

LEARN WITH LANDON ABOUT COLLIN MCKINNEY

By Landon Mullin Johnson

Landon is a 7-year-old homeschool student from Anna. He is the elementary school winner of the Collin County Historical Commission's essay competition. He chose to write on the following topic: Select a person who played a noteworthy role in Collin County history. Describe your historical figure and explain why he or she is significant.

Collin McKinney helped make Texas its own country. He signed the constitution and helped create it. He split the counties and he protected people. Also, he brought people to Texas. Collin McKinney was born in New Jersey in 1766. He was the second child of 10 children! His family moved fairly a lot. Collin McKinney had no school because he had to help his family when his dad was in the Revolutionary War. His dad finally came home when Collin McKinney was 14. They moved to a place called Kentucky. They build a fort named McKinney like their last name. Native Americans attacked McKinney station! Collin McKinney was a spy and a brave protector. In 1793, he served in the Kentucky militia.

In 1794, Collin McKinney was married to Amy Moore. Amy Moore and Collin McKinney had four kids. Two babies died. In 1804 Amy Moore died. In 1805, Collin got married to Betsy and they had 7 kids. Collin McKinney was a magistrate in Kentucky and made sure people obeyed the law. He moved to Tennessee in 1818 to manage an estate. Then over time, he managed a trading post in Kentucky. In 1824, he moved to Arkansas. In 1831, he moved to Red River County, Texas.

Mexico was at war with Texas in 1835. It was called the Texas Revolution. In 1835, Collin McKinney was elected as a delegate for a meeting of the San Filipe de Austin. They wanted their government closer to them. In 1836, Texas was part of Mexico. The citizens of Mexico did not have a lot of rights. A lot of United States people lived in Mexico. In 1836, Collin McKinney was reelected as a delegate for a meeting at Washington on the Brazos. Texas decided to become its own country at Washington on the Brazos meeting. He wrote the Texas Declaration of Independence with 4 more people. The battle that Texas won for our freedom was The Battle of San Jacinto. Texas became independent in 1836. On March 2 1836, Collin McKinney signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Collin McKinney was the oldest member. He got the pen for the Texas Declaration of Independence. 60 people signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Texas became its own country for 10 years.

Collin McKinney was part of the group that made the constitution for the Republic of Texas. A republic is a type of government that a lot of people participate in. Collin McKinney was a member of congress which is the legislative branch that wrote laws. Collin McKinney was a surveyor. That means someone who measures land. Collin separated the counties.

There was no one living on 180 million acres of land in the Republic of Texas. Congress gave grants to companies to bring 200 people per year for 3 years to the land. A family got 1 mile per family and one man got $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile. Also, the people got guns and bullets. Also, people got help with making cabins. Also, corn was the most important crop. Life was hard. People had to hunt for their food.

He helped people travel to Texas for owning land in 1844. In 1845, he moved to Van Alstyne and built his house made of wood. In 1846, Collin County was named after Collin McKinney. In 1848, people made McKinney City. It was named after him. He died in 1861. He was 95 years old. He was buried in Van Alstyne.

Collin McKinney was important. He helped sign the constitution and helped us have rights. He measured the land. He brought people to the land. That is why Collin McKinney is important to Collin County and Texas.

