

The Republic of Texas Donated Hutto's Land

by Harvey Olander

Have you ever wondered if the property you now own may have been a part of a Spanish land grant? Grants were few and far between, but vast amounts of land became available to the Republic of Texas when Sam Houston defeated Santa Anna. The Republic of Texas quickly passed a law in 1837 to entice settlers to move in by donating land to persons upon request.

Many men with military service were issued a Donation Certificate with an affixed Patent No. which entitled them to search for acreage that had not been claimed. To prove the land was available, a legal authorized surveyor would reference it with adjoining surveys. This proof awarded them a Patent in their names.

It is my opinion that W.J. Brown was the person who received the original Patent from the Republic Of Texas covering the area where Hutto later developed. All the sales involving this acreage list the W.J. Brown Survey and have identical boundary descriptions. The first deed found in the Williamson County records room, involving W.J. Brown and his surveyed land, was the transfer of this land by

patent (deed) to Morgan C. Hamilton from Thomas P. Washington and Jacob C. Higgins on August 9, 1853 for \$2952.00 (Vol. 5, page 47,48). Williamson County records began with 1848.

Since W.J. Brown sold his acreage to Thomas Washington and Jacob Higgins before 1848, it was recorded in Cameron County. *(I did not search those records. You, who have abundant energy, an inquisitive mind, and an urge to know, pass it on to the Hutto Herald)* Morgan C. Hamilton sold land to David S. Cook for \$600 on October 1, 1855. (Volume 6, page 171, 172) David S. Cook deeded land to J.E. Hutto on March 9, 1872 for \$1000. (Volume 13 page 520) J.E. Hutto deeded 45 acres of land to the Texas Land Co. Aug 1, 1876 to become the original City of Hutto (Volume 17, page 539).

Land purchased within Hutto City Limits was deeded by Lot Number and Addition Name. Sorry, no exciting Spanish land grants were found, but new residential developments are now in other surveys surrounding the W.J. Brown land.

Be a Columbus and discover a new way to your home.