

Commissioner Washington Anderson

1834-1894

One of founding Williamson County commissioners

Soldier at the Battle of San Jacinto

One of Round Rock's earliest settlers

Owner of county's first sawmill

Brief Biography

by Lisa Worley, curator of Williamson Museum

Born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, **Washington Anderson's** grandfather, Richard, served as a captain in the Revolutionary War. In February 1835, Anderson along with his father, Dr. Thomas Anderson, and brother, John D. Anderson, arrived in Port Lavaca, Texas. Anderson's mother, Chloe Glascock Anderson, died when he was three years old.

Anderson fought and was wounded at the Battle of San Jacinto, where he served in Capt. Jesse Billingsley's company. He was only nineteen years old at the time. He is featured in William H. Huddle's painting entitled The Surrender of Santa Anna, which hangs in the Capitol building in Austin. For his faithful service to the Republic, Anderson received a number of land grants.

Anderson married Mary Ann Glascock, a cousin, in March 1838 and together they had one daughter. Anderson signed the petition to form Williamson County in 1848 and served as one of the first county commissioners. He settled in the Round Rock area in the early 1850s and sold the land to have the town platted. A stone home constructed by a Swedish stonemason and four slaves housed the Anderson family several hundred acres of land east of Old Town Round Rock. Anderson built the county's first sawmill and gristmill; however a flood in 1845 washed them away. Washington Anderson died in 1894 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

Commissioner Jacob M. Harrell

1804-1853

One of the founding Williamson County commissioners
Seventh Mayor of Austin before moving to Round Rock area
One of Round Rock's earliest settlers credited with co-naming town
Blacksmith and butcher

Brief Biography

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Born in 1804 in Tennessee, **Jacob M. Harrell** moved to Texas in 1833 with his wife, Mary McCutcheon and their four children. The Harrells were one of the first families to move to Waterloo (later named Austin) in 1838. Sometime around 1839, Harrell established a butcher pen in Austin and in 1847 he was elected mayor of the city.

In 1848, Harrell moved to Round Rock, originally called Brushy Creek. Harrell's name shows up on the 1848 petition to create Williamson County and he served as one of the first county commissioners. When the U.S. Post Office asked the town of Brushy Creek to submit a new name, it is said that Thomas C. Oatts suggested the name "Round Rock" because he and Harrell often fished together from a large limestone rock in Brushy Creek. The 1850 census recorded his occupation as Blacksmith. Jacob M. Harrell died in August 1853 at his home on Brushy Creek.