

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

TEACHERS

Next year you will have the availability of the following school characters:

- Stephen F. Austin
- James Bowie
- Charles Goodnight
- Granny G
- Patrick Henry
- Sam Houston
- Cynthia Ann Parker
- Texas Jack
- William Barret Travis

Area 16 PTA Council

We will be at the Area 16 PTA Council Spring Conference in Denton on April 25. We plan to let the Area PTA's know about the opportunities they have for bringing Texas history to their children.

**The San Jacinto
Symposium will be held
Saturday, April 18, 9:00 a.m.
to 5 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel
and Conference Center at
the University of Houston.
www.friendsosanjacinto.com**

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Calendar Surprise

When I put our new calendar format on our website at www.TexasHeroes.net, I expected some people to use it, but I was pleasantly surprised by the number of inquiries I have received based on its content. This caused a brain flash...if people are finding it easy to use, I should add more content that is usable by everyone.

I will now begin adding events pertaining to Texas history....and I don't just mean historic events. As I learn of gatherings that are truly Texas and have been around for a while, I will

add them. Examples would be: rodeos, Texas Independence Day celebrations, local historic festivals. I don't intend to compete with lists in periodicals like **Texas Monthly** or **Texas Highways**. If you have any suggestions, let me know.

Bottom line, check out our calendar for **Texas Heroes** performances, where we are touring, anniversaries of historic events, and Texas happenings.



Young Students

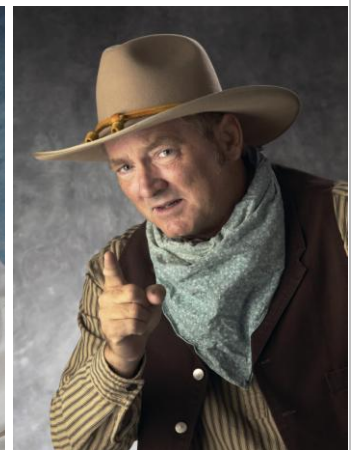
Most of the time, when we think about teaching Texas history, we think of 4th graders and 7th graders because those are the most intense years in the curriculum. But younger students also learn about Texas even if it is just the symbols. Those are the things they can learn and remember.

But, they can also remember good stories....told by people that tell true stories that are fun and interesting.

No bragging intended, but we have two of the best "characters" for PK-3: Helen Garrison as **Granny G** and Jack Edmondson as **Texas Jack**. These two fictitious characters tell wonderful true stories of early Texas and the days of the cattle drives.



Granny G tells meaningful stories of early Texas that young students love



Texas Jack has young students laughing, yelling and remembering cowboy stories

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Part 18: And There Was War

After returning to Texas in September, 1835, Stephen F. Austin's attitude toward Texas declaring its independence from Mexico had changed, and those about him encouraged his leadership in making it happen. As the events unfolded, there was only one thing that seemed certain...there would be war.

The Mexican Army announced it was going to take the cannon away from the people of Gonzales that had been given to them to defend themselves against the Indians. The people of Gonzales weren't about to give up their cannon, and when the Mexican Army came to take it away from them, the people of Gonzales dared them to "come and take it!" A fight started on October 2, 1835, and the people of Gonzales ran the Mexican Army off. They had won the first battle of the Texas Revolution.

How could he say "no" to his Texas?

The decision was made immediately to run the Mexican Army out of Texas. One hundred twenty men went to Goliad and made the Mexican Army garrison surrender the town and the fort. Goliad now belonged to the Texians.

Next, the decision was made to go to San Antonio de Bexar where the Mexican Army was headquartered; Stephen F. Austin was asked to command the Texian army. Austin was hesitant about accepting command. He had never commanded an army before. True, he had been the quartermaster in the militia back in Missouri, but the only time he had lead men in battle was against the Indians. But his friends said, "Stephen, you are the only man the men of Texas will follow." How could Austin say "no" to his Texas.

The Texians formed an army of four hundred men and went to San Antonio de Bexar where they began the siege of the town and the Alamo. But before siege was complete, Austin received a letter from the new interim Texian government asking him to change his assignment. They asked him to go to the United States with Dr. Archer and Mr. Wharton to raise money for the revolution, to find men to help fight the revolution. Austin was not well, but how could he say "no" to his Texas.

Before he left for the United States, Austin heard of the Texian's capture of San Antonio de Bexar and the Alamo. General Cos had surrendered his army and promise to take them out of Texas and to never come back. Then Austin was off to the United States, New Orleans, where the Americans warmly received them and began promising money for the revolution and men to help fight the revolution.

But then, while Austin was in New York, he heard of the fall of the Alamo; the loss of Travis and almost 200 men. And the massacre at Goliad where the

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Mexican Army executed over 300 Texians after they had laid down their arms and surrendered! He redoubled his efforts.

In May, 1836, Austin was returning home on a boat coming down the Ohio River when he heard of the glorious victory at San Jacinto. Sam Houston's army had beat Santa Anna and Austin's Texas was now a nation.

Next Month – Part 19: The Republic 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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April Performances

Day	Organization
3	Trinity Terrace, Fort Worth
9	Milam Elementary School, Dallas
11	Stone Brook Retirement Community, San Marcos
14	Forum at Park Lane, Dallas
15	Camden at Royal Oaks, Houston
15	Parkway Place, Houston
16	Parkwood Retirement Community, Bedford
16	The Terrace at Spring Shadows, Houston
16	Atria Collier Park, Beaumont
17	Budd Elementary School, Dallas
20	Horizon Bay, Wichita Falls
21	Park Central Retirement Community, Amarillo
23	Crockett Middle School, Amarillo
23	Carillon, Lubbock
23	Grand Court – Lubbock, Lubbock
25	Texoma Children's Museum, Denison
30	Highland Park Presbyterian School, Dallas
30	Parc Central Retirement Community, Bedford

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>