

MARTIN ALLEN is one of those very unique individuals who fought against Spain and Mexico in both Texas Revolutions. First in the Gutierrez/Magee Expedition of 1812-1813 against Spain and then in the war for Texas independence. He was born 28 Nov 1780 in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky and married Elizabeth Vice in Newport on 29 Dec 1804. Martin and Elizabeth had 10 children, born in Kentucky, Louisiana, Territory of Missouri District of Arkansas and Texas.

In 1807 Martin Allen was appointed a road surveyor in Campbell County, Kentucky. He was also appointed as a Constable for this county lying on the west side of Licking Creek above Bowman's Creek. (Order Book 1 Page 44 June 1807). A Campbell County delinquent tax list Shows "Martin Allen - Gone to Indian Territory". By 1809 Martin and Elizabeth had left Kentucky. In the next few years they lived in Old Attakapas Parish, LA., Opelousas Parish, LA, and Territory of Missouri, County or District of Arkansas. They were in Allen's Settlement by 24 September 1821.

Martin was in Texas prior to 1821 as a member of The Gutierrez/Magee Expedition 1812-1813. His father Benjamin, his brother Hiram, and a nephew were also volunteers. All except Martin participated in The Battle of Medina August, 1813, in which Benjamin and the nephew were killed. Hiram may have been wounded and made his way back to North Louisiana where he died within about a year. On the day of the battle Martin was in North Louisiana for more volunteers.

At some time in 1821 Martin and his 2 oldest sons came to Texas to build a cabin and plant a crop and garden on land at Peach Creek in present Wharton County. The remainder of the family stayed at Allen's Settlement in present Claiborne Parish, La. In 1822 wrote to Stephen F Austin from Louisiana asking delivery of title on the Peach Creek Land.

Later Martin was unable to bring his family to Peach Creek, per his letter to S F Austin dated November 9, 1824, citing the ill health of his wife. Then on May 12, 1825, from Allen's Settlement, Martin Allen wrote to S F Austin that (A) "I have wrote repeatedly to my sons to make any necessary improvements on my Land that you would direct" and (B)" when I come on, which will be immediately"

The Bexar Archives shows Martin Allen deposition on the character of Peter Ellis Bean as requested by Political Chief Jose Antonio Saucedo of San Antonio, through Stephen F Austin August 3, 1826. Austin described Martin Allen as "an honorable and respected citizen of this colony." **Martin signed "The Resolution of Loyalty to Mexico and Opposition to The Fredonian Rebellion" on January 4, 1827 In The Mina Community (Present Bastrop, Texas)**

On May 21, 1827 Martin's son, Miles N. Allen, received one-fourth league of land in Austin's Second Colony. This land was, or presently is, in what is known as The Allen's Creek Reservoir area Located east of Highway 36, 8 miles south of Sealy. The land was purchased by Martin from his son because the son's health was failing and the Indians were so bad at Peach Creek (We assume) that Martin moved all of his family here to be closer to protection from San Felipe. This land became known as 8 Mile because it is 8 mites from San Felipe.

During the year of 1829 Martin was Elected Captain of the 2nd Company of Militia and his son Miles was elected Lt. In July Martin reported to Stephen F Austin from Harrisburg on status of the military muster and the Indian situation. And also in that year he was made their "White Chief" by the Indian tribes. Martin wrote S F Austin concerning the Military Law in dealing with Indians.

Several decisions by the Ayuntamiento (Colony Council) of San Felipe de Austin concerning Martin allen have been found in the Texas State Archives: In February 1830 Martin was Elected road supervisor; in April 1830 Granted right to operate a ferry on Buffalo Bayou at Harrisburg; in 1832 he was made 5th Regidor (Alderman); June 25, 1832 Martin signed the "Call for Calm" at San Felipe; and on June 30, 1832 he Signed the "Call for

Convention of 1832”.

Martin's son Miles died on May 6, 1834 and was buried on the 8 Mile Point Allen farm on a high bank of Allen's Creek in the family cemetery.

July 4, 1835 the Ayuntamiento set up 5 man committee, including Martin Allen, to draft a resolution for consideration by The colony and then in October 1835 Martin appeared on Capt. Randall Jones Muster Roll at San Antonio at the beginning of The Siege of Bexar Battle. Steven F. Austin signed Martin's honorable discharge from the army in November of 1835.

Martin's sons James Bud Allen and Benjamin Allen fought in the Siege of Bexar in December of 1835 and later received land grants for their service. Although Martin did not fight he supported the cause, in February 1836 he received a receipt from the Gonzales Committee for Safety for a wagon, 2 oxen and supplies.

On May 24, 1836 Martin Allen is ordered by James Morgan of Galveston to take charge of the articles from the spy Cortinez. (Since Martin was no longer in the Army perhaps this order to him was as a Capt. of Militia ?)

Martin Allen petitions the new Republic of Texas for more land on November 23, 1836. This petition is a unique very “news telling” petition that all should read. It tells much of his family, his Texas life, family battle losses and shows the flavor of speech and writing/spelling of the time. The original is in Texas State Archives.

Martin Allen died on his beloved 8 Mile Point Land on December 20, 1837. He was buried in the family cemetery where his wife Elizabeth and others family members are buried even though their graves can not be located today. The graves that can be identified include the graves of J. W. Allen (Martin's grandson) and his wife Penelope Johnston Allen, J. W. Johnston ( Martin's great-grandson) and Smith Dabney.” The Allen-Johnston Cemetery is located on a high bank of Allen's Creek. Family members were buried there for many years and the cemetery is still visited descendants. Present landowner Houston Lighting & Power has respected the cemetery, and granted family members approval to visit the area. We hope and pray future owners of the land will also do so. (This April of 1995 there is a report that the land has been optioned to The Brazos River Authority to consider construction of a large lake to serve as a water supply for the city of Houston.)