



## Abner Kuykendall (The Old Three Hundred)

The Kuykendall brothers, Abner, Joseph and Robert, were among 50 families gathered at Nagadoches to come into Texas on November 26, 1821. The brothers were sons of Adam and Margaret Kuykendall of Dutch heritage, born in North Carolina and Kentucky but living in Arkansas Territory by 1808. Of hardy pioneer stock from the Allegheny Mountains, the brothers brought large families eager to obtain land at 12.5 cents an acre offered by the Spanish government of which Texas was a province.

Abner and his wife Sarah Gates had from nine to twelve children when they came to Texas. Abner was appointed commander of the militia of Austin's colony and on January 1, 1822, he and Thomas Boatwright established a settlement on New Year's Creek. (This is the site of the home of our present day members, John and Bet Whitehouse. Kuykendall Road is the name of the Washington County road in that area). Sarah died in 1823. Abner never remarried.

Abner, his brothers and sons were known as tough Indian fighters. A story told by Mary Ann Moore in her book, Framing Independence, describes an Indian confrontation, "Late in the summer of 1823, the Tonkawas stole horses from Abner and a Mr. Wheat who lived nearby. Abner, two of his sons and Thomas Boatwright were joined by 25 men from Austin's group to pursue the Indians. The guilty warriors were sentenced to be flayed and have their heads shaved with the punishment to be administered by their chief, Carita, and Abner Kuykendall. Carita used a gentle hand but Abner did not spare the whip."

In November, 1823, Abner moved back to the Brazos and received title to one and a half leagues eight miles above San Felipe. In July 1824 and May 1826 Abner went on campaigns against the Karankawa, Waco, and Tawakoni Indians. In 1827 Austin selected him to patrol The Old San Antonio Road to prevent Indian invasions. He became a public official in San Felipe in 1832 and led a party of 40 + men to Anahuac to protect the citizens during the Anahuac Disturbances. Kuykendall was stabbed at San Felipe in June 1834 by Joseph Clayton and died in July. Clayton was hanged in what was probably the first legal execution in Texas.

Information taken from The Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association, Citation, Marshall E. Kuykendall and Framing Independence, an unpublished work by Mary Ann Moore.