

STEELE, ALFONSO - Born in Hardin County, Kentucky, April 9, 1817, a son of Stephen P. and Susan McCarthy Steele. At the age of seventeen years he decided to leave home and make his own living. In September, 1834 he embarked on a boat on the Mississippi for Lake Providence, Louisiana, where he secured employment. In November, 1835 he joined a company of volunteers headed for Texas and commanded by a Captain Daggett. The company crossed the Sabine early in January, 1836, and marched to Washington-on-the-Brazos. There the company was disbanded since war between Texas and Mexico had not been declared. Mr. Steele went to work for a Mr. Roberts who ran a hotel. He ground corn on a steel mill to make bread for the men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. While engaged in this work volunteers under Captain Joseph H. Bennett came to Washington and he enlisted in their company and left with them for San Antonio. Upon reaching the Colorado River they learned of the fall of the Alamo. They then moved down the river and near Beason's Crossing joined the main army. At the promotion of Captain Bennett to Lieutenant Colonel on April 8th, James Gillaspie became captain of the company.

Mr. Steele after being wounded killed a Mexican who tried to surrender to him. He was carried to the home of Vice-President De Zavala, across the bayou from the battlefield, which had been converted into a hospital. Later, he, John Tom, and others were sent down to a two room hospital on Perkin's Island where Mr. Steele remained until he was able to travel.

Mr. Steele on January 26, 1838 was issued Bounty Certificate No.

2135 for 320 acres of land for having served in the army from March 1 to May 30, 1836 and on November 14, 1836 he received Donation Certificate No. 597 for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle of San Jacinto. In Headright Certificate No. 133 issued to him February 19, 1838 for one third of a league of land it is stated that he came to Texas in January, 1836. Having married he was on October 4, 1838 issued Headright Certificate No. \_\_\_ for two thirds of a league and one labor of land by the Montgomery County Board.

Mr. Steele was married in Montgomery County, September 28, 1838 to Mary Ann Powell, daughter of Archibald Powell. Mrs. Steele was born in Tennessee January 2, 1823; came to Texas in 1833 and died May 9, 1903. Mr. Steele died July 8, 1911 at the home of Alvin Steele, a grandson, near Kesse, and was buried beside his wife in the cenetery at Mexia. A joint monument marks their graves. Mr. Steele was the last survivor of the battle of San Jacinto. His autobiography was published in a pamphlet by one of his sons.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Steele were Hampton, deceased; Alonzo, deceased; Alvarado, deceased; Francis Marion, deceased; Leonard, who resides at Paluxy, Hood County; Mary Ann, who married T. Bennett and resides in Mexia; George W., deceased; and Alice M. Steele, who was married to Tilman S. Eubank, deceased.

Some of the surviving grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Steele are John D., Hampton A., Phoenix P., Thomas and Bernard Steele of Altus, Oklahoma; Mrs. Thomas Lott, Thornton; Mrs. Will Rogers, Plainview; Alvin Steele, Marlin; Mrs. Lottie Steele Winters, Lubbock; Mrs.

Jesse Chisum, Altus, Oklahoma; Miss Ethel Steele, Lubbock; Mrs. Lease Steele Hayworth, Altus, Oklahoma; Mrs. Blanche Rylander, Coliad; Mrs. D. D. Dawson, 2405 Yoakum Street, Houston; Doyle S. Eubank, Robstown; Jack C. and Fred T. Eubank, 716 Hyde Park, Houston; Rado and Frank Steele, Mexia; Mrs. Mattie McClusky, Fort Worth; Mrs. Alice Steele Sparks, Thornton, and Mrs. Kate Huwieler, Alief, Texas.

Note: Mr. Steele was issued Headright Certificate No. 325 in 1838 by the Board of Land Commissioners for Montgomery County for having been wounded in the battle of San Jacinto.