



Heroes Of History (830)833-0809 E-mail: Bob.Heinonen@HeroesOfHistory.net

What are we?

Autobiographical actors?
Impersonators?
Re-enactors?
First person interpreters?
Storytellers?
Actors?

The answer is "Yes!".....
We teach while we entertain audiences of all ages.

The season is upon us
A Cowboy's Christmas

Austin/San Antonio
November 30 -
December 6

Houston area
December 7-13

Dallas/Fort Worth area
December 14-19

School Security

Last year, Texas Senate Bill 9 was passed by the 80th Texas Legislature. The law is intended to protect students from direct contact with adults who have criminal records. The law requires certified educators and classroom substitute teachers and aides to go through a National Criminal History Background Check including fingerprinting.

Also in this law are provisions covering contracted personnel – **Heroes Of History** is considered "contracted personnel."

The new law specifically excludes **Heroes Of History** performers:

"Contact with students that results from services that do not provide substantial opportunity for unsupervised interaction with a student or students, such as

addressing an assembly, officiating a sports contest, or judging an extracurricular event, is not, by itself, direct contact with students."

Even though our performers are not required by law to go through a National Criminal History Background Check with fingerprinting, we are in the process of making that happen. When we finish the process, I will let you know.

FYI, all of our school performers have gone through the previously required criminal background checks.

Heroes Of History does meet the state standards to perform in schools.

If you are concerned about security, maybe you need to hire a tough guy like this:



Okay, just joking. That is me portraying Texas Ranger George Durham.

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AUSTIN'S DESK

I will be performing at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site on October 30 for two school groups. This is part of their Father Of Texas Event. Site Manger Bryan McAuley tells me they are making a replica of "The Stephen F. Austin Desk" which was a "field desk" and it should be ready by the time of my performance. I can't wait to sit behind that desk and greet the kids.

AUSTIN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Don't forget the Stephen F. Austin Birthday Party on Saturday, October 31, at the Stephen F. Austin statue in Angleton.

NOVEMBER 3, 1793

The day Stephen F. Austin, the Father Of Texas, was born in Virginia. The title "Father Of Texas" was given to Austin by Sam Houston at Austin's death in 1836.



SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

I performed at the Roanoke Senior Citizens Center this past month. I was amazed by the turnout of over one hundred seniors for this "first Wednesday" luncheon!

In the picture above, the lady on the left is Wally Funk. She is one of thirteen female aviators who participated in secret tests in the early 1960s that paved the way for women into America's space program.

LAST MONTH'S QUOTES

In last month's newsletter I included two quotes from George Washington. A friend, Steve Butler, pointed out that he could not find the source of these quotes. After searching the internet, I couldn't find the sources either!

Both quotes were used extensively on the web and were almost identical every place I found them. Every website credited George Washington **BUT** not a single website referenced a primary source nor said when or where he spoke the words.

Were the quotes invented by someone for their own needs and were so good they just got copied ad infinitum? If you happen to know a source for these quotes, please let us know.

LEGENDS OF HISTORY

Legends are topics we love and hate. Legends are those parts of history that may not be proven, but people want to believe they are true. Here is one you will want to remember:

Legend: The Texian flag at the Battle of the Alamo was the Mexican tri-color flag with **1824** in place of the eagle

What We Know Now:

Various flags have been suggested as the flag that flew over The Alamo. We are fairly certain there was one flag representing The Alamo defenders because on February 24, 1836, Travis wrote, "...our flag still waves proudly from the walls." Notice the use of word "flag" in the singular. That doesn't mean, however, there was only one flag **at** The Alamo. At least for Travis there was one flag representing them.

Flag of
change

The flags that have been suggested as being at The Alamo are the flag of the New Orleans Greys (two volunteer units from New Orleans), the Mexican flag itself, a modified Mexican flag with the year *1824* (or maybe *Constitution of 1824*) on it in place of the eagle, a flag with *Sam Houston for Independence* on it, and a modified Mexican flag with the eagle replaced by two stars (the Texas-Coahuila Militia flag).

For many years, most historians thought that The Alamo flag was sent to Mexico City by Santa Anna and that the flag was the New Orleans Greys' flag. In fact, Santa Anna did send the New Orleans Greys' flag to the government in Mexico City but the point of the letter sent with it was that the flag was proof of involvement by Americans. He wrote, "The bearer takes with him one of the flags of the enemy's Battalions, captured today." Notice he said "one of the flags", not **the** flag. Colonel Juan N. Alamonte's accounts of what happened at The Alamo seem to be the most accurate. He says, "The enemy, as soon as the march of the division was seen, hoisted the tricolored flag with two stars...." This would be the the Texas-Coahuila Militia flag. The eye witness accounts of two young Tejano boys indicate a tricolored flag was being flown, but they were probably too far away to discern what was in the center of the flag.

One problem in reading early documents is that in the phrase "fighting under the flag" the word "flag" can mean to support a cause as opposed to an actual piece of cloth, ie they were fighting for a particular cause.

Without photographs (which weren't invented yet) it is pretty hard to determine what flag was actually flying.

For reference, Thomas Ricks Lindley addresses the issue in detail in his book **Alamo Traces**.

November Performances

Day Organization

And the march
goes on

- 4 The Court at Round Rock, Round Rock
- 10 Dorsey Elementary School, Rowlett
- 10 San Jacinto Elementary School, Dallas
- 10 Town Village North, Dallas
- 11 Franklin Park Hometown, North Richland Hills
- 11 EdenTerrace Arlington, Arlington
- 11 Broadway Plaza at Cityview, Fort Worth
- 11 Heritage Place, Burleson
- 12 Brinker Elementary School, Plano
- 12 Forum at Park Lane, Dallas
- 13 Hill School, Grapevine
- 16 Walnut Ridge Baptist Church, Mansfield
- 19 Horizon Bay at Round Rock, Austin

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

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

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