

FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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*Jack Edmondson as
Sam Houston*

A GOOD EXAMPLE

This past month I was informed by the Activities Director at Ventura Place, a retirement community in Lubbock, that they have teamed up with a local school and will bring in a different grade level every other month to watch one of our performances. This intergenerational experience will be something neither student nor senior will forget.

DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE

I attended the Texas Distance Learning Conference in Fort Worth on March 7-8; I was a guest in the SBC Distance Learning booth and I was in costume as William Barret Travis. I was amazed at the turnout of hundreds of people; this organization was only founded less than ten years ago because the industry is so new. Discussions with participants created whole new thought processes for live and televideo performances.

The business connections that are being made are going to bring Texas history not just to our nation but to the world. Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, and James Bowie are American heroes as well as Texas heroes. The Alamo is recognized as one the most heroic events in world history; who better to tell the story overseas than its commander.

LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: The Battle of San Jacinto ended the Texas Revolution

Actually some significant, yet little known, events after the battle on April 21, 1836, finalized the outcome of the Texas Revolution. As most of us know, Sam Houston and Thomas Rusk decided not to execute captured Mexican President and Commander-in-Chief Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna after the battle in spite of the popular support of the Texian Army for hanging him. Houston and Rusk instead decided to keep Santa Anna alive because he was still in charge of the large Mexican Army to the west of San Jacinto. They had Santa Anna write a letter to the generals in charge of the Mexican Army in Texas ordering them to remove the Army from Texas. This letter was delivered to the generals but they weren't sure they should obey an order issued under these circumstances.

The general staff couldn't make up its mind so they decided to retreat to San Antonio to regroup and think it over. In retreating, they passed through some unbelievably muddy areas aggravated by the large amount of spring rain and, in the process, had to leave large amounts of equipment behind just to get through the mud.

In the mean time, a group of Texas calvary lead my Isaac Watt Burton arrived at Copano Bay on the Gulf. They spotted a ship anchored off shore and figured it was Mexican. They signaled the ship telling them to come on shore. For some reason, the capitan came on shore and, of course, he was made a prisoner. The ship was carrying supplies for the Mexican Army. Then two more ships arrived. The Texians ran a flag up on the first ship and the captains of the two new arrivals come on shore and they are also taken prisoner. The two ships are also carrying supplies for the Mexican Army. The Mexican Army generals are not aware their supplies have been captured and they are running short of supplies.

(continued on page 2)

Texas Heroes
574 Altwein Road
Blanco, TX 78606
(830) 833-0809
bcb.heinonen@texasheroes.net
www.texasheroes.net

(Continued from page 1)

The Army generals had to make a decision: stay and fight, or leave Texas as Santa Anna ordered. Because of the loss of equipment and the lack of supplies, they chose to leave.

Burton's Texian calvary that captured the three ships at Copano Bay are now called Horsemarines. I learned of this at this year's Texas State Historical Association annual meeting from a paper presented by outgoing President John Crain.

I learned about the Mexican Army's problem with the mud at last year's Texas State Historical Association annual meeting in a presentation by Gregg Dimmick. He has a book out now on the subject called *Sea of Mud*.

The two events tied together finalized the Texas Revolution.