

Wardzinski, Felix Andrew

By Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz

Feliks Andrzej Wardziński (Felix Andrew Wardzinski) is a one of the biggest heroes in the Texas history. He is particularly famous for his merit during the first Mexican War and the battle of San Jacinto, where Sam Houston defeated and captured Santa Ana. Born in 1801 in Poland, took part in the Polish insurrection (so-called November Uprising) against Russia in 1830-31. In 1836 came to Texas and joined the American army under General Sam Houston, against Mexico for the independence of Texas. In the battle at the Buffalo and Vince rivers, Lieutenant Wardzinski encircled the Mexican army of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana and destroyed the bridge on Vince river, which was the only escape route for Mexican troops. On the very next day he appeared before General Houston with a very valuable prisoner: this was no other than President and dictator of Mexico himself, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana. Dictator Lopez bowed and signed a peace, recognizing the independence of Texas, and later returned to Mexico.

When General Houston was elected President of Texan Republic, Wardzinski retired from the army on Aug. 5. 1837. Wounded and sick, he became a farmer in Harris county, Texas, where he received 320 acres of land. In 1845 again joined the American Army against Mexico and served until the end of war Feb. 2, 1848. After the war, retired to his farm in Harris county, where he died. Texas Centennial Exposition bulletin of January 1936 states: "In the Hall of Heroes in that Million-dollar Texas Hall of State at the Centennial Exposition opening in Dallas, June 6, Felix Wardzinski's name will be inscribed along with that of Sam Houston, liberator, and Stephen F. Austin, colonizer and father of the Lone Star Empire." **From: "Who's Who in Polish America"** by Rev. Francis Bolek, Editor-in-Chief; Harbinger House, New York, 1943.



Por. Feliks Andrzej Wardziński, Czwartak, który w 1836 roku walczył o niepodległość Texasu. Rysunek Józefa Skrzynickiego z roku 1834. W stanie Texas przebywa najstarsza emigracja polska, rolnicza, od dziesiętna lat niezastłana napływem nowych sił ze staroego kraju, a jednak mimo to gorąco patriotyczna.