

Texian Pioneers In Historic Old Columbia Cemetery Where Texas Began

By:

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December 9, 2017

Time Line of Cemetery

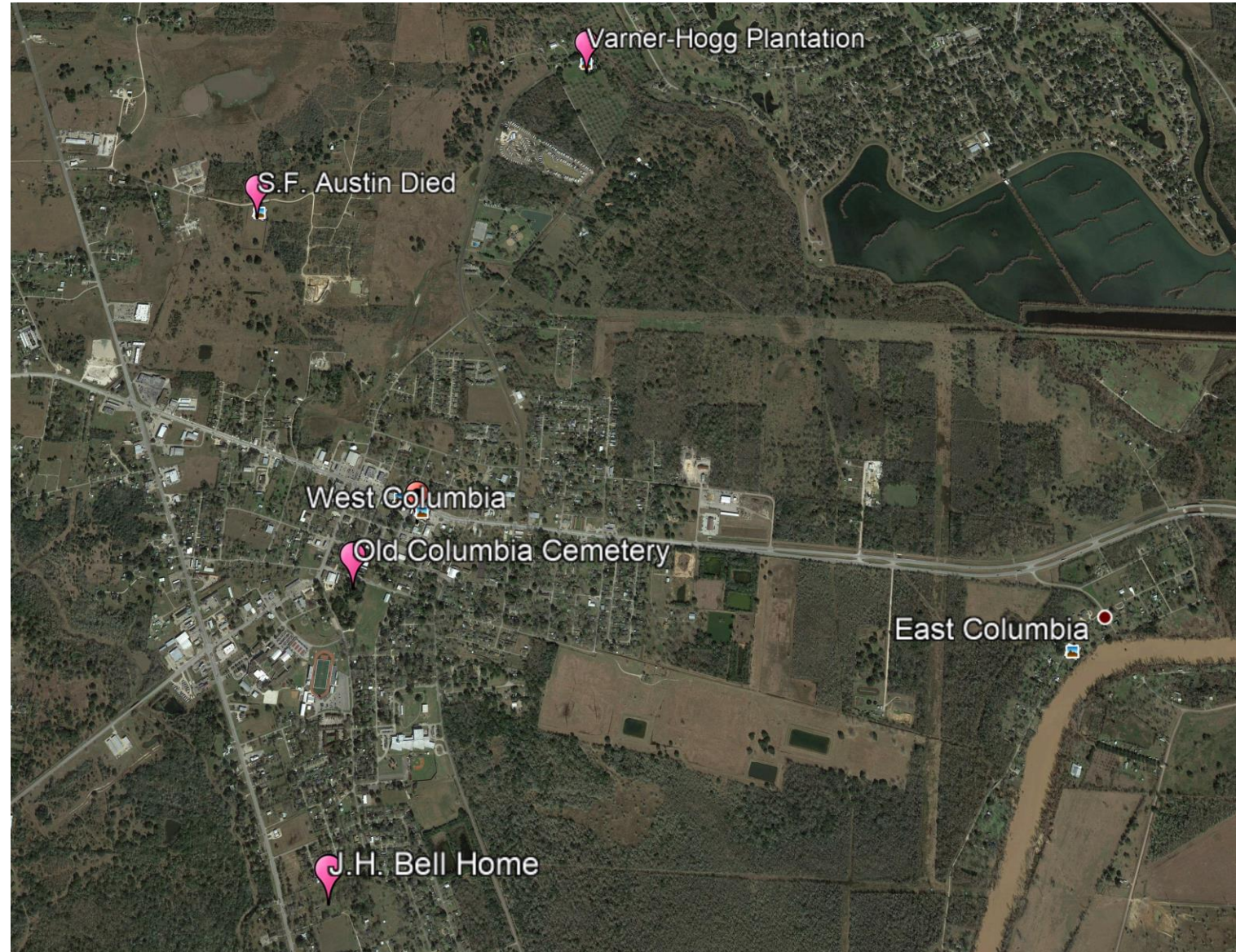
- 1820 – Moses Austin Traveled to San Antonio for Land Grant
- 1821 – Steven F. Austin Came to Texas Along With Josiah Bell
- 1822-1823 – Josiah Bell Put In Charge of Colony While S.F. Austin Was In Mexico, Chose Land for His Grant
- 1836 – Texas Revolution
- 1852 – Bell Family Gave 2 Acres Around Presbyterian Church for Cemetery
- 1933 – Presbyterian Church Deeded Cemetery to Colombia Cemetery Association
- 2011 – TX Historical Commission Classified Cemetery as Historic



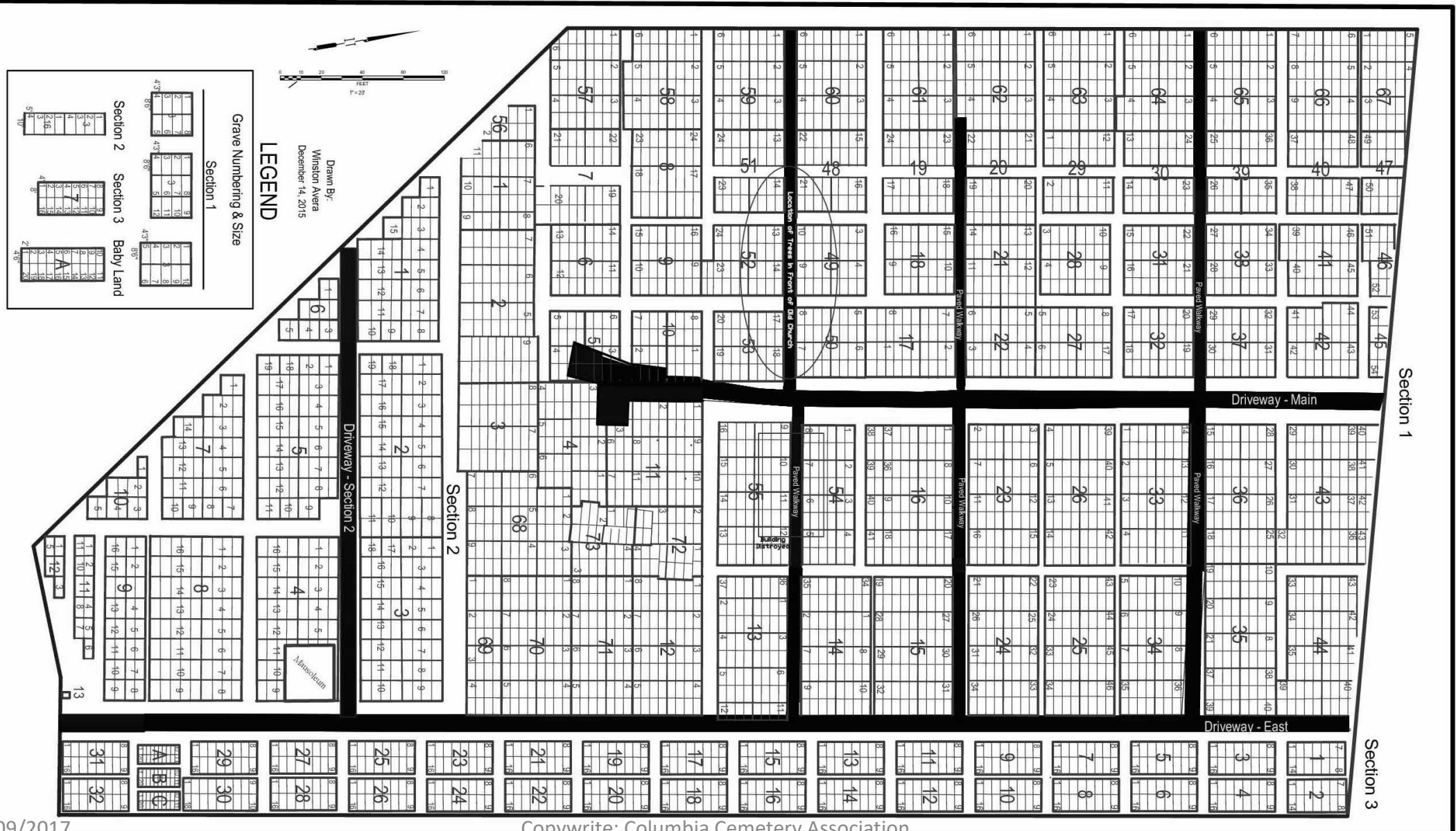
Marion/Bell's Landing
East and West Columbia

1863 Map of Brazoria County

Historic Locations Of Early Texas



Present Cemetery



What Is The Oldest Grave?

Known Deaths Prior to 1852 Deeding

Some
People Were
Reinterred Here.
Believe Records
of Early Burials
Were Not Kept
Or Lost.

Rev. Strickland
1839

Angeline
Caldwell
Kerr 1825

N. Hazen 1836

J. Byrom 1836

H.S. Brown 1834

B. Lockhart 1839



J.H. Bell 1838

Elizabeth McKenzie
1840

Catherine McCormick
1842

David McCormick*
1836

Thomas Copes
1849

Cornelia Copes
1844

* Known to be reinterred



Texas Historical Citizens

Historical

Josiah Bell
Dr. Samuel Angier
David McCormick
Thaddus Bell
Henry Brown
Byrd Lockhart
John Byrom
Ammon Underwood
George Rounds
John Adriance
Nathaniel Hazen
Rev. Strickland

Notable

Jimmy Wedell
Herman M. Paul, Jr.



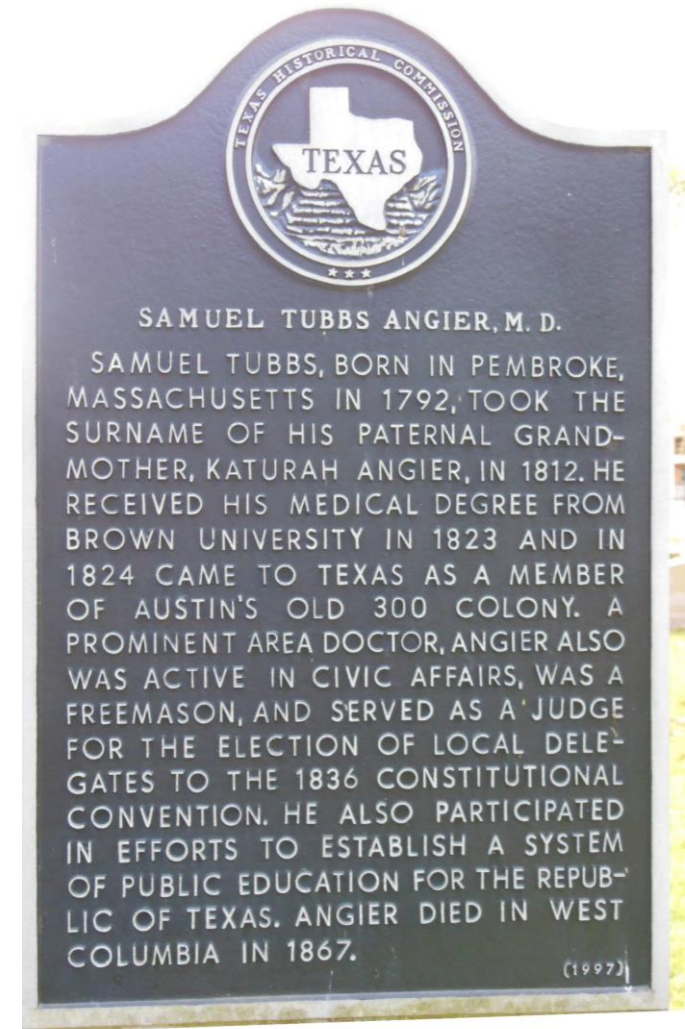
Josiah Hughes Bell

- 1812 – Fought In Indian Wars
- 1817 – Friend of The Austins in Missouri
- 1821 – Came to Texas With S.F. Austin, Settled
Near Washington-on-the-Brazos
- 1824 – Old 300 Colonist
Moved Down the Brazos River
Built Marion/Bell's Landing
Laid Out East & West Columbia
- 1832 – Built First School and Hotel
- 1834 – Initiated Petition for Austin's Release from
Mexico
- 1838 – Died and Buried in Family Plot Near Home



Samuel Tubbs Angier, MD

- 1824 – Old 300 Colonist
Granted Land 4 Miles Above Mouth of
Brazos River
- 1830 – Granted 2/3 League on East Side of
Chocolate Bayou (Liverpool)
- 1836 – Election Judge for Brazoria for
Constitutional Convention
- 1838 – One of 7 Requesting Congress to
Establish System of Public Education
- 1848 – Charter Member of St. John's Lodge,
Grand Master
- 1867 – Died in West Columbia



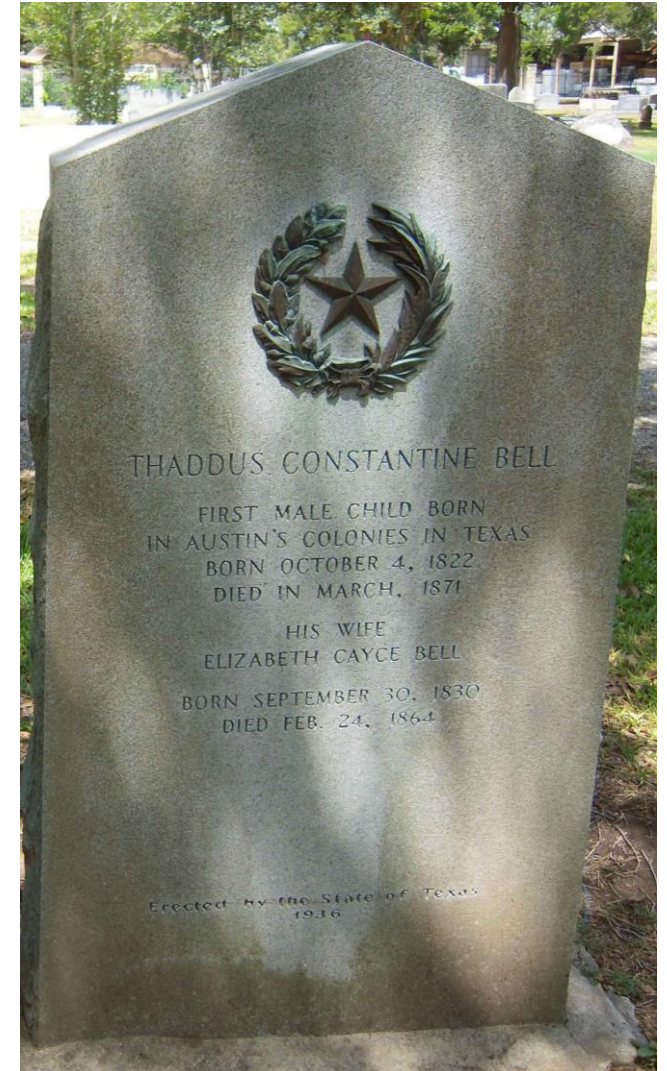
David McCormick

- 1821 – Came to Texas from Arkansas
Seeking Land
Wife and 2 Children Died in Arkansas
While He Was In Texas
- 1823 – Contributed Toward 630 Bushels of
Corn to Pay Erasmo Seguin's
Expenses as Texian Representative to
Mexican Congress
- 1824 – Old 300 Colonist
Granted 1 League on West Side of
San Bernard River Near Sweeny
- 1826 – Farmer and Stock Raiser
- 1836 – Died and Later Reinterred



Thaddus Constantine Bell

- 1822 – First Anglo Male Born in Austin's Colony
- 1872 – Died and Was Buried in Morse-Bragg Cemetery in What Is Now Part of Houston's River Oaks
- 1936 – *Texas Centennial Celebration* Placed A Memorial Marker in Cemetery in His Honor



Henry Stevenson Brown

- 1812 – Volunteer in War of 1812
Took Part In Battle of Fort Clark in Illinois in 1813
- 1824 – Came from Missouri to Mouth of Brazos to Trade
- 1832 – Commander of Texian Forces at Battle of Velasco
Delegate from Gonzales to Convention of 1832
- 1834 – Died in Columbia
- Brown County Named for Him



Byrd Lockhart

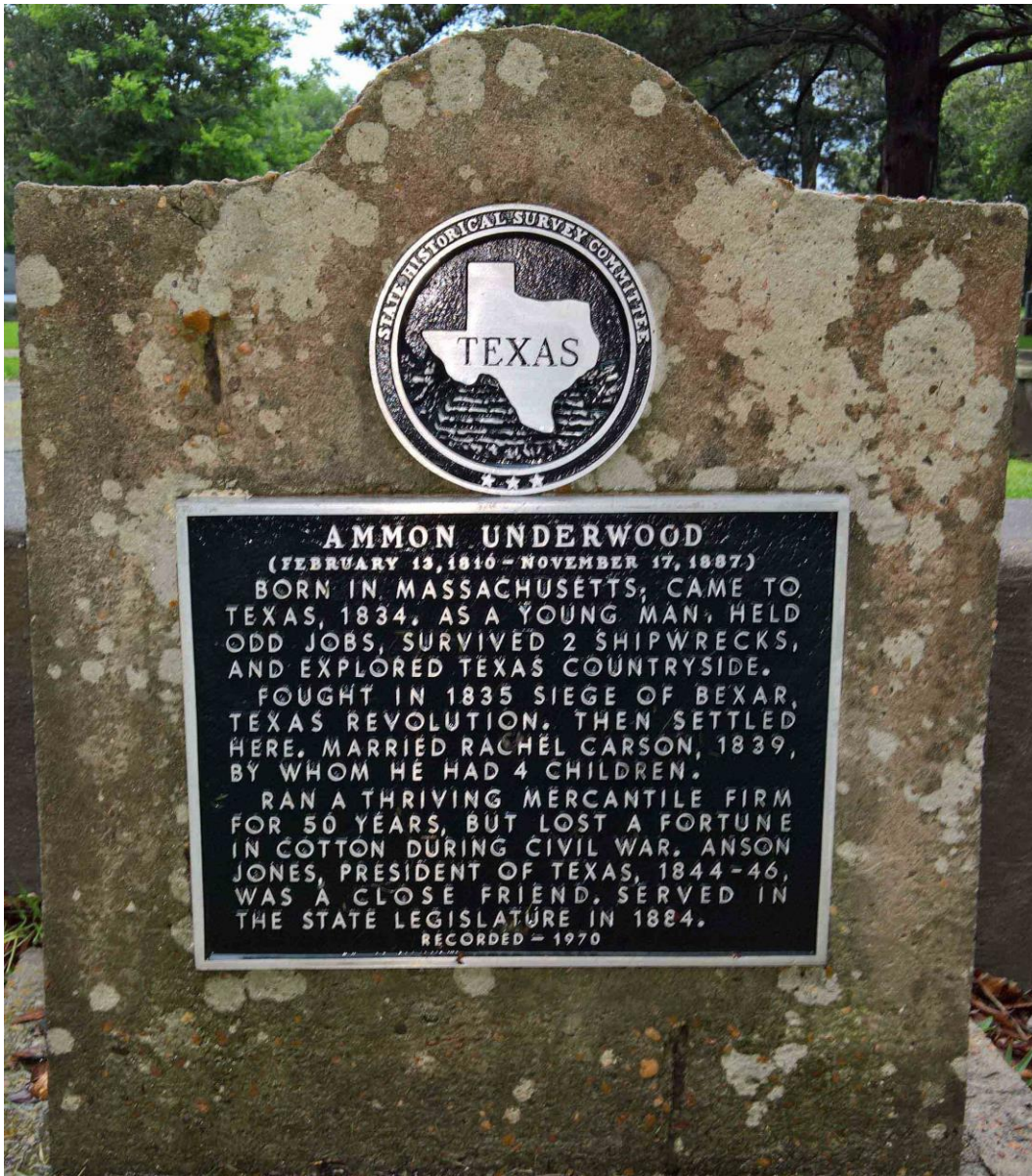
- 1826 – Settled in DeWitt's Colony
Commissioned Deputy Surveyor
Surveyed Around Gonzales
Chairman of Meeting Denouncing
Fredonian Rebellion
- 1827 – Opened Road from Bexar To Gonzales
to Matagorda Bay
- 1830 – Received 4 Leagues on Plum Creek
- 1835 – Served in Siege of Bexar
- 1836 – Sent from Alamo for Supplies
Scouted for Col. Fannin, Captain of Spy
Company for Gen. Sam Houston
- 1839 – Died at Mary Bell's Home
- City of Lockhart Named in His Honor



John S.D. Byrom

- 1830 – Landed at Hinkle's Ferry On San Bernard River
- 1832 – Fought in Battle of Velasco
- 1835 – Rep. Columbia at Consultation at San Felipe de Austin
Appointed by Provisional Government to Organize Militia in Brazoria
- 1836 – Signed Texas Declaration of Independence
- 1837 – Died in Columbia
- 1936 – *Texas Centennial Celebration*
Erected Monument in His Honor





Ammon Underwood

- 1834 – Arrived at Velasco
- 1835 – Joined Texian Army, Participated in Skirmishes Near Bexar
Went on Furlough a Day Before Siege of Bexar
- 1836 – Received $\frac{1}{4}$ League Grant
Columbia Postmaster Until 1845
Mercantile Business for 50 Years
Made Fortune in Cotton Investments,
Lost It During Civil War
- 1854 – Incorporator for Columbia, Wharton, Austin Railroad
- 1856 – Incorporator for Houston Tap RR
- 1884 – Rep. in Texas Legislature
- 1887 - Died

George Rounds

- 1835 – Came to Texas from New York, Settled at Velasco
- 1936 – In Col. Fannin's Regiment, Escaped Goliad Massacre
- 1850 – Mailman on Brazos Riverboat
- 1855 – Died Without Descendants or Heirs, Will Awarded His Estate for Purpose of "Educating the Poor and Orphan Children of the Community"





John Adriance

- 1835 – Settled at Bell's Landing
- 1836 – Under Capt. Jacob Eberty, Helped Protect Residents During *Runaway Scrape* Guarded Gen. Santa Anna on His Way to Velasco
- 1836-1839 – Operated Mercantile Business in West Columbia
- 1865 – Deputy for Commissary Dept. of Confederacy in W. Columbia
- 1873 – As Texas Legislator, Influenced Founding of Texas A & M, Prairie View College, and University of Texas
- 1903 – Died

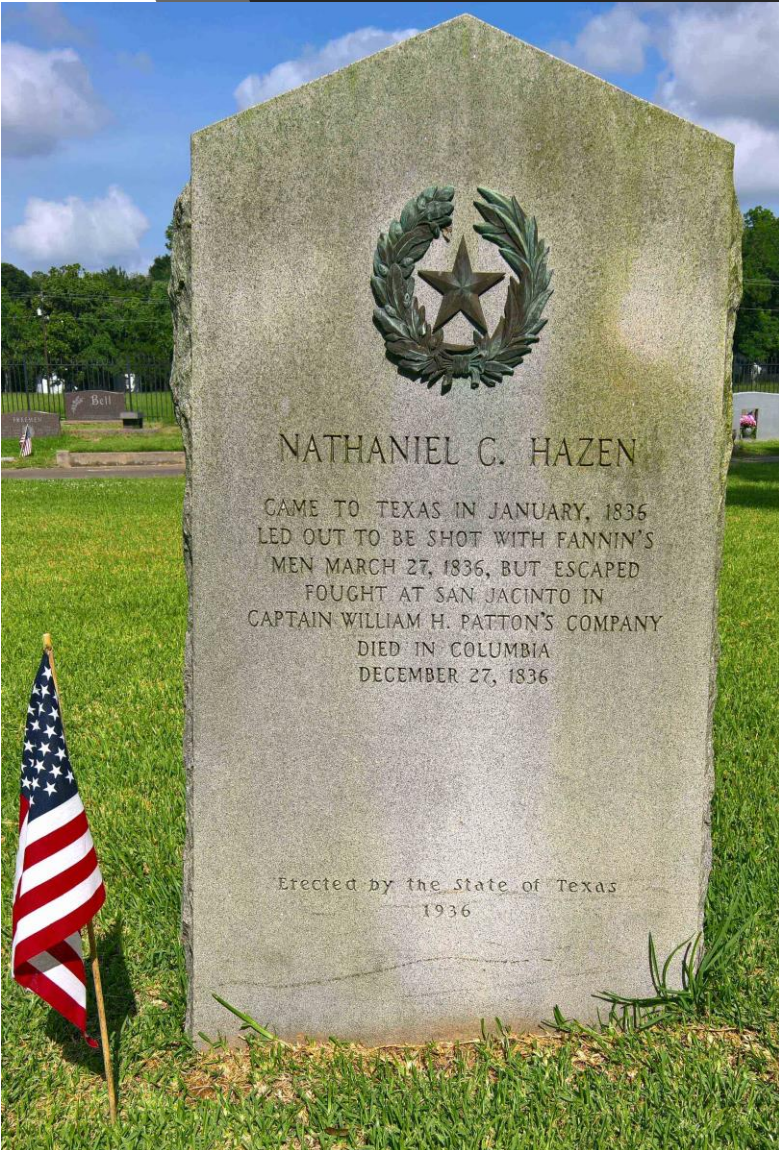
Nathaniel C. Hazen

1836

- January – Arrived in Texas
- March – In Col. Fannin's Regiment, Led Out to Be Shot, but Escaped
Made His Way Back to
General Sam Houston's Texian Army
- April – Fought at San Jacinto in
Capt. William H. Patton's Company
- December – Died in Columbia

1936

Texas Centennial Celebration Erected Monument in
His Honor



Rev. Isaac Strickland



- October 1838, Tennessee Methodist Conf. Appointed Strickland to The Texas Mission
- Missionaries Were Paid \$100 A Year, Traveling Expenses, A Horse And Clothes, Expected to Raise Any Other Funds
- Assigned Area Between Brazos and Trinity Rivers; Roughly 4,100 Square Miles
- December 1838 – Organized Church In Montgomery
- March 1, 1839, Assigned to The Brazoria District Circuit of Over 500 Miles
- June 1839 – Organized Columbia Church
- July 1839 – Died in Mary Bell's Home

James “Jimmy” R. Wedell

- 1913 – Learned to Fly at Age 13
- WWI – Trained Army Cadets to Fly
- 1922 – Partnered with Millionaire Harry Williams, Started Louisiana's 1st Commercial Passenger Service, New Orleans to Houston
- Designed Low-Wing Monoplane, Wedell-Williams Model 44 Was Fastest Aircraft in United States
- Set Many Air Racing Records
- Was 1st to Fly Over 300 MPH
- 1934 – Died in Flight Training Accident,
- Obituaries Included Column by Will Rogers and Article in *Time* Magazine



Thompson Air Racing Trophy

It Represented Icarus, the First Man to Fly, According to Greek Mythology, with Wings Spread, Facing Skyward, Symbolizing Man's Ever-Constant Desire to Fly.

Enshrined In
James “Jimmy” Robert Wedell’s
Headstone



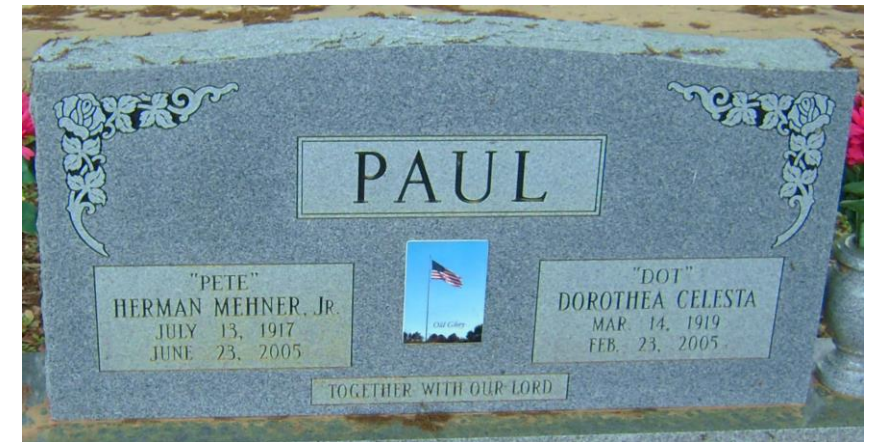
Herman Mehner Paul, Jr.

T/Sgt. Herman M. Paul, Jr., 18189062

SILVER STAR

Par. 2 (letter) For gallantry in action while participating in a sortie on June 26, 1945 against the airfield installations and defenses of Tsuiki, Kyushu, Japan, as engineer of a heavy bombardment aircraft. Directly following the highly destructive bomb run, on the breakaway, the formation was attacked by approximately 30 enemy interceptors. Determined attacks were made on T/Sgt. Paul's bomber by two enemy fighters, resulting in at least four 20mm. shell bursts which scarred the plane with over five hundred holes. Caught, as he operated the top turret gun, by debris and exploding machine gun cartridges caused by the explosion of a shell just below his gunner's seat T/Sgt. Paul quickly sprang to action to patch up a fuel cell spurting gasoline from a shell hole. The hydraulic system was shattered and inoperative, the radio and interphone out, engine panel instruments useless and above all the elevator control cable hung together by only a few strands of wire. This he managed to splice efficiently restoring control of the aircraft, and although suffering from shock he in turn repaired the other dangerous damage so well that the pilot was able to bring the bomber to a safe landing by the aid of some parachutes used as improvised brakes.

The gallantry displayed by T/Sgt. Paul in the face of great odds resulted in the saving of both the aircraft and the lives of the crew, and is in the highest tradition of the Army Air Forces.



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