

ment of the first American colony; his guardianship of its interests, and lastly his patriotic sacrifices for its success, truly mark him as the founder of Anglo-American Texas.

In reviewing the life of this famous man we find that he was born in Virginia—that nursery for great men; though not like many of them, he received a good education. Graduating at Transylvania University at the age of twenty-one, he went to Missouri, where he served in the Territorial Legislature for several years, gaining much of that experience which enabled him to successfully colonize Texas. Upon leaving the legislative halls he became his father's partner, and, in justice to this illustrious man, I must say, the plans of colonization originated first with him. He took his son as his partner, but died soon after receiving his grant of land, and with his dying words he bade his son carry out his plans.

From this time on we shall follow the eventful career of Stephen F. Austin in his struggle to colonize Texas. With his first colonist, in December, 1821, he arrived on the Brazos river, in what is now Washington county, and, like the sturdy Pilgrims of the Mayflower, set to work in the midst of winter to rear a settlement.

The little colony was soon cut off from civilization by hostile Indians and land pirates. Provisions gave out, and the colonists were forced to live upon horse flesh and such game as they could kill until supplies were obtained. Austin bore, in common with the settlers, the hardships forced upon them. He was sole ruler of the colony, and despite