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Benjamin Allen was probably born before 1752, possibly in Ireland. His first wife was may have been Sarah Sommers. She died sometime before July 5th, 1803 when Benjamin married Sarah Maddox, daughter of Notley Maddox III in Campbell County, KY.

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While in Campbell County, Benjamin and David Allen, probably a son, both operated mills on the Licking River. One of the road surveys that Benjamin was involved with in 1806 ran from Benjamin's mill to David Allen's mill. The Campbell County Tax list starting in 1795 listed Benjamin Allen until 1808, when he was listed as "gon to Spain". This probably means that he must have moved west of the Mississippi, which was at that time Spanish Territory. The Tax List in 1807 listed Benjamin as "inso-lvent" so it is probable that the move was made for financial reasons.

Benjamin and Martin Allen moved their families south to Louisiana. In 1812 Benjamin, Martin, Hiram and a nephew of Martin, joined the ill fated Gutierrez Magee Expedition who invaded the Spanish Territory of Texas. This expedition, also called "The Republican Army of the North", succeeded in capturing the four main towns in Texas including the capitol, San Antonio and declared it a new nation. A few months later, a large Spanish Army marched back to San Antonio and defeated the 1400 man force at the Medina River. Most of the expedition were killed either in battle or as prisoners as no quarter was given. A few managed to escape back to Louisiana as Hiram Allen did. A petition that Martin Allen filed in 1836 with the Republic of Texas stated that Benjamin and a nephew of Martin was killed. Apparently at the time of the battle Martin was back in Louisiana recruiting more volunteers for the new nation.

Children of Benjamin Allen

- i. Hiram (bef. 1774 - 1813) mar. Mary Ann. No actual proof the Hiram was a son, but close association makes it probable. He was one of the few members of the "Republican Army of the North" to make it back to Louisiana. He was wounded and died of his wounds.
 - ii. David (bef. 1778 - 1819) stayed in Campbell Co. KY. mar. Anna Vice. Had sons Francis & Benjamin
 - iii. Martin Allen (28 Nov 1780 - 20 Dec 1837)
- Martin Allen (1780 - 1837)

Martin was born on 28 November 1780. He married Elizabeth Vice, the sister of his brother's wife on 27 September 1804. In 1809, Martin, with his father and their families, led a colony of settlers from Kentucky to the coast of Louisiana, then called Attakapas Parish, (Now St. Mary's). The Allens moved further inland to Natchitoches Parish and founded what was then known as Allen's Settlement. Later the name was shortened to Allen, LA. Allen is located not far from the town of Natchitoches.

When the "Republican Army of the North" was defeated at Medina, Martin Allen returned to Allen's Settlement in Louisiana, to care for his family and his step-mother, Sarah. There are various documents in Natchitoches Parish concerning Sarah after her husband's death. In February of 1822, she bought a slave and child from

James W. Allen; October of 1822, she recorded a will in which the two slaves were to be freed upon her death. Then in February of 1823 Sarah mortgaged the two slaves for a debt of \$100. Mary Ann Allen, the widow of Hiram, married Dury Thompson in St. Landry Parish in 1814.

In 1820, Moses Austin obtained permission from the Spanish government, to establish a colony of settlers from the United States on Spanish soil in the province of Texas. Returning to Missouri, Moses Austin became ill and died. His deathbed wish was that his son, Stephen F. Austin, carry through with his plans for a colony. In August of 1821, Stephen Austin returned to San Antonio to finalize the agreement with Governor Martinez to bring 300 families to Texas. These 300 families, known as "The Old Three Hundred" are considered the founders of Texas.

The next year in 1822, Martin Allen began preparation to fulfill his dreams of moving to Texas. Martin began the move on his own before applying to Austin. Throughout the "Austin Papers" are letters from Martin Allen to Austin. These letters have provided a wealth of information on Austin's Colony and the Allen family's move to Texas. We know it took three years for Martin to finalize the move. In 1822, he was 42 years old, Elizabeth was 38 and the mother of eight children. Their children ranged in ages from 16 to a baby less than a year old. In the 1826 Census of Texas we can only account for seven children, three boys and four girls. It is possible that one boy died or stayed in Louisiana. Following are a few of Martin's letters to Stephen F. Austin.

State of Louisiana

Parrish of Natchitoches Allen's Settlement

24th March 1822

Judge Austin

Sir I must trouble you with a few lines without having the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you---
I am one of the first men who made A Settlement on the Collorado, I have built a cabbin made some improve-ments planted a gardian etc which agreeable to your termes I considered would be respected as an actual settler until the firs Day of January next provide I am on it with my family by that time.

Some men in this Country have asserted that I have Declined moving to the Country, which is not the Case I intend to move as soon as I can and incourage the immeigration all I Can an Do Justice to my self, now sir if my Claime will be good to the place that I have improved on the Collorado if you will be so good as to write me a line you will oblige me very much---

mine is the first improved place on the Collorado I improved it on the 22nd Day of Decem 1821 you will be kind enough to send me one of your Printed permissions by Mr. Rogers Mr Mcartey Judge Cummins or any safe hand you will much oblige me You may return me as an actual settler to the Government I have a Wife and eight Children four sons and four Daughters----

Martin Allen [Rubric]

The property he chose was on Peach Creek near the present town of Wharton, Wharton Co. TX. At that time it was in Matagorda County. This original grant is commonly referred to as Martin Allen Survey #1, Wharton County, granted 19th July 1824. It is a sitio of land or league (about 4444 acres).

From a letter written the 25th of July, 1824 at the home of his daughter Anna & her husband James Lynch in Texas, we know that Martin had not received word that his title to his league at Peach Creek was granted. He makes plain his desire to live in Texas and acquire as much land as possible.

At Jas Lynches July 25th 1824

Col. Austin

Sir It was with much Pleasure that I received the few lines from you by hand of Mr. Lynch -- respecting my land you wrote that there is a good League on the St Bernard that I can get should it suit me, I make not the smallest Doubt of its suiting me -- You say it is a good League which is sufficient proof for me -- in fact I leave