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Adolphus Sterne is significant in Nacogdoches for his role as a financier and recruiter in the Texas Revolution.

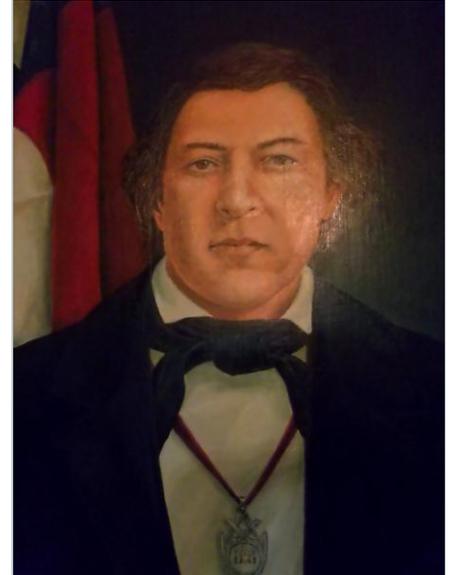


Misty Hurley, a Graduate Student in Public History at Stephen F. Austin State University, created this brochure as part of her thesis on cemetery preservation and creation of interpretive materials connecting Oak Grove Cemetery of Nacogdoches with historic sites, museums, artifacts, and archival records.



This project has been created in conjunction with the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFASU. Painting of Adolphus Sterne courtesy of the Sterne-Hoya House Museum. Photograph of the Sterne House courtesy of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Adolphus Sterne



Businessman and Texas Revolution Leader



Adolphus Sterne was born on April 15, 1801 in Cologne, Germany. When he was sixteen, Sterne ran away from Cologne to New Orleans, where he worked as a store clerk.

In 1824 Sterne received an appointment from the Mexican government to sell goods to its soldiers in Nacogdoches. Sterne arrived in Nacogdoches at a volatile time in the city and state's history as Texans began to rebel against the Mexican government and would soon fight for their independence.

After the Fredonian Rebellion, the Mexican Government arrested Sterne for treasonous conspiracy. Due to the terms of his parole, Adolphus Sterne was unable to openly participate in the Texas Revolution but that did not prevent him from using his resources to aid revolutionaries. In 1835, Sterne raised a volunteer company, later called the New Orleans Grays, to help the Texans overthrow Mexican rule. When the Battle of Nacogdoches began in 1832, Sterne directed soldiers on the best routes to take into town and what defenses the Mexican troops had set up. Sterne also took part in negotiations with the Cherokee tribes to make certain there would not be an uprising in East Texas while the Texan Army was needed elsewhere.

After the Texas Revolution, Adolphus Sterne was very active in the establishment of the new republic. He was a member of the first Legislature of Texas, representative to the

Constitutional Convention of 1833, founder of the Masonic Lodge in Nacogdoches, and served as the holder of municipal funds, judge, notary public, clerk of the Board of Land commissioners, justice of the peace, and the Postmaster.



Sterne's gravemarker is located south of the main entrance to Oak Grove Cemetery near Thomas J. Rusk's memorial. The marker has a thick marble tablet styled top with a decorative limestone base. The stone was created by Underhill & Co. of Austin, Texas and their name is carved on its base. On the back of the stone is Masonic insignia, an organization that he was a member for most of his life and an affiliation that helped him to gain his freedom from prison.

Visit these sites associated with Adolphus Sterne

- The Sterne – Hoya House Museum - 211 South Lanana St.
- Eugenia Sterne Park - 701 East Main St.
- Adolphus and Rosine Sterne graves at Oak Grove Cemetery - North Lanana St.
- The Stone Fort Museum - Griffith St. on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University