

SOUTHWEST & MEXICO

Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Mexico
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I know nothing about Col. Jose Francisco Ruiz other than what is
written on his gravemarker:

Officer in the Mexican Army, 1831

Signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence 1836

Senator of the First Congress of the Republic 1836-37

Born in San Antonio January 29, 1783

Died January 20, 1840

The gravemarker itself, however, serves as a prototype of
“American” history written in cemeteries throughout Mexico, Texas,
New Mexico, and Arizona—all governmental entities (listed above as
being in the geographical scope of this particular AGS regional
column).

Jose Francisco Ruiz was born in San Antonio, a Mexican city, in
1783.

Forty-eight years later he had attained the rank of Colonel in the
Mexican Army.

Five years later, he chose to align his allegiance with the new
independent nation of Texas—which now claimed sovereignty over San
Antonio, the city where Col. Ruiz had been born (and presumably

raised). Then for two years, Col. Ruiz served as a Senator in the Republic of Texas.

Three years after his term as Senator, Col. Ruiz died. We do not know where; nor do we know how.

100 years after the finish of his term as a Senator in the Republic of Texas, however, the State of Texas erected a four-foot-high marker to honor Col. Ruiz's memory. In 1936, the State of Texas, now part of the United States of America, claimed sovereignty over San Antonio, the city of Col. Ruiz's birth.

The marker is one of six erected by the State of Texas in San Fernando Cemetery #1, a cemetery that is owned and maintained by the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio.

The separation of church and state? The separation of the "Americas"? Well, in 2004 (173 years after Jose Francisco Ruiz was born), in Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona--at least--both of these political ideations blur into constantly rotating yin-yangs that makes life here in all the sunshine (yep, and all of the desert, all of the tornados, all of the semi-tropics, all of the hurricanes) as exciting as any gravemarker researcher could hope for.

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