

Private Nemecio de la Zerda

De La Zerda, Jose Nepomuceno de los Santos (Nemecio) was born 4 November 1806, in San Antonio de Bexar. He was the son of Pedro De La Zerda and Rosalia Ruiz, all residents of San Antonio de Bexar.

Nemecio was a 9 year child on the Bexar 1817 census. He is listed on the 1830 Bexar census, and would have been 24 years old.

In circa 1830, he married Maria Rafaela de Jesus Perez. She was born 28 September 1811, and was the daughter of Domingo Perez and Antonia de Arocha.

Nemecio and Maria de Jesus had a total of nine children.

In 1837, Nemecio, was granted a headright of one league an labor of land (certificate no. 154) as a citizen of the Republic of Texas at the time of the Declaration of Independence.

On October 14, 1837, Jose Nepomuceno de Arocha deeded to Nemecio De La Zerda a section of. property from the large Arocha land grant. This property became the De La Zerda ranch in the Lodi area of Wilson County.

Juan Sequin lists Nemecio De La Zerda as serving as a volunteer in a company of soldiers during the Indian campaign of 1839. The company of volunteers provided their own horses and provisions. They rode west of San Antonio along the headwaters of the Medina, Hondo Seco, and Canon de Ubalde. The company was raised by virtue of a request made by M. B. Lamar, then President of the Republic of Texas.

During the 1840's, Nemecio De La Zerda started a freighting business and moved his family from San Antonio to the ranch property which would later become Wilson County in 1860. He conducted trade east as far as New Orleans, as well along the Gulf Coast and the Mexican border, south as far as Saltillo, and north to San Antonio and surrounding areas. During the Civil War, he carried supplies west to Ft. Davis.

Nemecio De La Zerda died in 1865 while his sons Nemecio II and Pedro Benito were serving in the Civil War. He was survived by his Widow Maria de Jesus, and his children: Nemecio II, Pedro Benito, Consolacion, and Juan Jose. His estate was divided accordingly between them.

Nemecio De La Zerda I, lived under five flags which flew over Texas: Spain, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Confederacy, and the United States of America.

Compiled by Nancy De La Zerda, April 2023

