

SMITH, ERASTUS ("Deaf Smith") - Born in New York State April 19, 1787, the son of Chiliab and Mary Smith. In 1798 his parents moved to Mississippi and settled near Natchez. Erastus first came to Texas in 1817, but remained only a short time and nothing is recorded of his trip. He was of feeble health at the time, but his constitution soon was built up again. He returned to Texas in 1821 and made his headquarters at Bexar, and there in 1822 he married ~~to~~ Mrs. Guadalupe Ruiz Duran, widow of Vincente Duran.

Green DeWitt on April 15, 1825, had been officially granted a contract with the State of Coahuila and Texas to introduce four hundred families within designated boundaries, now embracing DeWitt, Guadalupe, Caldwell and portions of Lavaca and Karnes Counties. He commissioned James Kerr of Missouri to select and lay out a site for a capital of the colony, and in August 1825 we find Kerr, Erastus Smith, Basil Durbin, Geron Hinds, John Wightman, James Musiek, Mr. Strickland and some negro servants of Mr. Kerr engaged in this work. This site, abandoned the following year, was located near where the present city of Gonzales stands.

At the outbreak of the Texas Revolution, the loyalty of Smith to Texas was a matter of uncertainty, due to his past associations with Mexicans. When Austin's army was organized at Gonzales, however, Smith was one of the first to enlist and it was not long before he had gained the confidence of all loyal Texans. He was detailed on scout duty, for which he was peculiarly fitted, being thoroughly acquainted with the manners and customs of the Mexicans, and with the

topography of the frontier. He participated in the fight at Concepcion, where the first Texan, Richard (Big Dick) Andrews, fell in the actual revolution and marched at the head of F. W. Johnson's command as the Texans made their way into the city. While on top of the Veramendi House, December 8th, he was wounded, at the time the gallant Benjamin R. Milam was killed in the Veramendi yard.

Upon the reorganization of the Army under General Sam Houston at Gonzales in March, 1836, Smith was assigned to the Cavalry Corps and put in command of recruits. While near Harrisburg he captured a courier with important dispatches to Santa Anna, disclosing the whereabouts of Santa Anna and his army. On the morning of April 21st, he destroyed the bridge over Vince's Bayou, and when the battle opened on that memorable day, he fought gallantly. After the battle he was sent by General Houston to overtake General Filisola and deliver to him orders from Santa Anna to retreat with his men from Texas soil.

After the fall of Bexar in 1835, Smith and his family moved to Columbia to live. While no longer connected with the Army, he was given permission to raise and command a company of rangers, using his own judgment as to where and how he should operate. On February 17, 1837, with twenty men under him, he fought a battle on a creek five miles from Laredo with a force of Mexicans superior in number. In his official report of the engagement, he stated that ten of the enemy had been killed and as many more wounded, and forty of their horses captured. Two Texans were wounded and none were killed. Smith stated that his object was "to raise the flag of Independence on the spire

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of the Catholic Church at Laredo."

On November 11, 1836, the President signed an Act of Congress under which Erastus Smith could be presented by the Republic of Texas any house and lot in San Antonio that Smith might choose. He selected the one owned by Ramon Musquiz situated on the north east corner of main square, now called Main Plaza, and within less than a block of the Veramendi House where Bowie won his bride and where Milan fell on December 7, 1835. In 1924 a patriotic organization placed a marker on the building standing on the site of the old Musquiz home with the following inscription on it:

Site of Governor Musquiz' Residence.  
Here the women and children survivors  
of the Alamo Massacre were brought on  
March 6, 1836.

Possibly the markers were not aware of the fact that the Musquiz house had been presented to Deaf Smith by the Texas Government.

The location of the property is definitely established in deeds signed by Simona Smith Fisk and Gertrudes Smith Tarin, daughters of Erastus, by which they disposed of their claimed interest in the estate. A third interest was also claimed by Refugio Duran de Tejada, wife of Jose Tejada and daughter of Guadalupe Ruiz and Vincente Duran.

The deed signed by Simona Smith and her husband James Nathaniel Fisk is recorded on Page 427, Volume H1 of the deed records of Bexar County and is as follows:

The State of Texas)

County of Bexas ) Know all men by these presents that James N. Fisk and Simona Fisk, his wife, in consideration of the sum of Six hundred and Sixty six dollars and Sixty seven cents to the said Simona Fisk paid by G. J. Cook and A. A. Lockwood of said County the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have granted bargained, sold, released and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, release and confirm unto G. J. Cook and A. O. Lockwood, their heirs and assigns forever all the estate right title, interest and claim of the said Simonia Fisk in and to a certain lot andhouse situated in said county in the City of San Antonio on the corner of the main Public Square and Commerce Street bounded on the north by Commerce Street on the East by a house and lot belonging to the Masonic Lodge, on the west by said public square, it being the same premises formerly owned by Ramon Musquiz and afterwards claimed by the heirs of Erastus Smith, deceased, by virtue of an Act of Congress of the Republic of Texas entitled "An Act for the relief of Erastus Smith", approved November 11th, 1836, the portion of said premises claimed and hereby conveyed by the said Simona Fisk being an undivided third part of the same inherited from her father Erastus Smith. Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appertences to the same belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining and assigns forever free and forever discharges of all and every claim of the said Simonia Fisk, her heirs, executors or administrators to the same or any part thereof. In witness whereof the

said James N. Fisk and Simona Fisk, his wife, have herunto set their hands and scrawls for seal this thirtieth day of October A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty nine.

Sealed and delivered

James N. Fisk (Seal)

in the presence of

Simona Smith

y Fisk (Seal)"

Gertrude Smith Tarin and her husband Macario Tarin disposed of their claimed interest to the estate to Cook and Lockwood, November 9, 1849 as is disclosed by a deed recorded on Page 431, Volume Hl.

Erastus Smith had without a doubt selected the Musquiz residence as his but had failed to secure a deed to it from the Republic and as a consequence the intended gift was never in reality made. Ramon Musquiz, claiming it as his own sold it to Cook and Lockwood for \$3,500.00 as is shown by a deed of November 5, 1849 recorded on Page 432, Volume Hl. Cook and Lockwood in order to clear the title purchased the property from Musquiz and the heirs of Erastus Smith.

Erastus Smith was married to Mrs. Guadalupe Ruiz <sup>†</sup> Duran, widow of Vincente Duran, in San Antonio in 1822 and to them were born three children, Susan <sup>C</sup>Conception, born August 15, 1823, Gertrudes date of birth not known, and Simona, born October 26, 1829 in the Mission Espada.

Susan <sup>E</sup>Conception was married to Nathaniel Fisk, November 12, 1839. She died January 22, 1849, and on August 1, 1849 Mr. Fisk was married to Simona.

Nathaniel Fisk was born in Scranton, Vermont, September 4, 1815,

and emigrated to Texas in 1835, serving three months in the armies in the companies of Captains Jesse Billingsley and William E. Howth. He died April 5, 1876 and his wife Simona died November 11, 1890. Both are buried in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery at San Antonio.

Gertrudes was married to Macario Tarin. The dates of their death are at present unknown to the writer. They were living in San Antonio in 1867.

Erastus Smith died in Richmond, Texas November 30, <sup>1837</sup>~~1836~~. The State of Texas in 1931 erected a monument at his grave. His widow died May 1, 1849 and was buried in a Catholic Cemetery at San Antonio. Her grave is lost.

At its creation Deaf Smith County was named in honor of the famous spy and soldier, Erastus Smith.

SMITH, ERASTUS -- Recieved title to one league of land December 25, 1833 in Austin's Second Colony in what is now Guadalupe County. On October 5, 1835, he received title to one fourth of a league of land in Robertson's Colony situated in the present County of Robertson.

SMITH, ERASTUS in The Telegraph and Texas Register (Columbia) of September 6, 1836 carried this item: "Born to Mrs. Erastus Smith a son August 31st.

Some of the descendants of Erastus Smith are Mrs. Joseph K. Carnal, 516 Willow Street, San Antonio; Mrs. O. F. Brown, Fred O. Brown, Thyea McCarty, Patty McCarty, San Antonio; Mrs. O. M. Farnsworth, San Antonio and Mrs. H. R. Wofford, 234 West Mistletoe Street, San Antonio.

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Deaf Smith County, Texas, was named in honor of the famous spy and on January 19, 1931, a monument erected by the state of Texas was unveiled at his grave at Richmond, Texas Senator Thomas J. Holbrook of Galveston being the principal speaker.

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The widow of Mr. Smith died in San Antonio in 1842, leaving their two children Trinidad Travis and Simona. Trinidad was educated by R. A. Martin of Baldwin, Mississippi. Simona was married to I. N. Smith of San Antonio.

SMITH, ERASTUS - On October 15, 1835, Dr. Charles B. Stewart addressed the following letter to Stepehn F. Austin:

"Dear Sir:

T The bearer Erasmus Smith is well known to you -- I have conversed with him and learned that the cavalry of San Antonio are dissatisfied to the cause with which they are serving. He thinks he can render Service to us in a certain way. - Doconsider if something cannot be done by assurances to the dissatisfied throughthis channel.

C. B. STEWART.

N. B. He is well known to me perhaps you may not recall him immediately--having travelled with him and received service and assistance at his hands perfectly disinterested, I believe that he can be trusted to any extent his abilities and infirmity may warrant!

CBS."

SMITH, ERASTUS - The following is from a message from Governor Henry Smith to the President and members of the General Council, December 23, 1835:

"By verbal request of officers, who have been in command at Bexar, I am informed that a Mr. Smith, a deaf man, well known to the army for his vigilance and meritorious acts, has been severely wounded in storming Bexar, and that his family are daily expected in this place, with an expectation that the Council would exercise such guardianship over them as their situation may require. Their head remains in camp, as his services as a spy cannot well be dispensed with."

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The Legislature on February 13, 1854 granted to the heirs of Deaf Smith 2 leagues of land to be divided in sections of 640 acres each, one-third to Gertrude Tarin, daughter; one-third to Simona Fisk, daughter; one third to James G. and Ophelia Fisk, minor children of Susan, deceased daughter of Erastus Smith.

(Gammel's Laws of Texas Vol. 4, pages 170-171)

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The following is a copy of a petition on file in Memorials and Petitions, Archives, Texas State Library, Austin.

To the Honorable The General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas.

Citizen Hendrick Arnold, most respectfully represents to your Honorable House, that he arrived last night in the neighborhood of

this town, with the wife and family of his father-in-law, Erastes Smith, who are in a state of destitution and now thrown upon the sympathies and generosity of their fellow citizens of Texas. They have been reduced thereto by the present struggle for liberty, in which Erastus Smith has sacrificed his all, and has been wounded and now by me, respectfully and earnestly solicts the aid of your Honorable House for his indigent family.

San Felipe de Austin 4th January, 1836.

Hendrick Arnold.

SMITH, ERASTUS - The following was extracted from a letter written by Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, 56 Grand Avenue, Paughkeepsie, New York, August 11, 1936 to L. W. Kemp, Houston.

I wonder whether there is a definite tradition among his descendants that Deaf Smith's father's name was "Chiliab"? The name is one I never heard before. Is there any chance that the original census record in Washington could have been misread and the name really been "Caleb"?

The printed census of 1790 for Dutchess County gives "Chiliab" Smith as a resident of the town of Washington, with a household consisting of 1 male (including head of family) and 2 females (including head of family); There statistics do not allow for a boy of three, as Deaf Smith would have been in 1790.

Chiliab Smith's name occurs next after the name of Silas Waddle. I know exactly where Silas (Wodell, he was really) lived, - a mile or so east of the present village of Millbrook on the main road to Amenia and Sharon. Chiliab Smith presumably lived not far from him. Next after the name of Chiliab Smith is that of Joel Smith.

The census of the state, 1790, shows six Joel Smiths and twelve Caleb Smiths. One of the Joels was at Huntington, Suffolk County, Long Island, one of the Calebs at Smithtown, Suffolk County. All the others were in localities which were settled by many migrants from Long Island. On Long Island were two distinct Smith families, numerous and well known.

I am "guessing" that Chiliab Smith and Joel Smith of the town

of Washington may have descended from Long Island stock.

In the town of Washington there was, I believe, no Baptist Church in 1790. About six miles north of the place where Silas "Waddle" lived is Bangall, in the town of Stanford, where there was a Baptist Church before the Revolution but whether the register of that church has survived and covers 1787 I do not know. The Society of Friends formed a large element in Washington.

COPY

San Antonio Public Library

San Antonio, Texas

August 6, 1936.

Mrs. Henry Wofford  
234 W. Mistletoe Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mrs. Wofford:

Referring to your request for information concerning Deaf  
Smith:

For entry see HEADS OF FAMILIES, Census 1790, page 96, column 2  
item 7. (Note spelling "Chiliab" Smith).

According to a foot-note in Dudley Wooten's A COMPREHENSIVE  
HISTORY OF TEXAS, vol. 1:122: 'Erastus Smith (known as "Deaf" Smith  
because he was hard of hearing) was the son of Chiliab and Mary  
Smith, born in New York on the 19th of April, 1787. At the age of  
eleven years he emigrated with his parents to the Mississippi terri-  
tory and settled near Natchez. His parents were exemplary members  
of the Baptist church and give him such moral and intellectual  
training as circumstances.....would permit. He first came to Texas  
in 1817.....He soon returned home but in 1821 he came to Texas for  
the purpose of making his home'.

We quote this information hoping that the old Baptist Church re-  
cords of Dutchess County, New York, may be available to you.

Sincerely yours,

Signed: Minnie B. Cameron, Reference Librarian.

SMITH, ERASTUS - Born \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County, New York, a son of Chiliaab and \_\_\_\_\_ Smith. The brothers and sisters of Erastus Smith in order of birth were \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The first wife of Erastus Smith was \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Smith, sister of Erastus Smith, was married to \_\_\_\_\_ Snow. Mrs. Snow was born at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ a<sup>nd</sup> died at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Snow were \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. H. Moreland, 109 Maplewood Street, Houston is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Mr. and Mrs. Snow. She is a daughter of \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Moreland:

I am attaching a copy of a letter from Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, 56 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York, in which you will note she is asking for some information regarding Erastus (Deaf) Smith to furnish to President Roosevelt. I have been informed that you are the only one who can furnish this information. If you will furnish it to me I will send it to Miss Reynolds who will pass it on to the President.

I am sending you two copies of this sketch and will greatly appreciate it if you will fill in some of the blanks in one and return to L. W. Kemp, 214 Westmoreland Avenue, Houston, Texas.

SMITH, ERASTUS (DEAF) - Was married before he came to Texas. One of his daughters was married to Hendrick Arnold. Mr. Arnold was in the army of Texas in 1835-36.

In January, 1935 Mrs. Loraine Hendrick Zellner, P. O. Box 332, Rogers, wrote to L. W. Kemp, Houston, that her great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Smith, was a daughter of Deaf Smith. She was born in Marion County, Missouri, January 22, 1825 and was married to Joseph Barnhart in Travis County, Texas, June 21, 1841. She stated that two of the daughters of Mr. Barnhart reside in Austin, Miss Kate and Miss Annie Barnhart.

Mrs. Zellner suggested that Mr. Kemp write Miss Annie B. Giles, 710 West 22nd Street, Austin for additional information.

Miss Giles:

President Roosevelt, through a friend of his, desires to know in what county in New York, Erastus (Deaf) Smith was born. Do you have that information?

Do you know the name of the first wife of Mr. Smith?

Any information you may furnish will be appreciated by L. W. Kemp, 214 Westmoreland Avenue, Houston, Texas.

Note: Erastus Smith married a Miss Snow(?) Mrs. M. Moreland, 109 Maplewood Street, Houston is a descendant.

SMITH, ERASTUS - His daughter, Gertrudis, was born in 1825. On March 25, 1847 she was married to Marcario Tarin, son of Vicente Tarin and Justa Leal. Their children were Juan, who married Ortilla Rodriguez; Gertrudis, who married Manuel Indo; and Camillo, who married \_\_\_\_\_. Camillo, aged 76 died in San Antonio, December 7, 1939. He had lived most of his life at Graytown, near San Antonio, and was buried there after Catholic funeral rites. Surviving him was a son, Jee Tarin, and four daughters.

December 14, 1939

Mrs. M. Moreland  
109 Maplewood Street  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mrs. Moreland:

I have been informed that you are a descendant of Erastus  
(Deaf) Smith, the famous spy in the Texas Army in 1836.

I have been trying for years to gather all the information  
I could regarding this remarkable man and will greatly appreciate  
any assistance you may render. I am extremely anxious to learn the  
name of Mr. Smith's first wife and the names of the children of his  
first marriage.

I am enclosing a sheet with some blanks in it if you will fill  
in at least some of the blanks and return the sheet to me I shall  
indeed appreciate the favor.

Sincerely yours,

L. W. KEMP.

LWK:eh

Note: Letter returned unclaimed.

SMITH, ERASTUS - Same as page 107

December 1939  
Mrs. Moreland:

I am sending you two copies of this sketch and will greatly appreciate it if you will fill in some of the blanks in one copy and return to L. W. Kemp, 214 Westmoreland Avenue, Houston, Texas.

December 14, 1939

Postmaster  
Baldwyn  
Mississippi

Dear Sir:

I am making a determined effort to learn something of the family of Erastus Smith, famous Texas spy of the Texas revolution of 1836. One biographer of him said he had a son named Trinidad Travis Smith who was educated by K. A. Martin of Baldwyn, Mississippi.

I would like to learn what I may about this son. Are any of the descendants of Mr. Martin living in Baldwyn?

I will greatly appreciate it if you will mail this letter to someone whom you may think can furnish me with the desired information.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. KEMP.

LWK:eh

December 14, 1939

County Clerk  
Natchez  
Mississippi.

Dear Sir:

I am making a determined effort to learn something of the family of Erastus Smith, famous spy of the Texas Revolution of 1836 and will greatly appreciate any assistance you may render. At the same time I expect to pay for the research work done in examining the records in your office. When you render your bill it will be promptly paid.

According to one biographer Erastus Smith was a son of Chilab and Mary Smith who were living near Natchez as early as the year 1821.

Chilab Smith was a Baptist minister.

Do your deed records show that Chilab Smith owned property in Adams County?

Do your probate records show the death of either Chilab or Mary Smith?

Erastus Smith is said to have married before leaving Mississippi for Texas but the name of his wife if not available. Do your records show the marriage of Erastus Smith?

A daughter of Erastus Smith was married to Hendrick Arnold. Do you have a record of the marriage.

Erastus Smith is said to have owned property at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, but I do not find Grand Gulf listed as a post office. Can you tell me in what county it was situated?

Page 2

12-14-39

County Clerk

As stated before I expect to pay for this research work whether successful or unsuccessful and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

L. W. KEMP.

LWK:eh

SMITH, ERASTUS - The following are notes from the Probate Records of Bexar County relative to the estate of Erastus Smith.

Joseph Baker, Judge, Probate Court

John W. Smith, C. P. C. " "

Joseph L. Hood, Sheriff -----died in March 1843

John Small, Coroner

Jose Antonio Navarro - associate Justice

Ignacio Chevli " "

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Monday Nov. 21, 1838

Erasmus Seguin, Chief Justice

"Guadalupe Smith presented her bond as guardian of the minor heirs of Erastus Smith deceased, agreeable to an order of this Court in recep with Joseph L. Hood, Hendrick Arnold and Martin Hardin security which is admitted."

Nov. 30, 1840 Book A, page 134

"Guadalupe Smith Guardian of the minor heirs of Erastus Smith deceased. Ordered to be cited to give an account of the Guardianship."

December 30, 1840. Book A page 140

"Guadalupe Smith Guardian of the minor heirs of Erastus Smith came into court and rendered an account of her guardianship which is ordered to be filed."

April 26, 1841 Book A, page 153

"James N. Fisk filed a petition on the 6th, April, praying for the Guardianship of the heirs of Erastus Smith, deceased, whereupon

it was ordered by the court that she be cited to appear at the next term of court to answer said petition."

May 17, 1841 (Book A, page 164)

"Guadalupe Smith the Guardian of the heirs of Erastus Smith deceased appeared in open court to answer the petition of James N. Fisk, the petitioner failing to appear and give proof of charges alleged in the same, it is dismissed at the expense of the petitioner.

October 25, 1841 (Book A, page 198)

"James N. Fisk, by his attorney John W. Smith came into Court and presented a petition praying that Guadalupe Smith, Guardian of the heirs of Erastus Smith deceased, be cited to show cause why there has been no settlement of the administration of said succession, and further praying an order of division of all and every part of the Estate of said deceased, so far as the same has come to the possession of the Guardian: It is ordered by the court here that the above named Guardian be cited to appear at the November Term of this Court and answer the petition of said Fisk."

November 9, 1841. Case continued.

March 21, 1843.

"It is ordered that the order of citation granted at the January Term, 1842, of this Court be renewed, and that Guadalupe Smith Guardian of the heirs of Erastus Smith, deceased, be cited to appear at the next (April) Term of this court and make a final settlement of her Guardianship producing vouchers to support the same."

Nacogdoches, Texas, Oct. 17, 1936.  
507 North Street.

Mrs. Henry Rollins Wofford,  
234 W. Mistletoe Ave.,  
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Madam:

With reference to the career of Pierre Robleau, I have made further search in the Nacogdoches Archives here in the County Clerk's Office, and have found the Marriage Contract of a daughter of Robleau, which I had in mind when I first talked with you, though it is not the one to whom you refer.

I am presuming that the wife of Deaf Smith, to whom you referred, the former Mrs. Guadalupe Duran, was a daughter of Salvador Ruiz and Maria Ignacia Robleau, though I did not have in my library her maiden name.

Presuming that the father of Maria Ignacia Robleau was the same Pierre Robleau who lived in Nacogdoches, there are some rather unusual circumstances, one of which is your placing the marriage of Maria Ignacia about 1795, while his son and daughter were married here in Nacogdoches in 1835 and 1836.

Forty years difference in the marrying age of children, while not at all impossible, is at least unusual. It is barely possible that there were two Pierres--father and son.

In the Deed Records of Nacogdoches County, Volume D, page 52, appears the grant of a league and labor to Pierre Roble, the application for which is dated November 2, 1835, in which he says, "Pierre Roble native of the United States of Mexico." If he was a native of

Mexico, he still retained the French form of Pierre instead of the Spanish Pedro.

Pierre Robleau operated a meat market in Nacogdoches at least as early as 1829, as shown by his contract with Santiago Erie which I have enclosed, in which he contracts with Erie to construct certain shelves, tables, etc., for his meat marked in the town of Nacogdoches.

In our Deed Records, Volume D, page 55, appears a deed from Piere Roblo, signed by his mark, for the greater portion of his league and labor, the description being: "On the south east side of the Angelina river, save and except the following described lot or parcel of land, which is reserved from the aforesaid league and labor by said Roblo, to wit, commencing at the river on the road running between two fields, and known as the one leading to Teran, as far as a field in the prairie; thence with the fence of said field in a direct or straight line as far as the bayou; thence down the bayou with its meanders to its mouth, and from thence with the river to the place of beginning." This reserved land contained the home occupied by his son-in-law, Napoleon de Valtz, whose marriage certificate to Maria Therese Roblot is enclosed herewith. The consideration named in this deed to John S. Roberts, Beden Stroud and George Allen, a firm of merchants in Nacogdoches, was \$4,000.00 and the deed is dated in 1837.

In the following year, on May 26, 1838, Piere Roblo, by deed in Volume D, page 57, conveys the remainder of the league and labor, except eight town lots, to the same parties; these lots being in the

first town of Rusk, located where the road from Nacogdoches to Fort Teran crossed the Angelina river, south of Nacogdoches.

By taking a bird's-eye view of the records left us here, it is possible to reconstruct the rather tragic causes leading up to the removal of Pierre Robleau from Nacogdoches to San Antonio. In 1838, following the successful termination of the Texas Revolution, the Spanish population of Nacogdoches found itself in a very precarious situation, as they were viewed with suspicion by the American immigrants, and those who had lately fought their compatriots at San Jacinto. Most of them had sold their homestead grants to the Americans for a "mess of pottage," and many of them were homeless and among strangers in a land that was once theirs.

This condition led to the so-called Cordova Rebellion, led by Vicente Cordova, who had been prominent in the political circles of Nacogdoches throughout the Mexican regime, was a lawyer and held the office of pro curador for several years.

Following the collapse of this rebellion, during the winter of 1838-39, the grand jury in Nacogdoches returned mass indictments against the participants in this rebellion, charging them with treason. The number of persons names in the four indictments returned was one hundred, most of them Mexicans. Among this one hundred men indicted for treason were: More Roblo, Honore Robleau, Napoleon de Valtz and Nathaniel Norris--two sons, a son-in-law and the father of one of his daughters-in-law.

Most of these men had escaped with Vicente Cordova and fled the

country, among whom were these four men; and it was soon after this that Pierre Robleau left Nacogdoches and went to San Antonio, as is shown by our Deed Records, Volume H, page 479, which is a deed by the sheriff to Richard Parmalee, "for taxes due by Pedro Roblo for the year 1840, suit was brought against Archibald Hotchkiss, agent for Pedro Roblo, for 170 acres including the house formerly occupied by Napoleon de Valtz."

Napoleon de Valtz was a French trader with the Indians here prior to the Revolution, and Nathaniel Norris was a brother of Samuel Norris who was alcalde here during the Fredonian Rebellion.

The marriage contract between Parmuceno Roblo and Maria Pelagria Norris states that the wife of Pierre Robleau was present at the signing of the contract, but does not give her name and she did not sign the contract, as you will note.

Two of the documents I am sending are in Spanish, but I have given you the salient points in them, and I am sure you will have no trouble in having them translated if you so desire. I shall make further inquiry in the Nacogdoches Archives and if anything further comes to light I shall communicate with you. Though I doubt if the record of the marriage of Salvador Ruiz and Maria Ignacia Robleau is among them, as I believe the contracts were only entered into in the absence of a priest, and there was a priest here in the old Guadalupe Mission in 1796, and those church records are not here.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) R. B. Bruce

20th June 1836. No. 4. MARRIAGE CONTRACT -- Napoleon De Valtz  
and Mariah Theresa Roblot.

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REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

MUNICIPALITY  
OF NACOGDOCHES

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS That this day

to wit the twentieth of June in the year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and thirty six, we Napoleon de Valtz and M<sup>rs</sup> Therese Roblot are held and firmly Bound, unto (the primary judge) of the Municipality of Nacogdoches or to his successors in office, in the just, full and penal sum of Five Hundred dollars for the true payment of which they bind themselves, together with their respective security, also their heirs executors & assigns jointly, severally, firmly by those presents.

Whereas the above named Napoleon de Valtz and M<sup>rs</sup> Therese Roblot have this day entered into a marriage agreement, Therefore the condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bounds, shall as soon as the laws for the government of this republic, be firmly and permanently Established, and the proper officers be appointed to celebrate marriage contracts, or any minister of the Gospel authorized to do so, the said contracting parties complying with the same, then this obligation to be null & void, and discharged of the same, but on the contrary case, if refusing or neglecting to comply with the same, then to remain in full force & effect; the penalty of this obligation shall be recovered from the parties or their securities by the proper

authority, & they shall be subject to comply with the law therein established & to the penalty of the same.

In testimony whereof the parties, together with their securities, have hereunto set their hand & seal, before me the aforesaid judge & my assisting witnesses as the law direct, the day as above.

Adolphus Sterne,

Primary Judge.

Assisting witness

Charles Chevallier.

Napoleon Devaltz

J. S. Roberts.

Maria Therese Roblot

her X mark.

Peter Roblot

his X mark.

Assisting witness

Genereux Benard.

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From Nacogdoches Archives, County Clerk's Office.