



JAMES FISHER MARTIN

Birth through the 1880s



Timeline of events in the life of James Fisher Martin

1808 or 1812 James Fisher Martin was born in Newcastle on Tyne, Northumberland, England. This information is from family history passed down through the generations and J.F. Martin's age on census records and ship lists. There was no 1840 census taken during the Republic of Texas period (1836-1846) so the first Texas census listing J.F. Martin was in 1850, Matagorda, Texas. Matagorda County 1850 census #37 lists J.F. Martin, age 38, as sheriff, Julia 28, Julia 8, Foster E. 6, James S. 4, Catharine Jane 2, Edward (Jacob Absalom) 1/12 or 1 month. It is improbable that J.F. Martin would have graduated from the Edinburgh Medical School in 1826 if his birth year was 1812 therefore, the 1808 year is more likely.

1822-1826 James Fisher Martin attended medical school at Edinburgh Medical School in Edinburgh, Scotland. This information was verified with the medical school by Carrie Silkenstedt Kirchner in 2024.

District of New-York—Port of New-York.

I, *H. Charwick*, do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Acasta*, whereof I am Master, from *London*, So help me God.

Sicorn to, the *16th August 1826*
Before me, *H. Charwick*

List or Manifest of all Passengers taken on board the *Ship Acasta* is Master, from *London* Burthen *330 1/2* Tons.

NAMES.	AGE.		SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The Country to which they severally belong.	The Country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage.
	Years.	Months.					
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>41</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>United States</i>	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>25</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>15</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>23</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>16</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>14</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>24</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	<i>England</i>	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>24</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>24</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>50</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	"	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>18</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	<i>Canada</i>	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>23</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	<i>United States</i>	
<i>Wm. H. Jones</i>	<i>30</i>			<i>Ind. School</i>	"	<i>United States</i>	

August 16, 1826 He immigrated from London, England to New York traveling on the ship Acasta. He is listed as Dr. James F. Martin, age 18, in the army and his final destination listed as Canada.

1826- 1830 After arriving in New York, it is probable that J. F. Martin moved to Baltimore where he completed medical school. From the U.S., Surname Files Expanded, 1702-1981 we find an article on the Rose family:

“Mr. Rose was united in marriage to Miss Julia Martin, who was born in 1841, a daughter of Dr. J. F. Martin, who was born in England and prepared for his profession in Baltimore, Maryland, after which he came to the Republic of Texas, where he was married to Miss Julia Eberly, who came to Texas in 1832, while her marriage occurred in 1836 (this is incorrect as they married in 1840).”

From the *History of Southwest Texas* we find the following article on P.H. Rose:

neighbor, and a highly esteemed citizen and business man.
Mr. Rose was united in marriage to Miss Julia Martin, who was born in 1841, a daughter of Dr. J. F. Martin, who was born in England and prepared for his profession in Baltimore, Maryland, after which he came to the Republic of Texas, where he was married to Miss Julia Eberly, who came to Texas in 1832, while her marriage occurred in 1836. Her father, Colonel Eberly, served in the Mexican war in 1846-7, and was a very prominent man in his section of the country. Dr. Martin was likewise a highly esteemed citizen and at one time served as sheriff and tax collector in Matagorda, Texas. For a long period he was engaged in practice in Gonzales county, Texas, and later in Karnes county, while upon retiring from active practice he lived with his daughter, Mrs. Rutledge. His death and that of his wife, occurred in Karnes county. Their family numbered two daughters and three sons: Julia, now Mrs. Rose; Foster, who was killed at Atlanta, Georgia, in the Confederate army; James, who served throughout the war; Mrs. Kate Rutledge, and J. Abb, a resident of Karnes county, Texas.
To Mr. Rose and wife have been born twelve children: Mrs. Emma

1830s Per family stories, J.F. Martin is supposed to have moved to Anderson County, South Carolina, but this information has never been substantiated.

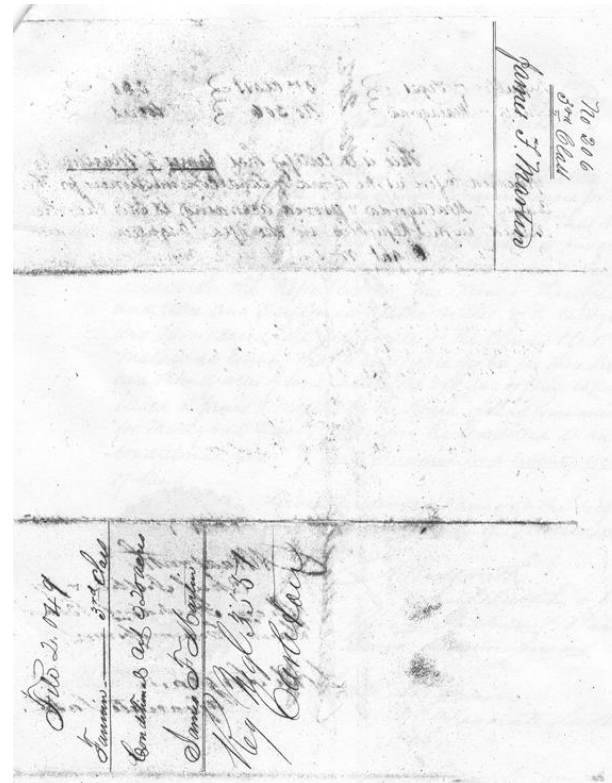
Republic of Texas } 3rd Class } 330 }
 County of Matagorda } No 206 } Acres }

This is to certify that James F. Martin has appeared before us the Board of Land Commissioners for the County of Matagorda & proved according to law that he arrived in this Republic in the year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Eight was a single man and has resided in the Republic for the term of three years and done and performed all the duties of a citizen and surrendered the Certificate of the County Clerk of Matagorda County that a Certificate No 66 for three hundred and twenty acres of land dated the 29th day of July 1839 - was issued to James F. Martin by the Board of Land Commissioners for Matagorda County. Therefore he is entitled to an unconditional grant of three hundred and twenty acres of land.

Given under our hands at the City of Matagorda this 4th day of November 1839

A. Madsen
 Chief Justice & Ex
 officio President Board
 Land Commissioners

Wm. Ingram
 Associate Justice



July 29, 1839 A conditional land grant that J. F. Martin received #206 dated July 29, 1839 from the Republic of Texas was replaced by an unconditional grant #212 in 1846. Later, he petitioned on behalf of the heirs of Jacob Eberly for land grants due the Eberly heirs.

1839 Advertisements for the practice of James Fisher Martin in Matagorda, Texas.

J. F. MARTIN,
DRUGGIST AND APOTHECARY,
 CORNER OF
CEDAR & LEWIS STREETS,
MATAGORDA,
Having just arrived from the United States with a well selected assortment of Drugs, Medicines, Patent Medicines, Paints, Perfumery, Stationery, &c. &c. Viz:

Patent Medicines.
 Rowan's Tonic Mixture, Thompson's Eye Water Hoffman's Anodine, Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, Henry's Magnesia, Farlington's Balsam, Morrison's Pills, Hooper's Pills, Lees' Pills, Mineral Water, Pepper Sauce, Canadian Balsam, Horse Powders, &c. &c. &c.

PAINTS, &c.
 White Lead, Oil, Turpentine, Black Lead, Red Lead, Chrome Yellow, Chrome Green, Verdigris, Yellow Ochre, Spanish Brown, Drop Lake, Varnishes, Pink Sauters, &c. &c.

PERFUMERY.

BRUSHES.
 Sash Tools, Paint, Floor, Scrubbing, Counter, Crumb, Flesh, Cloth, Hair, Nail, Tooth and Hat Brushes, Graining Tools, Badger Blenders, Badger Shaving Brushes, &c. &c.

Colorado Gazette and Advertiser, November 16, 1839

FEVER & ACUE,
 1 GROSS
ROWAN'S
TONIC MIXTURE,
 FRESH,
 Just received and for Sale by
J. F. MARTIN.



MERCURIAL DISEASES.
Indian Panacea, Houk's ditto,
 CARPENTER'S SARSAPARILLA,
Swaim's Panacea.
 Just received for Sale by J. F. MARTIN.

J. F. MARTIN,
Corner Cedar and Lewis Streets,
DRUGGIST AND APOTHECARY,
 Has a full supply of the articles mentioned below, many of which are peculiarly suited to this season of the year, particularly the Pulmonary Medicines, and as he is agent for the proprietors will always keep on hand a supply of the genuine articles.

James F. Martin Ads

Colorado Gazette & Advertiser, November 16, 1839
 upper left & below

Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, &c
J. F. MARTIN has just received per late arrivals, a full supply of Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, &c, as also Surgical Instruments, which he is now opening at the Matagorda Drug Store, and will sell at wholesale or retail at fair rates for cash.

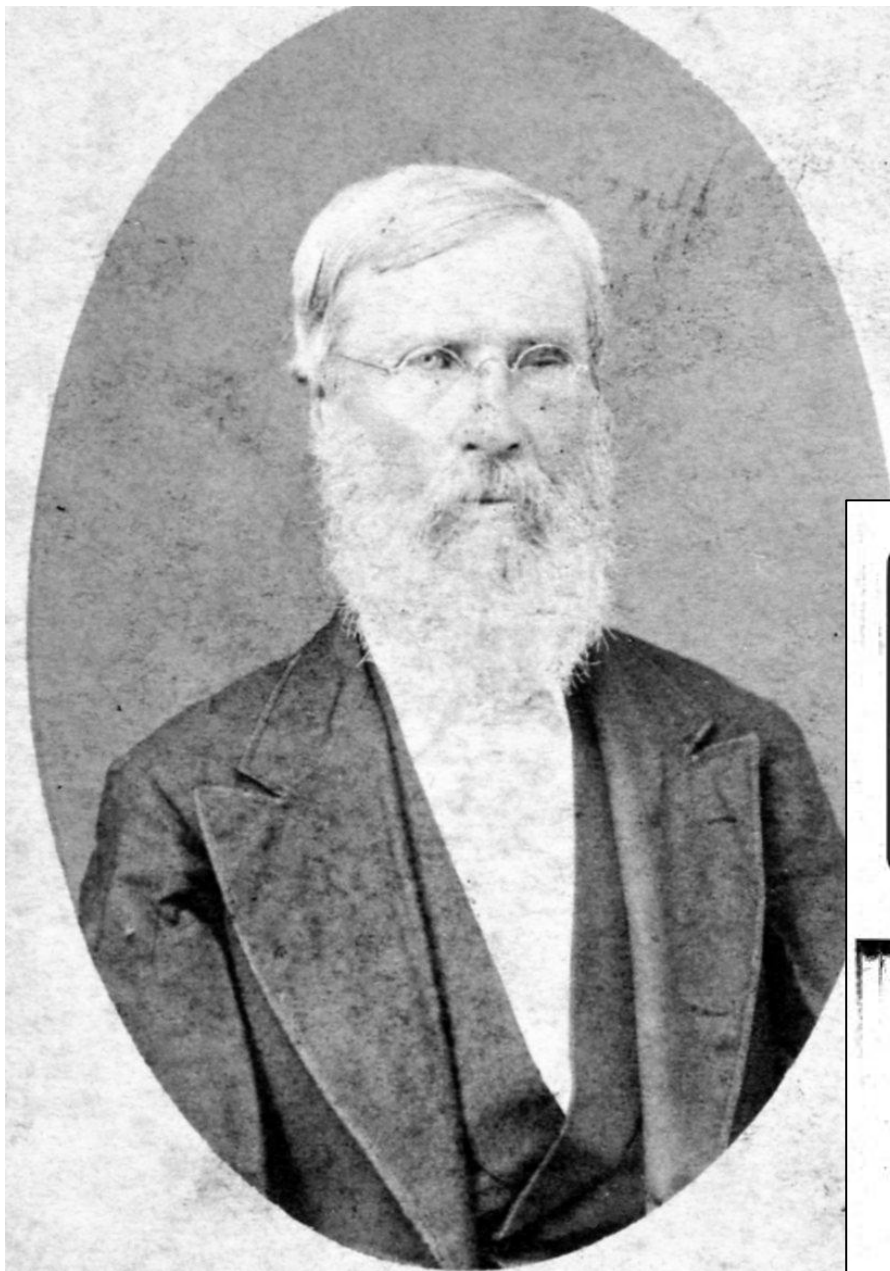
50 50 boxes Syrup, Lemon, Rose, Ginger and Sarsaparilla; 10 do. Lemon Juice; 100 doz. Essences, Burgamot, Lemon, Lavender, Cloves, Cinnamon; 10 doz. Stoughtens Bitters; 1 Ceroon Indigo; 25 boxes Soap; 50 doz. Cayenne Pepper; 10 bags Allspice; 25 kegs Mace, Cloves, Ginger, Pepper, just received and for sale by
J. F. MARTIN.

70 oz. Quinine for sale at Matagorda Drug Store.

PAINTS, OILS, &c.—8 bbls. Lamp and Lin seed Oil, 2 do. Neats Foot do.; 2 do black Leather Varnish, 3 do. do. Turpentine, 200 lbs. Litharge, Spt Whiting, 80 kegs White Lead, Verdigris, Prussian Blue, Vermillion, Chrome green and yellow, just received and for sale by
 April 25 **J. F. MARTIN.**

200 LBS. Cut Tobacco, 50 doz. bottles Snuff, Scotch, Maccabau, Rappee, Nacatoches and Cephalic, for sale by J. F. MARTIN.

Matagorda Bulletin, February 7, 1839, lower left



May 28, 1840 Marriage of James Fisher Martin and Julia Eberly Martin is #1 recorded in the Christ Episcopal Church records. The church was not constructed at the time and services were being held in the Masonic Lodge.



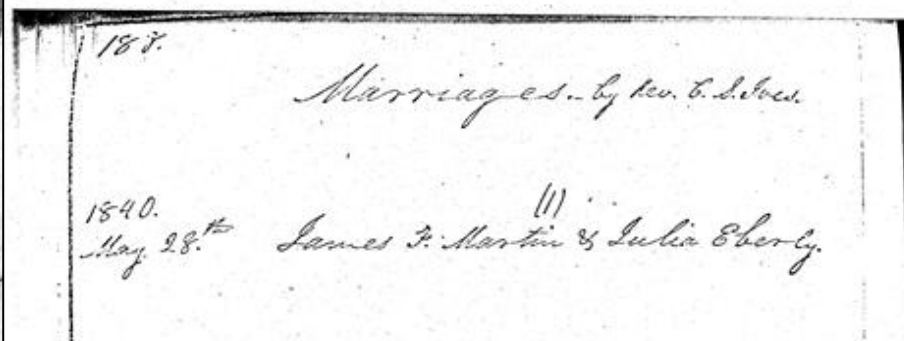
Christ Episcopal Church

206 Cypress Street
Matagorda, Texas 77457

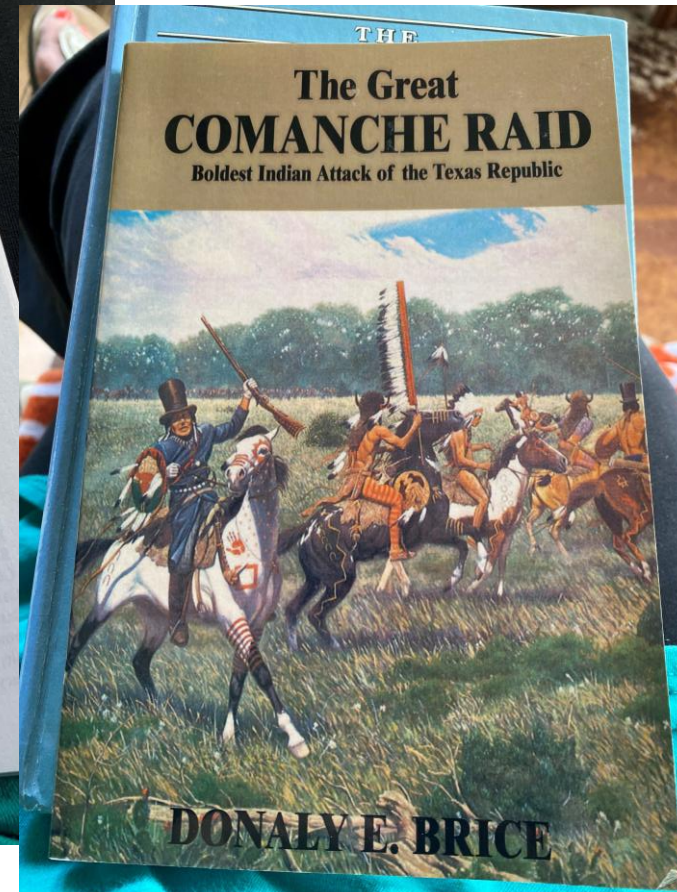
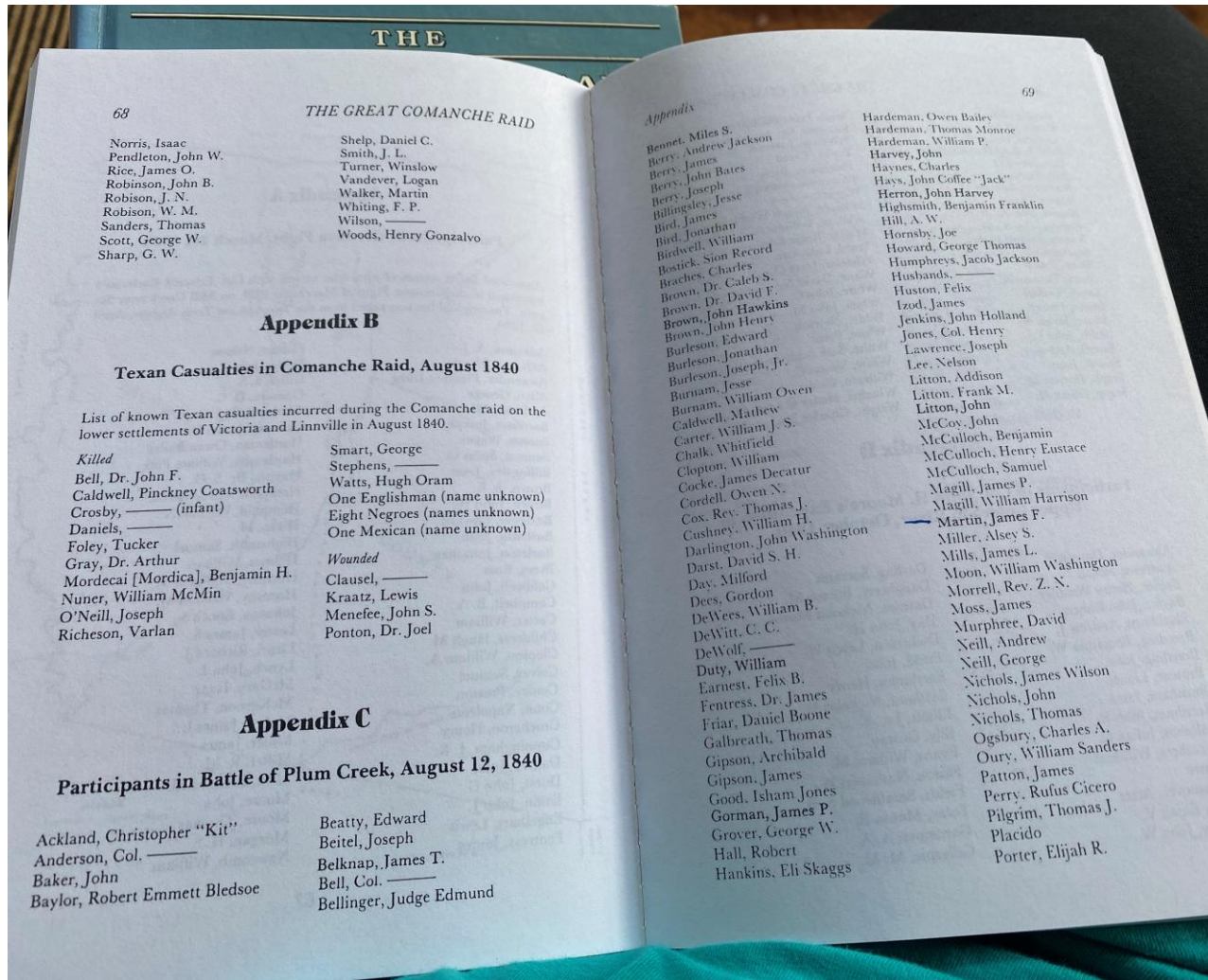
Phone: (979) 863-7239



The Mother Church of Texas... 1838



August 1840 J.F. Martin participated in the Battle of Plum Creek. The battle was the last Comanche battle in Texas. His participation is documented in “The Great Comanche Raid” by Donaly Brice.



HEROES, REBELS AND CARPETBAGGERS

JAMES FISHER MARTIN

CONTRIBUTED BY: Kathleen Tatum

James Fisher Martin was born in 1812 in England.¹ He applied for a conditional land certificate, July 29, 1839 for 320 acres of land. At the time, he declared he came to the Republic of Texas, March 1838, at the age of 26 and was a single man. His witnesses were H. L. Cook and G. R. Jaques.² He surrendered his certificate, November 3, 1845 for an unconditional one.³

James Martin was a doctor by trade and opened an office in Matagorda, shortly after arriving here. He married Miss Julia Ann Eberly, May 28, 1840. The wedding was performed in Christ Episcopal Church by the Rev. Caleb S. Ives.⁴ Julia Ann was born in 1822 in Kentucky.⁵

Francis Waldmann sold Mrs. Julia Ann Martin a house and lot, September 22, 1842. It was in Lot 6, block 11, tier 2, in Matagorda. The deed reads Mrs. Julia Ann Martin, wife of Dr. James F. Martin (druggist).⁶

Dr. James Martin was elected our sixth sheriff, May 11, 1847, while Governor George Woods was in office, replacing Joseph Smith who held the office as sheriff from 1846 to 1847. His bond was secured by A. C. Horton, James Plunkett and James Denison for \$10,000.00. George Boyer succeeded Martin in becoming our next sheriff in 1853 and held the office until 1856.

Martin's rein as sheriff was a difficult one. Several times, he had to arrest Francis Waldmann, for Waldmann's neighbors accused him of stealing their cattle. Another inditement he had to serve was on our first sheriff, Isaac VanDorn, for he was accused of gambling on his knees with his slaves in a game of dice. VanDorn pleaded guilty and was fined one cent. Then Martin was charged with assault and battery, October 10, 1851, in District Court. It was

Oak Leaves is a publication of the Matagorda Historical Society. This summarizes J.F. Martin's life in Matagorda, Texas.. Note: J.F. Martin was tried and acquitted for the murder.

declared a true bill.⁸ Other charges were brought against him, but the worst was March 15, 1852 when he was indicted for murder of Francis Waldmann. Christ Episcopal Church records stated Waldmann, also a member, died of wounds inflicted by Dr. Martin. The case was transferred to Brazoria County and he was cleared of the charges. While the murder trial was pending against him, his wife, Julia Ann filed for divorce but later had the case dismissed.⁹ They left Matagorda, after selling the home and lot, October 5, 1853 to John H. Jones.¹⁰

Five children were born to this couple while they were living in Matagorda and were baptised in Christ Episcopal Church.

1. Julia Martin born February 21, 1841.
2. Foster Eberly Martin born January 13, 1843.
3. James Sheppard Martin born May 30, 1845.
4. Catherine Jane Martin born February 11, 1848
5. Jacob Absalom Martin born May 8, 1850.

FOOTNOTES:

1. 1850 Census - Matagorda County
2. Matagorda County Land Grant Book - Page 87 # 66
3. Ibids - - - - - Page 142 # 206
4. Marriage Records of Matagorda County - Book A, Page 11 & Christ Episcopal Church Marriage Records.
5. 1850 Census - Matagorda County
6. Matagorda County Deed Records - Book E, Page 528
7. Ibids - - - - - Book G, Pages 154 & 299
8. District Court Records - Matagorda Co. - Book A, Page 488
9. Ibids - - - - - Book A, Pages 508 & 513
10. Matagorda County Deed Records - Book H, Page 550

1840 Martin family brand registered in Matagorda County.



2/21/1841 Julia Martin was born to James Fisher and Julia Ann Eberly Martin. She was baptized at Christ Episcopal Church, Matagorda, Texas.

1/13/1843 Foster Eberly Martin was born to James Fisher and Julia Ann Eberly Martin. He was baptized at Christ Episcopal Church, Matagorda, Texas.

5/30/1845 James Sheppard Martin was born to James Fisher and Julia Ann Eberly Martin. He was baptized at Christ Episcopal Church, Matagorda, Texas.

5/11/1847 James Fisher Martin was elected as sheriff of Matagorda County.

2/11/1848 Catherine Jane Martin was born to James Fisher and Julia Ann Eberly Martin. She was baptized at Christ Episcopal Church, Matagorda, Texas.

5/8/1850 Jacob Absolom Martin was born to James Fisher and Julia Ann Eberly Martin. He was baptized at Christ Episcopal Church, Matagorda, Texas.

3/15/1852 James Fisher Martin was indicted for the murder of Francis Waldemann. Waldemann was accused of being a cattle thief. The charges were cleared. An entry was found in the Christ Episcopal Church's records showing the death of Francis Waldeman, Aged 40 years (Death consequent upon a wound inflicted by Dr. Jas F. Martin) Dr. J.F. Martin was tried and acquitted in Brazoria County.

10/5/1853 The J.F. Martin family left Matagorda, Texas.

1857 Oldest daughter, Julia Ann Martin married Patrick Henry Rose in Gonzales County.

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in _____ **in the County of** Gonzales **State of** Texas **Page No.** 16
of Rancho **enumerated by me, on the** fourth **day of** June **1860.** L. B. Smith **Post Office** Rancho

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No. of family	No. of persons	Name of every person whose place of abode on the 1st day of June, 1860, was in the family	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country	Married within year	Immigrated in year	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict	
1	93	Ben Phillips	m	40					Texas				
2		John	m	40					"				
3		Ben Sage	m	40		Wagoner			Illinois				
4	100	Wm. S. Jones	m	40					"				
5	101	Ben Sage	m	40		Driver	800	400	Alabama				
6		John	m	40					"				
7		James	m	40					"				
8		Rachel	f	40					"				
9	102	Ben Jones	m	40		Driver		900	"				
10		Ben	m	40					"				
11		Rachel	f	40					"				
12		James	m	40					"				
13		John	m	40					"				
14		John	m	40		Driver			"				
15		James	m	40					"				
16		James	m	40					"				
17	103	B. S. Jones	m	40		Driver		700	Illinois				
18		Ben	m	40					Alabama				
19		Ben	m	40					"				
20		Ben	m	40					"				
21		Ben	m	40					"				
22		Ben	m	40					"				
23		Ben	m	40					"				
24	104	B. S. Jones	m	40		Driver	1000	1000	Illinois				
25		Ben	m	40					Alabama				
26		Ben	m	40					"				
27		Ben	m	40					"				
28		Ben	m	40					"				
29		Ben	m	40					"				
30		Ben	m	40					"				
31		Ben	m	40					"				
32		Ben	m	40					"				
33	105	B. S. Jones	m	40		Driver			Illinois				
34		Ben	m	40					"				
35		Ben	m	40					"				
36		Ben	m	40					"				
37		Ben	m	40					"				
38		Ben	m	40					"				
39		Ben	m	40					"				
40		Ben	m	40					"				
41		Ben	m	40					"				
42		Ben	m	40					"				
43		Ben	m	40					"				
44		Ben	m	40					"				
45		Ben	m	40					"				
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57		Ben	m	40					"				
58		Ben	m	40					"				
59		Ben	m	40					"				
60		Ben	m	40					"				

No. white males, 25 No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____
 No. white females, 17 No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, _____ No. pauper, _____ No. convict, _____

1860 This is the 1860 Gonzales County Census that was taken at the Post Office of Rancho in June of 1860.

Listed on the census:

J.F. Martin age 47 physician. It lists that he was born in Maryland but that was where he probably went to school.

Julia A. Martin age 34

Foster age 17 student (later died in the Civil War)

James age 15 student (in 1862 served in Cooks Battalion, Company H during the Civil War)

Catherine J age 13 and probably a student.

Jacob A age 10 and probably also a student.

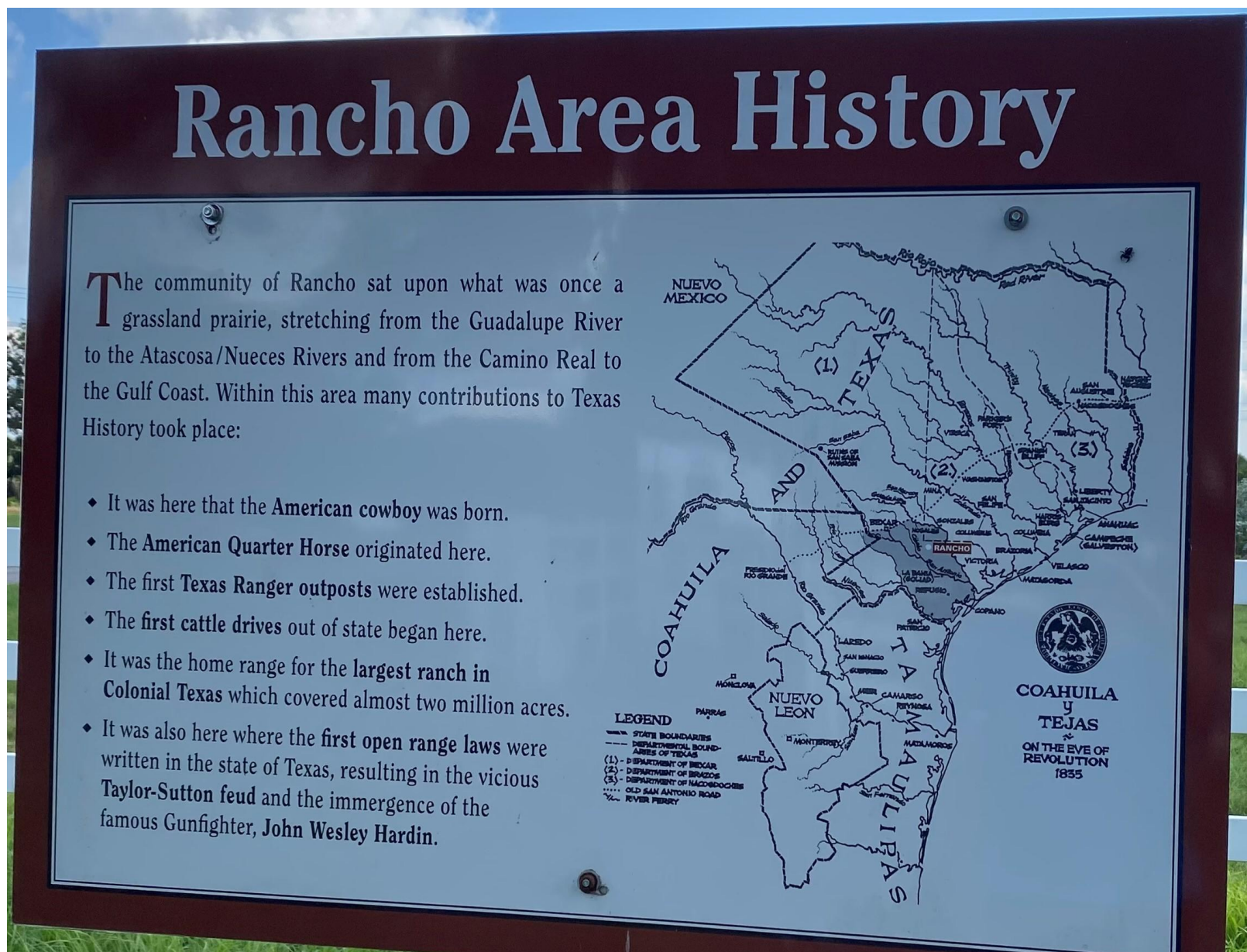
The oldest daughter, Julia Ann Martin, married Patrick Henry Rose in Gonzales County in 1857 therefore not listed on this census. Julia Ann and P.H. Rose are listed in the 1860 Karnes County census.



The student award for Jacob Absolom was given the same year 1860 possibly at the Rancho school.



The town of Rancho was located on Hwy 80, one mile north of Nixon and existed before Nixon was a town. This history park with panels displayed opened in 2023.



The Town of Rancho

The town of Rancho began in 1849, when Paul Murray and his wife Elizabeth traveled to Texas and bought the land grant of Pleasant Barnett for \$300. They moved in and built a log house on a hill overlooking the crossroads of *Indianola Trail* and *Smuggler's Road*, two main trade routes in early Texas.

Murray next constructed a small gristmill and a general merchandise store. He soon welcomed many of his old Mississippi neighbors, who had followed him to Texas in search of fresh farm land, but the plow was soon abandoned as the cowboy culture took over in this area where unbranded range cattle were everywhere and free for the taking.

The area began to be referred to as Rancho because of the ranching culture that was developing. The name **Rancho** was officially given the town when the United States Postal Service, on July 2, 1855, awarded a post office to the new community under that name. (This is about the time J.C. Gillespie acquired an interest in the Murray store).

Rancho grew to have 4 general stores, 2 hotels, a newspaper, 4 doctors, 2 dentists, 2 churches, a post office, a school, a drug store, a race track, a wheel-wright shop, 2 blacksmith shops, a saddle shop and a livery stable.



Town of Rancho

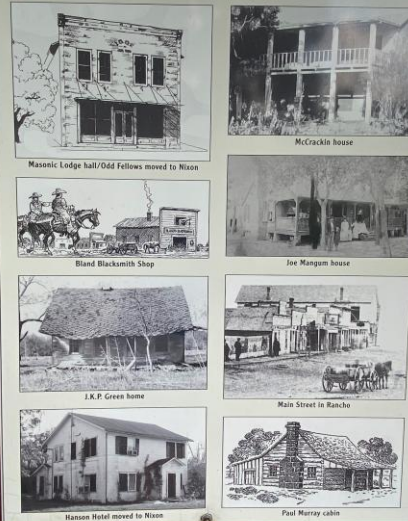
1. Paul Murray Residence
2. Tom Davis Residence
3. Hulet Magee Residence
4. Tom Miller Blacksmith Shop
5. Isham White Residence
6. Joe Murray / Will Moore Residence
7. Henry Wick Cotton Gin / Grist Mill / Wheelwright Shop
8. Dr. J.K.P. Green Office and Residence
9. Sam Magee Residence (daughter was Mrs. C. E. Austin)
10. Old Rancho Cemetery
11. Rancho Baptist Church
12. Henry Seeley Residence
13. Moore Residence

Business District on Main Street (14-18)

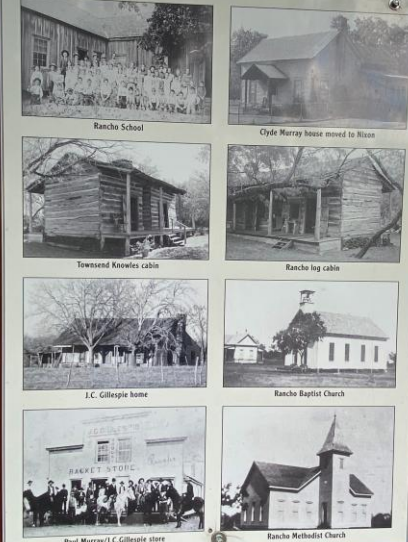
14. Wm. Phillips / S. Dowell / G. W. Littlefield building / L.O.O.F. Lodge upstairs Lampkin Brothers' Business House
15. Helin and Elkins General Merchandise, Nixon and Green Real Estate
16. Nathan Busby General Merchandise, T.M. and L. Lampkin's Business Shop
17. L.N. West and Sons General Merchandise, James R. Hawes Saddle Shop
18. Clark and Rochelle Drug Store / C.M. Sherman and W.A. Tate, Henry Seeley Store and Millinery Shop, Will Moore Store and Post Office

19. Paul Murray and J.C. Gillespie Store
20. Hanson Hotel and Rancho Newspaper
21. John T. Nixon Residence (McCrackin House moved to this site)
22. - Magee Residence
23. Methodist Parsonage
24. Methodist Church
25. John Bland Blacksmith Shop
26. Paul Murray, Jr. Residence
27. J.M. Mangum Residence
28. Schriever Cotton Gin
29. Clyde Murray Residence
30. J.C. Gillespie Residence
31. John Gillespie Residence
32. Knowles Residence
33. Busby Residence
34. Bartlett Residence (moved in after McCrackin house was moved to Square)
35. Lanham Residence
36. Rancho School
37. Rancho Cemetery
38. Rancho Latin Cemetery
39. Rancho Black Cemetery
40. Montgomery Broom Factory (2 miles west)

Rancho Photos



Rancho Photos



Rancho's School House once stood at this site

In 1855, a Gonzales County school census was conducted and found more than 80 children were living in an area, that today roughly conforms to what is now the Nixon-Smiley School District. A school building was constructed here to receive and educate those children.



The Main Street of Rancho

This is a photograph of what main street Rancho probably looked like in the early days.



This was once the site of the
Paul Murray / J. C. Gillespie Store

It was the first general merchandise store in the area and the town of Rancho grew up around it. It was not only served as a store, but also housed the post office as early as 1857.



It is probable that J.F. And Julia Eberly Martin moved from Matagorda in 1853 to somewhere around Rancho as noted in the 1860 census. The image left is of the general merchandise store /post office where the census was registered. The oldest two sons, Foster Eberly Martin and James Sheppard Martin fought in the Civil War. James Sheppard survived but Foster did not. It is probable that J.F. Martin participated in the cattle roundup in the Rancho area and along with his Republic of Texas land grant and land grants inherited by his wife, Julia Eberly Martin, was able to secure property for an eventually large ranching industry in Karnes County. In the 1860 census, Jacob Absolom Martin was still a child at the age of 10. When the Civil War ended, he was 16 years old.

Wild Cattle

While horses were racing before crowds in Rancho, other men were riding the grasslands in search of wild cattle. Rancho had been settled on land that was once part of the largest ranch in Texas. It was located near the center of the northern half of El Rancho del Espíritu Santo.

This ranch spread across almost 2 million acres where 40,000 head of cattle roamed, many becoming wild when the ranch was abandoned. By 1850, the descendants of these original cattle had probably increased to more than 1,000,000 head on the prairies around Rancho.

It's easy to see how a person living in or near Rancho could quickly get into the cattle business. The wild cattle roaming the prairie had no owners. They were free for the taking. An aspiring cattleman needed only a fast horse, a rope, a branding iron, and nerve enough to run down these cattle in the wilderness, rope them, and burn his brand into their tough hides. Without a doubt, this attracted many from all parts of the United States onto the Rancho prairies.

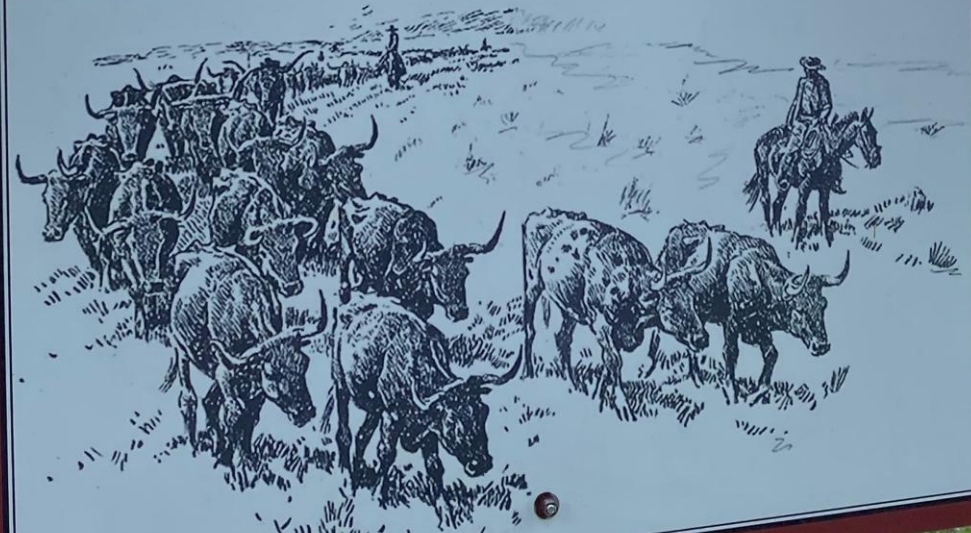


A Trail Herd

The number of cattle in a trail herd varied from time to time. In the early years the average herd was only a few hundred head, but as time passed and lessons were learned, herd size increased to be 2,500-3,500 head. These herds were usually handled by a contracted crew with the price to deliver cattle to northern markets being \$1.00-\$1.50 per head. It would take about 10-12 cowboys to drive a herd of this size. These cowhands were "bossed" by a trail boss, who had with him a cook, a cook's assistant (swamper), and a horse wrangler to drive the horse remuda.

Almost all the herds were driven north, along well-established trails, to such Kansas markets as Abilene and Dodge City. These trailed cattle were herded along behind the cook's wagon with the trail boss leading the way. Herds traveled along in a column, some 50-60 feet wide, and over a half mile in length. Herds most often traveled 10-12 miles per day depending on the location of the water hole, making the trip take about 2-3 months.

As the trail drives proved to be successful and money began to flow back into Texas, millions of cattle were put on the trail. These herds became so numerous their presence on the trail resembled a continuous, meandering parade of "marching" cattle stretching, almost without interruption, all the way from South Texas to Kansas.



"Figgurin up a Fortune"

At the end of the Civil War cattle were bringing about \$3 dollars per head when gathered and sold in Texas but when delivered to northern markets they were worth from \$30 to \$40 dollars per head. It did not take much imagination for Texas ranchers or northern buyers to "figgure up a fortune" when considering the shortage of beef in the North and the abundance of cattle in Texas. To capitalize on this market, many enterprising Texans set out with little more than a horse, a rope, and a branding iron and wound up making a fortune.

As the Rancho stockmen rode out onto the prairies once again, they could envision themselves rising from the ashes of the past and regaining the economic stability they once enjoyed. But this time they would have more than just a few dollars left over. This time they could honestly dream of becoming wealthy cattle barons by gathering and selling these rawhide-covered, wide-horned beasts in northern markets. For many local stockman, like G.W. Littlefield, Bob and Dunn Houston, A.S. Billings, J.B. Wells, L.M. Kokernut, and dozens of others, the dream came true.

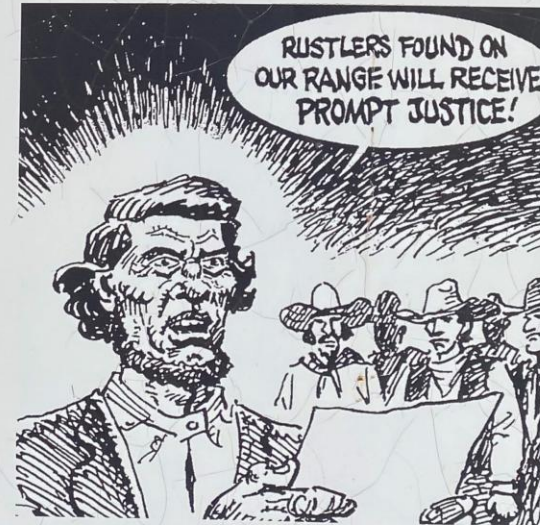


Rancho Starts a Range War

Excitement stirred in the breasts of the area stockmen as the price for range cattle increased from \$3 to \$4-6 for cattle when sold to the trail herds headed to Kansas markets. Stockmen soon realized they could get rich putting cattle herds together and selling them to drovers for as much as \$6 per head and sometimes more, without having to go up the trail. They could stay home and make a fortune.

It seemed as if everyone in the area was on his way to fame and fortune, but such was not the case. Problems soon developed because of the keen competition for the cattle being gathered and branded on the open ranges around Rancho. To "reserve" the cattle around Rancho for only local stockmen, a meeting was called by Jonathan Scott, the local JP, who was an old Indian fighter and a veteran of the Texas Revolution. (He was the great grandfather of Sandra Day O'Connor, U. S. Supreme Court Justice). This Rancho meeting resulted in range laws that laid claim by local stockmen to all the wild cattle in the area and "outsiders" were warned to stay out. The enforcement of these "range laws" was brutal. Guns were drawn, shots were fired, ropes were stretched around the necks of the opposition.

Everyone had to take sides, as the range war grew and dozens were killed. Overtime, the conflict expanded and everyone lost sight of why it started and who started it. It had evolved from a range war to a feud and finally into a vendetta for revenge. This developing feud is referred to today as the Taylor-Sutton Feud which raged in this area for almost 20 years.

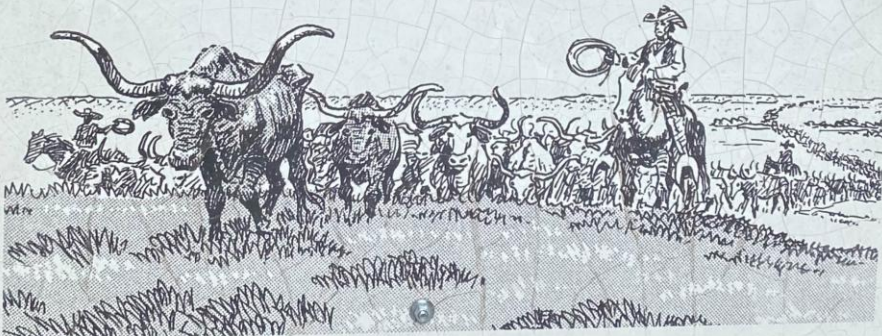


Cattle Drives "Up the Trail"

In 1866, during the "hey-day" of Rancho, thousands of head of wild cattle were gathered from the surrounding countryside, branded and driven northward to markets in Kansas. More cattle followed in 1867-1871. The trails became packed with cattle as the drives headed to the railhead in Abilene, Kansas. By 1872 the primary market had moved further west and trail herds were being delivered to Dodge City.

During the fifteen years (between 1866-1881), it is estimated that over 5 million head of cattle traveled through Gonzales County heading north, with Rancho Road being one of the primary cattle trails that saw tens of thousands of cattle passing through on their way "Up the Trail."

Many Rancho area cowboys were among the drovers who went "up the trail" with the cattle, as almost everyone in the area was involved in the drives in one way or another. One of the most famous resident trail drivers was George W. Saunders, president of the Texas Trail Drivers Association, who was born in Rancho.



Farewell to Rancho

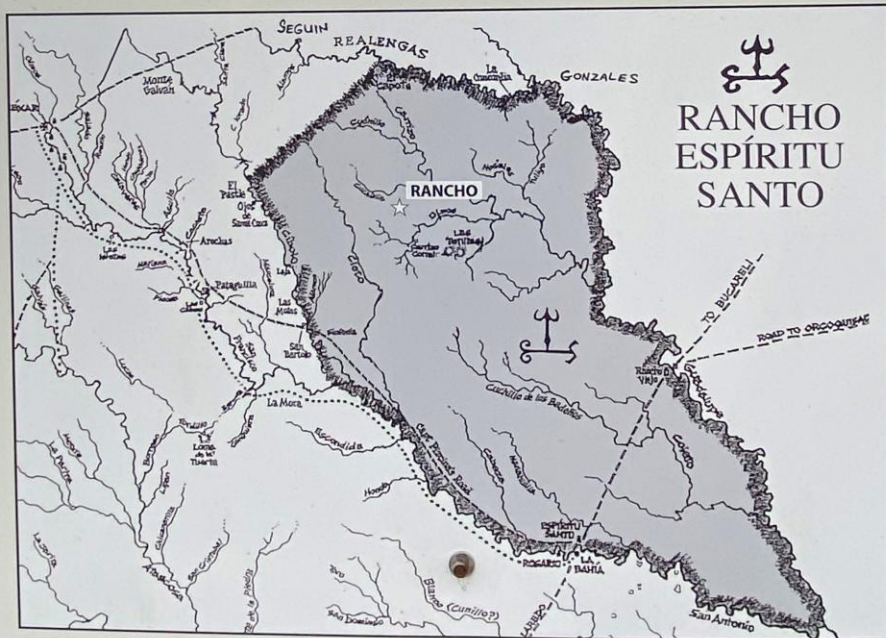
Rancho began a rapid decline in population when the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railroad bypassed the town in 1906 and many residents relocated to the new railroad town of Nixon, one and a half miles to the south. The post office closed in 1911 and by that time most of the Rancho buildings had already been moved to Nixon and most of Rancho's residents had relocated to the new town. The bypassing of this frontier town by the railroad sounded Rancho's death knell. It seemed ironic that a community that had endured Indian raids, droughts, floods, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the bloody Taylor-Sutton feud, a range war, and witnessed thousands of wild cattle being driven thru its streets on their way to Kansas would fall victim to two small ribbons of steel cutting across the cattle country of South Texas. Today there is little evidence the town of Rancho ever existed. It is all gone. Only in our minds and imaginations does the frontier community of Rancho still exist.



Rancho del Espiritu Santo

Today Rancho sits within the boundaries of the old Spanish ranch *Espíritu Santo*, established in 1759. It was the largest ranch in Colonial Texas. It was approximately 90 miles long, was over 35 miles wide at its widest point and covered approximately two million acres. Its western boundary was the Cibolo Creek and contained all the lands between the San Antonio River (southern boundary) and the Guadalupe River (northern boundary) with the eastern boundary at the confluence of these two rivers near the Texas Coast. The ranch headquarters were located at the Mission Espíritu Santo in Goliad, Texas.

Upon this mission ranch, catholic priests, many of whom were skilled horsemen, trained local Indians to be some of Texas' first vaqueros. These newly learned vaquero skills would radiate from this place and eventually spread the "cowboy culture" across North America. Publications on the history of ranching suggest Rancho del Espíritu Santo and other ranches in the area could be recognized as the "Birthplace of the American Cowboy."



RANCHO
ESPÍRITU
SANTO



RANCHO

RANCHO GREW UP AROUND THE COUNTRY STORE OF PAUL MURRAY, ON LAND HE PURCHASED IN 1849. HIS STORE WAS LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROADS THAT LED TO THE IMPORTANT SETTLEMENTS OF SAN ANTONIO, GONZALES, SEGUIN, CUERO, GOLIAD AND INDIANOLA. MURRAY HAD COME TO TEXAS FROM MISSISSIPPI AND WAS SOON FOLLOWED BY MANY OF HIS MISSISSIPPI NEIGHBORS. THEY CAME IN SEARCH OF FARM LAND, BUT SOON ABANDONED THE PLOW TO ADOPT THE COWBOY CULTURE OF THE AREA, AS UNBRANDED RANGE CATTLE WERE EVERYWHERE AND FREE FOR THE TAKING. THE NAME "RANCHO" WAS GIVEN TO THE SETTLEMENT AS A RANCHING CULTURE DEVELOPED. SOME OF THE EARLIEST OPEN RANGE BRANDING CODES IN TEXAS ORIGINATED HERE IN 1866, AS LOCAL STOCKMEN WERE GATHERING CATTLE HERDS TO BE DRIVEN TO NORTHERN MARKETS BY RANCHO COWBOYS. THESE CODES FACILITATED THE SYSTEM OF MARKING AND TRACKING THE CATTLE THAT MINGLED TOGETHER IN OPEN, UNFENCED RANGES.

A POST OFFICE WAS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1855, AND RANCHO GREW TO HAVE SEVERAL BUSINESSES, AS WELL AS A SCHOOL AND TWO CHURCHES. RANCHO BEGAN A RAPID DECLINE IN POPULATION WHEN THE GALVESTON, HARRISBURG AND SAN ANTONIO RAILROAD BYPASSED THE TOWN IN 1906, AND MANY RESIDENTS RELOCATED TO THE NEW RAILROAD TOWN OF NIXON, TWO MILES TO THE SOUTH. THE POST OFFICE CLOSED IN 1911, AND BY THAT TIME, MANY OF RANCHO'S BUILDINGS HAD BEEN MOVED TO NIXON AND MOST OF RANCHO'S RESIDENTS HAD RELOCATED TO THE NEW TOWN.

ALTHOUGH VIRTUALLY NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE TOWN OF RANCHO REMAINS, THE TOWN'S SHORT EXISTENCE STANDS AS A REMINDER OF THE HUNDREDS OF SIMILAR TOWNS THAT FELL PREY TO THE RAILROADS THAT CROSSED TEXAS DURING THE LATE 19TH CENTURY.

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

(2010)

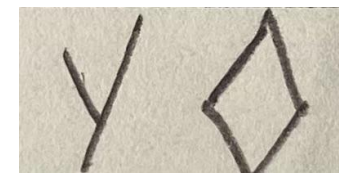
No. 4 } Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be asked merely by an affirmative mark, as j.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in _____, in the County of Karnes, of Texas, enumerated by me on the 6 day of August, 1870.

Post Office: Holmes J. B. Martin, Asst. Marshal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
No.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Age	Sex	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	J. F. Martin	38	M	W	Physician			Texas											
2	Julia Ann	36	F	W	Wife			Texas											
3	John	19	M	W	Stock raiser			Texas											
4	James Sheppard	19	M	W	Stock raiser			Texas											
5	James Sheppard	19	M	W	Stock raiser			Texas											
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39	James Sheppard	19	M	W	Stock raiser			Texas											
40	James Sheppard	19	M	W	Stock raiser			Texas											

1869 J.F. Martin sold a lot of hogs on Gonzales County. This is the brand registered to J. F. Martin in Gonzales County.



1870 Karnes County Census

Left:

J.F. Martin is listed as a physician with Julia Ann as his wife.

Below right, the next page of 1870 census:

J.A. Martin, age 19, is listed as a stock raiser.

J.S. (James Sheppard) Martin is listed as a stock raiser along with his wife and daughter.

By 1870, J.F. and Julia Ann Martin had moved to Karnes County along with at least two of their children, J.A. and J.S.

Daughters, Julia Martin Rose and Catherine Martin Rutledge were living in Karnes County also. The J. F. Martin and P.H. Rose families were neighbors.

Page No. 2

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NOTE D.—1.
NOTE E.—Q.
NOTE F.—Q.
NOTE G.—1.

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1/12/1883 Julia Ann Eberly Martin died and is buried in the Escondido Cemetery. The stone reads: in Memory of J.A. Martin (Julia Ann) who died Jan. 12, 1883, aged 63 years. Regretted by all her friends and mourned by her husband and children.



4/21/1888 James Fisher Martin died and is buried in the Escondido Cemetery.