

Texas Heroes (830)833-0809 E-mail: Bob.Heinonen@TexasHeroes.net

New Newsletter Format

For too many technical reasons to discuss, I found it necessary to implement a new newsletter format. If you have any comments about this new format, I would love to hear them.

New On-line Calendar

www.TexasHeroes.net now has a calendar of performances for the next 12 months which shows the performer who will be performing and the character. The calendar will always be up to date. This calendar is in addition to the normal future events listing.

**Don't miss
Texas Independence Day
at
Washington-on-the-Brazos**

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Texas Centennial exhibit needs your help



In 1936, Texas celebrated its 100th anniversary of becoming a nation. The official celebration was held at the Texas State Fair at Fair Park in Dallas. It was an amazing event with many new buildings being built including the Hall of State. Most of the buildings were intended for a relatively short life but somehow many survived and most of the fabulous exterior artwork has been restored.

The Dallas Historical Society is now putting together an exhibit of the Texas Centennial and wants your help. DHS wants anyone with a memory of the Centennial to share their

memories for the exhibit. It doesn't have to be a long or impressive story; just a memory.

If you or someone you know has a memory to share, contact Ms. Dealey Campbell at DHS. She can be reached at:

(214)421-4500 Ext. 104
or
Dealey@dallashistory.org
or
Dallas Historical Society
P.O. Box 150038
Dallas TX 75315

Do something for Texas history...tell your story.

Making Plans

Each year the Texas State Historical Association holds its annual meeting in a city someplace in Texas (of course). This year it is in Austin and will be held March 26-28 at the Palmer Events Center.

If you want to learn in-depth Texas history, this is the place to go. Topics for the thirty-three sessions will range from oil to water, Texas music to religion in Texas, and Texas Democrats to Texas Republicans.

You will have a great opportunity to meet a lot of Texas history enthusiasts and professionals.

For detailed information, see
<http://www.tshaonline.org/about/meeting/>



I hope to see you there!

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Part 17: There Will Be War

Over two years after leaving Texas in April, 1833, for Mexico City to petition for Texas statehood, Stephen F. Austin was allowed to come home to Texas. He had been held as a prisoner in Mexico City for the last sixteen months; three months in solitary confinement, seven months in the general prison, and six months on parole at a Mexico City hotel. When the government's case against him was revealed, "Nowhere in the huge bundle of papers could Austin or his lawyers find anything resembling an indictment, nor could anyone determine the statute under which he was charged."

During his last six months on parole in the city, revolts broke out in Mexico. President Santa Anna was trying to consolidate power in his central government instead of leaving it in the states (as he had advocated before he became President). In April, 1835, Santa Anna took an army to the State of Zacatecas to suppress a revolt by the state government. His soldiers brutally killed thousands of citizens and then, in Santa Anna's glorious victory over his own people, he turned his army loose for two days of raping and pillaging in the villages. How Santa Anna would handle future revolts was now known.

There are no more half measures. There will be war.

In early August, 1835, Stephen F. Austin arrived by ship at New Orleans where he waited about three weeks for a ship to Texas. When he finally arrived in Texas he found things had changed. Land speculation, some involving his own secretary Samuel Williams, had angered many people. New immigrants from the United States were clamoring for land. Mexican authorities were trying to enforce import taxes on goods being shipped into Texas. Rumors of Santa Anna's heavy handed central government reached Texas and ran rampant. The Constitution of 1824 had been thrown out by Santa Anna and Texans were upset.

Stephen F. Austin had had a vision...a dream...for a Texas carved from the wilderness by his colonists. But now, "Events had finally convinced him that only independence from Mexico could make this vision a reality. The question was no longer one of ends, only of means."

After arriving at his sister Emily's plantation on September 1, a dinner was given in Austin's honor at Brazoria. He was warmly received and recognized by the leading citizens. His overall leadership was honored by both the War Party and the Peace Party. William Barret Travis, a lawyer, firebrand and member of the War Party wrote Austin, "All eyes are turned towards you....Texas can be wielded by you and *you alone*; and her destiny is now completely in your hands. I have every confidence that you will guide us safe through all our perils." Austin called for a general consultation (convention) to decide on what course the people of Texas should take. He was asked by the people of

Brazoria and San Felipe to organize the Consultation for all of Texas.

“Austin understood that without unity the Texan revolt stood no chance of success. The overwhelming reception he received on his return to Texas and the numerous claims of both War and Peace Party men that all were now united behind his leadership probably gave Austin a misleading view of how much unity really existed. Many old settlers – landed conservatives who had always followed Austin's conciliatory leadership and who stood to lose much by a bloody revolution – were privately dismayed to see the empresario essentially cast his lot with the War Party. Those who supported revolution were cut from the fiercely individualistic cloth of the American frontier, and they would be difficult to mold into a disciplined force, either politically or militarily.” Every Texan acted like a king unto himself and took orders from no one.

As the events unfolded, there was only one thing that seemed certain...there would be war.

Next Month – Part 18: And There Was War

All quotes come from Gregg Cantrell's book **Stephen F. Austin – Empresario of Texas**

Bob Heinonen is the founder of **Texas Heroes** and has been portraying Stephen F. Austin since 1993. See www.TexasHeroes.net/StephenFAustin.html.

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March Performances

Day Organization

1	Star of the Republic Museum, Washington-on-the-Brazos (2 performances)
2	Regents School of Austin, Austin
2	St. Thomas Episcopal School, Houston
2	Eagle's Trace, Houston
2	The Meadows Retirement Community, San Antonio
2	Village Park of Tanglewood, Houston
3	Waldenbrooke Estates, Bryan
4	The Towers on Park Lane, San Antonio
4	Querencia at Barton Creek, Austin
5	Independence Hill, San Antonio
5	Patriot Heights, San Antonio
6	Martin Elementary School, Weatherford
9	William Elementary School, Georgetown
9	Lakewood Village Book Review Club, Fort Worth
10	The Lamplighter School, Dallas
11	Old Town Elementary School, Round Rock
12	Morningside Ministries at Menger Springs, Boerne
13	Kimberlin Academy, Garland
13	San Antonio History Club, San Antonio
16	Three Fountains, Dallas
17	Highland Springs, Dallas
18	St. Joseph Village, Coppell
21	The Conservatory at Keller Town Center, Keller
23	Meadow Lakes Retirement Community, North Richland Hills
24	The Conservatory at Wells Branch, Austin
25	Cowart Elementary School, Dallas
25	The Continental, Austin
26	St. Helena's Episcopal Church, Boerne
26	Westminster Manor, Austin
27	Best Southwest Bookfest, Lancaster
28	Texoma Children's Museum, Denison
31	Highlander School, Dallas

This is the reservation list as of the issuance of this newsletter. Check our website for an up-to-date list. For all future reservations,

go to <http://www.TexasHeroes.net/thefuture.html>
or [http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas Heroes calendar.htm](http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas%20Heroes%20calendar.htm)
For a list of all clients, go to <http://www.TexasHeroes.net/thepast.html>