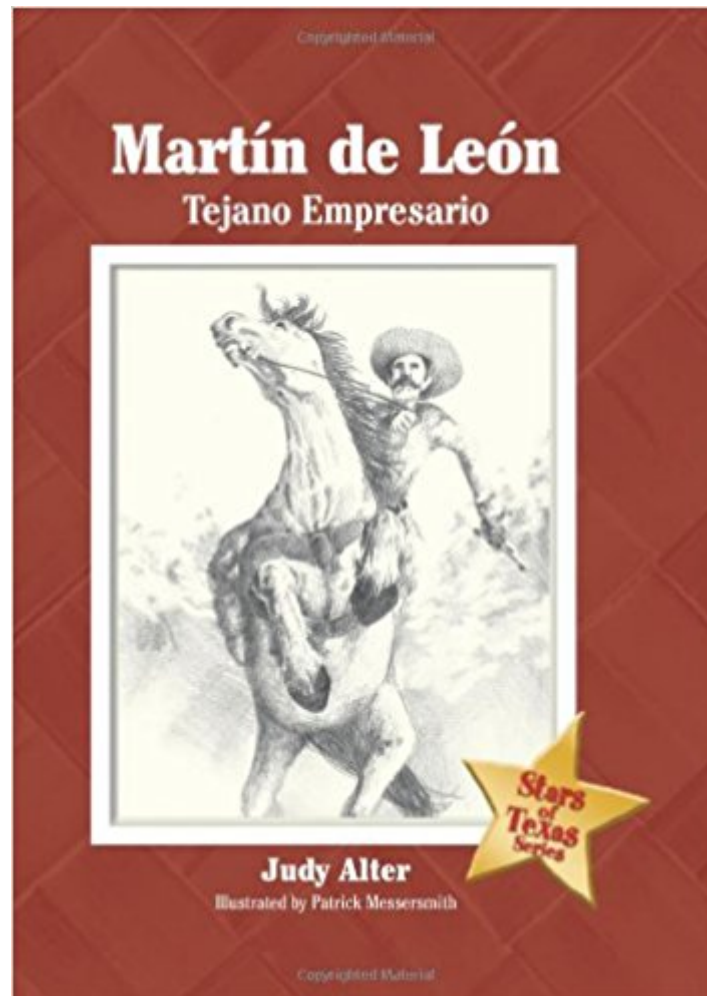




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Martín De León: Tejano Empresario (Stars Of Texas Series)



Synopsis

Don Mart  n de Le  n was the only Tejano empresario to settle a colony in Texas, in the days before statehood. Other empresarios, such as Moses Austin and Sterling C. Robertson, were Anglos who had been drawn to Texas by the lure of land. De Le  n established his colony in southeast Texas, near the Gulf Coast, and founded the city of Victoria. He and his four sons governed the colony. Though Don Mart  n died in 1833, his sons actively supported the Texas fight for independence by giving money and goods to the Texas Volunteers. But the family suffered from a general prejudice against people of Mexican descent  they lost their land and livestock and had to leave Texas. They returned in the late 1840s, but they no longer had the immense holdings of land and cattle that Don Mart  n had accumulated. In 1972, the de Le  n family was honored with Texas state historical markers on family graves in Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria. Finally, Mart  n de Le  n and his family are recognized for their loyalty to Texas, their support of the Texas Revolution, and their contributions to the Republic of Texas. Mart  n de Le  n is the fourth title in The Stars of Texas Series, aimed at fourth graders studying for the Texas history section of the TAKS test. The other three books in the series, Henrietta King: Rancher and Philanthropist, Mirabeau B. Lamar: Second President of Texas, and Miriam "Ma" Ferguson: First Woman Governor of Texas have been chosen for the Accelerated Reader program, and Henrietta King was a Spur Award finalist. Free workbooks for all Stars of Texas Series books are available on-line.    Download the Free Activity Book/Teacher's Guide at   <http://www.tfhcc.com/press/younger.html>

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Customer Reviews

"A fascinating story of the Tejano empresario. The biography relates his successful colony, the founding of Victoria, and his family's suffering against anyone of Mexican descent after Texas Independence. The book's format has interesting items concerning Texas history in the margins plus a map of empresario colonies, a timeline of Martín's life, a glossary and further readings and websites. The book is a must for those interested in Texas history during the early 19th century."--Karen Turner, Region XIV ESC (Karen Turner, Region XIV ESC)

JUDY ALTER writes fiction and nonfiction for readers of all ages. In 2005, she received the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Western Writers of America. Alter lives in Fort Worth, Texas. PATRICK MESSERSMITH is a noted artist who resides in Dallas, Texas. He states, "as a native Texan, it's great to be a part of teaching the legacy of our state's heroes (who might not receive as much attention) to the younger generations."

Book rather short but if you're interested in the DeLeon family history its worth the few bucks it costs.

Very good description of Martin De Leon.

"Martin de Leon, Tejano Empresario" opens with an Introduction which gives a condensed version of de Leon's life and his founding of the city of Victoria, before moving into chapters explaining his childhood and the upheavals that occurred during the early 19th century in Mexico. These upheavals, after several decades, eventually led to the Texas Revolution. In the xenophobia just after the end of the Texas Revolution, the de Leon family, along with many other Tejanos, were forced from their homes, leaving behind several million dollars in property and land. Years later, after the death of Don Martin, the impoverished family returned to Texas only to find their belongings scattered amongst newcomers in Victoria. Today, St. Mary's Catholic Church stands on the site of the original de Leon homestead. Interesting sidebars explain the "Grito de Dolores" in 1810, an incident celebrated today as Diez y Seis de Septiembre. There are also sidebars on curing cow hides, taken from Martin de Leon's 1827 record book, as well as a formula for dying cured cowhides black. This biography, written for juvenile readers 9 to 12, highlights an important person

and event in Texas history. What I personally like about the book is the way the author never condescends to her young readers, but presents facts with straightforward clarity. The times the characters lived in, the characters themselves, are revealed, flaws and all.

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