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Author releases tale of Alamo hero's family

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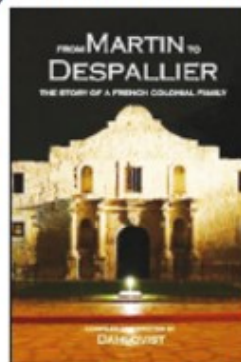
The Family history of Alamo hero Charles Despallier, one of the names among the "Immortal 32 of Gonzales," has been unveiled.

On February 25, 1836, just one day after sending his famous "Victory or Death" letter, Colonel Travis sent another letter from the Alamo. He wrote to Major-General Sam Houston, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Texas, citing his men for bravery: "Charles Despallier and Robert Brown gallantly sallied out and set fire to houses which afforded the

young Charles remained but a name in the list of the Immortal 32.

Researcher and author Rasmus Dahlqvist has now unveiled the Despallier family history. Searching for the ancestors of his own Belgian grandmother and inspired by family legends, Dahlqvist has dug deep into many archives around the world.

The book FROM MARTIN TO DESPALLIER takes you on a journey through four hundred years of colonization, invasions, revolutions and secret treaties. The Martins from France started off as clerks, colonists, and military men. They changed their surname to Despallier and became rebels and US



frontiersmen, while their kin in France made it to consuls and, eventually, to generals.

Charles never visited France, nor has his father Bernard ever seen the shores of his ancestors' native land, the ancient region of Normandy. Dahlqvist's

book tells the incredible story of men making careers in the Royal Navy and Army, in politics, and in justice.

These men influenced history in colonial Haiti, in French and Spanish Louisiana and, last but not least, in Texas. It is the first comprehensive work describing the full and detailed family history of one of the men who died at the Alamo: Charles Despallier.

Dahlqvist's book FROM MARTIN TO DESPALLIER, The Story of a French Colonial Family, is now available at Amazon and at Barnes & Noble, bookstores. (ISBN13 = 978-1493603251, ISBN10 = 1493603256)

What's Up at the GYC

Here's what's happening at the Gonzales Youth Center this week:

- Thursday, November 14**
 - Nail Care Basics
 - Arts and Crafts
- Saturday, November 16**
 - United States Marine

to help all our servicemen and women who are fighting for our country. Earn 400 points.

- Monday, November 18**
 - Notes to Veterans. Earn 200 points
 - Care Packages for

• Art Club Project with members of the Gonzales Art Club. Create a masterpiece!

- Flowerbed Cleanup. Earn 200 points.

These activities are al-