



**Cabeza de Vaca**



**Martín de León**



**Henry Cisneros**



**Cleto Rodríguez**



**Moses Austin**



**Stephen F. Austin**



**Miriam "Ma" Ferguson**



**Audie Leon Murphy**



**John Tower**

## Henry Cisneros

(1947 — )

birthplace: San Antonio

- Mayor of San Antonio for four terms, beginning 1981
- Appointed by President Bill Clinton as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1993
- Became CEO of Univision Communications in 1997

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## Martín de León

(1763 — 1833)

birthplace: Burgos, Mexico

- Only Mexican Empresario to establish a colony in Texas
- One of the first trail drivers in Texas
- His petition to form a colony is approved in 1824, after earlier denials in 1807 and 1809.
- Settled the town of Nuestra Señora Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria with forty-one Mexican families

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## Cabeza de Vaca

(c. 1490 — c. 1556)

birthplace: Jerez de la Frontera, Spain

- Early Spanish explorer
- Shipwrecked in Texas and lost for eight years
- First geographer, historian, and ethnologist of Texas
- His written account of the journey is *La Relación*; the English translation is *The Journey of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca*

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## Stephen F. Austin

(1793 — 1836)

birthplace: Southwest Virginia

- “Father of Texas”
- Settled the Old Three Hundred families in the Austin Colony
- Imprisoned in Mexico 1834-5
- Supported organized opposition to Mexico
- First Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas

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## Moses Austin

(1761 — 1821)

birthplace: Durham, CT

- Founder of the American lead industry
- Proposed settlement of 300 Anglo families in Texas to the Spanish government
- His dying request was for his son, Stephen F. Austin, to move forward with his plans for the Austin Colony in Texas

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## Cleto Rodríguez

(1923 — 1990)

birthplace: San Marcos

- Joined the Army in 1944, and fought in the Philippine Islands in WWII
- Fifth Mexican-American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration in the United States
- Served in the military until 1970

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## John Tower

(1925 — 1991)

birthplace: Houston, Texas

- U.S. Senator for 24 years, and was the first Republican Senator in Texas since 1870
- Chaired the special review committee convened by President Ronald Reagan to investigate the Iran Contra affair. The committee was known as the Tower Commission
- As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he worked to strengthen the nation's defenses

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## Audie Leon Murphy

(1924 — 1971)

birthplace: Kingston, Texas

- Most decorated Army soldier in U.S. history, earning 33 awards, citations, and decorations
- Became a successful actor starring in 39 films
- Wrote 14 songs, two of which were in the top ten
- Wrote best-selling book *To Hell and Back* (1949) about his WWII experiences

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## Miriam “Ma” Ferguson

(1763 — 1833)

birthplace: Bell County, Texas

- Served as Texas Governor in 1924 and 1932
- First woman Governor of Texas, second woman governor in the U.S.
- After her husband James Ferguson was barred from public office, her campaign slogan was “Two governors for the price of one”
- A moderate progressive, she supported education, New Deal legislation, and a corporate income tax

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**Gail Borden Jr.**



**Lorenzo de Zavala**



**Joseph Glidden**



**Patillo Higgins**



**Christopher Columbus**



**Francisco Vásquez  
de Coronado**



**Sam Houston**



**Mirabeau  
Buonaparte Lamar**



**Barbara Jordan**



**Joseph Glidden**  
(1813 — 1906)

birthplace: Charlestown, NH

- Invented the first commercially successful barbed wire
- Founder of the Barb Fence Company of De Kalb, Illinois
- His product was heavily used by farmers to protect crops, livestock and water supplies
- Barbed wire opened the plains to large-scale farming and marked the end of the open range

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**Lorenzo de Zavala**  
(1788 — 1836)

birthplace: Tecoh, Mexico

- Governor of the State of Mexico, and influential in Mexican politics
- Established a colony in East Texas, and supported the Independence of Texas after Santa Anna becomes dictator
- First interim Vice-President of the Republic of Texas
- Designed the first flag of the Republic of Texas

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**Gail Borden, Jr.**  
(1801 — 1874)

birthplace: Norwich, NY

- Inventor, publisher, surveyor and founder of the Borden Company
- Helped survey the Austin colony, created the first topographical map of Texas, and platted the towns of Galveston and Houston
- Secured patents for condensed milk, and made a fortune as “Dairyman to a Nation”

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**Francisco Vázquez de Coronado** (1510 — 1554)

birthplace: Salamanca, Spain

- Opened the southwestern portion of North America to Spanish colonization
- Searched unsuccessfully for the Seven Cities of Cíbola and Quivira
- Explored in present day Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas, 1540-42

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**Christopher Columbus**  
(1451 — 1506)

birthplace: Genoa, Italy

- Navigator and explorer who led a voyage to the West Indies in 1492
- The expedition was looking for a trading route to the East
- On his second voyage to the New World, he established a colony in Cuba
- Columbus made four trips in all

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**Patillo Higgins**  
(1863 — 1955)

birthplace: Sabine Pass

- “Prophet of Spindletop”
- Self educated geologist, draftsman, inventor, cartographer, and engineer
- Formed the Gladys City Oil, Gas, and Manufacturing Company in 1894, and eventually struck major oil at Spindletop on January 10, 1901

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**Barbara Jordan**  
(1934 — 1996)

birthplace: Houston

- First African-American U.S. Congresswoman from the South, elected 1972
- Served in the Texas Senate 1966-1972
- Earned national recognition during the Watergate hearings, 1974
- Time Magazine’s Woman of the Year in 1975

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**Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar** (1798 — 1859)

birthplace: Jefferson Co., GA

- First Vice-President of the Republic of Texas, and Second President
- Wanted Texas to stay a republic, and opposed annexation to the U. S.
- Lamar moved the Texas capitol from Houston to Austin

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**Sam Houston**  
(1793 — 1863)

birthplace: Rockbridge County, VA

- Commander of the Texas army and hero of the Battle of San Jacinto
- First Republic of Texas President, elected 1836 and 1841
- Supported annexation of Texas by the U. S.
- Elected as U. S. Senator, 1845
- Elected as Governor 1859, and resigned in 1861 in opposition to the secession of Texas from the Union

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**Richard King**



**Charles Goodnight**



**James Bowie**



**Stanley Marcus**



**Scott Joplin**



**Lizzie Johnson**



**Ann Richards**



**Vicente Filisola**



**Bessie Coleman**

## James Bowie

(1796 — 1836)

birthplace: Simpson County  
Kentucky

- Lumber trader, hunter, fisherman, wild horse rider and bear trapper
- Set up the first steam-powered sugar mill in Louisiana
- Slave trader, gambler, land speculator, hero
- Defended Bexar in the Battle of Concepcion

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## Charles Goodnight

(1836 — 1929)

birthplace: Macoupin County  
Illinois

- Rancher, cattle trader, scout and guide
- Guided rangers to Peta Nacona's Indian camp initiating the rescue of Cynthia Ann Parker
- First President of the Panhandle Stock Association and rancher to use barbed wire

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## Richard King

(1824 — 1885)

birthplace: New York City,  
New York

- Riverman, steamboat entrepreneur, livestock capitalist and founder of King Ranch
- Bought and traded land and adopted *patron-peon* "feudal rule" for reliable and cheap labor
- Invested heavily in the railroad, packing houses, and ice plants.
- Kingsville named after him

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## Lizzie Johnson

(1840 — 1924)

birthplace: Cole County,  
Missouri

- School teacher, cattle dealer and investor
- First woman to register cattle with own brand and to ride Chisholm Trail with own herd
- Pioneer of Hays City colony which later ceased to exist
- At time of her death her holdings were said to equal a quarter of a million dollars

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## Scott Joplin

(1868 — 1917)

birthplace: Linden, Texas

- Composer, pianist, and "King of Ragtime"
- Age 7 proficient in banjo
- Toured with band Texas Medley Quartette
- Posthumously inducted into Songwriters Hall of Fame by the National Academy of Popular Music (1970), first African American Grand Opera

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## Stanley Marcus

(1905 — 2002)

birthplace: Dallas, Texas

- Eldest son of Herbert Marcus co-founder of specialty clothing store Neiman Marcus Company
- Driving force behind expansion of the ready to wear high quality fashion merchandising store
- Served as the President of the War Production Board in Washington

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## Bessie Coleman

(1892 — 1926)

birthplace: Atlanta, Texas

- First, female African American to be a licensed pilot
- Spent early years of World War I working as a manicurist at a Barbershop
- Attended aviation school in Le Crotoy, France
- Her daredevil stunts earned her nickname of "Brave Bessie"
- Died during a test flight in a airshow April 30th, 1926

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## Vicente, Filisola

(1789 — 1850)

birthplace: Ravello, Italy

- Military Officer and second in command for Santa Ana's army
- Ratified public treaty of Valesco
- Accused of being a traitor to Mexican Army
- Defended his court martial and was exonerated
- Published a defense of his conduct in Texas which was translated into English by the Republic of Texas in 1837

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## Ann Richards

(1933 — 2006)

birthplace: Lacy-Lakeview, Tx

- State Treasurer
- Forty fifth (45th) governor of Texas
- Served as administrative assistant in the Texas House of Representatives
- The Texas Lottery was instituted during her term as governor, Robin Hood law, and vetoed the right to carry a concealed gun in public places

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**Anson Jones**



**David Crockett**



**Benevidos Placido**



**Rene Robert Cavalier,  
Sieur de la Salle**



**Enrique Esparza**



**Susanna W. Dickinson**



**Sherman Sidney**



**Benavides Placido**  
(? — 1837)

birthplace: Reynosa Tamaulipas, Mexico

- Known for his contribution to the settlement of Victoria, Texas
- One of the important "Ten Friends" for whom Victoria main street was named "Calle de los Diez Amigos"
- Successfully led resistance against Mexican forces to support Texas Revolution

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**David Crockett**  
(1786 — 1836)

birthplace: Green County, East Tennessee

- Frontiersman, Congressman, and Defender of the Alamo
- Reputation as a sharpshooter, hunter, and yarn-spinner
- Justice of the peace (1817)
- Town Commissioner and Colonel of the 57th militia regiment
- Moved to Texas and became a Land agent, died defending the Alamo March 6, 1836

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**Anson Jones**  
(1798 — 1858)

birthplace: Great Barrington, Massachusetts

- Appointed Minister to the U.S. in 1838
- Last President of the Republic of Texas
- Elected in 1844
- Retired to Washington-on-the-Brazos after Annexation (when Texas became a U.S. State)

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**Susanna W. Dickinson**  
(1814 — 1883)

birthplace: Williamson County, Tennessee

- Survivor of the Alamo
- Colonel for the military post on the Brazos
- Released by Santa Ana and given two silver dollars and a blanket she made her way to Gonzales
- Filed the first divorce petition in 1857

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**Enrique Esparza**  
(1828 — 1917)

birthplace: Unknown

- Witness of the battle of Alamo
- He recounts "all the others are dead. I alone live of they who were within the Alamo when it fell. Neither age nor infirmity could make me forget for the scene was one of such horror that it could never be forgotten."
- He farmed and transported merchandise in Nogalitos, South Flores

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**Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle** (1643 — 1687)

birthplace: Rouen, France

- First European to travel the length of the Mississippi River
- Established a colony on the Mississippi River
- The expedition landed in Texas by mistake in Matagorda Bay, establishing Fort St. Louis in 1685
- Killed by his own men while attempting to locate the Mississippi River

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**Sidney Sherman**  
(1805 — 1873)

birthplace: Marlboro, Massachusetts

- Soldier and Entrepreneur
- Invented first cotton bagging machine, and sheet lead maker west of the Alleghenies
- Captain of band of volunteer soldiers, for the Texas army that carried the only flag in the Battle of San Jacinto
- City of Sherman and Sherman County named after him.

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