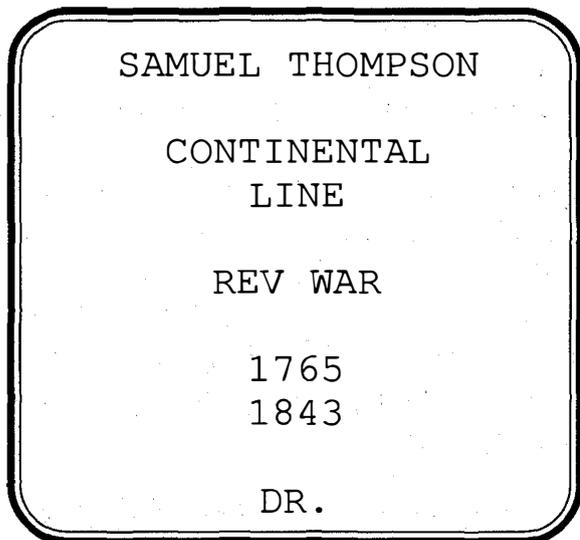


SAMUEL THOMPSON

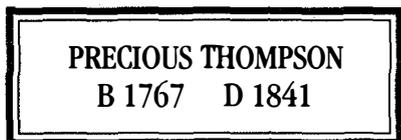
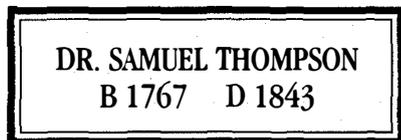
Little is known at this time about the life of Samuel Thompson. According to his tombstone in the cemetery at the Chapel Hill Methodist Church, about six and one-half miles east from San Augustine on Highway 21, he was in the Continental Line in the Revolutionary War.

He served in the 3rd Regiment from Madison County, Virginia in 1778-1779.

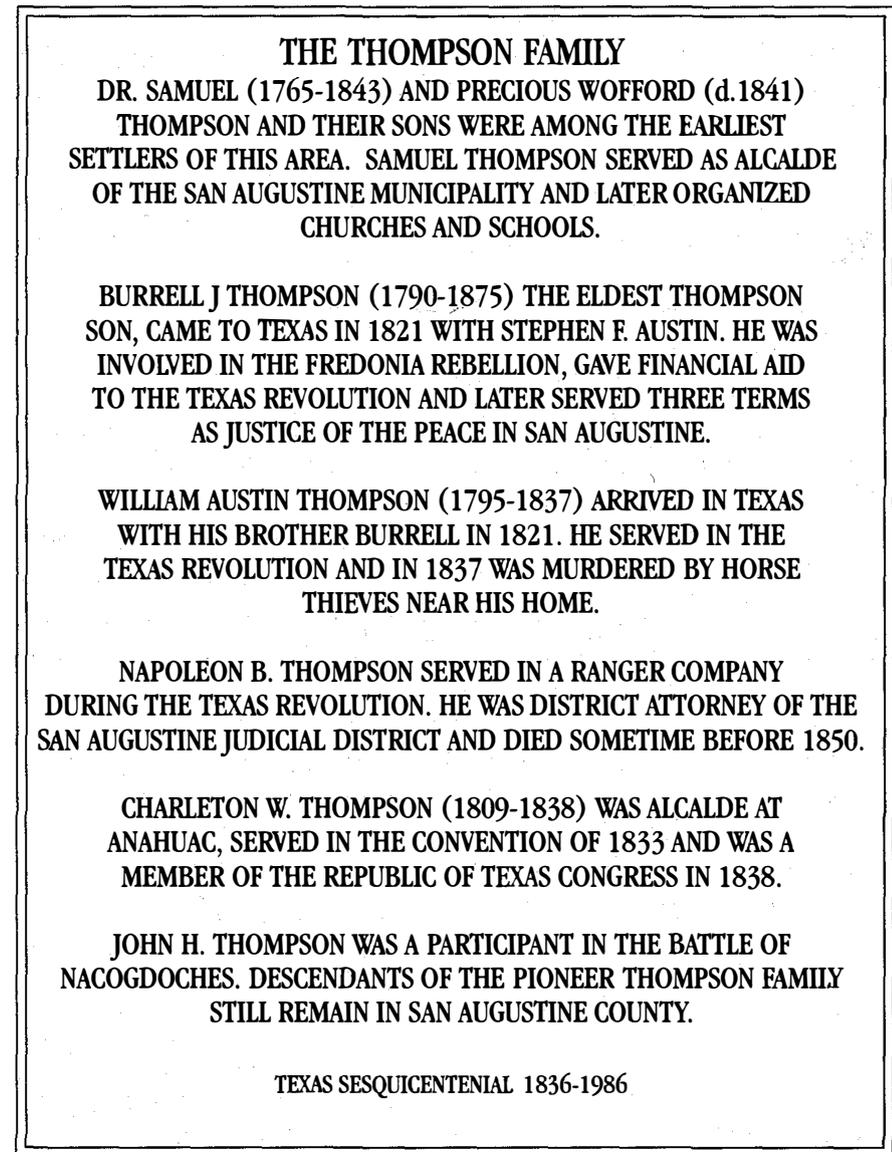
His tombstone reads as follows:



He is buried by his wife and each of them has a foot stone that reads:



There is a Texas Historical Marker at the entrance to the small cemetery that reads as follows:



RICHARD TICE

Although Richard Tice had an interesting military career, little is known about his life in Texas. His petition, filed in Queens County, New York follows:

Declaration of Richard Tice, a Soldier of the Revolution, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832:

State of New York:

Queens County:

On this sixteenth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county and before the Judges now sitting, Richard Tice, a resident of the Town of Hempstead in the County of Queens and the State of New York, aged seventy three years and upwards, having been born in September 1762, who being first duly affirmed according to law, doth on his affirmation make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832:

That in the month of October 1776 he entered as a fifer in a company of militia commanded by Captain Jonathan Williams in Colonel Joseph Ellis' Regiment, (Joseph Hillman, a son of Colonel Hillman, was the drummer. He and this declarant had been in Philadelphia for some months before, he learning to beat the drum and the declarant learning to play the fife.) The Company marched from Haddonfield in New Jersey to Cooper's Ferry (now Camden) where we quartered and remained one month and were discharged.

We next entered in the month of December 1776 in a Company commanded by the same Captain Williams in Colonel Ellis' Regiment. The Company marched from Haddonfield, aforesaid, to Mount Holly where we quartered and remained until driven out from that place by the Hessians. We retreated back to Haddonfield. From Haddonfield we marched to Bordentown and remained there perhaps two or three days and until the

morning of the Battle of Trenton in January 1777. On that morning we marched to Trenton and were in the battle there. That night, or early in the next morning, we marched to Princeton and were in the battle at that place. We remained at Princeton a few days after the battle and then marched back to Haddonfield and were discharged after having served one month and a half.

He next entered, in the month of August or September 1777, as a private in a company of militia commanded by Captain John Stokes in Colonel Ellis' Regiment. The company marched to a place called the "Four Gun Battery" at the mouth of Great Mantan Creek, a little below Fort Mifflin on the Jersey shore. Colonel Hillman commanded at the battery. The Company quartered in a barn near the battery where we remained until about the time the British took the Fort at Billingsport, during which time we had a good deal of skirmishing between the British vessels in the river and the batteries and forts on shore.

After the British had taken Billingsport, the Company returned to Haddonfield where we quartered. In the course of a few weeks and during the month of October 1777, the Hessians crossed the river at Philadelphia, marched down on the Jersey side, and made the attack on the Fort at Red Bank. Several Companies of Militia then lay at Haddonfield, they were put in motion and kept firing upon and retreating before them. When the object of the Hessians was fully understood, Colonel Ellis sent this declarant as the bearer of dispatches to Colonel Green at the Fort at Red Bank, and this declarant was in the said Fort at the time of the battle. After the battle, the Company again returned to Haddonfield and quartered there.

In a few weeks, and during the month of November 1777, they had a severe skirmish with the enemy near Gloucester, a few miles below Philadelphia on the Jersey side. Some of the Company were wounded in this affair. After this, the company returned to Haddonfield where we remained through the winter of 1777 and 1778, and during the winter we had frequent skirmishing with the enemy.

Haddonfield was our headquarters, but we were stationed as guards sometimes at Gloucester, and at other times at Cooper's Ferry (Camden).

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

In the spring of the year 1778, early in April the British came over from Philadelphia and surprised the American forces and took some prisoners, and killed and wounded others. This declarant was wounded by a sword in the hand, and he also received a bayonet wound in the leg, and was taken prisoner. Major William Ellis, who with about thirty men was stationed at Cooper's Ferry (Camden) were taken prisoners also. This declarant, being wounded, was left at the Ferry, and he made his escape to Haddonfield where the Company lay till the British left Philadelphia in June 1778.

In passing through Jersey the British Army halted at Haddonfield, and whilst there this declarant decoyed a party with one of their baggage wagons into the American Camp where they were made prisoners, and for which, he received the thanks of Majors Howell and Bloomfield.

The Company marched on with the American Forces to Monmouth Court House, and were in the battle at that place. This declarant and a number of other men were taken prisoners by a party of British horsemen, but were retaken in the afternoon of the same day. This declarant's gun and other accoutrements were taken from him whilst a prisoner, and he afterwards received pay for them from the Legislature of New Jersey as may be seen by a reference to their proceedings of June 16 1783.

After the Battle of Monmouth the Company returned to Haddonfield and were discharged after having served from the time they first entered at least ten months.

He next entered, on the first day of August 1778, in a company commanded by Lieutenant Newcomb Thompson in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Read. We marched from Haddonfield through Burlington, Bordentown, Trenton, Princeton, New Brunswick, and Bonhamtown to Elizabeth-Town where we quartered and remained till our time expired on the 1st day of December 1778 when we were discharged after having served four months. Our duty consisted mostly of standing guard along the creeks and waters in that neighbourhood to prevent persons from trading to New York.

In the month of March 1779, he entered as a private in a Company of militia commanded by Captain John Davis in Colonel Ellis' Regiment. The

RICHARD TICE

Company marched from Haddonfield to Somers' Point at the mouth of Great Egg Harbour River. We remained there about a week guarding and unloading a sloop that had run into that place with a cargo of rum. After she was unloaded, Captain Davis procured and carted the rum up to a place called "Longcoming" where it was stored away in a barn. We remained at "Longcoming" a few days, and then marched back to Haddonfield where we were discharged after having served three-fourth's of a month.

In the summer of 1779, he went privateering.

In the month of May 1780 he entered as a private in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain John Stokes in Colonel Ellis' Regiment. We marched from Haddonfield to Cooper's Ferry (Camden), from thence we went up the river in boats to Bordentown. We marched through Trenton, Princeton, Kingston, crossed the River Raritan, and on to a farm house in the neighbourhood of Springfield in Essex County, New Jersey where we were quartered and remained till after the battle at Springfield, and we were in that battle and in several skirmishes before the battle. In a few days after the battle we were discharged after having served one month and a half.

The whole length of time that he served during the war, and whilst engaged in a regularly organized body was eighteen months and three-fourth's of a month, two months and a half of which time he served as a fifer, and the residue being sixteen and one-fourth months as a private, and during all which time he was in actual service either in the field or the garrison, and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

In answer to interrogatories propounded by the Court, this declarant answers as follows:

1. *Where and in what year were you born?*

Ans: He was born in the township and County of Gloucester, New Jersey, on the 28th day of September 1762.

2. *Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?*

Ans: He has a record of his age, it is now in Chester County, Pennsylvania, a copy of which he has in his possession.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

3. *Where were you living when called into the service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now?*

Ans: He was living in Gloucester County, New Jersey when called into service; he has followed the seas most of the time since the Revolutionary War, and when on shore in this Country, he lived in Philadelphia until about ten years ago, when he removed to Long Island, New York where he now lives; he also lived in Chester County, Pennsylvania about three years before he went to Long Island.

4. *How were you called into service, etc.?*

Ans: He believes he always volunteered, when called into service.

5. *State the names of some Regular Officers, etc.?*

Ans: General LaFayette was at Gloucester; General Washington was at the Battle of Monmouth. He was also at Princeton and Springfield; Colonel Green was at Red Bank; he saw the above named Regular Officers at the places above mentioned, at the times he was in the service in those places, but does not now recollect having seen General Washington on the day of the battle at Springfield; he is positive as to the other places. He saw a great many Regular Officers at the Battle of Trenton, and at Monmouth, and also in the Fort at Red Bank, but does not now remember their names, except a Captain Leonard, who was an officer at the Artillery at Trenton. He saw Colonel Green's Regiment at the fort at Red Bank. He saw regular troops at Haddonfield, at Monmouth Courthouse, at Trenton and Springfield but does not know what particular Regiments they belonged. He saw Colonel Ellis' Regiment of Militia at Haddonfield, and at other places. He saw a part of Colonel Somer's Regiment at the last mentioned place.

6. *Did you ever receive a discharge, etc.?*

Ans: He does not remember ever to have received a written discharge from the service.

7. *State the names of persons to whom you are known, etc.*

Ans: He is acquainted with the Honorable Richard M. Cooper of New Jersey, Honorable Henry Horn of Philadelphia, Reverend James Millbank, Philadelphia, Reverend Richard Drason Hale, Chester, Pennsylvania, Thomas B. Jackson, Esq., Queens County, L.I., James Rider, P.M., Jamaica, L.I.,

RICHARD TICE

Honorable Coe L. Downing, Senator, Brooklyn, and Reverend James Milmor, DD, New York, to who this declarant refers for his character, for veracity, and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

The Declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

Signed: Richard Tice

Affirmed and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid before me. David Lamberson, one of the Judges of Court of Common Pleas for Queens County.

The United States approved the pension for Richard Tice and a Certificate of Pension was issued on November 2, 1837 and sent to Pierpont Potter, Jamaica, Long Island. The pension was in the amount of \$63.16 per annum.

In a letter from A. D. Hiller, Assistant Administrator of Pensions, he states the following: "In September 1842, it was stated that the soldier contemplated removing to the State of Texas about the first of October following but it is not shown whether he did or not."

On May 26, 1990, the grave of Richard Tice, Revolutionary Soldier, was re-dedicated with a new grave stone and a Daughters of the American Revolution grave marker. His grave is located in the Old Independence Cemetery, Independence, Texas. The DAR grave marker was originally installed by the Sarah McCalla Chapter, Cameron, Texas. The re-dedication ceremony was under the direction of the Capt. Jabez Deming Chapter, DAR, Independence, Texas.

This history of Richard Tice was given at the grave marker rededication:

Richard Tice, American Revolutionary soldier, was born September 28, 1762 in the township and County of Gloucester, New Jersey. This small town had been settled by the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1682.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

When the war broke out in 1776, Richard was only fourteen years old and considered to be too young to handle a rifle. With a friend, he went to Philadelphia to learn to play the fife. In October 1776, Richard entered service with the 2nd Regiment, Gloucester County, New Jersey Militia as a fifer. His company commander was Captain John Stokes. He was stationed at Haddonfield. The company marched from there to Cooper's Ferry, now known as Camden, and remained there for one month and were then discharged.

In December 1776, Richard again entered military service as a fifer with the same company of New Jersey Militia and they marched from Haddonfield to Mt. Holly with Richard providing the marching tunes with his fife. At Mt. Holly they met the Hessian mercenaries in battle and were driven back to Haddonfield. They then marched to Bordentown and on to Trenton where Richard participated in the Battle of Trenton on December 25-26, 1776 when General George Washington crossed the Delaware River to surprise and capture about nine hundred Hessians. On January 3, 1777, Richard's unit was still under the command of General Washington, and Richard was still playing the fife, when the American troops defeated the British at Princeton.

In August or September 1777, Richard again entered military service, not as a fifer but as a private, in the 1st Regiment, Monmouth County, New Jersey Militia. His company was commanded by Captain Thomas Hunn. They were in skirmishes between British vessels in the nearby river and the army units and forts along the shore at Billingsport. The British captured Billingsport and the militia unit returned to its headquarters in Haddonfield. In October 1777 he was with his militia unit when they fought the Hessians at the fort at Red Bank, New Jersey. Colonel Ellis, the fort commander, had selected Richard to carry dispatches to General Nathaniel Greene so Richard had remained inside the fort during the fight. In November 1777, General Lafayette was in the overall command when Richard's New Jersey Militia unit was involved in much skirmishing with the British at Gloucester, a few miles south of Philadelphia in New Jersey. After these skirmishes, the militia unit returned to Haddonfield.

In the Spring of 1778 the British marched from their winter quarters in Philadelphia and surprised the Americans at Bordentown and

RICHARD TICE

substantially destroyed the small town. Richard was there with his New Jersey Militia unit and suffered wounds from a sword to his hand and from a bayonet in his leg. He, also, was taken prisoner but later escaped.

In passing through New Jersey, the British halted at Haddonfield and Richard was successful in decoying a party of British with a baggage wagon into the American's camp, receiving sincere thanks from his commanding officer for the much needed supplies.

Richard was in the battle near the Monmouth Courthouse where the strong attack by the British caused General Charles Lee's American troops to retreat. The arrival of General Washington and General von Steuben prevented an American rout. The British withdrew and escaped and General Lee was court-martialed for disobedience. After the Battle of Monmouth, Richard's militia company was discharged after ten months of action.

In August 1778, patriotism was still very strong in Richard and he again enlisted to serve his beloved country. His duty on this occasion was mostly to prevent the people in Elizabeth, New Jersey, from trading with the people from New York which was just across the bay. The local citizens were very friendly with the British who occupied New York City at that time.

In March 1779, Richard had rejoined his old company in the New Jersey Militia. They served guard duty in Somer's Point at the mouth of the Great Egg River where sloops carrying supplies for the Americans were unloaded. In the summer of 1779, Richard went privateering.

Richard rejoined his company of New Jersey Militia in May 1780 as they marched from Haddonfield to Cooper's Ferry and went up-river in boats to Bordentown where they debarked. They marched through Trenton, Princeton and Kingston skirmishing along the way. They

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

crossed the river and marched on to a farmhouse in the vicinity of Springfield and then fought in the Battle of Springfield. This battle ended the honorable military service of Richard Tice.

After the Revolutionary War came to an end, Richard followed the sea for a living, until about 1826, making Philadelphia his home. He married Letitia Bates on January 12, 1790 in the Third Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He also lived in Chester County, Pennsylvania before moving to New York City. He was living in Hempstead, New York in 1836 and in New York City again in 1842. His occupation in New York was listed as that of ship maker. He and his wife had one daughter, Elizabeth Cheesman, born April 7, 1792 in Philadelphia.

On December 28, 1793 he became a Mason in Lodge No. 11, Portsmouth, Virginia.

He went on the US Pension rolls of Queens County, New York in 1836.

In September 1842, Richard notified the pension board in New York that he was moving to the Republic of Texas. He made this move to be with his only daughter who was living with her husband, Adam James Hall, and his five grandchildren.

Richard Tice died in Independence, Texas, USA on August 27, 1848 at age eighty-six. He has been honored at his grave site in the Old Independence Cemetery.

His grave stone reads as follows:

JAMES TINSLEY

RICHARD TICE
NEW JERSEY

1 REGT MONMOUTH MILITIA
REVOLUTIONARY WAR
SEPT 28, 1762 - AUG 27, 1848

The Daughters of The American Revolution marker identifies Richard Tice, 1762 - 1848, as a Revolutionary Soldier 1775-1783.



JAMES TINSLEY

James Tinsley was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, in 1759 and, like so many of the early American soldiers and patriots, grew up on a farm. His family moved to South Carolina before 1775 and it was there that he enlisted in the army and later survived some of its bloodiest battles.

His application for a pension was filed on September 25, 1832 as follows:

*State of South Carolina:
Spartanburgh District: To wit;*

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Claims now sitting, James Tinsley, a resident of Spartanburg district in the said State, aged seventy-two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

I entered the service as a substitute for James Smith under Captain J. Hayes, Colonel James Williams, and General Williamson having the chief

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

command, to Augusta, Georgia in April 1778, but cannot recall what day, where I served a two month's campaign.

On the 19th of June 1778, I again substituted for Philip Tinsley, to Stono where I served two months under Captain Leonard, Major Pickens, Colonel J. Williams, and General Lincoln.

I again substituted for John Smith, to Savannah, Georgia, October 9th 1779, when I served two months under Captain J. Hays, Colonel James Williams, General Lincoln. I fought under the command of Captain Daniel Williams, Colonel Hays and General Sumpter the 20th November 1780.

I then continued on as a volunteer and was present at the murder of Captain D. Williams, Colonel Hays and others by William Cunningham at the place formerly known by the name of Egghill Station.

When I was taken prisoner in 1782, on the night after the same day in which I was taken prisoner, I made my escape, and then entered on the expedition against the Cherokee Indians, with the Command of 1st Lieutenant under Major Jolly and General Pickens which took place sometime in 1781.

Shortly after our return from the Cherokee expedition, my brother, Captain Isaac Tinsley, and myself with several others got in a conflict with a band of Tories when my brother was killed and myself wounded in the right shoulder. I was then promoted to the office of Captain by seniority which office I maintained in service until the end of the war, Colonel Levi Casey having chief command, being in active service of the United States for about two years and six months as Captain.

This Deponent further states that he never received any commission.

Question: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: In Culpeper County in the State of Virginia in about the year 1759.

Question: Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have no record. Suppose it to have been destroyed by the Tories who plundered my father's house in the Revolutionary War.

Question: Where were you living when you were called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now?

Answer: In what was called Ninety Six in south Carolina. Have lived since the Revolution in Newberry district until five years since when I moved to Spartanburg District, South Carolina where I now live.

Question: How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer: See the foregoing declaration for an answer.

Question: 5th ?

Answer: See the foregoing declaration for an answer.

Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from service?

Answer: Never received any discharge.

Question: Did you ever receive a commission?

Answer: Never received any, tho I acted for two years and half as Captain.

Reuben Golding, Henry Pitts and Robert Long are surviving soldiers of the Revolution and live now in the neighbourhood where I live in Newbury District and can testify to my services and good character as a man of veracity.

This deponent states that he is at this time a pensioner of the roll of this State, which he hereby relinquishes on the condition that he receives the benefit of the Act of Congress for which he now makes application.

Signed: James Tinsley

Sworn to in open court. John M. Atwell, Presiding Judge.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

James Tinsley was granted a pension in the amount of \$80 per annum under Certificate 6372, North Carolina.

In 1778 and 1779, James Tinsley served under General Benjamin Lincoln in the disastrous Georgia campaigns. In October 1780, he fought with the Continental irregulars in the Battle of King's Mountain in which the American frontier sharpshooters cut to pieces a regiment of British regulars commanded by Major Patrick Ferguson, who was killed in the battle and virtually his entire command was wiped out.

From about 1778 to 1781, South Carolina was overrun by the British and the countryside ravaged by constant warfare. Neither side gave quarter in a series of bloody, isolated engagements. In November 1780, a Tory unit commanded by "Bloody Bill" Cunningham accepted the surrender of a small American unit at Edgehill, South Carolina. After the surrender, "Bloody Bill" personally cut down several prisoners with his sword. All of the other prisoners were either shot or hanged. James Tinsley somehow managed to survive the massacre and escaped the following day.

In January 1781, he participated in the Battle of Cowpens. The Americans under General Daniel Morgan trapped Colonel Banastre Tarlton's infamous "Butcher's Legion" and in a vicious saber attack virtually annihilated the British force. Shortly after Cowpens, Tinsley was promoted to the rank of Captain and served in that capacity until the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783.

From the end of the war until 1837, Tinsley lived in South Carolina. In that year the seventy-eight year old brave veteran and his second wife, Susannah Hooker Tinsley, emigrated to Texas with their children and settled in Montgomery County.

In 1843, James Tinsley filed the following petition to have his pension paid from New Orleans, Louisiana rather than from Charleston, South Carolina:

Republic of Texas:

County of Washington: In the Supreme Court of the said Republic, present. The Honorable John Hemphill, Chief Justice presiding and the Associate Justices Baylor, Jack, Morris, and Ochiltree.

This the 7th July 1843 personally appeared in open court, James Tinsley and made and subscribed to following declaration, that he is a pensioner

JAMES TINSLEY

under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 of the United States of North America, and drew his pension by virtue of a warrant paid to him by Lew Cap, Secretary of War, and countersigned by J. L. Edwards, dated 28th February 1833 and now presented to the Court, up to the fourth of March 1837 at Charleston, South Carolina, this declarant then residing in Spartanburg district in said State.

Shortly after that time the declarant states that his children migrated to this Republic, and not being willing to be deprived of their society in his old age, he decided to come with them (in 1837).

He states that being situated on the frontier and not being acceptable to information on this subject, he did not know that he could still ask the bounty of another government whilst residing in this State, and besides he was poor and infirm, and thereby rendered unable to take, previous to this time, the necessary steps to receive his pension.

He further states that he has not sold, transferred or mortgaged his claim to said pension to any one and that the attorney he has selected to receive the same, Foster Bobo, does the same gratuitously for declarant, and that he hoped the fund appropriated to pay his said claim may be transferred to the city of New Orleans.

He states that this is the last information he has. Declarant is now in his eighty-sixth year.

Signed: James Tinsley

He died in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas in 1844 at the age of eighty-six. His widow, Susan, filed a claim for a residual pension and her claim number is 31426.

He owned a farm southeast of present day Huntsville. Although there is no specific grave location, he probably was buried on his farm in an unmarked grave.

His will was probated in Montgomery County because his farm was in that county. That part of Montgomery County now is part of Walker County.



EVAN THOMAS WATSON

Evan Thomas Watson, Jr. was born January 11, 1759 in Albemarle County, Virginia.

The following Declaration was filed by Evan Watson in order to obtain a pension for his services in the Revolutionary War:

State of Kentucky:

Warren County:

On this 29th day of August 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Warren Circuit Court now sitting, Evan T. Watson, a resident of said County and State, aged seventy-four years on the 11th of January past, who, being first duly sworn according to the law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the U. S. under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He will answer the questions propounded by the War Office in this order.

1st He was born in Albemarle County, Virginia on the 11th January 1759.

2nd He has no record of his age. It is in the possession of a brother.

3rd He was living in Albemarle when called into service. Since the Revolutionary War he has lived first in Madison County and at his present place of residence in Warren County in Kentucky.

4th On four of his tours he was drafted and on another he was a substitute for a John Martin.

5th On or about the 1st of September 1777 he first joined the Army of the Revolution from the County where at that time he lived as aforesaid. He rendezvoused at Richmond, Virginia under the command of Captain Rob-

EVAN THOMAS WATSON

ert Harris and Lieutenant Ralph Rogers. He does not recollect the name of the Regiment to which he belonged, he was not attached to any particular Regiment, but was commanded generally by General Nelson

From Richmond, his company marched to Williamsburg and after remaining there a few days, we marched to Little York, and then into Hampton. Here his company remained and your Petitioner was sent under Ensign Robert Field who belonged to the Company of Captain Landon. I was (he thinks) fourteen miles from Hampton towards the mouth of the Potomack, where we lay as guard to that portion of the coast. While there he saw the British fleet under Lord Howe passing from the head of Elk where Howe landed on towards Philadelphia. Without performing other services he was at length recalled from his guard and marched back toward Richmond, where he gave up his arms. To the best of his recollection he was out fifty-five days on this tour.

2nd The next tour was in the fall of the ensuing year. As before, he rendezvoused at Richmond, Virginia. There received arms and marched under Captain Mark Leek and his son, William Leek, his Lieutenant, to Gablein Point and I joined the army at that place under General Lincoln. We lay there during this tour guarding the locals against an expected invasion of the enemy from three ships, which were cruising in the bay. He cannot recollect the name of his Major or Colonel. He was out, to the best of his recollections, forty days on this tour. He was marched back to Richmond. Others gave up their arms and he was discharged.

3rd His next tour was in 1781. It commenced, to the best of his recollection, in the month of May. He joined our army, commanded by Lafayette, near Richmond on its retreat from Cornwallis. He belonged to the Company of Captain John Martin, of the Regiment of Colonel Holt Richardson, who belonged to the Brigade of General Lawson, at that time commanded by General Nelson, as senior officer. He marched through Hanover, lay seven days at Colonel Dandridge's in that country, thence through Louisa (County) as far as Culpeper where we met General Wayne with his army. From there our united army crossed the Rapidan at the Raccoon Ford, then by Boswell's ordinary to New Church Creek.

There General Nelson received his commission as Governor. Your petitioner was placed on his guard and went with him to Staunton where the

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Legislature sat. Thence escorted him to Charlottesville to which place the Legislature had removed its settings and where your petitioner remained in said service 'till the expiration of his two month's service when he was discharged.

4th About two days after this, he substituted himself in the place of a certain John Martin in the company of Captain Benjamin Harris. He joined the army commanded by Wayne and Lafayette below Richmond. The junior officers of Harris' company are not recollected. He belonged to Colonel Richardson's Regiment. He marched with the main Army to Williamsburg, stopping however at different places on our way (Chickabominy and others) several days at a time. He remained at Williamsburg in the service 'till three days after the expiration of his tour - being out in all on this tour sixty-eight days.

5th Immediately upon the expiration of last tour, say on or about the first of September 1781, before he had left the army on his former tour, he was again drafted under Captain John Miller of Colonel Richardson's Regiment - marched under him to Yorktown and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis. He was on the commissaries guard while at York under Commissary Joseph Meshew. From York, he drove wagons to Winchester aiding in taking the prisoners captured at York to that place, where he got his discharge at the end of a sixty day tour which he had served.

6th He received a discharge at the expiration of every tour. There was a law while he lived in Virginia that persons might pay their taxes with their discharges in part and the other part in money. Your petitioner paid this way in discharge of his taxes under that Law.

7th Thomas Hop, Doctor William E. Payson, John White, Joseph Fielding, John Mason and Miles Coney are persons to whom he is known in his neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Your Petitioner is unable to remember many particulars of his service which perhaps may be regarded as material.

He will, therefore, add that by reason of old age and other consequent loss of memory he is unable to state the precise length of his service but to the

EVAN THOMAS WATSON

best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following State, namely nine months and eight days and for such service he claims a pension.

He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

Signed: Evan T. Watson

We, Zachariah Morris, living in the County of Warren and John Turner residing in the same, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Evan Watson who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration, that we believe him to be the age he states, that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we concur in that opinion. Signed: Zachariah Morris and John Turner.

The following summary of the military career and life of Evan T. Williams has been provided by Dr. David Robert Riddel.

Evan Thomas Watson, Jr. enlisted in the Virginia Militia on September 18, 1777 and served for fifty-five days in a company commanded by Captain Robert Harris and Lieutenant Ralph Rogers. In the fall of 1778 he served forty days under Captain Mack Leek and his son, Lieutenant William Leek.

In May 1781 Thomas Evans again joined the army and served under General Lafayette. His service was near Richmond, Virginia during the army's retreat before Lord Cornwallis and the British. He was in John Martin's Company, Colonel Holt's Regiment, General Lawson's Brigade then commanded by General Thomas Nelson.

When General Nelson received his commission as Governor of Virginia, Evan Thomas Watson was assigned as his guard and sent with Governor Nelson to Staunton, Virginia where the legislature was meeting. He then escorted the Governor to Charlottesville when the seat of

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government was moved there. Watson remained in Charlottesville for two months until his enlistment expired.

In two days he again enlisted as a substitute for John Martin and served sixty-three days in Captain Benjamin Harris' Company commanded by General Lafayette and General Wayne.

On September 1, 1781, Evan Watson was drafted back into the army before the expiration of his enlistment. He served sixty days under Captain John Miller in Colonel Richardson's Regiment. He marched to Yorktown and was present when the British surrendered to General George Washington. Following the surrender, he was on the commissaries' guard and drove a wagon carrying British prisoners to Winchester, Virginia.

There was a law in effect in Virginia that permitted soldiers to pay taxes partly with their discharges and partly with money. Evans Watson paid his taxes in this manner.

Evan Watson married Lucy Coleman on January 4, 1785 in Albemarle County, Virginia.

A few years after the Revolutionary War, Watson moved to Warren County, Kentucky. On May 1, 1819, the Deed Records of Warren County show that Evan Watson paid John Hoss \$1,750 for 468 acres of land. (Deed Book 9, p. 204). On August 4, 1821 Evan Watson bought 50 acres of land from James W. Tiller for \$150. (Deed Book 10, p. 171)

He received a pension for his services in the American Revolution at the rate of \$23.33 per annum. His pension certificate is #23,378 issued October 31, 1833 in the Kentucky Agency.

Evan Thomas Watson, Jr., the soldier of the American Revolution, died in Bowie County, Texas on June 15, 1834 in his seventy-sixth year. He was buried in the Watson Family Cemetery in Bowie County. Many years later, Lake Wright Patman was built in the area of the Watson Cemetery. Only two token graves were moved, not including that of Evan Watson. The

BENJAMIN WIGHTMAN

remains of this great American Patriot lie undisturbed under the peaceful waters of the lake.



BENJAMIN WIGHTMAN

Benjamin Wightman was born in Norwich, Connecticut, on August 31, 1755. As a young man, he became a Baptist minister and then married Esther Randall. The young Wightmans then moved from Montville, Connecticut to Herkimer County, New York. They established a settlement which became known as Whitmantown. This small farming village no longer exists.

During the Revolutionary War Benjamin Wightman served as a private in Colonel Willet's Tyron County Rangers of New York.

Benjamin and Esther Wightman were the parents of nine daughters and two sons, including Elias, who became a surveyor for Stephen F. Austin. In 1828 Elias Wightman brought a group of colonists from New York to Matagorda, Texas which included his parents, Benjamin and Esther. The trip began in November 1828 at the head of the Allegheny River; then by flatboat down the Ohio to Louisville, Kentucky. There they caught a steamboat which carried them on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans.

In New Orleans, the group led by Elias Wightman, chartered a small schooner named *Little Zoe*. The captain set sail across the Gulf of Mexico for Matagorda Bay located at the mouth of the Colorado River on the Texas coast.

It was a wretched voyage. First they were becalmed, then a Texas norther blew the small craft off course, and finally, an anchor knocked a hole in the bottom of the boat causing it almost to sink. When the group finally reached Matagorda Bay they could not enter because of stiff winds blowing directly against them. Their supply of food was exhausted and all of the passengers were rationed a half of pint water each day. The group avoided starvation only by killing a seagull and making seagull soup. On

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January 27, 1829 the men were able to row the small schooner to the mouth of the Colorado River and dropped anchor, safe at last!

For the first year the newly arrived Texians lived in a small stockade that Stephen F. Austin had built. After a few months, Esther Wightman became ill with a fever, thought to be typhoid, and died on June 20, 1830. She was the first person to be buried in Matagorda Cemetery. Six weeks later, on or about August 1, 1830, Benjamin Wightman also died from the fever. He was buried by his wife's side. Both Ben and Sarah were buried in coffins made of lumber from New Orleans which were taken to the cemetery by oxen-drawn cart. Each of their headstones has a "Citizen of the Republic of Texas" plaque attached.

They have many descendants still living in Texas.

There is a Texas Historical Grave Marker at Matagorda Cemetery which reads:

MATAGORDA CEMETERY

ONE OF THE EARLIEST CEMETERIES IN TEXAS. FOUNDED SOON AFTER TOWN WAS SETTLED, ABOUT 1829, AS PART OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S COLONY. MARKED GRAVES NUMBERED 650 IN 1969, BUT INTERMENTS EXCEED 1,000. INSCRIPTIONS ON STONES CHRONICLE FRONTIER HARDSHIPS. THOSE BURIED INCLUDE VICTIMS OF 1862 YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC; SOLDIERS OF TEXAS REVOLUTION, WAR OF 1812 AND CIVIL WAR; ALSO KARANKAWA INDIAN VICTIMS. SEVERAL PATRIOTS OF EARLY TEXAS ARE BURIED HERE AS WELL. AMONG THEM IS SAMUEL RHOADS FISHER, A SIGNER OF THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

(1970)

BENJAMIN WIGHTMAN

The following is the inscription on a Texas Historical Grave Marker in the Matagorda Cemetery:

FIRST BURIALS IN MATAGORDA CEMETERY

BENJAMIN WIGHTMAN
(AUG 31, 1755 - AUG 1 1830)
ESTHER RANDALL WIGHTMAN
(DEC 4, 1758 - JUNE 20, 1830)

PARENTS OF ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN,

GRANTEE OF THE MATAGORDA TOWN
LEAGUE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

BENJAMIN AND ESTHER WIGHTMAN,
NATIVES OF CONNECTICUT, LIVED IN
WIGHTMAN TOWN, HERKIMER COUNTY, NY
BEFORE JOINING (1828) COLONY

BROUGHT HERE BY THEIR SON ON
"LITTLE ZOE", THE FIRST SAILING
VESSEL EVER TO ENTER PORT OF
MATAGORDA.

RECORDED 1972



American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Stephen Williams was born in May 9, 1760 in North Carolina, probably in Granville County.

He first enlisted to fight for American freedom at the age of eighteen in Captain Allen's Company, General John Ashe's Army and fought at the Battle of Briar Creek in Georgia.

When his first enlistment was up and in 1779, he returned home and married Delilah Rhodes. Stephen Williams then enlisted for a second time in Captain Alford's Company in General Horatio Gates' Army and they fought in the disastrous Battle of Camden, South Carolina, on August 16, 1780.

Williams, a seasoned veteran at twenty years of age, enlisted again in 1781 and served as First Sergeant in Captain Edward Scarbrough's Company, General Nathaniel Green's Army. He fought in the American victory at Eutaw Springs where 2,000 Americans under General Greene defeated 2,400 British under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Stewart.

After the war Stephen Williams and his wife, Delilah, did what so many veterans of the Revolutionary War were doing — they went west. They made the long and dangerous journey to Spanish Louisiana, settling in what later became St. Helena Parish.

When our young nation went to war again with England in 1812, Stephen Williams again answered the call for patriotism. He was accepted for service and was assigned to guard munitions stores at Lake Pontchartrain near New Orleans.

Following is the declaration that Stephen Williams filed for a pension:

State of Louisiana. Parish of St. Helena.

On this sixteenth day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty four, personally appeared in open court for said Parish and State, being a

STEPHEN WILLIAMS

court of record, Stephen Williams sixty-four years and a resident of the aforesaid Parish of St. Helena, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the Acts of Congress on the eighteenth of March, eighteen hundred and eighteen and the first of March eighteen hundred and twenty.

That the said Stephen Williams enlisted for the term of twelve months sometime in the month of March (1781) in the year one thousand seven hundred eighty-one in the State of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain Edward Yarborough in the regiment commanded by Colonel Armstrong in the line of North Carolina on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in said corps until April 1782, (Seventeen hundred eighty-two) when he was discharged from the service in April in said last year in the state of North Carolina.

That in the month of November (1777), seventeen hundred seven-seven, he enlisted for five months service under Captain Allen and continued to serve in the said company until April (1778), seventeen hundred seventy-eight.

That he was in the Battle of Briar Creek in the State of Georgia, called Ashe's Defeat, whilst in the five month's service, that is, the month of June (1780), seventeen hundred and eighty.

He entered the three months service under Captain Alford and was in the Battle of Camden, called Gates' defeat; that he was at the Battle of Eutaw Springs and was first sergeant of the said "twelve months company" commanded by Captain Yarborough and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service except the foregoing and the annexed affidavit of John Lowery.

And in accordance with the Act first of May 1820, I do solemnly declare that I was a resident of the United States and a citizen of the same on the eighteenth day of March 1818, and I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property, or any

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

part thereof, with intent thereby, so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the "land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the eighteenth day March 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property of securities, contracts or debt due me, nor have I income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed, and by me subscribed.

Sworn to and declared.

Signed/ Stephen Williams

On the 16th of March AD 1824 in open court for the Parish of St. Helena, State of Louisiana, before the undersigned Judge of said court. L. H. Moore, Parish Judge of the Parish of St. Helena, State of Louisiana.

Following is the schedule annexed to the declaration of Stephen Williams:

SCHEDULE

One horse worth forty dollars	\$40.00
About eighteen head of hogs, ditto	<u>40.00</u>
	\$80.00

Out of which I owe about fifty dollars and have about twenty dollars owing to me. I have an indifferent set of blacksmith tools worth about thirty dollars, and about fifteen dollars worth of clothing, house, and kitchen furniture.

I have my wife, only, living with me who is about sixty-two years of age and very much impaired in health and constitution, not having for the last five years been able to cook her own victuals. I am a blacksmith by trade and am only able to work an hour or two in a day since the invasion of this state, during which, I was in the militia at

the navy yard near Madisonville, took cold, and have been much afflicted with rheumatism.

Signed/ Stephen Williams

Filed 16th day of March 1824. John Allen, Deputy Clerk.

Before Stephen Williams had filed his declaration, his friend, John Lowery, had given the following deposition:

State of Louisiana, Parish of Feliciana:

July 22nd 1823. Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace, Mr. John Lowery, and after being duly sworn, deposed and sayeth that some time during the Revolution of the United States of America from the Crown of Great Britain that he was acquainted with Mr. Stephen Williams now of the Parish of St. Helena of this State and that the same Williams was in the class of soldiers, termed the "new men", in a company commanded by Captain Yarborough under Colonel Little and Colonel Armstrong, and the said Williams duly served his time and was mustered out of service.

Sworn and subscribed before me on the day and date written. S/ John Lowery (signed by making his mark with an X).

Z. Morgan, Justice of the Peace.

In the presence of John Walter, Junior.

Filed 16th day of March 1824. John Allen, Deputy Clerk.

Stephen Williams was granted a pension effective May 4, 1825 in the amount of \$8 per month. His pension certificate is # 19500. His National Archives pension record is S.38946.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

After his loving wife, Delilah, died in about 1830, Williams came to Texas with his sons. After swearing allegiance to the Mexican Government, he was granted a league and labor of land (4,428.4 acres) in what would later become Bevil's Settlement in Jasper County in East Texas.

It was not long before Texans were in a war with Mexico to gain their independence. When the first action started in 1835, Stephen Williams, now seventy-five years old, again went to war for his new country. He and three of his grandsons walked to San Antonio to fight with old Ben Milam at the Siege of Bexar in October 1835. This battle preceded the Fall of the Alamo on March 2, 1836. On January 2, 1836 Stephen Williams was discharged from military service for the last time. The old patriot then went home and left the fighting to the young men.

Stephen Williams died at his home circa 1848. He was buried on his home site and two historical markers were subsequently erected at his grave in the family cemetery.

In 1936, the remains of Sergeant Stephen Williams were re-interred in the State Cemetery in Austin, Texas with appropriate honors as having fought in both the American Revolution and the Texas Revolution.



The State of Texas Historical Marker erected in 1991 reads as follows:

STEPHEN WILLIAMS (MAY 9, 1760 - CA 1848)

STEPHEN WILLIAMS WAS BORN IN 1760 IN NORTH CAROLINA. IN 1778, HE ENLISTED FOR THE FIRST OF WHAT WOULD BE MANY TIMES IN THE ARMED FORCES. ENLISTING THREE TIMES IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR ARMY, WILLIAMS FOUGHT IN BATTLES INCLUDING BRIAR CREEK, CAMDEN AND EUTAW SPRINGS. FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, HE MOVED TO ST. HELENA PARISH, LOUISIANA. WHEN THE WAR OF 1812 BROKE OUT, HE VOLUNTEERED FOR SERVICE AND AT AGE OF FIFTY-TWO SERVED AS A SENTRY.

ABOUT 1830, SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, WILLIAMS RELOCATED TO BEVIL'S SETTLEMENT IN JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS AND RECEIVED A MEXICAN LAND GRANT. IN NOVEMBER 1835 AS THE SIEGE OF BEXAR BEGAN, THE 75 YEAR-OLD VETERAN WENT ARMED WITH HIS RIFLE TO PARTICIPATE. HE SERVED WITH FOUR GRANDSONS AND ONE SON-IN-LAW IN CAPTAIN CHESHIRE'S COMPANY AND BECAME FIRST SERGEANT, ULTIMATELY RECEIVING A REPUBLIC OF TEXAS LAND GRANT FOR HIS SERVICE.

WILLIAMS RETURNED TO BEVIL'S SETTLEMENT, WHERE HE DIED ABOUT FEBRUARY 1839. HE WAS BURIED ON HIS HOME SITE, AND HIS GRAVE WAS MARKED WITH A TEXAS CENTENNIAL MARKER IN 1936. WILLIAMS' BODY WAS LATER REBURIED IN THE STATE CEMETERY IN AUSTIN AND THE CENTENNIAL MARKER WAS RELOCATED TO THIS SITE.

(1991)

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

The Centennial marker erected by the State of Texas in 1936 reads as follows:

STEPHEN WILLIAMS, SR

BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA 1764 FOUGHT AT CAMDEN, BRIER CREEK AND EUTAW SPRINGS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND THE CAPTURE OF SAN ANTONIO, 1835 IN THE TEXAS REVOLUTION

Erected by the State of Texas
1936

There is a gray granite marker at his grave in the State Cemetery, Austin Texas that reads as follows:

ERECTED BY
THANKFUL HUBBARD CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
IN MEMORY OF

STEPHEN WILLIAMS

A SERGEANT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
AND A GALLANT SOLDIER IN THE STRUGGLE
WHICH GAVE TEXAS HER INDEPENDENCE.

BORN 1760 - NORTH CAROLINA
DIED CA 1848 - TEXAS

In 1929, The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution placed a marker at the grave of Stephen Williams that recognized him as a soldier in the American Revolution. The marker is now located on the Courthouse lawn in Jasper.



NAMES LISTED ON THE PLAQUE REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WHO ARE BURIED IN TEXAS.

A careful check has been made of the pension records filed by veteran soldiers of the American Revolution. Except for Page Portwood, none of these men filed an application for a pension, either accepted or rejected.



BAIN (BEINS), John — The burial site of John Bain is reported to be in Colorado County, Texas. No further information has been found either about John Bain or his burial site. Many inquiries have been made. A trip was made to Colorado County in 1995 in search of his grave. No results. A report was received from a local historian that his grave might be located on a farm located in the Colorado river bottom near Columbus. Contact was made with Ned Stallman, owner of the property, regarding the grave of John Bain. He responded that "There are some old graves from the early 1800's but there are no markers remaining on the graves." There is no information in the file that would indicate that John Bain was a soldier in the American Revolution. Further inquiry reveals that many years ago there was a Methodist minister in Columbus whose name was Bain or Beins.

BOWEN, Bean — He was not a Revolutionary Soldier who died and was buried in Dallas County, Texas. Walter Bowen, a member of the Dallas SAR Chapter and patriarch of the Bowen Family in Dallas, has been contacted about Bean Bowen. His family records were thoroughly reviewed and there was never a mention about Bean Bowen at any place in his records.

CARTER, James — He has not been proven to be Revolutionary Soldier. Inspection of the grave reveals a tombstone with dates of January 1, 1769 - March 1, 1850. There is no reference to Revolutionary War service. There is no patriotic marker on his grave. He would have been very, very young to have had war service of any nature. A visit with the Director of the Bonham, Texas Museum, disclosed that he had no information that James Carter was a soldier in the American Revolution.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

HARDIN, Benjamin — Benjamin Hardin is reported as being buried in Polk County. Many cemetery records have been reviewed and there is no reference to a grave site for Benjamin Hardin. In the *HISTORY of POLK COUNTY* by Emma Haynes there is no mention of Benjamin Hardin. There is no proof that he was a soldier of the American Revolution.

HENDERSON, James Wilson — There is a James Wilson Henderson buried in the Shilo Cemetery about 3 miles west from Alto, Cherokee County, Texas. This James Wilson Henderson was born in 1786 and served in the War of 1812. He was born after the American Revolution and therefore, was not a soldier of the American Revolution.

HICKMAN, Theophilus — Numerous inquiries have been made in Jasper County without success. No records have been found that would indicate that Theophilus Hickman was a Revolutionary War soldier or that he is buried in Jasper County, Texas.

HILL, Moses — There is no proof that Moses Hill was a soldier in the American Revolution although his name is listed on the Texas Plaque of Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Texas. He was listed as living in Sabine County on the Texas census of 1835 as being 66 years of age and married to Hannah. His age in 1835 would indicate his birth to be circa 1769. Family tradition indicates that Moses Hill was a bugler during the American Revolution. There is no proof. His probable grave site is on the old Moses Hill farm southeast from Hemphill and southeast from the intersection of Texas Highways 87 and 21.

HUGHES, Micajah — Micajah Hughes is buried in the Iron Bluff Cemetery, Daingerfield, Texas. The dates on his head stone are 1768 - 1857. There is no evidence that he was a soldier of the American Revolution. The Norris County Historical Survey Committee has no evidence that Micajah was a soldier in the American Revolution. His grave has not been marked by the D.A. R. Having died in 1857, it seems reasonable to assume that he would have filed for a pension in 1833 had he been a veteran and entitled to compensation.



LEE, John — Many years ago there was a reference in the *Dallas Morning News* that John Lee was a Revolutionary War soldier. A visit to the grave just north from Dodd City, Fannin County, Texas, reveals a grave headstone for John Lee with only the dates 1757 - 1855. There is no reference that he was a soldier in the American Revolution. A letter was received dated April 13, 1995 from a great, great grandson of John Lee which was specific that there was no connection by John Lee with the Revolutionary War. There is no proof of his participation in this great historical event.

MOORE, Isaac — Isaac Moore is reported to be buried in Liberty County, Texas. There has been no confirmation of this. According to the The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution records, he was born in 1752 in Massachusetts, served as a sergeant in the Massachusetts Militia and died in Massachusetts in 1843. The NSSAR records indicate that he married Mary Ann Lombard. A late historian for the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution had information that Isaac Moore was a Navy veteran who was a prisoner of the British and apparently Isaac Moore was buried on his land near Liberty, Texas. Texas Highway 146 passes through the land once owned by an Isaac Moore. There is also information that an Isaac Moore participated in the Texas Revolution in February 1827 with a military company from Atascosito. This Isaac Moore has not been identified with the American Revolution.

PORTWOOD, Page — He is listed as being buried in Anderson County. His grave has been located in Anderson County, Tennessee. He was a Revolutionary War soldier. His claim is #S-1867 and was filed from Anderson County, TN.

The following information is contained in a letter from the administrator of pensions: "While residing at Fort Jefferson on the Mississippi River, Page Portwood enlisted in January 1781 as 1st sergeant in Captain James Taylor's Company, under Major John Williams in the Illinois Regiment, Virginia Troops commanded by General George Rogers Clark; he was stationed at Fort Jefferson and at the Falls of the Ohio, from which place he went on an expedition against the Indians in Ohio, at the Chillicothe

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town, returned to Fort Nelson, and was discharged in August 1784, by Major George Walls.

“He was allowed pension on his application executed August 30, 1832, at which time he was aged seventy-four years and resided in Anderson County, TN.

“The soldier died in January 1847.”

The information about Page Portwood is from the Revolutionary War Pension Records found in the National Archives, Washington, DC.

SEALE, Joshua — Apparently his name was included in the list of Patriots because of the information contained in the book, *Seale and Allied Families* by Ida Carrie Seale, RN, 3rd edition (rev) 1954, pages 82-83 which reads as follows:

Joshua Seale, born in North Carolina March 26, 1765, died in Jasper Co., Texas, 1864, buried on N. bank of Indian Creek, near Bevilport. At age of 16 he served in the Revolution, member of NC. Volunteer Infantry in Gen. de Kalb's Division. He was in battle of Camden, SC., August 16, 1780, when de Kalb was killed. He was re-assigned to Col. Francis Marion's Rough Riders, participating in all subsequent battles including Eutaw Springs, SC. August 9, 1781. He moved to Tenn. in 1811. thence to Miss. (Marion Co.) in 1812. In 1850, he moved from Jasper Co., Miss., to Jasper Co., Texas.

Joshua Seal is buried next to Ellender Seale, his wife, in Indian Creek Cemetery near Bevilport, Jasper, Texas. An unusual feature on the grave marker is that the US Census is quoted for the birth dates of both Joshua and Ellender as follows:



JOSHUA SEALE
(U S CENSUS SAYS)
BORN SC 1775
HE DIED 1864

ELLENDER SEAL
(US CENSUS SAYS)
BORN 1781
SHE DIED 1863

A SEALE ANTHOLOGY by Nancy L. Kuehl written in 1990 has the following about Joshua W. Seale, eighth child of Charles Seale and Lydia Muse:

Joshua W. born 26 Mar 1775, Mecklenburg County, NC; married 1797 Ellender Hesseltine (Haseltine, Hazeltine), Anson Co., NC; died 1864, Jasper Co., Texas., (Probate, Jasper Co., Texas). Both Joshua and Ellender are buried in the Indian Creek Cemetery on the North Bank near Jasper, Texas. There has been some controversy in the past as to whether Joshua served in the Revolutionary War. It is my belief that he did not. A Joshua Seale of NC (married to Elizabeth) did serve; however, our Joshua b. 1775, NC was married to Ellender in 1797 in Anson County, NC. It seems likely that the Joshua who served in Marion's Rough Riders, belonged to another family. According to Census reports in 1800, Joshua and Ellender were living in Anson County, NC. Joshua is first listed on the 1810 Anson County, NC census, then shortly thereafter on the 1810 Wilkes County, GA. census. They must have moved to Georgia just in time to be included in that census as well. In 1811 there are reports that this family removed to Tennessee for a period of about a year; however, I could find no passport across Indian Territory nor other evidence to attest to this supposition. Joshua and his brother, Daniel, were in Marion County, Mississippi by 1812 as proven by documents attached to this section. He is listed on the 1820 Census for Marion County, Mississippi and on a Mississippi tax list in Marion county in 1825. By the 1830 census period, Joshua was in Hinds County, Mississippi. In 1840 he was in Clarke County, Mississippi and the remainder of his life (Census years 1850 and 1860) he was in Jasper County, Texas, along with his son, Lewis Perry and his brother, Daniel. He died there in 1864.

Ellender Hesseltine (Hazeltine, Haseltine, Haselton) was born 13 Oc-

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

tober 1771 in Berlin, Germany. Her father was William Hesseltine and her mother was Susan Bradley. She died in 1863 in Jasper, Texas and is buried beside her husband, Joshua, in the Indian Creek Cemetery in Jasper.

Children:

1. Lewis Perry Seale
2. Lydia Seale
3. Martha Jane Seale

There appears to be no doubt that the Joshua Seale buried in Jasper, Texas was not a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

THOMAS, Ezekiel —There is no information that he is a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He was in the Teneha district (later Shelby County) in the Texas census of 1829-1836. There is no proof that he was a soldier of the American Revolution.

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