

Chapter 1

Antebellum



Arnold-Simonton House, Montgomery, Texas
photo courtesy of the author

From the early arrivals with Austin's Colony, the fight for independence from Mexico, the building of a new republic, and the molding of a new society in early statehood, the citizens of Montgomery County have played an active role in the history of Texas. The brief period between statehood in 1845 and secession in 1861 marked an era of rapid change for Montgomery County. While this antebellum period was a prosperous one, it was cut short by the great war for Southern independence. From that point forward, the lives and fortunes of the citizens of Montgomery County were forever changed.