When Texans think of the Battle of the Alamo, many names come to mind. Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and William Travis are remembered. If asked about those at the Alamo who were noncombatants, you may get some that could name Angelina Dickinson and Ana Salazar Esparza. However, there were more people at the Alamo than are listed in the textbooks.

Gertrudis Navarro and her sister were raised by the Veramendi family of San Antonio. The Veramendi family had a famous son-in-law, James Bowie. The sisters went to the Alamo under the protection of Bowie. Gertrudis would survive the battle, got married five years later and had eight children.

Manuel and Francisco Esparza were also present during the battle. However, Manuel was only six and his brother was three at the time. Years after the battle, Manuel and his brothers would settle down in Atascosa County to raise their families. They farmed and did some ranching. The Esparzas even built the church of San Augustine. Francisco fought during the American Civil War (1861-1865) on the side of the South. When the war was over, he did not return to his wife and family in Texas. Instead, he moved to Tucson, Arizona and remarried.

Alejo Perez Jr. was not even a year old at the time of the battle. Luckily, he survived and would remain in San Antonio for the rest of his life. He became a police officer. When he died in 1918, many say that he was the last surviving member of the Battle of the Alamo.