

FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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Bob Heinonen as
William Barret Travis

THE STORMS

For several years, I have been advocating that each of us write our own personal histories so they are not lost to future generations. A lot of people have said, "I haven't done anything that people would want to know about." I disagree. Every one of us has something important to contribute to future generations even if it is only to let them know what normal, everyday life was like in our times.

Many of you have gone through a lot during the last couple of months because of hurricanes called Katrina and Rita. I don't think your stories should be lost so I am making this offer:

If you e-mail me your stories, I will put them in a collection of stories that I will make available free of charge in electronic form to whomever wants to read them....including you. Here is an opportunity to share your stories about what happened to you and your families before, during and after the hurricanes. I will make sure your stories are known.

LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: The flag of the State of Texas is the only state flag that can be flown at the same level as the American flag.

This is what I have been teaching for the last twenty years, but it turns out to be an urban legend. I have been saying that when we joined the U.S. in 1845, because we had been a nation for almost ten years, we retained the right to fly our flag at the same level as the American flag.

As it turns out, that is not true. Here is the rule:

"When [the American flag is] flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right.

..The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

..No other flag ever should be placed above it.

..The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered."

For full information on the etiquette of flying the American flag, see www.usflag.org.

HISTORIC HOME REMEDIES

A 1900 cure for baldness. "Rub the part morning and evening with onions, till it is red, and afterwards with honey...."

A cure for boils. "Put a piece of very fat bacon or salt pork on the boil. Strap or tie it down. This will draw the infection."

A cure for colds. "Slice down a few onions and boil them in a pint of new milk, stir in a sprinkle of oatmeal and a very little salt, boil till the onions are quite tender, then sup readily and go to bed" or "Make an onion poultice by roasting an onion, then wrapping it in spun-wool rags and beating it so that the onion juice soaks the rags well. Apply these rags to chest" or "Make a poultice of kerosene, turpentine, and pure lard (the later prevents blistering). Use wool cloth soaked with mixture. Place cheese-cloth on chest for protection, and then add the wool poultice."

These are from *A Pinch of This and a Handful of That* published by The Daughters of the Republic of Texas District VIII in 1988.

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