

Grade 07 Social Studies Unit 05 Exemplar Lesson 03

The Empresario's Office Supplement

Hill County Component

Supplement to Heart of Texas Tales Website

Stephen F. Austin and Sterling Robertson's Texas Ranger Frontiersmen

In 1823, only two years after Anglo-American colonization formally began in Texas, empresario Stephen F. Austin hired ten experienced frontiersmen as "rangers" for a punitive expedition against a band of Indians. But not until November 24, 1835, did Texas lawmakers institute a specific force known as the Texas Rangers. The organization had a complement of fifty-six men in three companies. Officers received the same pay as United States dragoons and privates—\$1.25 a day; however, they supplied their own mounts, equipment, arms, and rations. At all times they had to be ready to ride, equipped "with a good and sufficient horse... [and] with one hundred rounds of powder and ball."

James Buckner (Buck) Barry, Texas Ranger, (1821–1906) immigrated to Texas in 1841 and received a headright grant of 640 acres of land near Corsicana. There he occupied himself, in his own words, with a "little farming and with a great deal of hunting." Barry soon joined the Texas Rangers, first as a member of an independent company at San Antonio and then, from September 15 through December 15, 1845, as a member of Capt. Thomas J. Smith's **Robertson County Rangers**, protecting the area near the Brazos River in what was to become Hill County.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fba89>



Buck Barry, Texas Ranger and Frontiersman

From the book, *Buck Barry Texas Ranger and Frontiersman*, (paraphrased, not quoted):

Buck Barry recorded in his voluminous journals (donated to the University of Texas) many stories about repeated Indian raids. Often when the men were away from home, hunting or planting, women and children were exposed and many were killed or captured by raiding Indians. Indians often struck at night, so during the full moon, settlers were especially vulnerable.

Barry reported that when he had to decide whether to join in the fighting of the Civil War, he was conflicted about which side to join (although he was a slave owner). He said he ultimately threw his support to the southern states because the US federal government had not done enough, in his mind, to protect settlers from the Indians. Barry thought that if the government was located closer to the problem (i.e. in the south), they might be more responsive to the problems of Indian raids.

Buck Barry is buried in the Barry Family Cemetery, located near Walnut Springs just west of the Brazos River in Bosque County. The cemetery is on the site where Barry's ranch originally stood.

Note that Barry was part of the Texas Rangers party that "rescued" Cynthia Ann Parker from the Indians.

Citations:

- Ben H. Procter, "TEXAS RANGERS," *Handbook of Texas*
Online(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/met04>), accessed August 12, 2013.
Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
- Thomas W. Cutrer, "BARRY, JAMES BUCKNER," *Handbook of Texas*
Online(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fba89>), accessed August 12, 2013. Published
by the Texas State Historical Association.