

FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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*The statue of
Stephen F. Austin in
Angleton, Brazoria
County*

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STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATUE

Unless you have had your head in the sand, you have heard about, and maybe have even seen, the huge statue of Sam Houston on Interstate 45 in Huntsville. **But did you know there is a statue of Stephen F. Austin in Angleton that is just as large?** Angleton is about 50 miles south of downtown Houston on Texas Highway 288.

The final section of the statue (Stephen's head) went into place on November 2, 2005, the day before the 212th birthday party the volunteers threw for Stephen at the site.

These fine folks need your help. The statue is up but the ten acre park still needs a lot of work; they need to complete the visitor center/museum, install a parking lot, build a decorative base around the statue, etc. Take a look at their wonderful website....

www.stephenfaustin.org ... and help them if you can.

This has been a grassroots effort. What gets me is they started this project less than two years ago. There has been no big money involved....just a lot of hard working, common sense area volunteers. Can any individuals or groups out there contribute money to help these folks bring Stephen F. Austin to the people of Texas in a way he deserves?

LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: Santa Anna brought an army of 5,000 well-trained and well-equipped soldiers across the Rio Grande in 1836 to stop the Texas Revolution.

Santa Anna's Mexican Army that crossed the Rio Grande River consisted of approximately 6,000 troops including foot soldiers, cavalry, artillerymen and officers; this does not include the huge entourage of wives, children and prostitutes that followed it.

Of the 6,000 men who entered Texas, about half were without military experience and had been pressed into service against their will. Many of the conscripts were homeless, or drunks, or beggars, or criminals from prisons. Many Mayan Indians were conscripted; most didn't speak Spanish or have shoes. Hardly any of the conscripts had ever handled a gun much less followed military orders. These men were undernourished and not physically able to march across hundreds of miles of desert to Texas. When conscripted, they were chained together and marched to a training site at San Luis Potosi where they trained for about a month.

The Mexican Congress authorized Santa Anna to put down the rebellion in Texas but gave him little money to accomplish the task. Santa Anna promised his troops that provisions would be waiting for them at the Rio Grande River knowing full well they would not be there.

“One column of troops was without a hospital, other columns' hospitals were without surgeons, surgeons were without medicines, horses without fodder, and infantry without boots. There were muskets without decent powder, wagons without mules, mules without muleteers, and cavalry without saddles. Soldiers marched into the desert without water barrels and with near-starvation rations of eight ounces of hardtack or corn cake a day.”

So much for a professional and well equipped army. This information can be found in *A Line In The Sand - The Alamo In Blood And Memory* by Randy Roberts and James S. Olson.