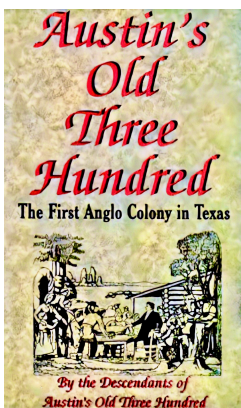


Ancestral Tales

Camping with the "Father of Texas"

EDWARD LOVELACE (1764-1824) is my 3rd Great-uncle. He was a plantation owner in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, and a friend, traveling companion, and business partner of Moses Austin. An explorer and bear hunter, in June 1821 he and a nephew, Henry Holstein, accompanied Moses's son Stephen F. Austin ("Father of Texas") on his first journey through the wilds of Texas. Lovelace then loaned Austin funds to establish the Texas Austin Colony. Edward Lovelace is listed by the Texas Historical Association as one of the Texas Old Three Hundred colonists.



Austin arranged for a Mexican land grant to the Lovelace brothers, encompassing the coastal territory between the Sabine River and the Brazos River. The Emperor of Mexico vetoed the grant, not wanting any American settlements in Mexican Texas so close to the U.S. border. Austin explained this in a November 1822 letter to Edward Lovelace from Mexico City, ending with this remarkable statement: *"You must not be frightened at the name of an Imperial government. You, like myself, have lived under a Monarchy when Louisiana belonged to Spain, and I think we lived as happy then as under the government of the United States. The*

Emperor has his enemies and in the United States the democrats will abuse him no doubt, but he is doing the best for his country. These people will not do for a Republic. Nothing but a Monarchy can save them from Anarchy."

The Lovelace brothers helped to finance the purchase in New Orleans of a cargo schooner, the Lively. Edward Lovelace and his brother Jackson returned to Texas on the vessel to deliver supplies for the new Austin colonists. They disembarked mistakenly at the mouth of the Brazos River, instead of the Colorado River where Austin awaited them. They had to travel upstream on the Brazos to plant a corn crop for survival.



According to family lore, in 1823 Edward Lovelace died on the Lively while on second voyage to Texas, victim of a pirate attack off Galveston Bay. The Lovelace loans were eventually repaid after Austin's death, as provided for in Austin's will.