

Name: Alysia Hill

Age: 15

School: Wylie East High School

Grade: 10th

Email: alysiahill000@gmail.com

The Life of Collin McKinney

Collin McKinney is most remembered for signing The Texas Declaration of Independence as well as being the namesake of Collin County and, its seat, McKinney. His impact on the trajectory of Collin County's future is substantial and prominent due to his many astounding political feats. Despite not being native to Texas it is obvious that he held the great state in high regard; because of his contributions to Collin County's development, he is a forever remembered part of its history. From humble beginnings to his works as a respected politician, it is no wonder why he is such a reputed individual in the County's vast history.

To this day Collin County, named after Collin McKinney, still makes up an area of about 851 square miles of Texas, as well as resides within the Blackland Prairie region of Texas. The county's seat is named McKinney, making it so that it too was named after Collin McKinney. Originally Collin County struggled to get sturdy footing due to its apparent lack of trees, yet its citizens still persevered through this inconvenience and turned to the one thing they had lots of... minerals; Collin County got its start by building itself up with bricks and cement, which influenced its economy greatly, making its settlers heavily reliant on Texas's native minerals.

One of those settlers living through the county's tribulations was a man by the name of Collin McKinney.

Born on April 17, 1766, in New Jersey, Collin McKinney came from a mother and father who were Daniel and Mercy McKinney, and was the sixth child that they had had. As a child he moved quite frequently, going through three different states before finally settling in Texas. On February 13, 1792, he married Anna Moore who would give birth to four children in the time that she was alive. With his wife and children, they decided to move to current-day Collin County, becoming one of the 1st settlers to inhabit the area. Even with his limited formal education, he managed to become a representative of Red River County at the convention of 1836, where he signed The Texas Declaration of Independence. After this historical moment, his political career continued as he was later a member of the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Congress of the Republic of Texas. Finally, when The Legislative Act, of 1846, was passed, Collin County was officially given its name of Collin County. Sadly, about 15 years later in 1861, at the age of 95 years old, he passed away in his home in Collin County.

Collin McKinney has left behind a legacy of great importance to both Texas and Collin County's history. With his signing of The Texas Declaration of Independence, he solidified Texas's independence from Santa Anna's reign of dictatorship. This historical moment will forever leave his name in infamy. Yet, arguably his most practical contribution to Texas is his development of a 30x30 mile grid system over Texas. This allows the various counties that cover Texas to be relatively equal in land mass and population density. Both of these plus his astute political career leave little wonder as to why he is so significant to the growth of Collin County and of Texas as a whole.

Bibliographie:

Stambaugh, Lee. *A History of Collin County, Texas* . The Portal to Texas History, 2009

The Portal to Texas History is a highly detailed text about almost every aspect of Collin County, from its history to its physicality. The article gives the most vivid recollection of the history and life of Collin McKinney. It being so detailed about every part of Collin McKinney's life is my primary reason for using this website.

Minor, David. *Collin County*. Texas State Historical Association, 2020

The Texas State Historical Association is constantly updating the information within its website. Another reason for my use of the website is primarily due to the fact that it is sponsored by the Texas Library and Archives Foundation, which itself is a library almost completely dedicated to Texas history. Both of these reasons are why I see it fit to site the Texas State Historical Association website.

Garver, Lois. *Collin McKinney*. Texas State Historical Association, 2018

Texas State Historical Association being the newest and most regularly updated site I have used makes the information in it much more up to date. This makes sure that any new information

found out about my topic is updated accurately. The Texas State Historical Association being regularly updated, with new information is the main reason behind my uses of this website.