SAVE TEXAS HISTORY!™
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
LESSON PLANS

5 Pioneering Principles
WHY CHARACTER MATTERS

The opportunity to own cheap, abundant land in Mexican Texas was a powerful incentive for many Americans to pack up and set out for Austin's colony. Mexican authorities, however, did not want just anyone settling their land. They wanted to make sure the people coming to Texas met high standards of responsibility and conduct. Good settlers meant a prosperous and peaceful Texas, but how could the government of Mexico be sure they were getting good people?

The government of Mexico believed one way to help ensure the "quality" of settlers was to require documentation verifying the person's good **character**. *Character is a set of qualities that defines a person: honest or dishonest, responsible or irresponsible, reliable or unreliable, etc. The quality of settlers colonizing Texas was so important to Mexican authorities that they put it into law. The 1825 Colonization Law of Coahuila y Texas stated in part, "the new settlers who present themselves for admission shall prove their Christianity, morality, and good habits…"*

How could settlers prove they had good character? Before traveling to Texas, potential colonists would ask community leaders, politicians, and other influential citizens to write letters of recommendation on their behalf. These letters would be hand carried to Texas by the settler and offered to Stephen F. Austin as evidence of good character and eventual acceptance into the colony.

Among the archives at the Texas General Land Office is a group of documents called the Spanish Collection. Within the Spanish Collection are actual letters of recommendation brought to Texas by colonists. These letters reveal the expectations of the Mexican government.

VOCABULARY

character
a set of qualities that define a person.

RESOURCES

Are You a Person of Character? Self Evaluation handout

Letters of Recommendation (copies of original documents and accompanying transcripts)

GOALS

★ Define the word character and how it relates to your personal life.

★ Read and analyze the Letters of Recommendation from potential colonists.

★ Write a letter of recommendation for the "ideal settler."

TEKS

SOCIAL STUDIES 7.11

(A) Analyze why immigrant groups came to Texas and where they settled.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7.16

(B) Identify civic responsibilities of Texas citizens.

ANTICIPATORY SET

Provide each student with a copy of the Are You a Person of Character? Self-Evaluation handout. After completing the handout, ask for volunteers to share their responses with the class. Ask them if their answers would be different if someone else were evaluating their character. If so, how would they explain the differences?

Write the following quote from Stephen F. Austin on the board and read it aloud:

> **"You must examine the Red River emigrants very closely, and take care that no bad men get in …" –Stephen F. Austin, 1823**

Ask students what they think Austin meant by "bad men" and why this would be a concern to him. What could the government of Mexico do to prevent "bad men" from becoming citizens of Mexican Texas? Its answer to this challenge was to require settlers to bring with them letters of recommendation to show they were people of good character. Tell the students they will be reading and analyzing actual letters of recommendation brought by settlers.

ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Divide the class into groups of four students each.
2. Provide each group with copies of the 12 letters, blank copy paper and bold markers.
3. Each group member will be responsible for reading three letters and compiling a list of as many character traits as he or she can identify, writing each trait on one sheet of copy paper in large letters.
4. When each person has finished, as a group, analyze each character trait to determine how it would be beneficial to the success of a community.
5. When finished, the group members will choose four traits from their list they feel are the most important and discuss how these character traits are still valued in our time and why.
6. Each group should present its findings to the class. Students should be prepared to defend their choices when questioned by classmates. On the board, list each group's choices for most important character traits.
7. When all groups have finished presenting, have the students write a "Letter of Recommendation" for an imagined ideal settler using the character traits listed on the board.
8. Have students share their letters to the class.

WRAP UP QUESTIONS

1. Is there such a thing as an ideal settler? Explain.
2. Could this system be abused? Explain.
3. When will you need a letter of recommendation in the coming years? What might you need recommendations for in high school? College? Career?
4. What would you want someone to say in a recommendation written about you?
5. Who would you ask to write your recommendation letter if you had to have one next week? What would it say?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

★ Have your students choose one of the wrap up questions and write a response to share with the class.

★ Have students contact a local company and ask to speak to a Human Resources officer. Ask him/her what the standards of conduct are at the company and make a list. Compare them to 19th century standards and create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting both lists, and have them draw conclusions about how our views about character have changed.

★ Compile a list of the positive and negative aspects of the Mexican government's "letter of recommendation" plan. Have your students debate whether the plan should be kept the way it is, modified, or create an alternative plan.

★ Ask your students to imagine they are Stephen F. Austin. Write a letter to the government in Mexico City explaining why the letters of recommendation are not effective in keeping unlawful people out of Texas. Give specific reasons why.

EXTENSION

Beginning in the early 1830s, the conflict between Anglo settlers and the Mexican government escalated into war. Many of the settlers fighting against Mexico brought letters of recommendation with them to Texas promising to obey the laws.

Why had these settlers chosen to fight a government they had sworn to obey? Was it justified? Why or why not?

Have students research the causes of the Texas Revolution for answers to these questions.

Did your students enjoy this lesson? Let us know! The Texas General Land Office values your thoughts and feedback. Please report oversights, errors and omissions to the Texas General Land Office Archives at archives@glo.texas.gov.

Texas General Land Office ★ Jerry Patterson, Commissioner
1700 North Congress Avenue ★ Austin, Texas 78701
WWW.SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG | 1.800.998.4GLO

ARE YOU A PERSON OF CHARACTER? SELF EVALUATION

1. ❑ TRUE ❑ FALSE I do what needs to be done.

2. ❑ TRUE ❑ FALSE I am reliable and dependable.

3. ❑ TRUE ❑ FALSE I never make excuses or blame others.

4. ❑ TRUE ❑ FALSE I am honest. I don't lie, cheat or steal.

5. ❑ TRUE ❑ FALSE I am a good and dependable friend.

6. ❑ TRUE ❑ FALSE I work hard at being successful.

7. Do you think you are a trustworthy person? Why or why not?

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. Would someone who knows you give the same answers you just provided?

_____

_____

9. Why would the answers be the same or different?

_____

_____

_____

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State of Illinois
Gallatin County
6th March 1832

This is to certify, that we the subscribers have been intimately acquainted with the bearer Isaac Jones Esq, for several years past, and do not hesitate to say, and do cheerfully recommend him to be a good and useful citizen of moral and temperate habits, strict to his integrity, a good mechanic, inflexible in justice and on the whole believe him in every way a serviceable, useful man and citizen in the country therefore, we the more cheerfully recommend him to the confidence of the citizens of any Country or place where he may hereafter be disposed to locate himself —

William Detron Capt
John G Cooper
Chas. Mills

Wm Harvelson
Owen Riley
Joshua Bradley

Letter of Recommendation, file 67:61, Jones, Isaac. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

STATE OF ILLINOIS

GALLATIN COUNTY

★

6th of March, 1832

This is to certify that we the subscribed have been intimately
acquainted with the bearer Isaac Jones, Esq. for several years
past and do not hesitate to say, and do cheerfully
recommend him to be a good and useful citizen of moral
and temperate habits, strict to his integrity, a good mechanic,
inflexible in justice, and on the whole believe him in every way a
serviceable, useful man and citizen in character,
therefore we the more cheerfully recommend him
to the confidence of the citizens of any Country
or place where he may hereafter be disposed to locate himself–

William Datron, Capt.
WILLIAM DATRON, CAPT.

William Herod
WILLIAM HEROD

John G. Cooper
JOHN G. COOPER

William Harrelson
WILLIAM HARRELSON

Charles Mills
CHARLES MILLS

Owen Riley
OWEN RILEY

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 67:61, Jones, Isaac. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

The State of Alabama } whereas William
Perry County } Shepard of the
State and County afforsaid has Communicated to
us Joseph Martin and Isaac Denton Justices of the
peace in and for the County of perry that he
intends removing to the Province of Texas that
he may obtain Land and for the purpose of
Agriculture we therfore Certify that we have
Due acquaintance with William Shepard and
we believe him to be a worthy Citizen of this
Community we believe he pays his Just Contracts
provides well for his family and is of Temperate
Industrious Steady habits Living in the Greatest
peace and quietness with his neighbours and the
Citizens in General August the 2nd 1830

We the under mend
Subscribers do concur
in the above recommendation

Joseph Martin
Justice of the peace

Isaac Denton
Justice Peace

Jesse H. Peeples Capt.

H. L. Brodnax

Wm H Peeples

William H Goodwin

A. B. Hill

Wiley R. Gandy

John Gandy

David Barfield

William Carey

Samuel H. Bogle

Letter of Recommendation, file 28:13, Shepard, William. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

STATE OF ALABAMA
PERRY COUNTY

★

State and County aforesaid has communicated to us
Joseph Martin and Isaac Denton, Justices of the Peace in and for
the County of Perry that he intends removing to the Province of Texas that
he may obtain Land and for the purpose of Agriculture, we therefore
certify that we have due acquaintance with William Shepard and we
believe him to be a worthy citizen of this Community we believe he pays
his Just Contracts provides well for his family and is of Temperate,
Industrious, Steady habits Living in the Greatest peace and
quietness with his neighbors and the Citizens in General

August the 2nd 1830

We the undersigned subscribes to concern in
the above recommendation

Wm. H. Peoples
WM. H. PEOPLES

William W. Goodwin
WILLIAM W. GOODWIN

A.B. Hill
A. B. HILL

Wiley R. Gandy
WILEY R. GANDY

John Gandy
JOHN GANDY

William Carey
WILLIAM CAREY

Samuel H. Bogle
SAMUEL H. BOGLE

Joseph Martin
JOSEPH MARTIN
Justice of the Peace

Isaac Denton
ISAAC DENTON
Justice of the Peace

Jesse H. Peoples
Captain

H. L Brodnax
H.L. BRODNAX

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 28:13, Shepard, William. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

State of Louisiana
Parish of Washington

I Thomas C. Warner Parish Judge in and for the Parish aforesaid.—

Do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with Mr William Peacock the Bearer hereof for those many years past that he is and has been a Citizen of said Parish for a number of years. and that he has ever Supported and maintained a Character unimpeachable. that he is a Man of property. Planting or Farming his occupation. that he is peaceable. Sober. Honest and Industrious. And one to whom respect is due.— (and as he Contemplates exploring the province of Texas,) as such I recommend him to those it may Concern —.

Given under my hand and the Parish Seal this 17th day of February A D. 1830. —

Thos C. Warner.
Parish Judge

Letter of Recommendation, file 27:44, Peacock, William. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF WASHINGTON

★

I, Thomas C. Warner Parish Judge in and for
the Parish aforesaid –.
Do hereby certify that I have been
acquainted with Mr. William Peacock, the Bearer himself
for these many years past, that he is and has been a
citizen of said Parish for a number of years, and
that he has ever supported and maintained a
Character unimpeachable, that he is a man of
property, planting or farming his occupations, that
he is peaceable, Sober, Honest, and Industrious,
and one to whom respect is due. And as
he contemplates exploring the province of
Texas, as such I recommend him to those it
may concern-.

Given under my hand and the Parish
this 17th day of February
A.D. 1830.-

Thos E. Warner

THOS E. WARNER

Parish Judge

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 27:44, Peacock, William. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

Nacogdoches June 4th 1833

Messrs Austin & Williams

Gentlemen

William Manwa=
=ring a native of England, unmarried, of the age of Thirty five years - whishes to settle himself in your Colony, he takes this mode of soliciting to be accepted by you as one of your Colonists - becoun the bad roads, and the Extraordi=
=nary high waters presents his going to your Place, untill next autum -.

Mr Manwaring has lived whit me for the last four months - as a gardener, and j can say whit confidence that he is a very sober Honest & industrious man, and j beg of you to admit him as one of your Colonists - if you grant him that favor, please send him his Cer=
=tificate by return of mail.

j am gentn whit respect
you oo. Sert

Villa de Austin

Adolfo Sterne

Letter of Recommendation, file 27:8, Manwaring, William. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

NACOGDOCHES

JUNE 4TH, 1833

★

Messrs Austin & Williams

Gentlemen,

William Manwaring
A native of England, unmarried, of the age of
thirty five years – wishes to settle himself in your
colony, he takes this mode of soliciting to be accepted
by you as one of your colonists – because the bad
roads and the Extraordinary high waters prevents
his going to your place until next autumn.

Mr. Manwaring has lived with me for the last four
months as a gardener, and I can say with confidence that
he is a very sober, honest & industrious man, and I beg
of you submit him as one of your Colonists – if you grant him that
favor, please send him his Certificate by return mail.

I am gent'n whit respect

Villa de Austin

VILLA DE AUSTIN

Adolfo Sterne

ADOLFO STERNE

(rubric)

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 27:8, Manwaring, William. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

Tuskaloosa, Alabama
20th November 1834

Mr Shelby Corzine, the bearer hereof, intending to visit the province of Texas and probably to remove there with his family, I take pleasure in stating that I have been acquainted many years with Mr Corzine — that he is a gentleman of unimpeachable character, and that he has always sustained the reputation of an amiable and highly worthy citizen. I recommend him to the friendship & civilities of the good people among whom he settle, with the assurance that he will be a most useful and valuable citizen.

John Gayle

The State of Alabama
Sumter County } ss

I James Savage Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County of Sumter, do hereby Certify, that I have been long acquainted with John Gayle present Governor of the State of Alabama, and am well acquainted with his hand Writing, that the above is his hand Writing and that he was Governor of the State of Alabama at the above date and still remains so. I do further Certify that I have been long acquainted with Shelby Corzine Esqr who has practised Law in this State, that his Character is unimpeachable, that he is a moral worthy Citizen, and has always been respected by all who knew him; he is fully worthy of the Confidence and protection of all good Citizens wherever he may settle — Witness my hand and private Seal having no Seal of Office this 2nd day of January 1835

James Savage (Seal)

Letter of Recommendation, file 72:20, Corzine, Shelby. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

TUSKALOOSA ALABAMA

20TH NOVEMBER 1834

★

Mr. Shelby Corzine, the bearer hereof, intending to visit the province of Texas and probably to remove there with his family, I take pleasure in stating that I have been acquainted many years with Mr. Corzine – that he is a gentleman of unimpeachable character, and that he has always sustained the expectation of an amiable and highly worthy citizen. I recommend him to the friendship and civilities of the good people among whom he settles, with the assurance that he will be a most useful and valuable citizen.

John Gayle

JOHN GAYLE

The State of Alabama (I James Clark of the Circuit Court of said County Sumter County) of Sumter, do hereby certify, that I have been long acquainted with John Gayle present Governor of the State of Alabama and am well acquainted with his hand writing, that the above is his hand writing and that he was Governor of the State of Alabama at the above date and still remains so. I do further certify that I have been long acquainted with Shelby Corzine Esq. who has practiced law in this state, that his character is unimpeachable, that he is a moral worthy citizen, and has always been respected by all who knew him; he is fully worthy of the confidence and protection of all good citizens wherever he may settle—Witness my hand and private seal having no seal of office this 2nd day of January 1835.

James Savage (Seal)

JAMES SAVAGE

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 72:20, Corzine, Shelby. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

To the Illustrious Ayuntamiento of Austin

Being Solicited by Mr John Shannon to State What I know Concerning his Character — What I Say is following I have been personally acquai=nted with Mr Sannon eight years during which time he has uniformly Supported the Character of an honest Civil Industrious and usefull Citizen I Sincerely wish we had many Such emigrants Therefore I hope your Honourable body will admit all Such men — with Sentiments the highest esteemed I am — O Francis Holland

Janr 27th 1831

Letter of Recommendation, file 28:10, Shannon, John. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

TO THE

ILLUSTRIOUS AYUNTAMIENTO OF AUSTIN

★

Being solicited by Mr. John Shannon to state
what I know concerning his character – What I
say is following. I have been personally acquainted
with Mr. Shannon eight years during which
time he has uniformly supported the Character
of an honest, civil, Industrious and useful
citizen. I sincerely wish we had many
such emigrants.

Therefore I hope your Honorable body will admit
all such men – with Sentiments the highest
esteemed, I am

Francis Holland

FRANCIS HOLLAND

Jan. 27, 1831

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 28:10, Shannon, John. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

Col. S. F. Austin

Sir

We have been for some length of time acquainted with Mr. John W. Mayo who has since our knowledge of him supported a good caractere and we consider him an honest and industrious man

San Felipe de Austin Feby. 26th. 1830

Joshua Fletcher

J. J. White

Letter of Recommendation, file 27:13, Mayo, John. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

COL. S.F. AUSTIN

★

Sir

We have been for some length

of time acquainted with Mr. John W. Mayo

who has since our knowledge of him supported a

good character and we consider him an honest

and industrious man.

San Felipe de Austin

SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN

Feb. 26th 1830

Joshua Fletcher

JOSHUA FLETCHER

F. White

F. WHITE

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 27:13, Mayo, John. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

We do certify that John Cronkite and
Albert Gilsby of Wayne County of Steuben
State of New York is of good and mo
ral characters industrious habits &c
dated Wayne Nov. 3th 1830

Benjamin Lape
Charles Bartlis
Oliver S. Bartlis

Letter of Recommendation, file 25:64, Cronkite, John. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

We do certify that John Cronkite and
Albert Silsbee of Wayne, County of Steuben,
State of New York, is of good and moral
character, industrious habits, etc.

dated Wayne – Nov. 3, 1830

Benjamin Lake
BENJAMIN LAKE

Charles Bartles
CHARLES BARTLES

Oliver S. Bartles
OLIVER S. BARTLES

Source: Gammel's Laws of Texas, 1822-1897, volume 4, page 1244.

The State of Alabama } whereas Jesse J Evans
Perry County } of the State and County
aforesaid makes known to us Joseph Martin and
Isaac Denton Justices of the peace in and for the
County of Perry that he intends Removing to
the Province of texas that he may obtane Land
and for the purpose of Agriculture
we therefore Certify that we know the said Jesse
J Evans and we believe him to be a worthy Citizen
of this Community of temperate and industrious
habits we believe he pays all his Just Contracts
and provides well for his family while the Gratest
peace and harmony Exists betwee him and the
Citizens in General witness our hands and Seals this
17th Day of July 1830

Joseph Martin
Justice of the peace

Isaac Denton Esq
Justice Dace

We the under named subscribers concur in the above
Recommendation of Jesse J Evans
July 22nd 1830

W. H. Peeples

E Burrows

Martin A. Lea Col. 44th
Reg. Ala. Militia,

William Ford

Mag A Gutter

Wiley N Gandy

John Bailey

John Gandy

Richd B. Wattrall
Senator for the Cty
of Perry State of Alabama

Henry P Brownax

Ralph Low

Jesse B Nave Shff P.C

A Norman
A J C for P.C

Letter of Recommendation, file 26:8, Evans, Jesse. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

STATE OF ALABAMA
PERRY COUNTY

★

Whereas Jesse J. Evans of the State and County aforesaid makes
known to us Joseph Martin and Isaac Denton, Justices of
the peace in and for the County of Perry that he intends
removing to The province of texas that he may obtane Land
and for the purposes of Agriculture – we therefore certify
that we know the said Jesse J. Evans and we believe him to
be a worthy citizen of this Community of temperate
and industrious habits, we believe he pays
all his Just Contracts and provides well for his family
while the greatest peace and harmony Exists between
him and the Citizens in General witness our hands and Seals this
17th Day of July, 1830.

Joseph Martin
JOSEPH MARTIN
Justice of the Peace

Isaac Denton (Seal)
ISAAC DENTON
Justice of the Peace

We the under named subscribers concur in the above
Recommendation of Jesse J. Evans
July 22nd 1830

John Bailey
JOHN BAILEY

Richard B. Watson
RICHARD B. WATSON
Senator for the County of Perry
State of Alabama

E. Burrows
E. BURROWS

John Gandy
JOHN GANDY

W. H. Peeples
W.H. PEEPLES

William Bond
WILLIAM BOND

Henry P. Brodnax
HENRY P. BRODNAX

Martin A. Lea
MARTIN A. LEA
Col 44th Reg. Ala. Militia

Jesse B. Nave Shff PC
JESSE B. NAVE
Shff PC

Wiley N. Gandy
WILEY N. GANDY

Ralph Law
RALPH LAW

[illegible]

A Gorman
A GORMAN
AJC for PC

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 26:8, Evans, Jesse. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

The United states of America

State of Missouri
County of Washington } To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting

I John Brickey presiding Justice of the County Court of said County do hereby Certify that I have been personally acquainted with the bearer hereof James H Perry in the County aforesaid for about thirteen years. And he has always been reputed an industrious, honest, good and peaceable citizen And whose moral character has always stood fair, And also is a believer in the Christian religion

Given under my hand and seal this Twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord 1830

John Brickey (Seal)

Letter of Recommendation, file 27:46, Perry, James. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF MISSOURI

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

★

To all to whom
these presence shall come Greeting.
I John Brickey presiding Justice of the
County Court of said County Do hereby
certify that I have been personally acquainted
with the bearer hereof James F. Perry of the
County aforesaid for about thirteen years, and
he has always been respected and industrious,
honest, good and peaceable citizen And whose
moral character has always stood fair and
also is a believer in the Christian religion.
Given under my hand and seal this

twentieth day of March
in the year of our Lord 1830.

John Brickey (Seal)
JOHN BRICKEY

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 27:46, Perry, James. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

State of Missouri, Perry county, Decr. 20th 1830 —

We the undersigned are acquainted with Francis Coiteux, (a resident of this county) and say that we beleive him to be a man of good moral character, — and further-more, that we beleive him to be a be-leiver in the Christian Religion. — and moreover we know him to have been born and raised under the Spanish Government in upper Louisiana.

W. Wilkinson

J. H. Pratte

Chas. C. Vallé

R. T. Brown

Thomas Riney

Letter of Recommendation, file 25:53, Coiteux, Francis. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

STATE OF MISSOURI

PERRY COUNTY

DEC 20TH 1820

★

We the undersigned are acquainted
with Francis Coiteux (a resident of this county)
and say that we believe him to be a man
of good moral character; - and further-
more, that we believe him to be a
believer in the Christian Religion – and
moreover we know him to have been born and raised under
the Spanish Government in upper Louisiana.

M. Wilkinson

M. WILKINSON

J. Pratte

J. PRATTE

C. Valle

C. VALLE

R.E. Brown

R.E. BROWN

Thomas Riney

THOMAS RINEY

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 25:53, Coiteux, Francis. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

Parish St. Tammany Louisiana

Elisha Roberts Esqr. of this parish, having an intention to travel for his pleasure & for the purpose of satisfying his mind respecting that Country west of the Mississippi," In which voyage it might be necessary for him to ~~show~~ some evidence of his fair fame and good character." We therefore citizens of said parish whose names are hereunto subscribed, do certify, that Elisha Roberts has resided in this parish for upwards of seven years, he is a man of independent property, upright in his dealings, and his character unimpeached.

And recommend him to the friendship of all good men. To which certificate we have signed our names, and designated our places of residence this 29th Day of April A.D. 1822

H. T. Tyson
Obed Kirkland
Jn Gillmore
Thomas Tate
Robert McCoy
Saml. Hallory
Lyman Briggs
William Bayley
L. Seaile

Residents of Covington

Letter of Recommendation, file 91:1, Roberts, Elisha. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

★ REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ★

PARISH ST. TAMMANY

LOUISIANA

★

Elisha Roberts Esq., of this Parish,
having an intention to travel for his pleasure & for the
purpose of satisfying his mind respecting that Country
west of the Mississippi, "In which voyage it might be
necessary for him to show evidence of his fair
fame and good character," We therefore citizenry
of said Parish whose names are hereunto
subscribed, do certify, that Elisha Roberts has
resided in this Parish for upwards of seven years,
he is a man of independent property, upright in
his dealings, and his character unimpeached.
And recommend him to the friendship of all good men.
To which certificate we have signed our names,
and designated our places of residence

This 29th day of April 1822.

Residents of Covington

H. T. Tyson	*Thomas Tate*	*Lyman Briggs*
H.T. TYSON	THOMAS TATE	LYMAN BRIGGS
Obed Kirkland	*Robert McKay*	*William Bagby*
OBED KIRKLAND	ROBERT MCKAY	WILLIAM BAGBY
Jn. Gilmore	*Sam Mallory*	*D. Searles*
J.N. GILMORE	SAM MALLORY	D. SEARLES

TRANSCRIPT OF: Letter of Recommendation, file 25:53, Coiteux, Francis. Spanish Collection. Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.