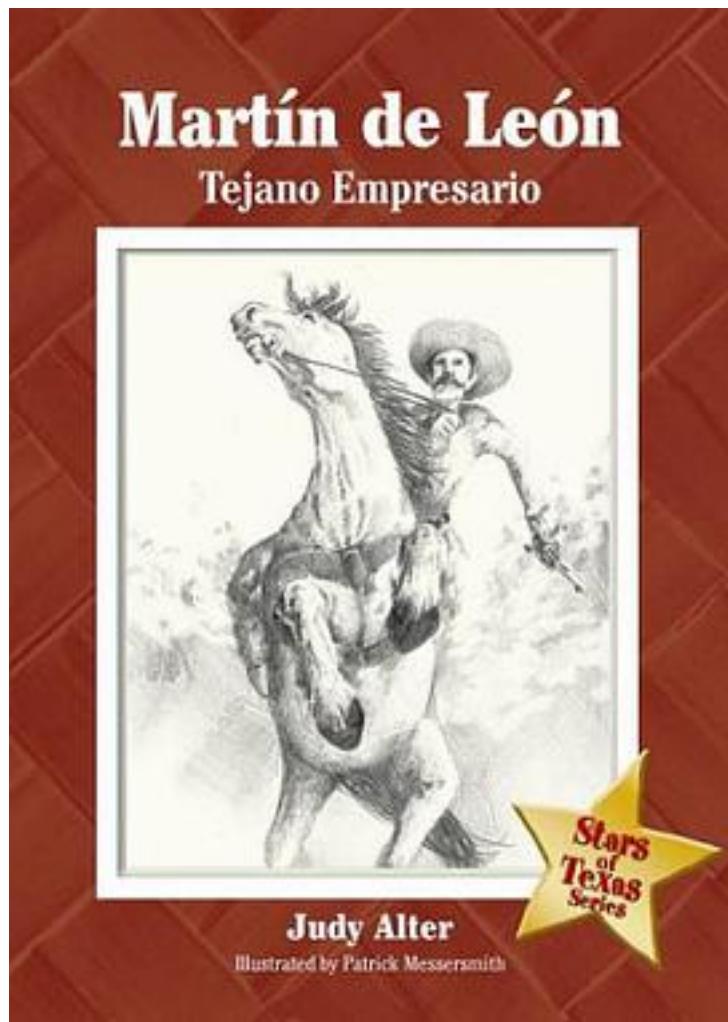


Martin de Leon



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Don Martin De Leon 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 Leon established his colony in south-east Texas, near the Gulf Coast, and founded the city of Victoria. He and his six sons governed the colony. Though Don Martin 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 Martin had accumulated. In 1972, the De Leon family was honored with Texas state historical markers on family graves in Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria. Finally, Martin De Leon and his family are recognized for their loyalty to Texas, their support of the Texas Revolution, and their contributions to the Republic of Texas. Martin De Leon 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 first two books in the series, Henrietta King: Rancher and Philanthropist and Mirabeau B. Lamar: Second President 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.

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