

FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

All three **Texas Heroes** performances had at least 150 attendees in a 120 seat theater with dozens turned away at the door for each. This was our 14th year at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

“The performances by **Texas Heroes** are always a highlight of our *Texas Independence Day Celebration!* They have established a good reputation and always play to a “standing-room-only” crowd. Our patrons are learning to show up early to be able to get a seat.” Anne McGaugh, Director of Education, Star of the Republic Museum

This quote is for this year’s celebration held on March 4-5. Put next year’s celebration on your calendar....March 3-4, 2007....and get to the theater at least 20 minutes early.

SPAM PROBLEM

If you have my e-mail address in your address book as bob.heinonen@texasheroes.net, you have the correct address to send e-mail to me. **However**, when I send e-mail to you, the FROM: address in my e-mail is bobheinonen@starband.net. This means that if you start using a spam blocker that only allows e-mails that have an address in your address book, my e-mail to you will get thrown out by your spam blocker.

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LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: At The Alamo, William Barret Travis drew a line in the sand with his sword and asked all those who would die with him to cross the line

The first report of this event was made about forty years later. An article was written by William P. Zuber who was told the story by his father who in turn heard it from Moses Rose, the only man who did not cross the line. Part of the problem with this chain of events is that it took Zuber forty years to tell the story and then he put things in the article that were obviously not true (and he admitted it). Then, after the article came out, Susanna Dickenson and the Esparza boy both remembered the drawing of the line. Why did they wait for the article to come out before they told anyone? From a historians point of view, drawing the line must be considered a legend because of the circumstances under which it was reported.

However, could Travis have really drawn the line? My opinion is “Yes...he had to.” Travis was in command of a largely volunteer force. The way major decisions were made in volunteer military forces was to vote on them. For instance, they elected officers. The men running for office would stand out in front of the volunteers, and then the volunteers would go and stand behind their man to be counted. The person with the most men standing behind him became the officer.

Voting on a major yes-no issue was simple...draw a line in the dirt and have the men decide which side of the issue they were on. Old Ben Milam had already drawn a line in the dirt in San Antonio back in December, 1835, when the Texians took San Antonio away from Mexican General Cos, except Milam used his rifle butt to draw the line instead of a sword. Travis said he would fight to the death at The Alamo...*Victory or Death!* He had to give his men a chance to vote on such a major decision....he had to draw a line in the sand.