

LAKE

MARTIN ALLEN



Allen's Creek Reservoir

The information that follows is offered to anyone who may elect to evaluate the proposal to change the name of

Allen's Creek Reservoir

To

**LAKE MARTIN ALLEN**

**VIRGINIA and WALTER BELT**

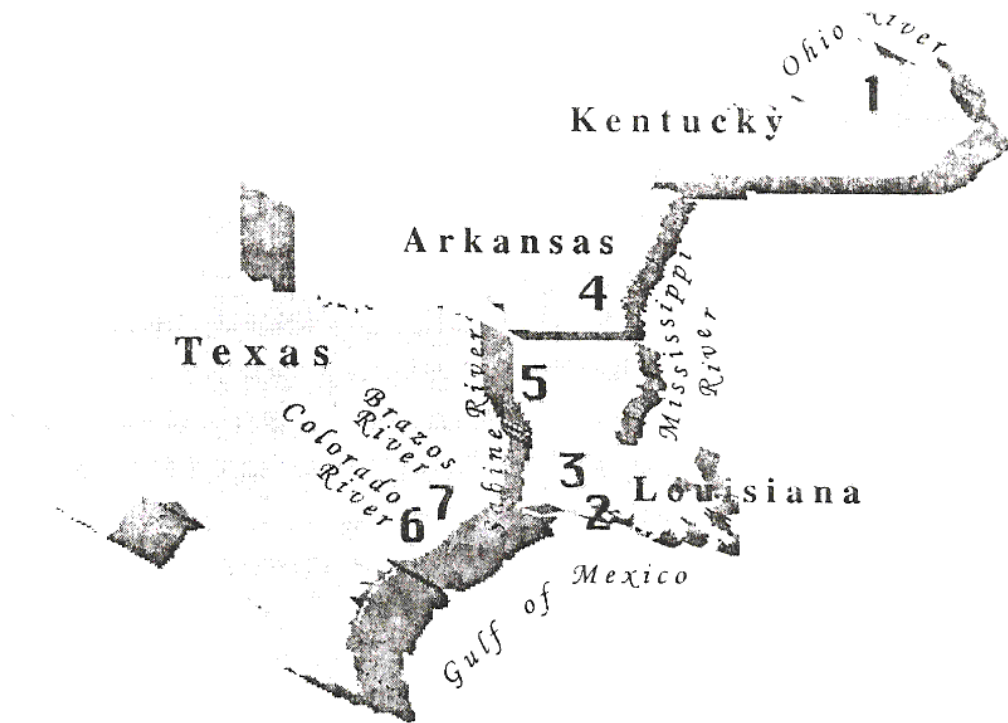
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## The Road to 8 Mile Point



## MARTIN ALLEN

(NOVEMBER 24, 1790-DECEMBER 24, 1862)

AS A YOUNG MAN MARTIN ALLEN ASSISTED HIS FATHER, BENJAMIN, IN SURVEYING ROADS IN THEIR NATIVE STATE OF KENTUCKY. HE MARRIED ELIZABETH VICE IN 1804 AND BY 1810 THEY AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN WERE LIVING IN LOUISIANA.

MARTIN JOINED THE GUTIERREZ-MAGEE EXPEDITION'S BID TO RID TEXAS OF SPANISH RULE IN 1812-1813. HIS FATHER AND NEPHEW WERE KILLED AT THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF MEDINA. MARTIN, ON A RECRUITING MISSION AT THE TIME, SURVIVED.

AFTER A BRIEF STAY IN ARKANSAS TERRITORY, THE ALLENS MOVED BACK TO NORTHWEST LOUISIANA ABOUT 1818 AND SETTLED IN A COMMUNITY WHICH SHORTLY THEREAFTER WAS NAMED ALLEN'S SETTLEMENT IN MARTIN'S HONOR.

IN 1821 MARTIN TRAVELED TO NEARBY WHARTON COUNTY AS ONE OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S OLD THREE HUNDRED COLONISTS AND WAS AMONG THE FIRST SETTLERS ON THE COLORADO RIVER. ABOUT 1834 THE ALLENS PURCHASED LAND HERE AT EIGHT MILE POINT (SO NAMED FOR ITS DISTANCE FROM SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN) FROM THEIR SON, MILES N. THE ALLENS LIVED ON THIS PROPERTY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

ALLEN FAMILY MEMBERS OPERATED A "PUBLIC HOUSE" ABOUT 1/4 MILE EAST OF HERE THAT WAS FREQUENTLY VISITED BY FUTURE HERO OF THE ALAMO, WILLIAM B. TRAVIS. MARTIN, A TEXAS WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE VETERAN, WAS BURIED NEAR THE "PUBLIC HOUSE" IN THE ALLEN FAMILY CEMETERY.

(1983)

March 15, 2002  
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TO: Each Member of The Board of Directors of The Brazos River Authority

RE: Change name Allen's Creek Reservoir to LAKE MARTIN ALLEN?

The material that follows, in the attached brochure, we hope, will be more adequate, to justify a name based on history, if that should be your wish:

1. That LAKE MARTIN ALLEN would be a more appropriate name than Allen's Creek Reservoir, and the reasons, in our opinion, are set out, in detail, in the attached brochure.
2. Should The City of Houston, with the weight of a 70% vote, attempt to apply a new name based on a present day politician, then the brochure material, we hope, would be a part of your adequate rebuttal to justify the name based, instead on HISTORY.

NOTE: Our 2<sup>nd</sup> choice would be to retain the name "Lake Allen".

NOTE: We are fully aware that we are not aware of the myriads of situations involved (Yes, political too) on which to base such a decision. Your decision, negative or positive, will be received and respected on the very same top level of appreciation. In short this says what we request simply is >>>>>>>>> consideration.

Yours truly,

Walter E. Belt, Jr.

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**ALLEN'S CREEK RESERVOIR-----PROPOSED NAME CHANGE  
TO  
LAKE MARTIN ALLEN**

In early January, 2002 The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, along with The Texas water development Board, approved the construction of Allen's Creek Reservoir-----a 7,000 acre project located on Allen's Creek just above it's confluence with The Brazos River, near to and between Wallis, Sealy, Simonton and San Felipe.

The reservoir will hold more than 200,000 acre feet of water providing an annual water supply of 99,650 acre feet to meet the need of 150,000 families. The reservoir will be fed by water pumped from The Brazos River during high flow periods. This is called "Scalping"

Owners and financial partners in the reservoir will be The Brazos River Authority-as operator with 30% ownership and The City of Houston 70%.

The project has been known since HL&P (Now Reliant Energy) condemned/purchased (early 1970's) the nearly 10,000 acres of this project area then considering the construction of a nuclear generating plant-that was not licensed. Recently, however, BRA purchased this same nearly 10,000 acres from Reliant Energy for construction of Allen's Creek reservoir.

The creek was named "ALLEN'S CREEK" in the 1820s for Miles Allen, one son of Martin Allen.

MARTIN ALLEN was born 1780 in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky where he had served on several new road surveys, as did his father, BENJAMIN ALLEN and his brothers. In about 1810 he shepherded his extended family, we think, via river raft to a Parish near the coast in Southern Louisiana.

From that point of "entry" they moved north (by land) in Louisiana and in 1812 were living in or near Natchitoches-in the no man's land between Louisiana and Texas. Here he and family members joined the Gutierrez/Magee Expedition hoping to take Texas away from Spain and in return earn land there. Spain (Under General Arrendono and his young Lt. Named Santa Anna) put an end to this somewhat successful effort at The Battle of Medina, on August 18, 1813, near San Antonio---the bloodiest battle ever fought on Teas soil, where Martin's father BENJAMIN, and his nephew-----ALLEN were killed. We think his brother HIRAM was wounded and later died as Hiram's wife remarried within a year of the battle. MARTIN ALLEN, (fortunately for me) on the day of the battle had returned to Natchitoches to bring back a new group of volunteers.

Following the MEDINA defeat in 1813, Martin and his family remained in "Allen's Settlement" in North Louisiana near present town of Homer. At some point prior to or in 1821 Martin and

his two older sons traveled (from N. La.) to what is now Wharton County, Texas, on Peach Creek, built a cabin and raised a vegetable garden. This was done hoping to increase his chance of being accepted as one of The Stephen F. Austin's ORIGINAL OLD THREE HUNDRED settlers. This is the first land he was awarded by the Mexican Government, which now makes up a portion of the Campus of Wharton County Junior College. The Texas Historical Society has erected a Highway Historical marker here noting that the land was first occupied by Martin Allen and since has been a WWII POW Camp, later a County Fair Grounds, and now a part of the WJC campus.

In 1827 Martin's son MILES received land which is now within Allen's Creek Reservoir from Stephen F. Austin, however his health failed and he sold the land to his father Martin Allen. Miles died in May 1834 on 8 Mile point, and is buried there. We do not know at what time point between 1821 and 1834 Martin moved the balance of his family from Peach Creek to 8 Mile Point and Allen's Creek. Then it was known as "8 MILE POINT" because it was 8 miles down river from San Felipe. Martin then remained there for the remainder of his life, he died and is buried there. He was a significant player in the Austin Colony group doing their best to be good Mexican citizens, however, when the tide turned, by Santa Anna, he then pursued a significant participation in the successful fight against Mexico for freedom of what is now Texas. Two of his sons received land grants for their participation in the war against Mexico.

One of the highlights of his record is a Petition, (The original is in the State Archives in Austin) written in his own handwriting, asking the new Government of Texas (Following freedom of Mexico) for more land. The wording, spelling, phrases and flavor of the times are preserved in this petition—hopefully would be of interest to all with respect for history. Apparently he did receive land as a result of the petition as upon his death in 1837 he was the owner of 8610 acres in the S F Austin Colony.



# WHY SHOULD THE ALLEN'S CREEK RESERVOIR NAME BE CHANGED TO "LAKE MARTIN ALLEN"

1. The name "ALLEN'S CREEK" came from Miles Allen, first son of Martin Allen. Miles acquired the land in 1827 and shortly died. His Dad previously purchased the land from Miles, added additional land, and lived there for the approximately 10 year balance of his life. This 10 year time span is the critical period involved in 8 Mile Point history.
2. DO NOT LOSE THE HISTORY/HERITAGE OF THE PATRIOT AND HIS LAND. While living on 8 Mile Point he raised a large family, accomplished an astounding number of acts, both civil and military, from 1812 until his death in 1837—that significantly helped TEXAS become a free and independent REPUBLIC.
3. He first came to Texas in 1812 as a participant (along with other family members) in The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition that successfully took "Texas" from Spain (for a few months) some 23 years before the Battle of The Alamo.
4. In August of 1813, in the Battle of Medina, Spain retook "Texas", in the bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil. Martin lost his father, brother and nephew. Martin was in Louisiana on the day of the battle to bring in new recruits. Following the loss at Medina, Martin and the family returned to Louisiana until 1821 when Stephen F. Austin approved him as a member of The Old Three Hundred Original Austin Colony Settlers.
5. He was a participant in BOTH TEXAS REVOLUTIONS. Unique—first against Spain in 1812/1813 then, 23 years later, against Mexico in 1836.
6. He received his first land from Mexico as an Austin Colonist. It was located on Peach Creek in Wharton County. His cabin there was the first improvement in the area and from here he fought against Tonkawa Indians—who later made him their "White Chief"
7. Move to 8 Mile Point shortly before his son miles died. Martin was a tanner, farmer, cattleman, soldier and was the operator of "The Allen Public House" open to the public and-in jest—it was "The First Motel in Texas". Colonel William Travis later of Alamo fame, practiced law in San Felipe and handled many legal matters or the Allen family. Travis' daily log shows that he "staid" often at Allen's.
8. He signed many public documents during the Colony development and unrest, including (a). The Call for Calm (b). The Call for Convention and (c). Loyalty to Mexico and against The Fredonian Revolution.
9. Was on muster roll of Capt. Randal Jones at Siege of Bexar.

10. Received Honorable Military Discharge signed by Stephen F. Austin.
11. Was ordered by James Morgan, Galveston Port Director, to take charge of the articles from the spy Coritinez.
12. The Gonzales Committee for Safety took a wagon, team and supplies from Martin Allen for defense of the city. (later he was paid)
13. Was Capt. Of 2<sup>nd</sup>. Co. Of Militia, Was 5<sup>th</sup>. Regidor (Alderman) City of San Felipe de Austin, Was Justice of the Peace in Randall Jones District, Was associate land board member.
14. He was one of three road commissioners who laid out the first road from San Felipe to Harrisburg. ALSO the first road from San Felipe to San Jacinto.
15. He operated a ferry on the Trinity River. He operated a ferry on Buffalo Bayou at Harrisburg.
16. S. F. Austin, at the instigation of the Mexican Government, was investigating a man named Peter Ellis Bean. Martin Allen was chosen by Stephen F. Austin to make a deposition regarding the character and marriage of Peter Ellis Bean.
17. One of the highlights of his written record is a Petition (original in State Archives in Austin) in his handwriting, asking the new Republic of Texas for more land. The wording, spelling, phrases and flavor of the times are preserved in this document.
18. Martin Allen is recognized in The University of Texas Institute of Texian Cultures in San Antonio in their Irish section. They also display a copy of his hand written signature.
19. The Kentucky Post Newspaper (Covington, Kentucky) of March 9, 1992, in an article, "Proud Soldiers in The Battle for Texas-Campbell Country (Kentucky) families moved west and helped win the state's fight for freedom," by Jim Reis. Martin Allen is mentioned significantly in the article along with such Texas patriots as Sidney Sherman who led the left wing cavalry charge at San Jacinto.
20. The Martin Allen family cattle brands show up in Austin County Public records early as 1830.
21. Martin Allen died and is buried on 8 Mile Point land. Allen family members continue to visit the cemetery today.
22. A State Historical Society Historical marker was erected (1993) in memory of Martin

Allen, located on a portion of 8 Mile Point land, on the west side of, and at the juncture of, State Highway 36 and Johnston Road—about 8 miles south of Sealy—4 miles north of Wallis—8 miles down river from San Felipe.

23. Martin and or his family is notably mentioned in much literature of the time, including, but not limited to:

- (A). "Diary of William Barret Travis", edited by Robert E. Davis, Published by Texian Press, 1966.
- (B). "Papers of The Texas Revolution 1835-1836" John H. Jenkins, Editor, Volume 6 pages 238 and 367.
- (C). "William Bollart's Texas" edited by W. Eugene Hollas, page 39 refers to "The Allen Public House" and "Crossed Allen's Creek—also known as 8 Mile Creek."
- (D). "Handbook of Texas" edited by Walter Prescott Webb Volume 1 pages 30 and 31 refer to Martin Allen. Page 32 mentions "Allen's Creek."
- (E). "Citizens of The Republic of Texas" by J. H. Morris shows Martin Allen and his family members.
- (F). "Bexar Archives 1717-1836" by Adam Benavides, Jr. page 22 refers to Martin Allen in 1826.
- (G) "The Austin Papers" in the Texas State Archives includes many documents relating to Martin Allen, including his petition, honorable discharge, receipts for material taken by the army, and many of his letters to S. F. Austin.
- (H). "Minutes of the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin 1828-1832" edited by Eugene C. Barker, printed by the Southwest Historical Quarterly Volume XXIII July 19 to April 1920. Many references to Martin Allen appear here.
- (I). "Texas Historical Quarterly for October 1897" Volume I lists the original 300 Stephen F. Austin Colonists including Martin Allen. It shows that Martin's initial land was one site of land (4428 acres) in Wharton County (Peach Creek) and one labor of land (177 acres) in Austin County, both deeded to him by S. F. Austin and The Mexican Government.
- (J). "Debrett's Texas Peerage" by Hugh Best. Page 293 and 294 refers to Martin Allen. Page 348 "Carriage Trade of the Republic" section of the book reports that Martin owned a race horse in Brazoria County. Page 361 lists Martin as a member of "The Old Three Hundred"...
- (K). The Kentucky Post Newspaper (Covington, Campbell County, Kentucky—near Martin's birthplace) on Monday March 9, 1992 presented a special newspaper article on Campbell County, Kentucky natives who "Gone to Texas" and helped it win freedom from Mexico. Martin Allen is prominently mentioned in the article.
- (L). The 69 page transcript of "Dedication of Martin Allen Texas Historical Marker" on October 9, 1993 in Sealy, Texas.
- (M). "A History of Martin Allen for Application for OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER" I compiled by Katherine Allen Harrison.

# MARTIN ALLEN HIGHWAY HISTORICAL MARKERS AND A MUSEUM PLAQUE

(A). Highway Historical marker erected by The Texas Historical Society in Wharton County Texas on the south and west edge of the Wharton County Junior College Campus. It is located just across the railroad from a H.E.B. Food store. The marker sets out history of ownership and use of land that Martin Allen received on Peach Creek. (he was there before 1821 but the deed was not delivered until 1824).

(B). Highway Historical Marker erected by the Texas Historical Society located on the west side of state highway 36 at the juncture with Johnston road-, 8 miles south of Sealy and 4 miles north of Wallis. The marker is on land that is part of the 8610 acres owned by Martin at the time of his death. The marker was dedicated on October 9, 1993 to the memory and accomplishments of Martin Allen in early Texas history. The dedication speech at the marker ceremony was by Mr. Robert H. Thonhoff, a past President of The Texas State Historical Association.

(C). In San Antonio, at The Institute of Texian Cultures, in the Irish Section, there is a plaque telling some of the Martin Allen story as well as a copy of his signature.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you agree that the lake should be re-named LAKE MARTIN ALLEN then your endorsement notice to BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY would be significantly helpful in this renaming effort. Please

\*\*\*\*\*

(1) Send a letter or e-mail expressing your endorsement to

CATHY DOMINGUEZ-CUEVAS  
BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY  
Manager, Regional Government & Customer Relations  
Box 7555  
Waco, Tx. 76714

OR

An E-Mail to her at:  
[ccuevas@brazos.org](mailto:ccuevas@brazos.org)

in your letter or e-mail please show that you are –or not a descendant of Martin Allen-as well as your return address.

ALSO please ask others to follow you in making your endorsement to BRA in this way.

\*\*\*\*\*

QUESTIONS? – OR NEED MOVE INFORMATION

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## NOTES

1. The Irish section of The Institute of Texian Cultures in San Antonio exhibits a copy of the Martin Allen hand signature.
2. “Liberty Texas” is a 30 minute Video documentary-(contributed by Norwest Bank-now Wells Fargo) presented throughout Texas by PBS TV. The speaker was Mr. Robert H. Thornhoff and subject was The Texas Connection to The American Revolution--accomplished by sending meat—on hoof—from South Texas to Spanish troops in South Louisiana who kept the Mississippi River open for supplies on the west side of Colonial America-plus the troops opened a second front against England in Louisiana, Alabama and Florida.
3. SEE: “Allen’s Creek Archeological Study” by Grant D. Hall, Research Report 61, Texas Archeological Survey, The University of Texas at Austin.
4. SEE: “Brochure, “Energy For Tomorrow-The Allen’s Creek Nuclear Project”. Produced by Houston Light and Power.
5. The Martin Allen web page (under construction) can be found at: <http://members.aol.com/stintx/mallen.html>
6. SEE: Book, “Evolution of a State” by Noah Smithwick, on page 39, the following is written reporting his visit to a wedding at or near 8 Mile Point. “Miss Mary Allen, daughter of Martin Allen, a very pretty girl, and a grand belle by the way, was bridesmaid and John McNutt, brother of the groom was groomsman.”
7. SEE: For a list of The Old Three Hundred Stephen F. Austin settlers go to: Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, October 1897, Volume 1, Number 2, Page 110. A farmer received 177 acres (a labor) and cattlemen received a sito (4428 acres). On page 110 Martin Allen is shown to have received 1 sito in Wharton County and 1 labor in Austin County near San Felipe.
8. The New Handbook of Texas is available online at: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/index.new.html>
9. The Texas State Library is online at: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/archmail.html>
10. The General Land Office of Texas can be contacted regarding their ADOPT-A-DOCUMENT Program (The Martin Allen) original deed at Peach Creek) via Ms Elna Christopher e-mail at: [Elna.Christopher@glo.state.tx.us](mailto:Elna.Christopher@glo.state.tx.us)

Questions?

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# MARTIN ALLEN, and 8 MILE POINT LAND

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### “SAVE A PART OF OUR TEXAS HERITAGE”

(8 Mile Point land was the 3589 acre home of Martin Allen,--a part of that land is within the proposed 7000 acre ALLEN’S CREEK RESERVOIR).

**1780:** November 28, 1780 Martin Allen (hereafter MA) was born in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky of parents Benjamin Allen and mother who may have been a Sarah \_\_\_\_\_.

The Institute of Texian Cultures in San Antonio, Irish section, tells some of the MA story and exhibits his written signature. They report his birth in Ireland, HOWEVER, MA’s son, Benjamin, in the 1880 Federal Census for Williamson County, Texas stated that his father, MA, was born in Kentucky.

The new Handbook of Texas, (on-line edition), reports that MA was born in Newport, KY on November 28, 1780. <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/print/AA/fal23.html>

**1795:** MA’s father, Benjamin Allen, Was on the property rolls of Newport Campbell County, Kentucky. Benjamin was a surveyor to determine the path of new public roads, a grist mill operator and a ferry operator.

**1803:** Sarah Maddox was married to Benjamin Allen (MA’s father) on July 5, 1803 when MA was 22 years old in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky. We do not know the name of MA’s mother. Some believe her given name was also Sarah?

**1804:** MA married Elizabeth Vice in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky on September 22, 1804. The marriage bond was signed by MA and his father in law to be, Nathaniel Vice.

**1805:** on September 7, 1805 the first child was born to the union of MA and Elizabeth Vice in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky. The baby boy was named Mile N. Allen. (Did the initial “N” stand for Newton or Norton?). <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/AA/falkk.html>

**1807:** MA was appointed a road surveyor in Campbell County, Kentucky.

February 26, 1807 2<sup>nd</sup> child, first daughter, Anna C. Allen born in Newport Campbell County, Kentucky. Died in 1835, probably on 8 Mile Point land.

**NOTE:** After 1807 and prior to 1810 MA and his extended family permanently left the Newport Campbell, Kentucky area.

**1809:** September 15, 1809 daughter Mary C. Allen was born in Old Attakapas Parish, Louisiana

**1810:** The MA family, including his father Benjamin and his brother Hiram appear in the 1810 Third Federal Census for the Attakapas District of Louisiana, under “householders listed in Attakapas (St Martin) Parish.”



**1811:** November 22, 1811 MA was appointed Justice of the Peace in Opelousus Parish, Louisiana. See “Civil Appointments made in the territory of Orleans in the 1811.”

April 24, 1811, son James Bud Allen was born in Opelousus/Natchitoches Parish Louisiana.

**1812:** MA, his father Benjamin, his brother Hiram and his nephew \_\_\_\_\_, son of Hiram Allen joined “The Republican Army of the North”, based in Natchitoches, Louisiana (in “the Neutral Zone”). The group was also known as The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition that was organized and funded “under the table” by the US from a Natchitoches base, to take Texas away from Spain. Gutierrez (Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara), a resident of Mexico and Magee resigned his West Point Commission to join the effort.

**NOTE:** From 1806 to 1821 The “neutral zone” was an area, essentially between the Sabine River and Arroyo Creek subject to a dispute of ownership between the US and Spain. The area was lawless, under no government restraint and as such was home to hunters, trappers, Indians, persons from the US and Spain. Persons generally from the US were anxious to become Texas landowners, but then afraid to venture into the Spanish held Texas.  
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/VV/fvi2.html>

**1812/1813:** The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition started from Natchitoches on August 7, successfully took the towns of Nacogdoches, Trinity, Goliad, (where Magee died) and later San Antonio, including the Alamo—some 25 years before The Battle of Alamo. They were picking up recruits all along the route. Effectively they did take Texas away from Spain, (showing their solid green flag) however, for only a short time. Many say that Texas has been under seven not six flags. The expedition, including all the Allen family expedition members walked the entire route from Natchitoches to San Antonio, much of it on the famous LaBahia (Goliad) road. This is the same road that Texas Longhorn cattle were driven from South Texas to Louisiana,

circa 1776:--during the American Revolution—these cattle were used to feed Spanish troops keeping the Mississippi River o-pen for our American colonists to be supplied from the west side-as the British Navy had closed the Atlantic ports. The Spanish commander at New Orleans was Bernardo de Galvez,-Our city of Galveston, Texas was named for him.

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/print/GG/qyg1.html>

SEE: “The Historical Atlas of Texas” by A. Ray Shepherd and William M. Holmes. University of Oklahoma press. Page 15 shows a map defining the route taken by The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition.

While a Gutierrez/Magee participant, MA continued his business activities, evidenced by a private transfer of land from MA to David Evans, dated April 20, 1811. SEE: Louisiana State Public Records Volume 2, Opelousas and Rapides Parishes.

On August 13, 1813 Spain retook Texas at The Battle of Medina, near San Antonio, The Bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil.

Martin missed the fight because on the day of the battle he was in Natchitoches to bring in additional volunteers. Killed, however, were his father, Benjamin Allen, his nephew (name unknown), and we think his brother Hiram (Hiram's wife remarried less than one year after the battle).

SEE: “Forgotten Battlefield of the First Texas Revolution” by Ted Schwarz and edited by Robert H. Thonhoff, published by Eakin Press, Austin, Texas.

SEE: MA's Petition to the new Government of The Republic of Texas, in his own handwriting from 8 Mile Point, dated November 23, 1836, preserved in The Texas State Archives under LAND PETITION—MARTIN

ALLEN, Call Box 100-360 according to one source. File Box 1, letter No.A- a from another source. To see family information set out in the petition: <http://members.aol.com/stintx/mallenbio.html>

Following the defeat by Spain (led by General Arrendondo, and assisted by a young Lieutenant, named Santa Anna). MA returned “home” to Louisiana. <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/print/MM/qfm1.html>

November 26, 1813 daughter Elizabeth Allen was born. In Natchitoches, Louisiana or in The Arkansas County of The Missouri Territory.

**1815:** February 26, 1815 son Martin Jackson Allen was born. In Natchitoches, Louisiana or in The Arkansas County of The Missouri Territory.

**1817:** MA and family listed on the 1817 census of The Missouri Territory (Southwest Arkansas portion). SEE: County Court Records of Campbell county, Kentucky. Deeds Book D-2, Page 96 there is a deed dated 12 August 1817 recorded 26 January 1818 in which MA and his wife Elizabeth sold her interest in her father’s (Nathaniel Vice) estate. The deed included this phrase, “We the said MA and Elizabeth, his wife, BEING RESIDENTS OF THE TERRITORY OF MISSOURI AND COUNTRY OF ARKANSAS”

Arkansas, as we know it, belonged to France. Then to Spain and then back to France. Then it was purchased by the US from France in 1807 (“The Louisiana Purchase”) Arkansas was part of the Louisiana territory until 1812, then Missouri Territory until 1819 and The Arkansas Territory was established in 1836. Fort Smith was built in 1817 for protection from Indian attacks. Arkansas became the 25<sup>th</sup> state in the US (See World Book Encyclopedia).

July 28, 1817, daughter Nancy Allen born Arkansas District of the Missouri Territory. May have died young? Buried there?

**1818:** MA and family move to North Louisiana near Flat Lick (Present Claiborne Parish on the boundary with Arkansas-near present town of Homer) Flat Lick neighborhood became “Allen’s Settlement” by the middle of the 1820s. It was the only name place not mentioned in the “North Louisiana’s Uplands” in a history of Louisiana written in 1827 See: “*Anglo-American Settlement of North Louisiana*” for the following report: “Another unusual or “maverick” pioneer pattern is found in the story of the MA family. MA soon became a leader after moving to Flat Lick-and was the first Justice of the Peace in the upland area of old Natchitoches Parish. When a post office was opened in Flat Lick—it was named “ALLEN’S SETTLEMENT P.O.” in his honor. Despite his prominence on the North Louisiana Frontier, MA moved again, this time in 1821, to Texas with Stephen F. Austin.”

**1819:** October 3, 1819 Sarah Ann Allen was born in “Allen’s Settlement”

**1820:** MA and family are listed on the 1820 Natchitoches Parish Louisiana Census.

**1821:** By December, 1821 MA had been to Texas, to land, known thereafter as “Peach Creek” located within Wharton County. MA and two sons built a cabin, made improvements, and planted a garden. They did this feeling it would enhance his chance of being accepted as a participant in the land acquisition program in the new Stephen F. Austin Colony approved by Mexico (It did). This was the first improved place on the Colorado River. As stated by MA in his petition, I feel that MA had a preliminary approval from S. F. Austin before

building the cabin etc.?

See Peach Creek at:

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu.handbook/online/articles/print.PP/hvp.23html>

September 24, 1821 son Benjamin J. Allen born in “Allen’s Settlement.”

**1822:** On March 24, 1822 MA wrote “Judge Austin” as follows, “I am one of the first men who made a settlement on the Colorado. I have built a cabin, made some improvements, planted a garden, etc. which agreeable to your “terms” I considered would be respected as an actual provided I am on it with my family by first of January next.” SEE several letters written by MA

<http://members.aol.com/stintx/mallenltr.html>

An undated note from MA to S. F. Austin, in part: “My anxiety is extremely great to get on to that country. I have several brothers that write they will be on from Kentucky—one of them this winter. We have nothing new in this country times is hard and money scarce.”

NOTE: Martin Allen purchased a ferry on The Trinity River from Joel Leakey. This ferry became known later as “Robbins Ferry.”

**1824:** Letter from MA to S. F. Austin dated November 9, 1824 addressed to “Judge Austin” from Parish of Natchitoches, Allen’s Settlement. He asked for delivery of title to the Peach Creek land in Wharton County. MA wrote this letter when he had returned to Louisiana to move his family to Peach Creek, however, his wife was too ill to travel. Obviously he (and most likely his sons) had made several trips to Peach Creek between 1821 and this 1824 letter.

On July 7, 1824 MA received the deed of land from the Mexican government signed by Estaban de Austin covering Peach Creek land—plus an additional labor (177 acres) by separate deed, near the Brazos River in Austin county. (Note “speed” of The Mexican Bureaucracy—1821 to 1824)

NOTE: The following is from Robert S. Weddle and Robert H. Thornhoff, *Drama and Conflict: The Texas Saga of 1776* (Madrona Press, Austin, Texas, 1976 p. 147):

“The Spanish land-measuring system still comes into play in defining Texas land surveys. The league, a common linear unit, is the equivalent of about 2.63 statute miles. The vara, corresponding roughly to a yard, is 33 1/3 inches. Thus a league consists of 5,000 varas.”

“The league was also used as a land measure, a league of land referring to a square league, or 25 million square varas—4,428 acres. Such a land parcel was originally called a sitio.”

“A labor—considered to be the amount of land that could be worked effectively by one family—consisted of a million square varas or 177.1 acres. Such tracts had to be near a stream from which they could be irrigated.”

NOTE: The original MA “Peach Creek” deed is held in The General Land Office of Texas Spanish Collection, Box 2 Folder 12.” Several descendants of MA have funded preservation of this deed by The General Land Office of Texas under their ADOPT-A-DOCUMENT Program. Henceforth the original will not be available

to researchers to touch,-instead only a Xerox copy,-however, at some point in the future, the original can be viewed on-line. [www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/adopt.html](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/adopt.html)

Questions to this program by E-mail [elna.Christopher@glo.state.tx.us](mailto:elna.Christopher@glo.state.tx.us) The General Land Office advised by e-mail on March 6, 2002: "We are scanning maps and sketches—large items—and will continue on that project through the rest of this year. Then next year, 2003, we plan to begin scanning the smaller items/documents."

The National Preservation Program for U.S. documents can be viewed at <http://www.loc.gov>

NOTE: The same MA descendants that funded preservation of the above deed also funded preservation of the MA petition held in the State Library and will also be available online in the future at The Texas State Library WEB page: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/archmail.html>

The archives section can be e-mailed at: [archinfo@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:archinfo@tsl.state.tx.us)

NOTE: From The Texas State Library by e-mail March 6,2002: "Approximately one-half of the microfilm reels have been converted to digital format. We expect the remainder to be completed by the end of April." (2002)

September 11, 1824, daughter Caroline Elizabeth Mathilda C. Allen was born in "Allen's Settlement."

**1825:** On May 12, 1825 Martin Allen wrote Stephen F. Austin that he and family members were preparing to leave Allen's Settlement" for Peach Creek within a month. (Apparently his wife's ill health had been of long duration). However, his sons were already living in the Peach Creek cabin and MA so advised S. F. Austin in this letter- and added that, "I have reportedly told my sons to make any necessary improvements on my land that you would direct."

**1826:** The Texas Census of March 26, 1826 lists MA as a farmer and stock raiser between 25-40, wife between 25-40, and 7 children.

MA was a volunteer in a company of men who volunteered to fight the Tonkawa Indians. An affidavit held in "The Austin Papers" Texas State Archives, by C. Dyer, dated April 27, 182 details MA participation in a raid on The Tonkawa Indians. "Martin said that he was friendly toward most of the Indians, as most of them were on "Amigo" basis. Dyer further reported, "The Tonkawa had stolen corn,-a whet stone,-went to one house to try and steal the wife and another's house-had been broken into." These incidents were given as justification for an assault on the Peach Creek Indians that resulted in a massacre. MA said he tried to prevent the massacre. That as they approached the camp he heard "Amigo! Amigo". MA claimed that as the firing commenced he was waving his hat trying to get the fight stopped. From: *Crossroads at San Felipe*: by Noel Grisham, Eakin Press, page 46: "Andrew and Thomas Rabb, (also early colonists) however, claimed that MA had lost his hat because he was assisting with the track down and massacre. Note: Stephen F. Austin had to rule on all kinds of problems in The Colony such as this conflict on Peace Creek. Austin apparently ruled in favor of MA.

On August 3, 1826 in the town of San Felipe de Austin-to comply with a commission of His Excellency The Governor of the States of Coahuila and Texas, -S. F. Austin selected MA to give a deposition on the marriage and character of the Famous Peter Ellis Bean. Austin described MA in the deposition as "A respectful and honorable inhabitant of this jurisdiction."

For information on Peter Ellis Bean go to: <http://www.tamu.edu/ccbn/dewitt/beancorres/html>  
And select "Archive Records of Col. Peter Ellis Bean.

**1827:** MA signed The Resolution of Loyalty to Mexico and—Opposition to the Fredonian Rebellion **On** January 4, 1827 many citizens of The Austin Colony of the District of Mina (present Bastrop) convened at the

house of Bartlett Simms in said District. They agreed to sign the resolution against the Rebellion which was based in Nacogdoches.

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/Articles/print/FF/jcfl.html>

May 21, 1827, MA's son, Miles N. Allen, received on fourth league of land (1107 acres from Austin's Second Mexican Colony contract. (First Allen Family land at 8 Mile Point) This land is in The Allen's Creek (named for Miles Allen) reservoir area then known as 8 Mile Point. MA purchased this land from son Miles because Miles was in ill health and perhaps MA preferred to get away from the Tonkawa Indians at Peach Creek. Martin moved his family here from Peach Creek in \_\_\_\_\_.

Some MA descendants lived on this land until the year 1974, until HL&P (Now Reliant Energy) took possession of almost 10,000 acres, including this tract, with the hope of constructing a nuclear electric generating plant. The plant was not licensed and thus never built. In 2002 Reliant Energy sold the nearly 10,000 acres to The Brazos River Authority (BRA) to build and operate the Allen's Creek Reservoir.

The WEB page for BRA is at: <http://www.brazos.org>

**1829:** MA was elected Captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company of Militia, son Miles was elected Lieutenant Was made their "White Chief" by the Indian tribes.

On July 5, 1829 MA wrote to S. F. Austin from Harrisburg (was he running a ferry there?) on the status of the muster and the Indian situation. He specifically asked for guidance in the military law dealing with Indians. The original letter is held in "The Austin Papers" in the Texas State Library.

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us>

**1830:** On April 12, 1830 The San Felipe de Austin Ayuntamiento (Council) ordered that a right to keep a ferry across Buffalo Bayou, opposite the town of Harrisburg, be granted to MA with the same rates of ferriage that are allowed for crossing river Brazos at the town of Austin (San Felipe). NOTE: In the MA estate probate proceedings the property list includes 200 acres at Harris burg with the further notation "Disputed Title."

MA and family cattle brands were recorded in-Austin County,- "Records of Mark and Brand" as early as 1830.

On September 13, 1830 the San Felipe de Austin Ayuntamiento heard a report from MA and two others regarding the plan to lay out a road from San Felipe to San Jacinto. MA was on of the three appointed as superintendent of said road, by ordnance 5."

On December 6, 1830 the San Felipe de Austin Ayuntamiento heard a petition from MA praying for the donation of town lots. It was judged inadmissible as "the body does not conceive themselves authorized to make donations of public property of The Municipality".

On December 31, 1830 MA was granted a 12 month extension of time to pay the city \$30.00. FROM: Southwest Historical Quarterly, "Minutes of the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin.

Undated: From the San Felipe de Austin Minutes of The Ayuntamiento: Ordered that a road be laid out upon the most eligible route from the town of Austin to Harrisburg. MA was one of the supervisors appointed to view, layout and report on said road on the first Monday in April next.

Undated: from San Felipe de Austin Minutes of The Ayuntamiento: MA was one of three men appointed to open a road from this town to the prairie on the opposite side of the river.



**1830-1832:** MA was made 5<sup>th</sup> Regidor (Alderman) on the San Felipe de Austin Ayuntamiento. He was certified winner on December 18, 1831.

On June 25, 1832 MA signed “THE CALL FOR CALM” at San Felipe. The San Felipe de Austin Ayuntamiento met to consider the alarming situation of the Colony, especially at Anahuac and Brazoria. Several members in attendance, including MA, then 5<sup>th</sup> Regidor, were appointed to set the list of deliberations. Signatures on the final report included that of MA.

On June 30, 1832 he signed “CALL FOR THE CONVENTION OF 1832”. This original proclamation, in Spanish, is held in the Nacogdoches Archives Volume 63 Page 2. There is an English translation by Robert B. Blake in The University of Texas American History Center in Austin, Texas in the Robert Bruce Blake Research Collection—Page 188 and a page 389 noted on the Spanish copies may or may not apply to the English translation.

**1833:** Miles N. Allen agreed to sell his 8 mile point land to his father MA in December of 1833. The deed was not completed prior to the death of Miles in 1834. The court set up William Barrett Travis as Curator to the estate succession and on January 14, 1835, in that capacity, Travis deeded the land to MA.

**NOTE:** Colonel William B. Travis, of the Alamo fame, offered a law service based in San Felipe. He often served the MA family in legal matters and often stayed at the “Allen’s Public House”, as a paying guest. The following 1833 and 1834 items are taken from *Diary of William Barrett Travis* edited by Robert E. Davis, published by Texian Press in 1966:

Oct 8: MA petitions court for security discharge  
Oct 19: Wrote deed from Patrick reels to MA for 2 labors of land.  
Recd Allen \$5  
Oct 24: left San Felipe and staid at MA’s all night.  
Oct 25: Paid Allen \$1.00  
Dec 24: Wrote to MA

Then in **1834:**

Jan 24: Left San Felipe and staid all night at Allen’s  
Jan 25 paid Mrs. Allen \$1.25-18 ¾ due.  
Feb 05: Dined at Allen’s—paid 62 ½ cts. Retained by Miles Allen (for legal work)  
Feb 15: To being suit Vs MA and S C Harrington  
Feb 21: Left San Felipe 11 O’Clock on mule. Dined at Allen’s  
Mar 05: staid all night at Allen’s  
Mar 06: Paid Allen 41—owe 25 cts.  
Mar 29: Dined at Allen’s paid 18 ¾ cts.  
May 22: Staid all night at Allen’s  
May 23: Paid 50 cts.- To Mrs. Allen

**1834:** On May 6, 1834 Miles N. Allen died and was buried on the Allen farm at 8 Mile Point on a high bank of Allen’s Creek in the family cemetery still visited by Allen descendants.

On September 19, 1834 MA purchased 14 labors of land (2478 acres) from Antonio Mancha. This land purchase joined the ¼<sup>th</sup> league of land that MA had purchased from his now deceased son Miles N. Allen.

On October 25, 1835 the court appointed MA Curator/Tutor of the estate of Miles N. Allen. (Miles left young children to be cared for. His widow remarried some time later)

**1835:** 25 Austin Colonists including MA signed to “march next Saturday, fully armed, to demilitarize Anahuac.” 10 of the colonists, including Martin Allen, did not go. Three left the march at Harrisburg and stopped at Vince’s 4 miles from Anahuac.

On July 14, 1835 The Ayuntamiento set up a five man committee, including MA, to draft a resolution for consideration by the Colony.

In October of 1835 MA appeared on the Capt. Randall Jones Muster roll at the beginning of the Siege of Bexar.

On November 13, 1835, MA received an honorable discharge signed by S. F. Austin. This is thought to be a health related discharge as S. F. Austin sent another man to take MA back to 8 Mile Point, and MA died the following year.

November 24, 1835 the muster roll of William Austin and Edward Burleson Listing “those who will continue to stay in Bexar—“  
Lists Benjamin Allen, a son of MA.

December 6 and 7 1835: Ramon Morquectio certified that on this date a wagon and team belonging to MA was taken from him by The Committee of Safety of Gonzales for public service. Sworn to on February 6, 1836. (Texas State Archives F26-2-2.)

**1836:** Texas Archives contains a military pay account with James Bud Allen for 52 days October 1835 through November 6, a total of 52 days plus cash expenses of \$3.50. Held in Texas State Archives at F 26 2-1.

March 23, 1836, a Muster Roll “Before Bexar” The Jasper Volunteer Company rendezvoused at Jasper— included the name of Benjamin Allen, MA’s son (The statement “at Jasper” may have been “At Jasper’s rather than at present day Jasper, Texas) Copies of this signature roll are in the Texas State Archives, thanks to a contribution from of A.C. Allen of Burnet, Texas.

May 24, 1836: Martin Allen is ordered by James Morgan, the Texas Revolution-port manager of Galveston, to take charge of the articles from the spy Cortinez. The original of this order is the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. The order is printed in “The papers of The Texas Revolution 1835-1836” by John Jenkins, Editor, Volume 6 Page 367.

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/print/MM/fmo.50.html>

In 1836 (date?) MA was appointed a justice of the Peace of the Randall Jones District of The Austin Colony.

November 23, 1836 MA petitioned the new government of The Republic of Texas for more land for himself and his sons. This petition, in MA’s own handwriting, written at home on 8 Mile Point, is a unique, some what rare in identifying the flavor of the word, -spoken, written and spelling of the time. The petition lists much of his family associations in relation to service to the colony, including battles and battle losses. Some “unique” phrases in the petition are:

“I live on the publickest road in Texas”

“Anoyed by hostile Indians” (At Peach Creek)

“Where laws are formed on justice and true merit will git it’s just rights instid of bribery and corruption”

“I was one of the first volunteers in the expedition against Sanantenia, and remained in the service until prevented by loss of health”

He asked for one league of land, which, if granted, “would be the highest boon that could be bestowed on me.”

The original of this petition is held by The Texas State Library. The same MA descendants who funded preservation of the original MA Mexican land deed at Peach Creek (General land Office) have also funded preservation of this petition through the cooperation of The Texas State Library. We assume the original petition will no longer be available for in hand study – but by Xerox copy – while, at some near future date, the original may be viewed online <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/archmail.html>

Or E-Mail to: [archinfo@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:archinfo@tsl.state.tx.us)

**1837:** See “Compiled Index to elected and appointed officials of The Republic of Texas 1835-1846” includes: MARTIN ALLEN, Justice of the Peace of the Randall Jones District.

MARTIN ALLEN, Associate Board of Land Commissioners (This was in December of 1837 – the month of his death)

JAMES BUD ALLEN (MA’s son) Associate Board of Land Commissioners.

June 1837: General Sam Houston appointed James Bud Allen (MA’s son) to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in The Army of The Republic of Texas.

On September 4, 1837 an election was held in Brookshire to elect a representative to \_\_\_\_\_. Four candidates were listed on the ballot, including MA. There were 13 votes cast. MA, and one other candidate, did not receive a single vote. Perhaps his negative health – was – well know and/or perhaps he withdrew for that reason?

December 20, (or 30) 1837: Martin Allen died on his beloved 8 Mile Point land. He was buried in the family cemetery, as was his son Miles, on a high bank of Allen’s Creek. Allen, Johnston, and related family members were buried there for many years and the site is still visited by family members. It was my pleasure to recently guide a state of Michigan descendant to the cemetery. Unique: The original MA Highway Historical Marker, on State Highway 36, was damaged by a truck or tractor. A new marker was purchased and installed. A descendant repaired the original to a surprisingly good status, and it has been relocated at the entrance to the cemetery.

A recent land abstract of title of a portion of the Allen 8 Mile point land stated, in an included document: “He, (MA) died here at his home”.

Present day ancestors know, ---from family reports down through the generations --- within a few yard the location of the original home (the “Allen Public House” which is a short distance from the old cemetery. (Was this the first Motel in Texas? The first Bed and Breakfast in Texas?)

**1838:** The inventory of The Estate of Martin Allen was filed on February 1, 1838 showing a total of 8610 acres including 3589 acres in the 8 Mile Point area. The inventory value was shown as \$23,144.50.

The land values were developed as follows:

4090 acres situated on Peach Creek at \$3.00 per acre

3589 acres at 8 Mile Point at \$2.00 per acres



400 acres on the Brazos at \$1.00 per acres  
177 acres near San Felipe at \$2.00 per acres  
354 acres in the San Bernard at \$3.00 per acre  
200 acres at Harrisburg, (In dispute)

**AT THIS POINT WE HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE LIFE OF A TRUE TEXAS PATRIOT. THERE IS A WAY TO “REMEMBER” THE MAN AND THE LAND... TODAY, WITH THE LAKE NAME OPPORTUNITY – WE HAVE A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY TO “SAVE A PORTION OF OUR TEXAS HERITAGE”.**

**1840:** “Debrett’s Texas Peerage” by Hugh Best, published by Coward-McCann. Inc., New York. The following appears on page 293 under the section on “Other Notables and Heroes of The Republic of Texas “Old Three Hundred settler Martin Allen appears to have been wealthy enough to own a race horse” – (see entry under Carriage Trade of The Republic). The horse is recorded in the tax rolls of 1840, although Allen died 2 or 3 years earlier, suggesting that his stable had housed more than one race horse.”

BRAZORIA COUNTY: Martin Allen: 1 racehorse

**1844:** May 1, 1844 in “William Bollaerts Texas”, edited by W. Eugene Hollas and forwarded by Joe B. Franz, University of Oklahoma Press. Bollaerts gave a daily log of his Texas trip over the state. On page 339 he reported: “Two miles more to Allen’s. He is a tanner and keeps “Public House”. His bark mill is merely a hammer to beat the pieces of bark on a block. Purchased corn and dried beef. A few hundred yards further got butter and milk from a very pretty woman – something like “Temira”. Crossed Allen’s Creek here good water; 1 ½ miles re-crossed the same, having left San Felipe road 1 mile behind. Camped.”

This note was added at the bottom of page 339: “Allen’s Creek (also known as Eight Mile Creek) raises in Southern Austin County and flows Southeast for 15 miles into the Brazos River near Wallis.”

**1991:** A Highway Historical marker was placed on the east side of State Highway 1301, on the southwest side of the campus of The Wharton County Junior College – across the railroad from a HEB grocery store. The marker plaque identifies MA as the first owner of the Peach Creek land, followed by its use as a WWII POW camp, then as a County Fair Grounds and now the Jr. College Campus.

**1993:** On October 9, 1993 there was a dedication ceremony for The Martin Allen Highway Historical Marker on 8 Mile Point on the west side of State Highway 36, about 8 miles south of Sealy and 4 miles north of Wallis at the junction of SH 36 and Johnston Road. In attendance were approximately 150 descendants, friends and history scholars including Mr. Robert H. Thonhoff, a past President of The Texas State Historical Association, who made the main presentation address.

Also in attendance was a very special early Texas descendant. Mr. William T. Kendall, now deceased, a great grandson of Sidney Sherman, who led the left line cavalry charge at San Jacinto. Mr. Kendall served as a Director of The San Jacinto Museum of History and often led the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Independence celebration at the San Jacinto Battleground. He was also a past President of The Sons of The Republic of Texas and a Knight of San Jacinto.

**2000:** On April 12, 2000 The General Land Offices of Texas, under their Adopt-A-Document Program – agreed to preserve the original Martin Allen Peach Creek Wharton County, deed, pursuant to a donation of funds from three present day MA descendants. The original deed will no longer be available for hand examination – only by a Xerox copy – and the original can be viewed online at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us>

**2002:** In early January The Texas Natural Resources Commission (TNRCC) authorized construction of Allen's Creek Reservoir, a 7,000 acre lake to impound 200,000 acre feet of water to serve the annual needs of 150,000 families.

The Brazos River Authority (BRA) will operate and own 30% of the project while the City of Houston will participate as to 70%.

A portion of Martin Allen's 8 MILE POINT LAND will be included in the 7,000 acre lake. Construction is estimated for completion in the year 2020. . . . .

**Martin Allen, a true significant Texas Patriot died some 165 years ago. (1837) However, --now in 2002, -- we have a rare wonderful opportunity, in the name selection of the new lake, to extend his memory and that of his land for many years forward.**

**We must make all effort to assure that the proposed lake water will honor his memory, spirit and land -- and not cover his grave or his history nor drown the heritage of the land...**

**A major accomplishment in such recognition would be to name the new lake: LAKE MARTIN ALLEN**

**SAVE A PART OF OUR TEXAS HERITAGE**

Walter E. Belt, Jr.  
(361) 865- 2617  
[webeltjr@starband.net](mailto:webeltjr@starband.net)

3/12/2002 4:36 PM



*He came a courtin'.*

Even the very early Allens were true ladies and gentlemen.

# MARTIN ALLEN LETTERS

State of Louisiana

Parrish of Natchitoches Allen's Settlement

24<sup>th</sup> March 1822

Judge Austin

Sir I must trouble you with a few lines without having the pleasure of a personal acquainta[n]ce with you---

I am one of the first men who made A Settlement on the Collorado, I have built a cabbin made some improvements planted a gardian etc which agreeable to your termes I conidered 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 and 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of Decem 1821 you be kind enough to send me one of your Printed permissions by **Mr. Roger 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 1824. It is a sitio of land or league (about 4444 acres).

From a letter written on 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 1824

**Col. Austin**

Sir It was with much Pleasure that I received the few lines from 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 it intirely with yourself to enter my League and you can make out my deed and give it to **Mr. Lynch** or keep it yourself until I return whichever you may think best – I am entirely willing to submit to the rules and regulations that you may make with the first settlers, -- if you will give my deeds to **Mr. Lynch** you can hold this Letter which will be the same as my obligation – I can pay you two hundred Dollars or perhaps more this winter in good property if requested, in fact my will is to oblige you at any time when in m power. I shall return home in a few days in the Highest spirits and will return with my family this fall if life lasts.

Now Sir if my League is already surveyed as I have to draw Land for my eldest son in my own name there is one or two young men who will come on with me that will attach themselves to my family – if I am intitled to any more land besides my League and my Labbour by the size of my family or for building a mill, I will take it on the Creek that is called Seeder Creek at the first main fork above **Simon Millers** tract which is at a place known by the Board Camp.

Sir if you think proper to give me a grant agreeable to the rules authorized by the government for building a mill I will obligate myself to build a good mill.

The place that I have Described I located in December 1821 which [if] I can shall yet [get?] I located it for the purpose of building a mill it will not interfere with any settler – bur if it interfere with any arrangement allready made I will take it at the second crossing of the second fork of the Navisota on the Labberdee road Commencing at the road and running Down for quantity this would be Convenient to the Millikins settlement if you think proper to grant this petition you will please inform **Mr. Lynch** and he will attend to Surveying etc

I hope Sir you will excuse my troubling you so much at so busy a moment of your Business – And receive the best wishes of your most obd. Friend and well wisher

**Martin C. Allen** [Rubric]

This short undated note is also preserved in Austin's Papers:

for the League on the Sn Byrnard which you wrote me that I Could have I have sent out whitesides obligation for two hundred Dollars payable in good american horses or mules, if that will answer your perpose in payment of my Land, my son will let you have it—

Sir will you please write to me **Mr Allcorn** arrived in Nachitoches on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this instant, your brother and sister has not yet arrived, my anxiety is extreamly great to git on to that Country, I have several brothers that writes me they will be on from Kentuckey one of them this winter, -- we have nothing new in this Country times is hard and money scarce

No more but remains your most obedient

Friend and well wisher

**Martin All[en]**

The following letter explains why **Martin** and his family are still in Louisiana in the spring of 1825.

State of Louisiana

Parish of Natchitoches Novm 9<sup>th</sup> 1824

**Col. Austin**

Sir After My respects to you I have to inform you, I am happy to inform you that I am well, but I have had some sickness and misfortune in my family, I made all preperations for moving as soon as I got home, but my wife was taken sick and remained in a very low state a Long time and has not got over it yet, her sickness has prevented my being able to move her this winter I have sent out my stock and two of my sons in order to make a Crop, I will be on myself as soon as the cituation of my wife and the Season will admit of, **Mr. Lynch** informs

me that there is three Dollar and fifty Cents required to be paid down in Cash for Sta[m]ped paper, on receiving the title I have sent on the money for my own Deed and His, you will if you think proper let my son or **Mr Lynch** have my deed, I sepose you have made out my deed

Martin Allin, Louisiana 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1824

Finally in May of 1825, Martin Allen with his family prepare to leave Allen's Settlement for their new home on the Colorado River.

Natchitoches 12<sup>th</sup> May 1825

Col Austin

Sir by this safe oppertunity I must trouble you with another letter as I wrote to you so often respecting my land, and other things; I requested you in several of my letter to you to write me a few lines respecting my land, if you received my Last letter which I dated sometime in April I expressed greate uneasiness about my Land from a letter I received from **Mr. Lynch** stating that you had given away my Labbour,--and he gave me no positive answer respecting my Leaque which I could not conceive how that could be the case as you entered my Labbour in July last in my name and told me it should secure to me and named in the same title as my League—and I had always understood **by Mr Lynch** that my title was safe in the office I have received a letter since from **Mr. Lynch** by the hand of **Mr. Aulsbury** that gave me more satisfaction respecting it he informed me that my League was safe and a first rate on by your own information and my Labbour had been taken by mistake, which Can be All rectified when I come on which will be amediately, **Mr Aulsbury** and his familey and myself and my familey are all Comeing in Companey we will start in a few days.

I kneede not write aney thing of the knews of this Country as **Mr. Cable** will hand you this letter himself directly from this place: You Can ask him what difficulties I have Countered and what Losses I have sustained in trying to git my Land in that Country which I hope to afect in next month without some unavoidable accident—I have wrote repetedly to my sons to make aney nessary improvements on my Land that you wouls direct; if you should go on to the interier before I arrive you will please to give my deeds to **James Lynch** for me. do all you Can for me and you will be amply rewarded by your

Martin Allen

Martin also purchased a ferry on the Trinity River from Joel Leakey in 1822. Later this Ferry is known as Robbin's Ferry.

The next actual record of Martin is in Texas Census of March 1826, which listed Martin as a farmer and stock raiser, between 25-40; wife between 25-40; and seven children. They settled in a new wilderness as many of our pioneer forefather had in the past. A lot of hard work went into building a new life in the open ranges of early Texas. Towns were established with local councils to rule and mediate differences of opinions between citizens. Protecting the settlements from marauding Indians was one of the primary concerns of the early pioneers. In April and May of 1826, Martin was a volunteer in a company of men fighting the Tonkawa Indians. He evidently soon learned that not all Indians were warlike and did not agree with the senseless killings just because they were Indians.

This affidavit is also preserved in the "Austin Papers".

This is to certify that **Mr. Martin Allen** told me that he was with the company who made the late attack on the Tonkua Indians; and that he was very much opposed to the shooting, he also stated, that when he came near

the camps he saw the Indians in great confusion; and talking in Spanish, and shewing every appearance of friendship; frequently heard him say “Amigo”.—**Mr. Allen** also stated that he ran forward and halloed don’t shoot. don’t shoot and did everything in his power to prevent shooting; but that it had no affect until part of the men fired.

April 27, 1826

**C. Dyer**

# **GUTIERREZ MAGEE EXPEDITION**

**(The Republican Army of The North)**

## **The Battle of Medina**

### **Texas under Seven (7) not 6 Flags**

#### **Participation of Martin Allen and Family members**

(With Special thanks to Robert H. Thonhoff for his research, writings, willingness to share to help others, and to make the truth better known-)

## **I**

The sale of Louisiana by France to the U.S. in 1803 increased interest in Texas from the. It blossomed as a new frontier. The U.S. Government felt that present day Texas was included in the Louisiana purchase-however, publicly the U.S. recognized Spain as The Mother Country of Mexico (Then New Spain) which included present day Texas.

## **II**

### **Gutierrez-Magee Expedition Organized**

With not too secret cooperation of the U.S., apparently including finance, and by placing a U. S. “agent”, William Shaler in Natchitoches, (In present Louisiana) in the U.S.-Spain border “neutral zone” the foundation was laid for organization of the Expedition. It is believed b some that William Shaler, with respect to his participation in the Expedition, was acting under orders/approval of the then U. S. Secretary of State James Monroe.

Don Jose Bernardo Macimiliano Gutierrez de Lara (1774-1841) was a present day Mexico resident of New Spain and a proponent of Mexico’s freedom from Spain and was a Lt. Col. In their Hidalgo Independence movement. In that capacity he traveled from New Spain by way of Natchitoches, thence to Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. In Washington he was received by Secretary of State James Monroe. In the other cities he also received sympathy, encouragement and possibly financial promises to aid his quest. On his return trip he sailed to New Orleans with a letter of introduction (probably from President James Madison or secretary of State James Monroe?) to Louisiana Governor William C.C. Claiborne who introduced him to U. S. Agent William Shaler. It was the Gutierrez plan to take Texas from Spain and use it as a spring board area to take all of present day Mexico away from Spain. He promised to set up a U.S. type constitution and government in Texas but failed to keep his word following the successful conquest.

Augustus W. Magee, a West Point Graduate, a Lt. In the U. S. Army then stationed in Louisiana, resigned his commission to join Gutierrez to jointly head the Expedition. Magee to head the Military, Gutierrez the political.

They assembled recruits in Natchitoches to form The Republican Army of the North. Their flag was a solid emerald green—possibly as a consequence of Magee’s Irish roots.

The volunteers were paid about \$40.00 a month plus a promise of a league of land in Texas when Texas was conquered. The initial army size is thought to have been around 200 men but grew to around 1000 as volunteers, including those from captured areas, Spanish soldier turnabouts, citizens of the areas traveled through, and Indians joined as the expedition succeeded.



Included in the Natchitoches recruits/volunteers were BENJAMIN ALLEN, his sons Martin Allen and Hiram Allen, and another Allen we know only as a nephew of Martin Allen thought to be the son of Hiram Allen

### **III**

#### **Texas is “Taken” from Spain**

The initial force of The Republican Army of The North crossed the Sabine River marching west from Natchitoches, and in 1812, under their solid green flag, took Nacogdoches, then Trinity, then marched, on the La Bahia road, to Presidio La Bahia (present day Goliad) where, during the winter of 1812-1813, after taking Goliad on November 7, Magee died on February 8 under questionable conditions. Then Spanish troops tried to retake Goliad-resulting in a 4 month siege, longer than any in American Military history.

Spain gave up the siege on February 9<sup>th</sup> and on February 19<sup>th</sup> 900 Republicans marched to San Antonio where they defeated a Spanish group on March 29, 1813 in The Battle of Rosillo. They then took control of San Antonio (Yes, the Alamo, some 23 years before the famous Alamo Battle) on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

In San Antonio, On April 4<sup>th</sup>, two POW Spanish Governors were brutally executed on orders of Gutierrez. This inhuman act served to break the expedition into two factions. Many of those volunteers and officers against such treatment, and who were not given promised positions in the new government. By the then Republic of Texas President Gutierrez, resigned and promptly and returned to the east, “On Furlough”. The executions, along with his refusal to adopt a U. S. type constitution and government as promised plus refusal of promised appointments, led to the dismissal of Gutierrez who was replaced with General Jose Alvarez de Toledo y Dubois, a Cuban military man who had been a somewhat distant participant from the beginning. And whose new position was arranged by U.S. Agent William Shaler.

EVEN, SO NOW control of TEXAS by the Republicans, was complete!

### **IV**

#### **Spain Retakes Texas**

#### **The Battle of Medina**

Spanish Royalist General Joaquin de Arredondo, assisted by a young Lt. ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA defeated the Republicans under General Toledo in batalla del encinal de medina on August 18, 1813, in a sandy oak tree area about 20 miles south of San Antonio, in Atascosa County, north of the town of Poteet but closer and northwest of the town Leming.

The Republicans placed “The Washington Regiment” of volunteers in the front line of the battle. (What could be the reason for this regiment’s name?) The Spanish lost only 55men. The bones of about 800 of The Republicans killed were left to bleach in the sun and sand for 9 years before being buried under an Oak tree, in 1822, in the encinal (Sandy Oak tree area)

In a letter dated July 17, 1991, Robert H. Thonhoff in a letter to Walter E. Belt Jr. stated, “Your family (Benjamin and Martin Allen), I believe, holds the record for the number of participants in the Battle of Medina”.

The exact location of the battle field has not been archeologically determined. The original marker location has been viewed as in error by most researchers. Historian Robert H. Thonhoff has most likely localized the

probable area near Leming, Texas where he has found artifacts thought to be from the battle.

Mr. Henry Wolff, Jr. Historical writer for the Victoria, Texas Advocate newspaper is reported to have said, "Texas has lost a battlefield".

A ceremony commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle was held at the location proposed by Mr. Thonhoff, on August 21, 1988 on the James Engleman farm. A new granite marker was dedicated there and wreaths were placed on the Monument by three descendants of Martin Allen

During the Anniversary ceremony there was a wood sign on a wood pole driven in the ground that read:

AQUI YACEN LOS BRAVOS MEXICANOS

QUE IMITANDO EL EJEMPLO DE LEONIDAS

SACRIFICARON SU FORTUNA Y VIDAS

LUCHANDO SIN CESAR CONTRA TIRANOS

The translation to English:

"Here lie the brave Mexicans that imitates the example of Leonidas, sacrificing their fortune and lives without ceasing against tyrants."

As for Leonidas see: <http://www.cigarlablegazette.com/leonidas.html>

(Thank you for the translation and reference to Leonidas to Mrs. Elizabeth Preston Belt of Washington, D.C.)

Mr. Robert H. Thonhoff advised that the original wood sign is now placed in The Longhorn Museum in Pleasanton, Texas along with a replica of the GREEN FLAG of The North.

QUESTION: does this sign dedicated to then Tejas Citizen Mexicans fighting for their freedom prove that the battle was a REVOLUTION and not an INVASION?

Many of the Republicans were sons of American Revolutionaries and many also later participated in the War of 1812 with Andrew Jackson, and the Texas Revolution of 1835-1836 when Texas gained its freedom from Mexico. (Gutierrez also participated in the War of 1812).

Martin Allen was one Gutierrez-Magee Expedition member who also fought in the successful Texas Revolution of 1835-1836, when Texas gained its freedom from Mexico. A TRULY RARE "DOUBLE EXPOSURE".

The Lt. Santa Anna of the Battle of Medina, is one and the same person as the General Santa Anna who defeated the Texas Alamo defended and lost to Sam Houston at The Battle of San Jacinto.

Among the Republican soldiers killed were:

Martin Allen's father=Benjamin Allen

Martin Allen's nephew=\_\_\_\_\_Allen (Another Benjamin?)

Apparently Martin Allen's brother—Hiram Allen was wounded, but made his way back home to Louisiana, but died shortly, as his wife married in that year.

On the day of The Battle of Medina Martin Allen was in Natchitoches, Louisiana taking in new volunteers. Otherwise he too probably would have been killed.

## **V**

### **MARTIN ALLEN ACTIVITIES IN**

**Time period from Battle of Medina**

**To**

**The new Republic of Texas**

**1835**

Following The battle of Medina Martin Allen returned home to Louisiana where he and his family lived until 1821 when they returned to Texas—first to Wharton County but shortly thereafter to his “8 Mile Point” land in Austin County (8 miles from San Felipe)—today marked by a Texas Historical Society Highway Historical 8 miles south of Sealy, Texas on the west side of Texas state Highway 36 at it's intersection with Johnson Road.—As members of the Stephen F. Austin Original 300 settlers (Known as The Old Three Hundred). Then he fought in and assisted the successful Texas fight for freedom from Mexico (The 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Revolution) in many ways

What is the source of such detailed information on Martin Allen and his family?

Martin Allen prepared a petition, in his own handwriting, on November 23, 1836, at his 8 Mile Point homeland, to the new Republic of Texas asking for follow through on previous promised land grants including those of The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition—also for his sons who participated in The Siege of Bexar.

The petition sets out much Allen history, including much of that set out in this presentation. A “deciphered” typed effort copy of the petition is shown in full at another position in this Martin Allen HOME (WEB) page. Martin Allen died on his 8 Mile point land one year after writing the petition on December 30, 1837.

The original petition is in the Texas State Archives filed under:

LAND PETITION-MARTIN ALLEN

Call Box 100-360

## **VI**

### **WHY 6 Flags Over Texas Rather than 7 Flags?**

Some say The First Republic of Texas never actually had administrative control of Texas and that the victors were not recognized by foreign countries—thus they do not recognize “our” GREEN FLAG. Others question the designation of the Expedition as a revolution-however citizens of present day Texas played a significant part in the freedom effort-thus lending support to the word REVOLUTION rather than FILIBUSTER?.... not an INVASION? Even though there was apparently significant U.S. “Hand holding”? TRUE the green flag has not

YET been universally accepted as one of the sovereign flags under which early Texas was governed-however, more knowledge of the historical facts may change the level of acceptance.

See Flags Over Texas by Charles E. Gilbert, Jr. illustrated by James Rice. The "GREEN FLAG" is described and shown on pages 38 and 39 along with a discussion of its level of recognition.

NOTE OF INTEREST. Is there a connection

In the year 1812-the year the Expedition was put together- there was an earthquake in south central U.S. that "Reversed the flow of water in the Mississippi River".....An area not far from Natchitoches Louisiana!

"REVERSED THE FLOW" may have occurred twice that year!

Mr. Robert H. Thonhoff has stated. "The outcome of The Battle of Medina affected the destinies of Spain Mexico, U.S., England and France".

## **VII**

### **REFERENCES**

The New Handbook of Texas, Volume 4 pages 601 and 602. This Battle of Medina section of the handbook was written by Mr. Robert H. Thonhoff. Also see Gutierrez Magee Expedition and GUTIERREZ DE LARA, JOSE BERNARDO MAXIMILINO.

Forgotten Battlefield of The First Texas Revolution, By Ted Schwarz, Edited by Robert H. Thonhoff Published by Eakin press of Austin, TX.

Sons of Dewitt County, Texas WEB page at: <http://www.tamu.edu/ccbn/dewitt/Spain2.html>

Texas Tales Your Teacher Never Told You, By C. F. Eckhardt, Published by Wordware publishing, Inc. Regional Division.

Program for Ceremonies Commemorating The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Battle of Medina August 21, 1988, by Robert H. Thonhoff.

Report of The Battle of Medina by Spanish participant Joaquin de Arredondo translated by Mattie Austin Hathcer in The Texas Historical Association Quarterly XI no. 3 January 1908 pages 200-236.

Green Flag Over Texas, by Julia Kathryn Garrett, Cordova Press, New York.

# MARTIN ALLEN'S PETITION

November 23, 1836

TO The New Government of The Republic of Texas  
Asking that more land be awarded to him  
And his sons for past services

Information in the following PETITION, the original written in Marten Allen's handwriting, is, in my opinion, a rare and wonderful specific accounting of so much ALLEN family history, including their participation in The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition, The Battle of Medina, the Stephen F. Austin Texas Period ending with Texas' freedom from Mexico, life in those times, and an insight into their written and spoken phrases and spelling patterns. It is probably unusual that a man of his time and education level (what level?) could read and write. **(Editor: When, where and how did he learn to read and write?)** Note the "flair" of his pen movements and the manner in which he crosses the "t" in Martin plus the tornado like "icon" below his signature, as shown in the copy following the last page of this petition showing his signature, its location as "8 Mile point" and date, Novm. 23, 1836.

The original petition is filed in The Texas State Archives in Austin, Teas under:

## **LAND PETITION-MARTIN ALLEN**

**Call Box 100 – (360 according to one source)**

**File Box no. 1, letter No. A (from another source)**

My interpretation and observations on his following handwritten PETITION follows: . . . . .

"To the Honorable Sennet and House of representatives of the first Congress in the Republick of Texas – in Jenral Assembly Convened:

Your petitioner humbly begs to lay before you honorable boddy a Statement of facts Which is well known to Some of Your Honorable Boddy, your petitioner wishes to inform Your Honorable boddy that He is one of the first settlers of Austin s Coloney. Your petitioner Came and Settled in this coloney in 1821 on the Colorado River, in a part of the Country that was much annoyed by hostile Indians of Different tribes. Your petitioner was almost Constantly imployed for Several years, in capgaigns & Scouts after them. Myself & two sons, the only Help you petitioner Had to seport a large family and often furnishe Horses Guns Ammunition & provisions to Young Men who wer not in a situation to furnish themselves.

**Editor: We have broken the original petition format into paragraphs.**

**Editor: The above proves that he brought his family to live in Texas in 1821 as a member of S. F. Austin's Old Three Hundred original settlers and lived on his first Mexican Land Grant in present Wharton County, Teas – now part of The Wharton County Junior College Campus. A Teas State Historical Society Highway Historical marker present on the campus lists ownership of the land there starting with Martin Allen. See the original land grant document in The Texas Geneal Land Office in Austin, Texas under "Original Mexican Titles Box 2 Folder 12. The grant was not issued until July 7, 1824.**

**Did the "annoyed by hostile Indians" influence his family move to 8 mile point near San Felipe?**

"Your petitioner Wishes to lay befor you Honeable boddy, in his own Language many other just and strong claims which your petitioner have long sought an opportunity to make knowns to a free & Republican people. Where laws are founded on Justice, and true merritt will git it's just rights, insid of bribery and corruption, your

petitioner wishes to lay before your Honorable body, some former claims of an Earlier date perhaps any that has been present.”

**Editor: “Claims of an earlier date” included the land grant promise made to him for participation in The Gutierrez-Magee Expedition. We do not believe that this portion of the petition would have been considered.**

“Your petitioner was a volunteer in the republican Army of Texas Under General Bernarda Gutierrez (**Editor: General Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara, initial leader of The Gutierrez-Magee Expedition**) Commander in Chief of the Army in the Province of Texas, in the year 1812.”

“Your petitioner Also had a father and a **brother** and a nephew all engaged in Same Service. Your petitioner's father and nephew were both killed at the battle of Medina, 18 miles W. of San Antonio on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 1813 Where our Whole Army was Defeated and a General massacre took place-no quarters were given by the Enemy.”

**Editor: The Battle of Medina was fought approximately 20 miles South, not West, of San Antonio-in Atascosa County just Northwest of the town of Luling.**

**Editor: Martin Allen reports that his “father and nephew” were killed in the battle. He does not state his brother Hiram was killed there-however brother Hiram's wife in Louisiana remarried within a year of the battle—so some have suggested that he may have been wounded, made his way back (or toward) Louisiana and died – Or he may have made his way back home and died of natural causes? Also Martin's petition did not reflect specifically that brother HIRAM did participate in The Battle of Medina, however the majority of assumptions are that Hiram DID participate in the Battle.**

“Your petitioner was on the day of the defeat, in Louisiana on A recruiting Service.”

**Editor: Thank Goodness – or I wouldn't be here.**

“Your petitioner was promised ONE League Square of land in any unappropriated lands in the province of Texas. This was the terms of our enlistments, my father brother & Nephew ALL had drawn there Certificates but were all lost on the day of the Defeat. Your petitioner's father left a Widow in Much Distress poor and not Able to support her Self by her Labour Which was the only means She had for support, until your petitioner provided for her support which she gave Your petitioner A Legal Transfer to All her Husband's interest in the province of Texas. This Sarah Allen was the wife of Benj. Allen Stepmother to your petitioner which transfer Your petitioner Still holds in his possession.”

**Editor: Sarah Maddox was married to Benjamin Allen (Martin's father) on July 5, 1803 (When Martin was 22 years old) in Newport Campbell County, Kentucky. We, at this time, know nothing of Martin's (and I assume Hiram's) Mother.**

“Your petitioner produced ALL those well authenticated Documents together with letters of recommendation Certified by the Spanish Consul directed to the Governor of the Province of Texas. Your petitioner makes this brief statement of facts in order to Show to your honorable body that your petitioner have not received the favours, that would have been granted him by the Mexican government Could your petitioner have approached the government personally or in his own Language. It is painful for me to say that I have not been treated with Equal Justice with the first Settlers of the Country. Your petitioner knowing the regulations of the land law South of Texas (**Editor?**) opportunity to petition the government for an augmentation of one opportunity to petition the government for an augmentation of one league Which was granted to All Who Did petition, in this I was



prescuted by those who had the intire Control of All land matters in this Coloney at that time, there was but one translater in the Coloney, and he refused to write my petition for what reason God only knows.”

**Editor: I think this portion of the request is for more land on the basis of his time in Texas dating from 1821 under the S.F. Austin Texas period.**

“Your petitioner made frequent Applicatioins to the Empersario & for land for his Two Sons Miles Allen and James Allen both of whom had been in the Service of there country from its Earliest settlemtn. Neither of them were granted a foot of land for many years after we settled in the coloney. When your petitioners Eldest Son Drew one fourthe of a league. While maney other young men that came to the country long after they Did, and never have lifted Armes in defense of he Country had Drawn Some half leagues some Whole leagues & While your petitioners Second son James Allen (**Editor: This is James Bud Allen**) have not drawn Any land in the Country and has been in the country fifteen years, and was in the service of his Country on the day of the battle of Sanjacinto.”

**Editor: Martin Allen’s son James Bud Allen was granted 320 acres of land in Williamson County, in 1838 for his service in “The Siege of Bexar” in 1835. He and his family lived on that land for the reminder of his life. In 1845 he was granted an additional 320 acres in Austin County for military service from March 7 to June 7, 1836. Son Benjamin Allen, in 1837, was granted 320 acres in Travis County for military service from March 23 to July 26, 1836. Son Miles N. Allen was granted the “8 mile point” land in Austin County on May 1, 1827 as a member of the Stephen F. Austin 2<sup>nd</sup> Colony – not for military service. After proving change of marital status from single to married in 1832 Miles was granted an additional 3/4ths League of land in another part of Austin County. Miles died in 1834 and had previously agreed to sell his land, including 8 mile point, to his father which was later documented. At some point after 1821 the Martin Allen family moved from Wharton County to “8 MILE POINT”. Some guess the move was triggered by a desire to be closer to San Felipe for Indian protection – and/or perhaps because of the declining health of son Miles. Thereafter “8 MILE POINT” was the permanent home of the Martin Allen family.**

“Your petitioner lays these facts before your Honorable boddy in full hopes & Confidence that he may have Justice done him hereafter. Your petitioner laid all those facts before the Ayuenmentor of the Municipality of Austin (**Editor: This was San Felipe**) in a petition to them to recommend to the Legislater of the State to grant to you petitioner One league of land as a Compensation for his Services in Texas.”

“The peitition was strongly recommended by that boddy together with the recommendation of His Exelency Henry Smith then Political Chief of this department. Those lengthy Dockaments were all translated into Spanish by the Brave W. B. Travice, Esq. (**Editor: This Col. William B. Travis of Alamo fame who practiced law in San Felipe and handled many legal matters from the Martin Allen family. Travis’ daily log reflects that he often visited the Allen home which apparently served then as a “motel” and was referred to as “The Allen House”**) and sent into Montclova by the hand of the Brave Benjamin Milam Esqr. To lay before the State Legislater which grant would have been made to your petitioner, had not that boddy been dissolved by the turent Santeanna, who soon after invaded our soil.”

**Editor: Since Benjamin Milam as killed in The Siege of Bexar in 185, the transportation of the Martin Allen documents, by Ben Milam, would have occurred before that date.**

“Your petitioner have laid before your Honorable boddy a breef Sketch of those facts that in justice to My Self & my family, I could not have neglected. Your petitioner wishes to inform your Honorable boddy, that he was one of the first volunteers in the expedition against Sanantenia, and remained in the service until prevented by loss of health (**Editor: Martin Allen’s discharge from The Texas Army, signed by S. F. Austin is dated Nov.**

**18, 1835. Original is in The Texas State Archives in Austin, Texas)** your petitioner considers himself a citizen Voller During the War.”

**Editor: The October 20, 1835 San Antonio area muster roll of Capt. Randall Jones’ Company shows volunteer number 15 as MARTIN ALLEN. ON the same muster roll W. B. Travis (of Alamo fame) was listed as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Martin Allen’s discharge from the Texas army apparently was because he was ill as the discharge document noted, “now dispatched in company of W. N. Scott to San Felipe in the express (Editor?) and is honorably discharged. This was shortly before The Siege of Bexar. Thereafter Martin Allen served the war in many ways including furnishing supplies including a wagon and a team of horses evidenced by a receipt dated Feb. 6, 1826 from The Committee of Safety of Gonzales. Martin Allen died and is buried on 8 Mile Point, in December of 1837.**

“The services rendered by your petitioner at San Antonio I appeal to C. A. Somervil and other that fought with me. Your petitioner considers himself in his Countries services Since the first day of October 1835 directly or in Directly. Your petitioner lives on the publickest road in the Country, and has been furnishing ALL the Soldiers going to and from the Army at his own Expense, this fact is known to Sererel of the members of your Honorable boddy, particularly Col. A. Somerville & Capt. M. Baker Esq.”

**Editor: “the publickest road in the Country” is now approximately where State Highway 36 crosses 8 Mile Point land 8 miles south of Sealy, Texas at Johnston Road.**

“Your petitioner have suffered great loss by the war, in stock of ALL kinds of Horses cattle Hoggs & Household furniture kitchen furniture farming utensils blacksmiths & carpenter tools etc and many other things too tedious to mention.”

**Editor: Did the Allen family leave home as participants in :”The Runaway Scrape”? and, upon return home, find much of their 8 Mile Point property destroyed ? Or was his “property loss” due to “highway thieves” or “donations” to the military effort? Or perhaps a combination of all or part? We believe that if his house had been destroyed by Santa Anna enroute to San Jacinto, as was his usual practice, Martin Allen would have so noted in his petition. We also believe that his house may have been spared in that Santa Anna and his Mexican Army apparently did march enroute to San Jacinto very close to 8 Mile Point, however farther West near The San Bernard River...and from there trees could have hid the Allen home and ranch operations.**

“Your petitioner having now made as breaf a statement as the nature of his case would permit in justice to his Self – Now submits his case to the Consideration of your Honorable boddy for your just and wise Consideration. Your humble petitioner Solissets your Honorable boddy to Grant to him one League of Land on a footing with other military Claims for services rendered to the government if in the Wisdom of your Honorable boddy you think your petitioner worthy of such favours, taking in consideration all of his former claimes looses in he War Services rendered to the repujblick. Such a grant would be the highest boon that could be bestowed upon your humble petitioner, or such portion as in your wisdom may think proer to Grant will be thankfully Recd by your Humber petitioner. And your petioier as in Duty bound will Ever pray (God).”

**Editor: WE have not researched for specific land grants that may have resulted from this petition, however, his estate Inventory showed that he owned 8610 acres of land at the time of his death located:**

**4090 acres on Peach Creek (Wharton County)**

**3589 acres 8 Mile Point**

**400 acres “On The Brazos”**



**Total 8610 acres**

**The Inventory also listed 200 acres at Harrisburg (Houston, Harris County) with the note that the title had failed. (Martin did receive a permit to operate a ferry here over Buffalo Bayou – we do not know if the ferry was ever operational.**

**The petition was signed as follows:**

**8 mile point Novm 23, 1836 MARTIN ALLEN**

**“Editor” Walter E. Belt, Jr.  
Box 739, Flatonia, Tx. 78941  
(361) 865-2617  
[webeltjr@starband.net](mailto:webeltjr@starband.net)**

**1/20/2002 10:02:07 PM**

# UPDATE MY CONCEPTS RELATIVE TO REQUEST FOR BRA TO CONSIDER CHANGE NAME ALLEN'S CREEK RESEVOIR TO LAKE MARTIN ALLEN OR LAKE ALLEN

1. YES, Martin Allen is/was my 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandfather and as such certain emotion applies in the suggested name change. BUT – Neither I nor any of his descendants want the lake name memorial of him UNLESS his life accomplishments – especially in Texas' successful fight against Mexico – SO MERITS – in the opinion of non related individuals best capable to judge.

To further that concept we have asked several of the top level Texas History Historians, writers etc for their evaluation. We (and Waco) have received favorable responses from T. R. Fehrenbach, Ed Desha, Robert H. Thonhoff, and Wallace L. McKeehan. Hopefully others have also advised Waco.

We realize that any name change will NOT – and should NOT, be based entirely on historical achievements. However we have attempted to evaluate that category as related to this request.

We realize that any name change will NOT – and should NOT – be based entirely, if at all – on family relationship – descendants “wanting to”. However we have attempted to evaluate that category as related to this request by showing valid proof of a large volume of endorsements from Martin Allen descendants. The “descendants approve”.

2. It is my hope that initial BRA presentation (if made) to The City of Houston will NOT be based on, “because ancestors have made the request”. That basis (in my opinion) would and should fail.

On the other hand it is my hope that a BRA presentation (if made) to The City of Houston would be based on (include?):

- A. “Save Texas History .. (consider quality and volume)
- B. Administrative; Economics/Efficiency
- C. “Reservoir versus “Lake”

## DISCUSS “Save Texas History”

MILES ALLEN, (son of Martin Allen) was not a “Old Three Hundred” participant. He acquired the land under the SF Austin 2<sup>nd</sup> Contract with Mexico. Allen's Creek is named for this Miles Allen. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> Allen land acquitted in the 8 Mile Point area. Miles died a few years after the land acquisition and had minimum participation in that phase of Texas history. The life of Miles, in my opinion, would not offer bullets in an effort to prove a historical reason for name retention against a Houston proposal for a political name.

HISTORY GRADE: MINIMUM QUALITY ZERO VOLUME

MARTIN ALLEN saw his son's health failing, purchased land, moved the balance of the family there, from his 1821 land grant in Wharton County acquired under the S F Austin 1<sup>st</sup> Mexico contract – thus he is an “Old Three Hundred”, acquired significant additional acreage adjoining and in the area, significantly contributed to the Texas successful fight for freedom against Mexico. Operated the “Allen Public House” (1<sup>st</sup> Motel in Texas?). The life of MARTIN, in my opinion, offers cannon balls in a possible shoot out with Houston in justifying a significant historical name. HISTORY GRADE: NEAR MAXIMUM QUALITY SIGNIFICANT VOLUME.

## DISCUSS “Administrative Economics”

Name "ALLEN'S CREEK RESERVOIR" contains 20 letters and 3 words. Expected future volume all levels of communication/signage, could save significant hours and dollars by use of a shorter name. ON this level I must agree with an earlier suggestion of LAKE ALLEN .. (Yes, our 1<sup>st</sup> choice is LAKE MARTIN ALLEN, but, I would be happy with Lake Allen, with BRA assurance that the name reflected memorial on both Miles Allen and Martin Allen.

#### DISCUSS "Reservoir" versus "Lake"

I am a former avid bass fisherman on south Teas Lakes repeat "LAKES". When we heard the term "Reservoir" we thought of a 3<sup>rd</sup> class body of water, right or wrong. That concept prevails today. SAM RAYBURN, for instance, is a "Reservoir" BUT I have never heard it referred to as a Reservoir – it is always Sam Rayburn... or What lake are you going to – answer, "Sam Rayburn"

I think the "Reservoir" portion of ACR must be done away with in any case "My opinion) because public concept gives "LAKE" quality recognition not available in "RESERVOIR".

#### FUTURE

When we meet at Sealy I hope that you will join me in a short 8 mile drive to the 8 Mile Point Area to see the area involved. IT would not be necessary to leave the car. With a few days notice to get keys to gate locks we can see (1.) Allen Johnston cemetery where Martin Allen, wife Elizabeth and son Miles are buried, (2). The site of "The Allen Public house. Without gate lock keys we can see the (3) State Highway Historical marker dedicated to Martin Allen (4) The Cenotaph to Martin, Elizabeth and Miles in the nearby (more accessible) Hartsville Cemetery and most important (5) Where Virginian and I would be living TODAY IF HL&P had not taken the land away from us – in the early 1970's- for the then proposed nuclear generating plant.

#### IMPORTANT

We feel that time is of significant importance in making the name change. "NOW". IF Houston proposes a name change when they start contributing money – we will be in a better position to win (in my opinion) if we had already made a change – as now proposed--. If we wait until they make a name change proposal later then (again in my opinion) our name change would be on the same level of importance – by Houston – as what they then propose.

Please allow me to attempt to answer any questions, furnish any additional information or help this proposal in any manner. Other involved may be able to help more. Quite often I use the term "I" That "I" involves MANY people, including but not limited to Martin Allen descendants.

I am happy to report today that The Daughters of The Republic of Texas (DRT), The Sons of The Republic of Texas, and Austin's Old Three Hundred, have endorsed this name change.

Walter E. Belt, Jr.

5/31/2002 3:47 PM