

# FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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Grave of  
Susan A. Hannig

## WELCOME BACK, TEACHERS!

A new year of challenges and adventures begins in schools all over Texas, and **Texas Heroes** is ready for it with a wonderful new way to help teachers teach students some exciting history. Last year, we began providing teachers a *Curriculum Guide* specifically related to the visiting historical figure. This year we are presenting the *Texas Heroes Experience!*

No longer does this unique experience of a Texas Heroes' performance end when the Texas hero or heroine leaves the building. Now, the student's excitement about history will continue to the end of the school year...and hopefully for the rest of their lives. This year, after the in-school performance, the students will be given a postcard with a picture of the performer/character and with instructions on how the student can e-mail questions or comments to the Texas hero or heroine and receive a personal reply.

A *Texas Heroes Experience*...Texas Heroes live!

The fee for a single performance with up to 150 students is only \$225. If, because of student population size or for scheduling needs, multiple performances are required, back-to-back performances for up to 150 students are \$200 each.

## LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: Susanna Dickinson was one of the survivors of the battle at The Alamo

We know that an Anglo woman, the wife of the officer in charge of the cannons, and her young daughter survived the battle at The Alamo on March 6, 1836. The question is, "What was her name?"

The lady in question is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin. Her headstone reads "Susan A. Wife of J. W. Hannig". The stone slab lying on top of her grave says, "Mrs. Susana Dickinson Hannig Mother of The Babe Of The Alamo." The metal historical marker at the grave says, "Susanna W. Dickinson" and then talks about her role at The Alamo. Her own gravesite has three different spellings of her first name.

The biography for her in the Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas* lists her last name as Dickinson or Dickenson. I have heard some authorities say her last name was actually Dickerson.

We know that the last name of Hannig (or was it Hannag) came from her fifth, and last, husband whose full name was Joseph William Hannig/Hannag. We also know that Dickinson/Dickenson/Dickerson came from her first husband, Almeron. And her maiden name was either Wilkerson or Wilkinson.

Most of the variances arose from poor handwriting and phonetic spelling. The lady in question was illiterate so she probably signed her name with an X.

So here are your choices:

- First name of Susan A./Susana/Susanna/Suzanna/Susannah
- Maiden last name of Wilkerson/Wilkinson
- Married last name of Dickenson/Dickinson/Dickerson/Hannig/Hannag

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