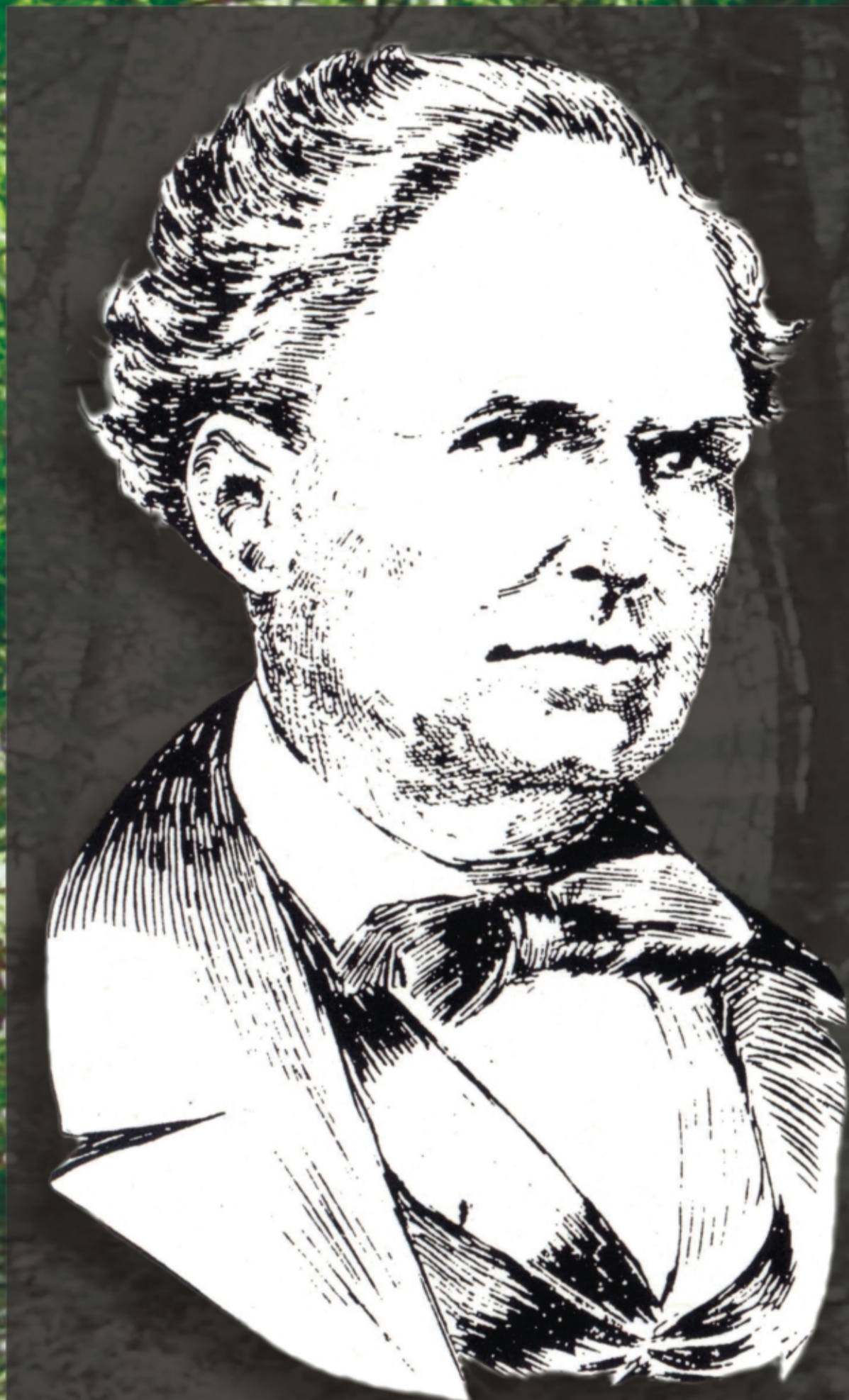


MARROW BONE SPRING PARK

JOHNSON CREEK LINEAR PARK



COL MIDDLETON TATE JOHNSON

The origin of the name Marrow Bone Spring is unknown, but archeological findings place human habitation here since ancient times. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Tarrant County in 1976, this spring is Arlington's only nationally recognized archeological site.

The spring area was used by native Americans as a camping ground. During the time of early settlement, several important American Indian council meetings were held here. Most notable was the Grand Peace Council in 1843 which resulted in the signing of a treaty between several affiliated tribes and the Republic of Texas. Though at least some of the Indians undoubtedly camped here, some evidence shows the treaty to have been signed at Bird's Fort on the Trinity River. After the treaty was signed, the first trading post for the area was authorized.

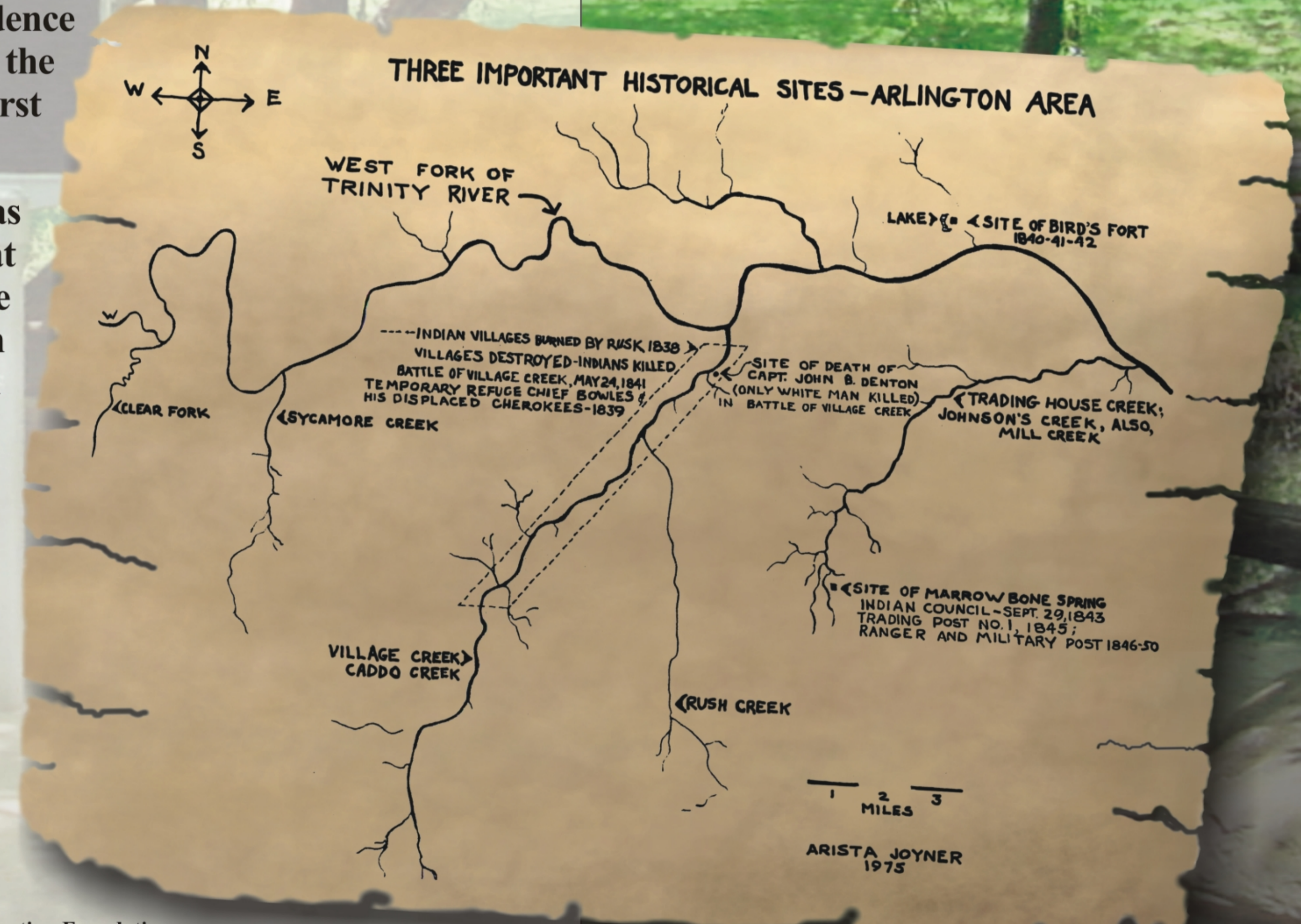
In 1846 Colonel M. T. Johnson was sent, as a Texas Ranger, to Kauffman Station, as the area was called at the time. It later became known as Marrow Bone Spring Station. Johnson liked the area, and through land grants and purchases he acquired enough land to settle his family here. The community of Johnson Station grew around their home and to the south. He and his family are buried in the Johnson family cemetery on the north side of Arkansas Lane.

History at this site is still evident. There are large boulders near the spring that bear indentations where Indian women ground corn and other grain. A Texas State Historical Marker is located on the east bank of the creek across from the boulders to mark the historical habitation.

Information provided by Nancy L. Bennett, President, Arlington Preservation Foundation

References:

- Copy of the Treaty signed at Bird's Fort
- Arlington, Texas: Birthplace of the Metroplex, Second Edition – Arista Joiner
- Tour of Historic Arlington Brochure – City Landmark Commission
- Middleton Tate Johnson: Texas' Would Be Governor, General and Railroad Entrepreneur – Master's Thesis UTA – Michael Walter Farrington



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