



# FROM JAMESTOWN TO TEXAS: A History of Some Early Pioneers of Austin County

*Betty Smith Meischen*

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"The rugged character and indomitable spirit of the early pioneers of Stephen F. Austin's Texas colony had their roots in a turbulent, distant past. From the early 1600's, their courageous ancestors had pushed westward, leaving the European shores to carve out a new nation from the wilderness. They fled religious and political oppression in search of a better life in which freedom was of supreme importance. Many came with tales of their former struggles in Londonderry, Ireland during the great siege, of terrible massacres and clan rivalries in the times of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland. They vividly remembered the tribulations of Martin Luther and the deadly religious split with the Catholic Church. More recently, memories of their parent's participation in the American Revolution, of dramatic, true life scenes such as depicted in the movie "The Patriot" filled their minds, their fathers having ridden along side of the wily Swamp Fox, Francis Marion. These pioneers associated themselves with men like Travis, Crockett, Houston and Andrew Jackson. Many of these early trailblazers were Scots-Irish and German immigrants. They were on a westward trek to grasp a special prize, to seal America's Manifest Destiny. And that prize they sought was Texas.

From Jamestown to Texas is the story of these intrepid pioneers and their ancestors who cleared and farmed the land, who fought the Indians, battled the elements, and carved out this wonderful country that we have today.

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