

Editor's Note: The following is the official narrative submitted to the Texas Historical Commission. As of the time of this writing, related information, possibly indexed under the term, "High Prairie Place," may be found at the Carnegie Library in Bryan, as well as on the College Station Project HOLD website. The latter website address may be found under the "Links" tab on this website.

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WILLIAM TEMPLETON MILLICAN

by Dan Earl Williams
Millican, Texas
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William Templeton Millican, pioneer, attorney and public official was born in Spartanburg County, South Carolina on February 16, 1780. He came to Texas with his father, Robert Hemphill Millican, his mother, seven brothers and one sister. He was 41 years of age upon arriving in Texas where they joined Stephen F. Austin's "The Old Three Hundred." He was granted one league of land (4,428 acres) on July 16, 1824.¹ The land was rolling prairies and heavily wooded. The land had to be conquered and the Indians had to be dealt with. The crossing of streams and rivers also created a problem. He had to adjust to the wilderness and inadequate supplies as a way of life in order to survive. He and his family were the first Anglo-Americans to live in the territory.²

The Millican family was involved in the Runaway Scrape that followed the Goliad Massacre. When William Templeton Millican arrived in Liberty, Texas, he learned of Sam Houston's victory and returned home.³

The census of March 1826 lists William Templeton Millican as a farmer and stock raiser. In July 1826 his home was a polling place for the election of delegates provisional judiciary for the colony. He was elected a delegate from Washington district to consultation held in San Felipe in 1835. Also noted, he sold corn to Captain John P. Gillis on his homeward march through Washington.⁴

¹ Glover, Helen Ruth Dunlap, "The Millicans in Early Texas" an unpublished family history written in 1946 and currently in the possession of Dan Williams. Also "William Templeton Millican" by Lon F. Curbello, Jr. in the Handbook of Texas Online and New Handbook of Texas published by the Texas Historical Association, vol. 4, pp. 745-747.

² Glover, Helen Ruth Dunlap.

³ Glover, Helen Ruth Dunlap.

⁴ Glover, Helen Ruth Dunlap.

William Templeton Millican served on a committee designated by Texas Congress to select the site of Boonville as the county seat.⁵ He served as a member of the Texas Army of the Texas Republic April 25, 1836 to July 25, 1836 to guard the frontier known later as the early day Texas Rangers.⁶

March 1840 and 1841 William Templeton Millican was elected Justice of the Peace for Navasota County. He was appointed agent for various Washington county residents.⁷ In 1842 he participated in the Mier Expedition where he contracted a disease and returned home to die.

In November 1849 and December 1853, Elliot McNeal Millican signed papers relating to the money owed William T. Millican by the Republic for his services. His mother, Nancy Millican, was given a grant of land of 320 acres for his services. The land is known today as The High Prairie Place and is owned by Dan Williams. This brought Millican's land holdings to 4,748 acres.⁸

William Templeton Millican died September 24, 1843 at the age of 63 and is buried in the Millican area.

⁵ Handbook of Texas Online.

⁶ Glover, Helen Ruth Dunlap.

⁷ Brazos County History--Rich Past--Bright Future, pp. 23 and 336.

⁸ Glover, Helen Ruth Dunlap.

Republic

The State of Texas § *In the Name of the Republic of Texas*

To § *To all whom these presents shall come, Know Ye:*

William T. Millican § *I, Sam Houston, President of the Republic, aforesaid by virtue of the power vested in me by law, and in accordance with the Statutes of said Republic in such case, made and promised, do by these presents grant to William T. Millican, his heirs or assigns forever, Two Million Eighty three thousand and three hundred and thirty three and one third sqr. vrs. of land situated and described as follows; In Washington County East of the Brazos River and West of the Navasota: Beginning at the South East Corner of a Survey of one Labor made for Willis Ellis, a stake from which a post oak marked W bears S 77 degrees E 10 vrs; thence North with Ellis East boundary line at one thousand varas his North East corner, at one thousand four hundred and forty three varas, a Post, from which a Post Oak marked T bears N 32 degrees W 52 vrs.,; Thence East at one thousand four hundred and forty three varas a stake from which a Post oak marked UU bears N 25 degrees 30' W 11 varas, Thence South at one thousand four hundred and forty three varas intersects Walter Southerlands N. Boundary line a stake from which a Post oak bears S 89 degrees E 63 varas, Thence West one thousand four hundred and forty three varas to the place of beginning; Containing one Labor of arable and balance as pasture land, Hereby relinquishing to him the said William T. Millican and his heirs or assigns forever, all the right and title in and to said land heretofore held and possessed by the government of said Republic, and I do hereby assign this*

letter patent for the same. In testimony whereof, I have caused the great seal of the Republic to be affixed, as well as the seal of the General Land Office. Done at the City of Austin on the sixteenth day of February, One thousand eight hundred and forty two and the year of the Independence of said Republic the Sixth.

By the President

SAM HOUSTON

Tho. Wm. Ward

Commissioner, General Land Office

The above and foregoing filed for record September 27, 1873 and recorded same day to which I certify.

C. F. Moore, Clk. DC

By: J. C. Gillespie, Dep. Clk.