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Deadlines

You may have noticed that you do not get my e-mail for publication of this newsletter right on the 15th of each month. Most of the time it is late. When I am touring, my e-mails go out through the ISP used by the hotel I am staying in. Quite often, your e-mail system will reject my e-mail as spam because it was sent out through my hotel's ISP. Therefore, I have to wait until I am back at my home office to send you the newsletter notification. That is just the way it is.

It is time to reserve
A Cowboy's Christmas
Houston area
December 7-12
Dallas/Fort Worth area
December 14-19
Austin/San Antonio
December 21-24

Contents

Stephen F. Austin article 2
May performances 4

The Texas Capitol Park



The first capitol of the Republic of Texas was in the town of Columbia (now West Columbia) which is south and west of downtown Houston about fifty-five miles. During its 4-month tenure as capitol from September, 1836, until December, 1836, Columbia saw the First Congress of the Republic of Texas convened and Sam Houston inaugurated as the first President of the Republic of Texas.

The House of Representatives met in Columbia in a two-story frame house and the Senate in a smaller house. However, on November 30, 1836, Congress decided to move the capitol to the new real estate development of Houston because Columbia did not have adequate accommodations. Not that the town of Houston had better accommodations, but it was named after the popular hero of San Jacinto by the Allen brothers; naming their real estate development after "old Sam Jacinto" seemed like a good

marketing idea. They also made promises of constructing a capitol building and providing land for government offices. The capitol was moved to Houston in April, 1837.

Columbia is where Stephen F. Austin was named Secretary of State of the Republic. He died on December 27, 1836, in Columbia at the home of Judge George B. McKinstry.

The new Texas Capitol Park is a 35 foot by 337 foot strip in downtown West Columbia. A cistern used for water during the days of the Republic was discovered at the site and has been restored; it may have been the cistern used by men like Austin and Houston although that cannot be proven.

All of the original buildings are gone, the last destroyed in same Great Storm that destroyed Galveston in 1900.

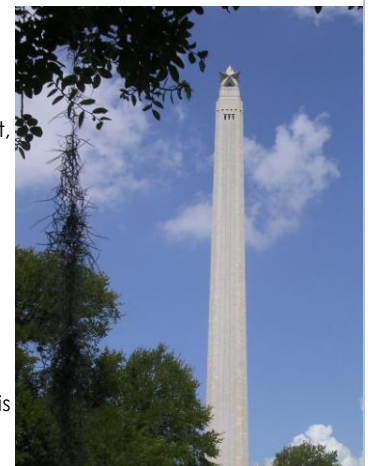
San Jacinto Tidbits

Few people are aware that at the Battle of San Jacinto, General Almonte surrendered to a group of Mexican soldiers that numbered as many as 400. Different reports put the site of the surrender anywhere from 1/2 mile to 3 miles from the battle site. Current archeological digs at San Jacinto have uncovered a line of unfired musket balls and some bayonets about 1.5 miles south of the main battle. The line parallels what would have been the edge of a woods. Current thinking is Almonte brought his troops out of the woods in mass to surrender so the Texans wouldn't massacre them in small numbers. The ammunition dropped in a line would account for this surrender.

The San Jacinto battlefield being lost. Mother nature and man have caused the area to subside 8-10 feet since the battle; this loses ground to the water. The *Battleship Texas* has taken ground and is requiring more ground. Texas Parks & Wildlife is planning to put up a large visitors center. When the San Jacinto Monument was built, a huge reflecting pool was constructed. Much of the battleground land is privately owned and held inaccessible.

The good news is that NRG Corporation, who owns part of the battleground, has given full cooperation to archeological digs and has gone out of their way to help. The NRG property is where the probable Almonte surrender site was discovered. Thank you NRG!

If you are interested in helping retain, preserve and research San Jacinto, contact Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground at <http://www.friendsofsanjacinto.com/site/>



Texas Heroes

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Part 19: The Republic of Texas

During the Texas Revolution, Stephen F. Austin, Dr. Branch Archer and William Wharton were in the United States raising money and men to fight in the Revolution. Then, in May, 1836, his job done, Austin was returning home on about coming down the Ohio River when he heard of Sam Houston's victory at San Jacinto on April 21. Austin finally arrived home at the end of June after a sea-sickening voyage from New Orleans. He was exhausted and worn down. He had not gotten real rest since his imprisonment in Mexico, the revolutionary events in Texas, and his six month trip to the United States to raise money and men.

How could he say "no" to his Texas?

When Austin returned home, he was looking forward to leaving public affairs and get some rest. But rest was not to be his. Austin's friends came to him and said, "Stephen, we need you to be the President of The Republic of Texas. You are the only man the people of Texas will listen to." How could he say "no" to his Texas.

Stephen F. Austin ran for the presidency, but two weeks before the election, Sam Houston, the hero of San Jacinto, in a surprise move, threw his hat in the ring and won the presidency by a landslide.

Austin was actually somewhat relieved for now maybe he could find some peace. Maybe now he could settle on that land that he owned. Maybe he could find himself a wife if a woman would have him at the age of 42.

But, peace was not to be his. Sam Houston, the new President of The Republic of Texas, came to Austin and said, "Stephen, we need you to be the Secretary of State of The Republic of Texas. We need you to convince the other nations of the world, in particular the United States, that we are truly an independent nation." And how could he say "no."

Austin threw himself into his personal and public work. His home had been burned to the ground during the Revolution, so he was renting a one room shack on the side of the home of a friend of his in Columbia, the new capitol of Texas. The room was unheated. His family and friends brought furnishings and blankets for his room.

In December, Austin became ill. His family and friends came to care for him. It was two days after Christmas that he awoke from a dream. He said, "The independence of Texas has been recognized! Dr. Archer told me so. Have you read it in the newspaper?"

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With those very words, Stephen F. Austin died, lying on a wooden pallet in a clapboard shack just nine months after his Texas had become a nation.

Next Month – Part 20: The Father 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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May Performances

Day Organization

11	Hexter Elementary School, Dallas
12	Forum at Lincoln Heights, San Antonio
18	Peeler Elementary School, Dallas
18	The Towers on Park Lane, San Antonio
22	Worley Middle School, Mansfield (2 performances)
23	Texoma Children's Museum, Denison
26	Hooe Elementary School, Dallas
26	Elderhaven of Austin, Austin
27	Hooe Elementary School, Dallas
27	Hill Elementary School, Arlington
28	Hooe Elementary School, Dallas
29	Hooe Elementary School, Dallas

This is the reservation list as of the issuance of this newsletter. For an up-to-date list, check our website at:

http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas_Heroes_calendar.htm

For a list of all clients, go to <http://www.TexasHeroes.net/thepast.html>