

Breier
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Thomas Jefferson Rusk



Picture of TJR; Texas Humanities Resource Center located at:
http://humanities-interactive.org/a_base.html

Thomas Jefferson Rusk

Thomas Jefferson Rusk (T.J.R.) was born on December 5, 1803 in Pendleton District, South Carolina. T.J.R. went to Georgia to practice and study law. He met Mary F. Cleveland in Georgia and married her. T.J.R. had 7 children and 2 of them died as toddlers. T.J.R. gave people money to look for gold in gold mines.

Thomas Rusk's business partner stole his money and went to Nacogdoches T.X. T.J.R. followed his partner to try to get his money, but his partner did not have it. His business partner gave the money to some one else.

During the war; T.J.R. joined the army at the battle of Gonzales. He left the army before the siege of Bexar. Another battle that T.J.R. was a big part of was the battle of San Jacinto. General Huston got shot in the leg during the battle. The Texans won the battle and said, "remember the Alamo!" After the war T.J.R. and his family moved to Nacogdoches.

Some of T.J.R.'s things are in the Stone Fort museum. T.J.R. and his wife's bed is in the Stone Fort Museum. Their bed was very, very small! It had very interesting quilt with red and brown squares on it. The bed was made in 1836.



T.J.R. and his wives bed; Stone Fort Museum



Detail of Quilt Design

In 1856 T.J.R.'s wife died of Tuberculosis. Suffering from a tumor in the base of his neck and the death of his wife and two children, in 1857 T.J.R. shot himself in the head. T.J.R and his wife are now buried in the Oak Grove cemetery. T.J.R. middle school is named after Thomas Jefferson Rusk.



Picture of the Grave stone at Oak Grove Cemetery; East Texas Research Center

Timeline of T.J.R.'s Life

- 1803 Born Doc in South Carolina.
- 1834 T.J.R came to Texas
- 1835 11, becomes Mexican citizen. Involved in independence movement. He also became inspector general.
- 1836 Fought in battle of San Jacinto. Nac delegate. Appointed secretary of war. Became commander in chief.
- 1837 Elected to congress.
- 1838 Commanded Nac militia. Chief justice of supreme court.
- 1840 He commanded Texas troops in expelling the Cherokee.
- 1843 Elected major general of Texas militia.
- 1845 Helped draft state constitution.
- 1846 Elected U.S senate.
- 1856 wife died of tuberculosis.
- 1857 Died.

Works Cited

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http://tides.sfasu.edu/AN18/SFM11_1.php?culture=2&chrono=5&index=0
4. Texas State Library and Archives Commisn -- "Thomas Jefferson Rusk" located at:
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/giants/rusk.html> .
5. Texas Tides - East Texas Research Center's Orton Family Papers (Letter about T.J.R.'s death) located at:
<http://tides.sfasu.edu/AN18/A23B3F3a.php?culture=2&chrono=5&index=0>