

This is E. R. Jones to go w/ Probate - L. D. Smith adms. settled 840 1855.

John Henry Brown, a noted Texas historian. He stated that he had received a copy of the paper which contained the notice of the death of his cousin, Mrs. Mattie K. Ponton, only child of Doctor Caleb S. Brown. He told of writing a history of Texas "as should be worthy to live in the future as a faithful delineation of facts. . . ." He related the early settlement of DeWitt's Colony and the thirty-two "lion-hearted citizen heroes . . . at the Alamo" and the others from Gonzales who died there. Brown stated that he had written to Mrs. Charles Braches for names that she could recall and said that he would be obliged to any citizen in or around Gonzales, especially his old friend C.C. DeWitt and Mrs. Eveline DeWitt Mason if they would send names.

Research since 1936 has resulted in the name of John G. King being removed from the list of the "Immortal Thirty-two" by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, custodians of the Alamo. Family bible records of the King family have established that with family illness, John G. King remained with his wife and other children, and his place was taken by his son, William P. King. The Alamo custodians have substituted John G. King's name for that of Joshua G. Smith, actually a resident of San Antonio, who in fact was the guide that led the Gonzales men to the Alamo.

More recent study indicated that another resident of Gonzales was already in the Alamo with the nine listed above when the siege began. It was James McGee who held the rank of private and was born in Ireland. One report stated that he was not an efficient soldier at the Alamo because he had been wounded the previous December during the storming of Bexar, but he died at the Alamo March 6, 1836 with the other Gonzaleans.

As the tragic fall of the Alamo became known, the army was being reorganized at Gonzales under its newly appointed Commander-in-Chief Sam Houston. As the army moved eastward, with the subsequent evacuation referred to as the Runaway Scrape and the burning of Gonzales, the army of Sam Houston consisted of 374 persons, later joined by twenty-two more at Peach Creek. The loss of forty-one at the Alamo was heavy for Gonzales, but a good number of Gonzaleans marched east under Sam Houston. The details of the spectacular victory at San Jacinto a few short weeks later on April 21, 1836 have also been repeated for many decades. Among the 1,174 recorded heroes of San Jacinto, a recent study indicated that at least thirty-one were from DeWitt's Colony. They were: Moses Baker, George W. Davis, James P. Davis, John Davis, Jesse Kencheleo Davis, Edward Dickinson, Horace Eggleston, John Ferrell, William S. Fisher, John Hallett, William Hill, James Hinds, James Hughes, Joseph Kent, John McCoy, John McCrabb (McCrab), Charles Mason, Spencer Morris, James D. Owen, Nicholas Peck, Edward C. Pettus, William Pettus, Jesse Robinson, James Shaw, Samuel Shupe, Robert Smith, George Sutherland, Josiah Taylor, William Taylor, John James Tumlinson and Andrew Zumwalt. Another three had strong ties to Gonzales: James C. DeWitt, here with his Green DeWitt relatives in 1828 before he acquired a land grant in the Red River area; Erastius "Deaf" Smith, who was here in the original Gonzales survey group in 1825; and Doctor Junius William Mottley, one of the

few killed in action at San Jacinto. He had been a practicing surgeon at Goliad but had been sent to the constitutional convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos by the Gonzales Municipality as their delegate; he signed the Declaration of Independence March 2, 1836.

The recent study also showed that at least another twenty-four of the Heroes of San Jacinto went to Gonzales County, as it then existed, after the San Jacinto victory and spent therein part or all of their remaining lives. Those were: John Atkinson, Sion R. Bostick, Richard B. Darst, Elijah Dale, Thomas M. Dennis, Thomas J. Hardeman, Alfred Kelso, David L. Kokernot, Theodore S. Lee, Nathan Mitchell, Adam Mosier, James R. Pinchback, Thomas Polk, Mitchell Putman, Samuel B. Raymond, S Y. Reames, James W. Robinson, Joel Walter Robison, William C. Smith, John S. Stump, Joshua Threadgill, Amasa Turner, William C. Winters and Benjamin McCullough. Destined to have a major military role for Texas for the next twenty-seven years, Benjamin McCullough after 1836 worked in Gonzales as a surveyor under Charles Lockhart before being elected from the then represented Gonzales County in 1846 in the First Legislature of the newly formed state, but his consuming interests were the military. A great part of this Xk interest was associated with Gonzales County where he recruited military volunteers for the campaigns when the Republic of Texas existed later during the War with Mexico and during the Civil War until being killed in action as a Confederate general.

After the Texas Revolution and during the period of the Republic, 1836 to 1835, Gonzales County found its military requirement increased as the Indian threat became more intense. On December 9, 1838 while Mitchell Putman was residing two miles below Gonzales on the Guadalupe River, a band of Comanche Indians carried off four of his children: Rhoda, age seventeen; James, ten; Elizabeth, six; and Juda, two. At the same time the Indian group carried off Matilda Lockhart, age thirteen, daughter of Andrew Lockhart, a neighbor, and killed the four-year-old daughter of another neighbor. The children had been in the woods gathering pecans when the Indians appeared. James and Juda Putman were restored to their parents within a few months. Elizabeth was kept for two years when her father had to trade a grey mule for her. Rhoda eventually married an Indian and became a member of the tribe, but twenty-seven years later returned to her parents. *richards connection*

Earlier in January, 1837 a law was passed by the Republic of Texas which provided for a company of fifty-six Rangers for the frontier of Gonzales County. The month before on December 7, 1836 President Sam Houston chose one of his San Jacinto veterans, Joel Walter Robison, as first lieutenant for a company of mounted riflemen for duty in Gonzales County. Early in 1837 Nathan Mitchell was chosen by President Houston to serve as second lieutenant for duty in the same unit in Gonzales County. Men in Gonzales County volunteered for relatively short duty periods in the local Ranger group. They were granted certain tax exemptions for their service similar to those granted later to the volunteer minutemen in 1841.

The 1839 muster roll of Matthew Caldwell's Ranger Company of the Gonzales

Regiment indicated that all men were enrolled and called into service March 16 and discharged June 16 and were: captain Matthew Caldwell; First Lieutenant James Caldwell, no dates listed; Second Lieutenant C.C. Colly, no dates listed; First Sergeant George D. Miller; Second Sergeant John R. King; Third Sergeant William N. Henry; Fourth Sergeant John Archer. The following were privates: M.L. Bibee, Seth Baldrice, Nathan Burgett, Curtis Caldwell, William Clinton, M.G. Dikes, I.M. Day, J.M. Day, A.S. Emmitt, James Forrester, Thomas Grubbs, John B. Gray, Daniel Grady, V. Henderson; David Henson, F.W. Happle, John S. Hodge, E.R. Jones, Moury Irvin, William H. Killen, H.B. King, Henry McCullough, T.M. Minter, G.W. Nicholas, G.H. Nichols, Sol G. Nichols, Thomas R. Nichols, John W. Nichols, James W. Nichols, William S. Orsburne, William Putman, D.N. Poore, James Pinchback, James R. Roberts, David Reynolds, Abram Roberts, Alexander Roberts, Jeremiah Roberts, John Russell, D.W. Russell, John S. Stump, Ezekiel Smith, French Smith, James A. Swift, T.W. Symon, William Smith, J.N. Sowell, And J. Sowell, Asa J.L. Sowell, J.D. Wolfen, Nathan Wadkins, Isaac Wallace and Everett Harris.

In the summer of 1840 the Comanche Indians staged a major sweep down the Guadalupe River valley, killing settlers, stealing horses, plundering and burning settlements as far as Linnville in Calhoun County. There they started a retreat after encountering several volunteer companies of Texans, one commanded by Captain John James Tumlinson, a Gonzalean. The roster of his company could not be located. At Plum Creek near Lockhart in what then was still Gonzales County, a volunteer group of Texans, numbering about 200 including Captain Matthew Caldwell and some of his Gonzales Rangers defeated 1,000 Comanches. This decisive victory pushed the Comanche menace westward. The Inquirer July 19, 1923 stated that in addition to Captain Matthew Caldwell, among the Gonzaleans who were valiantly represented in the Plum Creek victory were James Bird, Ben McCullough, C.C. DeWitt, Alonzo B. Sweitzer, Andrew Liel, Kit Achlin Gipson, Charles Braches, Doctor Caleb S. Brown, surgeon, Thomas W. Short, David S.H. Darst and unnamed others.

But Indian attacks continued to harass Gonzales and other counties. On February 3, 1841 the Congress of the Republic of Texas authorized the formation of volunteer minutemen to give protection from Indian attacks on the central and southern frontier. Each company was to consist of no fewer than twenty nor more than fifty-six men who were to elect their own officers and hold themselves in readiness for instant activity. In return for their military service, the minutemen were exempt from poll tax, from the tax on a saddle horse and from the performance of road duty.

The available muster rolls of Captain James H. Callahan's company of Gonzales County Minute Men for the period May 7 to December 20, 1841 showed the following men enlisted at Sequin (still Gonzales County at that time) and served May 7 - May 21 for fifteen days except the last two men: Captain James H. Callahan; First Lieutenant William P. Kinkennon; Second Lieutenant James W. Day; First Sergeant John R. King; Allen Crane, Isaac A. Farris, Asa J.L. Sowell, David

John
John

Ref. Gonzales Co. Bk