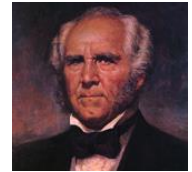




Featured Ancestor

Sam Houston Chapter #38
Katy, Texas



Ancestor's Name:	Joseph Bürell
Descendant's Name: <i>(Chapter member)</i>	Patrick Burell
Ancestor's Arrival in Texas (Year):	1844
Ancestor Lived <i>here</i> in Texas:	Castroville, Medina County

Overview of the Ancestor

Joseph Bürell, was born in the small commun of Altorf located in Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, on 18 August 1803, to Joseph and Walbourga Klein Bürell. At the age of 41 accompanied by Magdalene, his wife and their ten children they began their adventure to Texas. First traveling overland to Antwerp, Belgium where they set sail aboard the Brig Jeanette Marie on 14 May 1844 to Texas with a sum of cash and personal items to set up house. They sailed to Galveston arriving in quick order in July. Here they would stay for only a week or so. Departing Galveston, they sailed along the Texas coast to Indianola disembarking and setting out on foot and Ox Cart for Victoria. Then following the San Antonio River north to San Antonio meeting various hardships along the way.

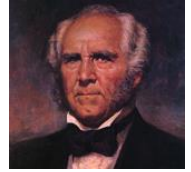
While in San Antonio he rendevoused with Henri Castro and other Castro Colonists. On September 3, 1844 Joseph accompanied Castro and 49 other men to the banks of the Medina River west of San Antonio where a few days later they would found the town of Castroville. Less than a year later Joseph would begin building a house wihin the town limits. Joseph's original house in Castroville stills stands two doors down from the historic Landmark Inn. It is one of oldest buildings still standing in Castroville. St. Louis Catholic Church records in Castroville indicate that Joseph also partipated in the building of the church in 1850 by providing stone and wagons.

After a few years the family dynamics changed. Joseph's first wife, Madeleine, passed away in 1849, most likely due to complications from childbirth and he remarried to widow Anna Maria Hettinger Schweitzer. While the circumstances of Anna Maria Hettinger's first husband have been lost to history as no records of his demise have been found to date. Joseph and Anna would go on to have two children of their own with



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Joseph Michael being the only one to survive infancy. Joseph Michael, although not quite as adventurous as his older brother Joseph Jr. would follow his brother's footsteps into the Texas Rangers. First enlisting in 1870 and later in 1872 with Joseph Jr. where they were stationed at Ft. Inge at Uvalde, Tx. Both Joseph Jr. and Joseph Michael have Texas Ranger markers on their graves in the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery at Castroville.

Joseph was a farmer most of his life. After either selling most of his original Land Patent #290 or providing portions of it to his children he began farming portions of land he received from his second wife's Land Patent #292 and land purchased on the East bank of the Medina River. He was a pioneer and a forefather to many. He was personal friends with notable Texans as Capt. Jack Hays and "Bigfoot" Wallace. He died on 21 August 1894 at the age of 91 from old age upon which he was buried at the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery in Castroville.