

FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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BIRTHDAY PARTY

November 3rd is Stephen F. Austin's 213th birthday, and the folks in Angleton are throwing a big party for him.

From 11:00AM until 9:00PM, the huge Stephen F. Austin Statue (Henry William Munson Park) will be the site of the **Second Annual Stephen F. Austin Birthday Party, Silent Auction, Raffle and BBQ Cook-off.**

For more information, call (979)239-8718 or look at www.stephenfaustin.org.

The Stephen F. Austin Statue is 62-feet tall. Brazoria County, where Angleton is located, is where Austin was going to retire to live with family and where he was first buried.

I will be performing as Stephen F. Austin several times during the birthday party.



LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: *Travis drew a line in the sand with his sword at The Alamo and asked all those who would fight to the death with him to cross the line.*

Only one report was made of this event. It was written some forty years later (1876) by William P. Zuber who was told the story by his parents who heard it from Louis "Moses" Rose, the man who did not to cross the line.

Rose escaped The Alamo before the battle on March 6, 1836, after deciding not to fight. After running through the brush and getting cactus spines in his legs that then got infected, he ended up at the home of the Zuber's. Rose told Mr. and Mrs. Zuber his story of being at The Alamo and told of the drawing of the line. The Zuber's son, William, was off fighting in the Texas Army with Sam Houston and did not hear the story directly from Rose. When the younger Zuber got home, his parents told him the story.

What historians find strange is that William Zuber did not tell the story until he wrote an article about The Alamo in 1876, and then he included things that he made up to fill out the story. Zuber later admitted he made things up for the article and historians said, "If he made up part of the story, how do we know he didn't make up the part about drawing the line?" Once Zuber's story was published, both Susanna Dickenson and Enrique Esparza, survivors of the battle, said they remembered Travis drawing the line. "If they saw the drawing of the line, why did they wait forty some years until someone else said it happened before mentioning it to anyone?" say the historians. "If the story of the drawing of the line cannot be proven

using reliable testimony, how can we logically consider it to be true," say the historians. I agree because logically the historians are correct. However.....

Did Travis really draw the line? My opinion is "Yes." Travis had to draw the line.

Travis was in command of a largely volunteer force... about 157 of his 188 men. Travis and thirty of his men were in the Texas Army; the others just showed up. The way major decisions were made back then in volunteer military forces was to vote on what to do.

For instance, to elect an officer, let's say a Captain, the men that wanted to be Captain would stand out in front of the rest of the men. Then the rest of the men would go and stand behind their man to vote for him as Captain. The candidate with the most men standing behind him became a Captain.

If a major decision was to be made (should we do "this" or should we do "that"), a line would be drawn in the dirt and the men would walk to "this" side of the line or "that" side of the line to vote. Ben Milam a line with his rifle butt in December, 1835, when getting men to decide on attacking the Mexican Army in San Antonio.

We know where Travis stood from his letters from The Alamo: "Victory or Death!" Travis was staying.

I believe that Travis had to draw the line to give his volunteers the opportunity to vote on the final decision. Were they staying or leaving?

Can drawing the line be proven? No
Do I believe the line was drawn? Yes

CURRENT OCTOBER BOOKINGS

Day	Organization
9	The Buckingham, Houston
10	Parkway Place, Houston
11	Carriage Inn, Conroe
11	Atria Collier Park, Beaumont
12	The Terrace at Clear Lake, Webster
12	Remington Park at Baytown, Baytown
13	Forum at Memorial Woods, Houston
13	University Place, Houston
13	Parkview in Allen, Allen
19	Parkwood Retirement, Bedford
20	Temple Emanu-El School, Dallas

Many more bookings will be added by the end of this month. The most current list of all future bookings is always on our website. See www.TexasHeroes.net and click on **Where We Are Going**.