

June 12, 1826

I sure would like to come to Texas. It would be a new start for me. It's for sure I've never done any real farming, but I can pick it up quick. Before you say no, I might tell you that those things you might have heard about me just ain't so. It's true that I used to deal cards on the river steamer "Belle", but I never got caught cheating at cards. All those fellers I had to shoot were just unreasonable in thinkin' I cheated them. It also ain't true that I took folks' wives. I ain't saying that I'm a saint, and women are naturally attracted to me because of my good looks, but I never took nobody's wife. Those fellers I shot were just plain unreasonable. So how about it? I really do need a new start, ya see.

"Blackjack" Martin

March 15, 1826

My name is Dr. Plato J. Leeson. No doubt, you have heard of me! I am a doctor, scholar, philosopher, inventor, and a man of the world! You may have heard of my magical elixer - Dr. Leeson's Wonder Oil of the Orient. It can cure everything from a toothache to loss of hair, and it only costs 4 bits a bottle - cheap at twice the price! Sir, in the far lands of Texas, you will have need of my services. With enough of my elixer, your colony will be a shining pearl of health. Believe me, if you are interested in the health of your people, you won't leave me behind. All I ask is a grant of land in Texas. By the way, I might also need to borrow a few hundred dollars to make more elixer, pay a few gambling debts, and pay a few fines to the county sheriff.

Dr. Plato J. Leeson

July 15, 1826

I've heard plenty of good things about you. I'm sure you're the type that would overlook a gal's past n' give her a second chance. It ain't easy, workin' in one of them Natchez saloons, but I want to put all that behind me now. I ain't married, but I ain't tnever had any trouble gittin' any man I put my mind to. If'n you say I kin go, I'll promise to git married by the end of the week. Then, me n' my man kin go ta Texas n' settle down. I aint afeared no hard work neither, n' kin even handle a gun pretty well. I no it ain't proper fer a gal to be askin', but I need a change in my life. So how's about it?

Rose Carter

September 8, 1826

The reason I would like to come to Texas is that - well - I sure would like to start a new life for myself and my family in a new land. My sawmill back home turns a good profit, but I often worry about the future of my family, what with things getting so crowded around here. The way I figured it, if we were to move to Texas, I could bring my sawmill equipment and set up on a river. I know that your settlers could sure used saved lumber. We could also start a farm so that my family could grow, and not have to worry about finding land when they grow up. They could raise families of their own right here in Texas and live peaceable with good neighbors. I would appreciate it if you would let us come.

James Renbow

December 24, 1826

I is just the man you need fer yer colony. Why I been a livin' on the frontier since I was knee high to a grasshopper. I done everything - trappin', tradin', Injun fightin' - you name it, I done doed it. Why, I even been to Texas before. Me and old Phil Nolan done a bit a horse tradin' with them Spanishers some time back. course that was before they up an killed ole Phil! I heared that you was lookin' fer family folks. Well, don't fret none, I been married 5 times. I figur that I can bring along the wife I got in Alabama or the one in New Orleans; it don't matter. I could even buy me an orphan. How about it Mister Austin?

"Buffalo" Jones

January 5, 1826

I hear that you are going to Texas. Well, believe me, Mr. Austin, sin and wickedness have no boundaries. Thy people will need a strong soldier of the Lord to do battle against the devil in the lands of the heathen spanish. You may ask anyone in Kentucky about me. Why, I have probably baptized more souls than anyone else in the state. Believe me, Mister Austin, thy soul and the soul of thy people will be in great danger if you settle among those spanish. Why, they will make you become Catholics like themselves! Take me with you Mister Austin, and, together, we can work to make these heathen Catholics into true Christians. Together, with the Lord, we'll kick ole satan out of Texas. Amen!!

Reverend Eli Richardson

October 12, 1826

You have no need to worry about me. My pa and I lived in Louisiana when the Spanish owned it. Of course, I was hardly grown then, but Pa was always on good terms with the Spanish. He even supplied the local Spanish troops with feed for their horses. When the French, then the U.S., took us over, he was none too happy. After he died, I got the farm, but there is just too dangd many people movin' in hereabouts. The reason I want to come to Texas is because I remember the square deal they gave Pa, and I figure that this may be a good opportunity to better my lot. My family agrees with me that they wish to live under the Spanish. I only need your approval to go.

Thomas Jennings

January 16, 1826

If you is lookin' fer people ta go ta Texas, then I is yer man. I already know all they is ta know 'bout Texas. Why one of my very closest friends was none other than Dr. James Long hisself. He done told me everything they was ta know 'bout Texas, course that was before them Spanishers grabbed him. Course, I knows all 'bout Spanishers. A while back, I done a lot a hangin' around down in the Neutral Zone. I met up with some deserters from their army n' they taught me everything they was ta know 'bout Spanishers. 'N don't worry 'bout a wife, cuz I kin git a women a heap easy, so they won't be no questions. All's ya got ta do is say yea.

Wynn Taylor

April 24, 1826

The reason that I would like to go to Texas is to get new land that ain't all wore out. For a time, we had the best land and farm in the country. My grandpa was the first to build the farm, and has worked the land ever since. Lately, however, the soil has gotten poorly and, even with my wife and three children helping me, it is hard to make ends meet. If I were to sell my farm and try to buy land in the United States, I could only afford to buy a small place barely bigger than ten or twenty acres, which wouldn't be enough to take care of my family. This land in Texas is an answer to a dream. My family will work extra hard to build a good decent farm in Texas if you allow us to come with you.

William Wyler

September 27, 1826

At first, business was good back in Georgia for a carpenter and house builder like myself, but now folks are movin' west and business has got right poorly. Every time there's money troubles back home, business dies off. That's why I figure that Texas would be a good chance to do good. Like I say, I'm a carpenter and house builder, an' folks are sure to need my services. My Pa was a farmer, and I know plenty about farming too. My wife and four children would sure look forward to this new chance. My oldest son helps me with building and would be a great help at farming. If you want to know wabout my work, you can ask anyone in North Georgia. If you choose me, I would sure be beholden to you!

Richard McNally

May 20, 1826

I am looking for good farm land in Texas. In Tennessee, I am farming tobacco, but I look kindly towards growing cotton. I think Texas will be fine land for growing cotton, so please let me know when I can move with my wife and eight children to your colony. My oldest boy has taken to wife, and they are expecting a young one, so our family is set to grow.

with kindest regards,
Louis Taber

September 26, 1826

My name is Josiah Willis, and I am a blacksmith with fourteen years experience. I am looking for an opportunity in a new territory where I can own my own forge. I plan on bringing my tools with me, which includes two anvils, hammers, tongs, and a variety of swages, hardies, jigs, and fullers. My wife and I want to raise our children in a land with more potential. Please let me know if you need a blacksmith with my skills.

Josiah Willis

March 24, 1826

Kind sir,

It is with great excitement that I consider your noble undertaking in the wilds of Texas, and the promise of a league and a labor is enticing indeed. My plan is to raise livestock and plant both sugarcane and cotton. In addition, as an experienced physician, I can offer much to your Texas colony. My knowledge of herbs, medicines, and healing will help in establishing civilization in the wild. Please reply to Madame Honore's Boarding House in New Orleans, as I will be taking residence there as of May this year.

Clayton Johnson

August 11, 1826

I plan to farm and raise livestock in Texas, so let me know when I can get started. I own a 50 acre farm in Robertson County, Tennessee, but I aim to build a bigger one. I am a widower, but my five children are of an age to work hard with me in building a new home. I also spent time in the U.S. Army when I was younger, so I am a disciplined U.S. citizen. I have a party interested in buying my farm, so let me know when I can head to TEXAS.

Robert Cooper

February 5, 1826

Blimery, a fellow wants to get a leg up on moving to Texas. I just got off the boat from England, but I need to leave Charleston soon, and your adverts just beat the Dutch! I hope you are not trying to honey-fuggle anyone. I was not born in the woods, so I'm the type of bloke who'd make a good colonist. I can take all my plunder with me and pull foot double fast from these shores. I have a mind to head for Texas off the reel. I am ready to plank down my cash for a labor. I will try to pick up a wife on the way.

Arthur Benson