



BIRTHS

W. G. Rutledge were born in Atascosa Co.

March 17th 1870

C. R. Smith were born in Karnes Co. April

4th 1870

(D. G. Rutledge were born in Zavalla Co

December 24th 1890

"Notes and Fragments of the Mier Expedition "
by Houston Wade .

SMITH, EZEIKEL

We showed what Mrs. Willie Mae Weinert had to say on this subject, and now we will present the result of our investigations.

Ezeikel Smith was born near Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia, on October 19, 1781. We have no knowledge of the names of his father and mother, nor of his brothers and sisters, if he had any.

Mr. Smith, while still living in Giles County, Virginia, was married to Miss Susannah Dingess; this important event occurred in the year 1802, when our hero had just reached his twenty-first birthday.

Six children were born to this happy union, all of whom first saw the light of day while their parents were still living in the old Dominion State. The names of these children are as follows:

1. Paris Smith, born in 1803.
2. Peter Dingess Smith, born in 1805.
3. French Smith, born in 1809.
- 4-5. Gertrude and Charles Alexander Smith, twins, born in 1811.
- 6-7. Polly and Harriet Smith, twins, born in 1814.

The records show that Miss Harriet Smith was married to Benjamin F. Shurlock on November 6, 1851.

Mr. Smith, together with his wife and family emigrated to Texas about the year 1831, as part of the colonization project of Green DeWitt; he settled near the present city of Seguin and was living there on March 11, 1836, when Sam Houston almost routed his own army in his headlong flight from Gonzales that started the catastrophe known in Texas history as the "Runaway Scrape." Mr. Smith and his family participated in this exodus.

A TRUE PHOTOCOPY
ORT Library at the Albert

SEGUIN'S FIRST PERMANENT SETTLER

Willie Mae Weinert in Seguin Enterprise, Dec. 11-18, 1936

As early as 1831 the Ezekiel Smith family lived in what is now Guadalupe County. It was then Green DeWitt's Colony. French Smith, a son of Ezekiel, is recorded in the Gonzales Transcript Deed Book of Guadalupe County as having been granted a tract of land on the northeast bank of the Guadalupe River in 1831. It was here that the first log cabin was built by French Smith. This house stood on the spot of the present Col. Hollamon home.

Ezekiel the father was living in Gonzales or on farm land along the Guadalupe, just outside of the town of Gonzales.

Most of these settlers along the Guadalupe were forced by Indians to retire to the town of Gonzales and by 1834 few were brave enough to attempt to make a home beyond this settlement; but we do know that Ezekiel Smith and his family took part in the Texas Revolution, and that the family were among the Colonists who fled before Santa Anna as he pursued Houston's Army on the retreat to Buffalo Bayou and the battle ground of San Jacinto.

Deed records in Guadalupe County show that Ezekiel and four of his sons received land grants from the government of Texas. These four sons were Charles A. Smith, Peter D. Smith, French Smith and Paris Smith. The Riverside Cemetery is a portion of French Smith's land. The old portion, inside the crumbling concrete wall, was the old "Smith Cemetery" and was deeded to the town of Seguin by French Smith.

In 1851 Charles A. was buried there and in 1854 the father, Ezekiel, was buried there, according to Miss Johnnie Tadlock, a granddaughter of French Smith. Andrew Smith, an uncle, is also buried there. These graves are between the marked grave of Paris and his wife. Dorcas and the old concrete wall. Both the graves of Charles and the father, Ezekiel, are unmarked.

We are told that it has always been difficult to keep markers of wood at the heads of these graves, as the cemetery is on the banks of the Guadalupe, fishermen who have been successful have appropriated these boards for fire wood. One lady remembers that the wooden markers at the family graves have been replaced four times in her lifetime.

The old family Bible of the Smith family is in the Alamo, having been placed there by Mrs. Dowdy, a granddaughter of Ezekiel and a daughter of French Smith.

Many stories of true pioneer flavor

cling around the memory of the Smith family and before going into these, the service record of Ezekiel Smith should be recalled. He enlisted in the Texas Army for the Somerville Expedition, and at the time of the Mier Expedition he was a member of Captain William Ryon's company. He was released from prison in Mexico on September 16, 1844. There are two separate grants of land recorded in Book F of the deed books of Guadalupe County, one patent under the date of 1855. The last being patented by Jas. Hector, after the death of Ezekiel.

He also received certificates numbered seventeen and number forty; the last being granted on October 18, 1838, before those listed above which seems to indicate that Ezekiel actually took part in the Battle of Gonzales or perhaps San Jacinto.

Ezekiel Smith bought share thirty-nine and share twenty-one of the city of Seguin from James Campbell in 1839, so it is thought that he came to Seguin to live when the town was first organized.

French Smith's name was recorded as a member of the first thirty-three stockholders of the original city plot and his was share forty-one of the city.

The share forty-one which was drawn by French Smith in 1838 when Seguin was organized by Jos. Martin, is on the east bank of Walnut Branch. This share is the property of the City of Seguin at the present time. It is where the city warehouse stands.

French Smith was a man of great generosity, and he not only gave the land for the old part of Riverside Cemetery, but he also gave the land for our central city park. He gave a lot for the building of the Guadalupe High School in 1852 and was one of the trustees of that early school (perhaps the first) of Seguin or of Guadalupe County. This Guadalupe High School was a corporation with twenty-two men as stockholders. It went into bankruptcy in 1855 but was reorganized in 1858 with two separate schools, one where St. Joseph's School stands and called Male Academy; the other called Female Academy was where the Seguin High School now is.

French Smith also gave land and money for the building of the first Methodist Church in Seguin. He is said to have made the following request when presenting his gift, "I have only one request to make and that is, write my name as high up in the steeple as possible; for that is as near to heaven as I'll ever get."

The records in the district clerk's office

seem to bear him out in his opinion of himself, because case eleven tried in this county is "State vs. French Smith; playing cards in a public place, a true bill." He was fined ten dollars. At this term of court Milton Osborne was fined for permitting persons to play cards in his house. Two other gentlemen were fined for retailing "spirituous liquids," whatever that may be.

In 1855 French Smith bought lots five and six in block thirty-six from the "Sons of Temperance." From this sale it appears that altho temperance was the ideal of the early citizens it did not pay from a financial standpoint.

We have not been able to secure proof of the following but it sounds as though Mr. Smith may have been correct in his manner of accepting a challenge for a duel. As the one challenged he had the choice of weapons and the place at which the duel should be fought. His reply to the challenge was, "Pistols for weapons, and the place, six feet under water in the bed of the Guadalupe."

French Smith and his wife Elizabeth Hector Smith are buried in the exact center of the old section of the Riverside cemetery.

Paris Smith, a brother, is buried further to the south and nearer the old wall in the same section of the cemetery. Paris was county clerk of Guadalupe County in 1853.

The State of Texas acknowledged its debt to Ezekiel and his sons, Paris, French, Peter D. and Charles A. with government patents of land in Guadalupe County, and we as citizens of Seguin are proud of the fact that French Smith was our first permanent settler.

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