

## TREE PLANTING HONORS STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN

Stephen Fuller Austin, beloved Father of Texas, is still being remembered for his vision, dedication and sacrifices in colonizing Texas. In Fort Worth, Texas on November 7, 2008 Ms. Jane Austin Bruckner attended the Stephen F. Austin Memorial Tree Ceremony – the planting of an oak tree on the Courthouse Square.

Mr. Sam Houston IV, past president of the sons of the Republic of Texas was the guest speaker. There was a large gathering of Fort Worth and Tarrant County officials. Members of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, who are descendants of men/women who fought for Texas independence from Mexico, were present, as were school children from the Fort Worth Academy.

Billy F. Price provided the oak tree - grown from an acorn from an ancient tree on the site where Austin died December 17, 1836. Mr. Price now owns this property in Brazoria County. In past years he collected 600 acorns and worked with the Texas Forest Service to grow these memorial trees, so one could be placed on every Texas Courthouse lawn and in other locations. One has been planted on the grounds of the State capitol and another near Austin's grave in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. In Brazoria County there is a tree, with a memorial marker, where every year on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Austin's birth date) a ceremony is conducted to remember this valiant leader who was called the Father of Texas by his friend, Sam Houston. Without Austin's determination and constant diplomacy there would have been no Texas.

This article was provided by Jane Austin Bruckner, a Daughter of the Republic of Texas (descended from Mitchell Putman who fought at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836).

Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836) was a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA 1638. [Stephen <sup>6</sup> , Moses <sup>5</sup> , Elias <sup>4</sup> , Richard <sup>3</sup> , Anthony <sup>2</sup> , Richard <sup>1</sup> ]
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