



#27: Humble's History with Austin's Colony

Humble has a very interesting history. I seem to type that a lot, but it's true! Those of us who grew up in Texas schools spent a lot of time learning Texas History. Surely you remember them talking about Stephen F. Austin and Austin's Colony! Well, Austin's Colony plays a role in the history of the Humble area.

Austin's Colony represented the most successful colonization movement in American history. Stephen F. Austin was given an initial grant for 300 families to build the colony in 1821. The colony stretched across 19 present-day Texas Counties. One of the most heavily populated areas of the colony was in present-day Fort Bend County. Men were given a labor of land to farm (177 acres), and a league of land to raise livestock (4,428 acres). Just prior to the Texas Revolution, it is estimated that there were about 1,500 families in Austin's Colony.

The Humble area was in the eastern boundary of Austin's Colony. The two earliest land grants in Humble were given during this time: the David Harris Survey and the Victor Blanco Survey. As a member of Austin's Colony, David Harris was granted a league of land (4,428.4 acres) in 1824. He chose his land along the San Jacinto River (now Lake Houston). The McKay Bridge that crosses Lake Houston is located in his land. When you are sitting at the light where the Atascocita Road joins F.M. 1960, you are sitting in the David Harris Survey. By the way, Harris County is named for his brother, John Richardson Harris.

Victor Blanco was not a member of Austin's Colony. He was President of Texas 1826-1827, when it was under Mexican Rule. He was also a close personal friend of Stephen F. Austin. His five-acre tract (22,142 acres!) is along Lake Houston, just south of the David Harris Survey. The land was located within Austin's Colony, and was given to Victor Blanco in 1831. Summerwood and most of Atascocita sit within the Victor Blanco Survey. The title to this land was tied up in legal disputes for many years, hence it is the area that was slowest to develop in the area (and is where much of our new growth has been happening these past few years).

It was the settlers at Austin's Colony, along with other colonists, who revolted against Mexican rule. Their resistance led to the Texas Revolution and resulted in Texas gaining independence from Mexico in 1836. After the Texas Revolution, many of the same settlers and war heroes were given land grants in Humble. Their descendants developed early Humble.