

People of the Past Who Contributed to Their Texas Towns

Victoria and Amarillo (Group 1)

Victoria:

In the early 1800s, Martin DeLeon, from Mexico, began the town of Victoria. Right away the town became an important trade center. In the late 1800s, John W. Mackay, and Daniel E. Hungerford worked with an Italian count named Joseph Telfener to build a railroad from Houston to Victoria. These men continued to help Victoria develop as a trade center in South Texas. About that time, Tobias D. Wood brought cattle from Tennessee to build up the areas ranches. In the late 1800s, John Stillwell Munn became editor of the *Victoria Advocate*, the second oldest newspaper in Texas. In the early to mid 1900s, Vincent S. Fritz served fire chief for thirty-six years.

Amarillo:

In the late 1800s, J.T. Berry designed the town of Amarillo and worked hard to make the town the county seat of Potter County. About that time, Dr. J.C. Cornelius became the first doctor in Amarillo. His granddaughter, Mayvi, was the first child born in Amarillo. In the mid 1900s, Cal Farley started the Maverick Club to help boys who were very poor. Later he began Cal Farley's Boys Ranch for boys who had no parents.

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Fredericksburg and Fort Worth (Group 2)

Fredericksburg:

People from Germany settled Fredericksburg. In the mid 1800s, John O. Meusebach, a German who had moved to Texas, started the town for the new German settlers. He also made peace with the Indians who lived in the area so that the settlers would be safe. Later, J.L. Ransleben was a German merchant who opened the first store in Fredericksburg. Father Menzel from Germany was a missionary to Fredericksburg and Reverend Philip F. Zizelman, also from Germany, helped start a Lutheran church in the town. About that time, Johann Leyendecker began the first school in Fredericksburg.

Fort Worth:

In the mid 1800s Major Ripley S. Arnold started Fort Worth to protect people from Indians who did not want people to settle in the area. The town began as a military fort but soon became a town. After Fort Worth became an official town in the late 1800s, a newspaper was formed called the *Democrat*. K.M. Van Zandt owned the newspaper, and Buckley B. Paddock was the editor. These two men worked hard to get Fort Worth a fire department and other needed improvements. In the mid 1900s, Mary Sabina Daggett Lake helped bring beauty to Fort Worth. She was educational director for the Garden Center of Fort Worth.

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George West, Austin, and Houston (Group 3)

George West:

In the early 1900s, George Washington West gave his land to build a town and paid to have a railroad run through the town.

Austin:

Austin is the capital of Texas. In the mid 1800s, Edwin Waller directed the designing of the town. He also was elected Austin's first mayor. In the late 1800s, a famous sculptor, Elisabet Ney, lived in Austin and helped the town gain improvements. Her efforts helped many of Austin's citizens have a better life. A famous author, William Sydney Porter, known as O. Henry, also lived in Austin. Later, Tillotson College was established. Mary Elizabeth Branch was one of the college's most effective presidents. She was an African-American woman who made the college successful because of her good ideas for helping the school. In the mid 1900s, the city had some difficult times, but Tom Miller, the mayor, had many good qualities and helped the town during that time.

Houston:

In the early 1800s, Augustus Chapman Allen and his brother, John Kirby Allen established the town of Houston. They believed it would grow into a great city, and it did. Many people have contributed to the town since its beginning. One of these people was George H. Hermann. He was a wealthy oilman who gave a lot of land for Hermann Park. In the late 1900s, Barbara Jordan, an African-American lawyer, became a United States Congresswoman. She gave her time and talents to helping the people of Houston and the people of the United States.

People of the Past Who Contributed to Their Texas Towns

Bandera, Fort Davis, and Alice (Group 4)

Bandera:

In the mid 1800s, John James, an Englishman, Charles DeMontel, a German, and John Herndon began the town of Bandera. They also built a lumber mill and gave many jobs to people who had moved to Texas from Poland. In the early 1900s, Cora and Ed Buck had the first guests pay to stay at their ranch. They began the dude ranch business in Bandera. Dude ranches are places for people from the cities to spend their vacations. They can ride horses and do ranch chores for fun.

Fort Davis:

Long before white settlers came to Texas, Indians lived in the place that later became Fort Davis. Their village was Painted Comanche Camp. The Indians showed how to make good use of the dry land around their village. In the mid 1800s, E.P. Webster and Diedrick Dutchover, from the country of Belgium, began a stagecoach station. Later Fort Davis was built to protect people from Indians, and the town of Fort Davis soon grew up near the fort. One of the soldiers, Sergeant Charles Mulhern from Ireland, became a landowner and rancher near the town.

Alice:

In the late 1800s, Mrs. E.D. Sidbury owned a lumberyard in Alice and the Methodist Church held its services there. Trinidad Salazar, from Mexico, was a merchant in the town at that time. He helped the town get a new elementary school. In the early 1900s, F.B. Nayer gave land for important public buildings to the town.

People of the Past Who Contributed to Their Texas Towns
Galveston, Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation, and Dallas
(Group 5)

Galveston:

Michel B. Menard, a French Canadian, began the town of Galveston in the early 1800s. Today, visitors can tour his beautiful home. In the late 1800s, Nicholas J. Clayton was famous for designing some of Galveston's finest buildings. A terrible hurricane hit Galveston in the early 1900s. Isaac Cline, chief weatherman in Galveston at the time, rode through town urging people to leave before the great storm hit.

Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation:

In the late 1800s, John Scott, an Alabama-Coushatta Indian, became chief of his tribe. He served the people on the reservation well and helped them as their moral and governmental leader. Other Alabama-Coushatta chiefs have also contributed to the good of the reservation. Among them was Chief Kina (Robert Fulton Battise), who served as chief in the late 1900s. He was active in the Indian Presbyterian Church, and he also helped the people of the reservation get many improvements in education, health, and housing. He spoke to the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress and gained funds to help his people have a better life.

Dallas:

In the mid 1800s, John Neely Bryan founded the town of Dallas. He began a trading post for serve people who were moving to the area. A few years later, Maxime Guillot, a Frenchman, started the first factory in Dallas. He made wagons and carriages. In the mid 1900s, Trammell Crow and John M. Stemmons opened a Home Furnishings Mart. It grew to become the famous Dallas Market Center. It is the largest trading place in the world.

People of the Past Who Contributed to Their Texas Towns

San Antonio, San Augustine, and Waco (Group 6)

San Antonio:

San Antonio is a very old Texas town. In the late 1700s, Don Jose Francisco de la Mata from Spain began the first school. Spaniards were the first people from Europe to settle the area around San Antonio, but in the early 1800s, other groups of people also lived in the town. In the mid 1800s, Simon Menger, from Germany, and his sons started the first soap factory in Texas. In the mid 1900s, Rose Wu, who was Chinese, worked to help all people be treated equally.

San Augustine:

In the early 1700s, Father Antonio Margil de Jesus began a Spanish mission on the land beside the Ais Indian village. Later, the town of San Augustine started nearby. In the early 1800s, George English became the town's first sheriff. By the mid 1800s, Mrs. Stewart started her Female Academy, a school for young ladies. At that time, San Augustine had many private schools.

Waco:

The Waco Indians first lived on the land that became the town of Waco. The Cherokee Indians attacked the Wacos and took over their village. Then the Texas Rangers built a fort in the area. In the mid 1800s, George Barnard opened a trading post, and the town of Waco began. A few years later, Captain Shapley P. Ross, a Texas Ranger and Indian fighter, opened the town's first hotel. He also served as Waco's first postmaster and often carried people's letters around inside his tall beaver hat.