Two American Revolutionary War Patriots Are Buried in the Cradle of Texas

http://www.txssar.org/buried.htm

No. 44:
William Smeathers was born about 1759 on the Holston River in western Virginia, and married Nancy Cecilia Fitzpatrick in 1781. He died August 13, 1837 and was buried on the banks of the Brazos River near Columbia, Texas in Brazoria County, but his grave site has been lost probably due to the flooding of the river over these many years. William Smithers or Smothers, as his name was spelled at different times, fought in the Battle of King's Mountain, the Battle of Eutaw Springs, and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, before being discharged from General Nathaniel Greene's Southern Army. Captain William Smeathers fought with the Mounted Spies of the Kentucky Militia during the War of 1812, and came to Texas and camped on Galveston Island before Jean Lafitte's pirates set foot on the island. Sixty two year old William Smeathers came with Stephen F. Austin on his first inspection trip to Texas in 1821, and stayed with four other men to build a small fort while Austin returned to bring the Old 300. The fort was on the bend of the Brazos River where the city of Richmond, Texas now stands, and the Texas Historical Commission placed a monument at the site of Fort Bend. Both Owensboro, Kentucky and Hartford, Kentucky have placed historical markers at various sited in their states, but neither the SAR, DAR, DRT, SRT or the Old 300 have placed a marker honoring William Smeathers here in Texas where he lived or died! Surely we can do better than this!

No. 53
Benjamin Wightman was born in Norwich, Connecticut on August 31, 1755, and served with the Tyron County Rangers of New York in the American Revolution. He married Esther Randall and became a Baptist minister. Their son Elias Wightman became a surveyor for Stephen F. Austin, and brought a group of colonists from New York to Matagorda, Texas in 1828, including his parents. From New Orleans the group came on a small schooner named Little Zoe, and the trip was terrible, as the food and water ran out, forcing them to eat seagull soup! The first year they lived in a small stockade built by Stephen F. Austin, and Esther Randall Wightman died of Typhoid fever June 20, 1830 becoming the first person buried in the Matagorda County Cemetery. Six weeks later Benjamin Wightman died on August 1, 1830. There is a Texas Historical Marker on their graves with a Citizen of the Republic of Texas marker for both these brave Pioneers. His grave is marked with a tombstone and an SAR marker was placed at his grave in the Matagorda Cemetery in Matagorda, Matagorda County on 11 July, 2014 organized by the Bluebonnet Chapter #11 out of Marble Falls.