

GALLERY OF TEXAS HISTORY

SETTLING TEXAS

Did you know...?

1. Gail Borden and his brother Thomas were to sail on the "Lively" but Gail's health was bad and Thomas would not leave without him.
2. Settlers could pay the money for the land survey (12 ½ cents per acre) with Spanish cattle or Negroes – and later with furs, beeswax, homespun or dressed skins.
3. In 1824, Fort Bend was the most densely populated rural area in all of Texas. There were seven families located within a radius of three miles.
4. The first killing in the Bend took place when Thomas Borden killed Jesse Thompson over land.
5. Walter White and James Knight had a store, trading post and ferry here in 1828 and were the only merchants between San Felipe and Columbia.
6. Wylie Martin, a prominent citizen of the area and one of the "Old Three Hundred" fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend with Sam Houston. In 1839 when he wanted to give his slave Peter his freedom, it had to be debated in the Senate. It finally passed by a margin of one – a vote cast by Anson Jones.
7. The first lawsuit in the area was held near Oyster Creek. The presiding judge was David G. Burnet, lawyer for the accused was William B. Travis, and Robert M. (Three-Legged Willie) Williamson for the other party. Sam Bell, a citizen of the area, accused another man of branding one of his cattle. The defendant was found guilty.
8. In 1838, the stage came to Richmond from Houston every Monday morning and returned every Saturday morning. The fare was \$7 each way. Baggage was free up to 25 pounds, and was five cents for each extra pound.
9. When news came of Lee's surrender in April of 1865, the people of Fort Bend County passed a resolution in favor of fighting on instead of surrendering. The resolution offered to arm and equip 30,000 Negroes to aid in holding Texas.