



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 accurate history while we entertain people of all ages.

Spring
2010
is
here...
really!

Teaching Texas History

In my newsletter e-mail sent to some of you last month, I asked the question: "I have heard that some schools have cut back on teaching Texas history because of conflicts with TAKS teaching/testing. Is this true in your school?"

Here are some of the responses I received:

Middle school history teacher: "I don't know who told you that, but they are totally wrong. At Sam Houston we have increased the importance of TEXAS History and made it into a more interdisciplinary topic."

Elementary school teacher: "We did have an hour for social studies and now have just 45 minutes for social studies and science because of adding an ELT time where children are pulled out for extra help--so, yes."

4th grade teacher: "Our school continues to teach Texas history with pride. It is part of our curriculum."

4th grade teacher: "Absolutely! Not enough time to teach Social Studies (4th grade Texas History) and all the TAKS skills. Principals and Administrators are pushing TAKS not Texas History"

4th grade teacher: "This is so true...because it is not a "tested" subject. We are asked to teach language arts through the social studies block, so the Texas History portion is dissolved into comprehension lessons and writing opportunities. The depth and complexity of the social studies aspect is pretty well lost in the process. My students are lucky if they get an overview of Texas History, whereas they used to get to 7th grade really prepared to dig deeper into the basics. Although our lesson plan from [our ISD] shows a hefty coverage of all the highlights of the TX History, the reality is we are told to cover it within Language Arts class. Time does not allow for adequate coverage."

As you can see, it is a mixed response. Some teachers are being forced by time constraints to teach less Texas history; some are not being affected; some are proactively pushing Texas history. The situation sounds more like an "erosion" than a "cutting."

If time is being taken away from Texas history lessons, maybe the best proactive method is to make Texas history into a "more interdisciplinary topic." Why not teach Texas history and wrap it around other disciplines? I am sure there are some very creative ways of doing this. The first things that popped into my mind are writing exercises, science, public speaking and art projects.

What are your ideas?

Miscellaneous Stuff

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THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

That exciting time of year is coming up fast! Texas declared its independence, Texians and Tejanos sacrificed their lives at The Alamo and Goliad, and the final big battle that defeated Santa Anna's Mexican Army brought final independence....all of these in a two month timeframe. We all know the enormous impact these events have had on world history.

Heroes Of History is again proud to say we will be featured performers at the Texas Independence Day Celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos on February 27 and 28. This will be our 17th year performing at this event.

There are many public events you should think about attending this time of year. Here are a few:

February 27

All day Washington-on-the-Brazos
All day at The Alamo

February 28

All day Washington-on-the-Brazos

March 2nd

9:00 Texas State Cemetery, Austin



March 6th

All day at The Alamo
6:00 Dawn at The Alamo
9:30 Parade up Congress, Austin

March 7th

All day at The Alamo
2:00 Alamo ceremony at Capital, Austin

April 17th

All day San Jacinto Symposium, Houston

April 24th

All day San Jacinto Battle Reenactment, San Jacinto

I know there are many events missing from this list; please let me know which events are missing. I will send out a special e-mail to everyone in February with all the events I know of at that time. Let me know about your event and I will tell others.

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: Americans have the right to own guns

What We Know Now:

I am a little concerned about addressing this issue because of the political and moral controversy surrounding it. However, it is a matter of history since "bearing arms" is addressed in the Second Amendment to The Constitution of the United States of America.

Unfortunately, there is more than one version of the text of the Second Amendment found in the official documents surrounding the adoption of the Bill of Rights. The second version has slight capitalization and punctuation differences. Here is the first version passed by the United States Congress:

" A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. "

"The people have the right to keep and bear arms."

Here is the second version which is the copy which was sent to the states for ratification:

" A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. "

The missing commas and capitalizations may not seem like much, but attorneys make a lot of money arguing about them in court. The proponents of different political causes use the difference in punctuation to support their points. Some say the missing commas in the second version puts the emphasis on the militia rather than the people and that it is this version that was ratified.

When the Constitution was ratified by the ninth of thirteen states, it went into effect. Virginia was the ninth state to ratify; it did so on June 26, 1788. Virginia did so saying the Constitution was imperfect but necessary. As a part of its ratification process, Virginia stated in writing that the Constitution should be amended to include twenty items. Item seventeen was:

"Seventeenth, That the people have a right to keep and bear arms; that a well regulated Militia composed of the body of the people trained to arms, is the proper, natural and safe defence of a free state."

This is what those who opposed ratification of the Constitution without a Bill of Rights wanted; it was stated very clearly. Patrick Henry was among those opposing ratification.

George Washington, in his first inaugural speech, said the Constitution should be amended immediately to include the objections of those who opposed the Constitution. James Madison's initial proposal for a Bill of Rights was brought to the floor of the House of Representatives on June 8, 1789, during the first (meaning first ever) session of Congress. The initial proposed amendment relating to bearing arms was:

The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well armed and well regulated militia being the best security of a free country but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing arms shall be compelled to render military service in person.

Notice the similarity between this initial proposal and the Virginia proposal. The first statement in the proposed amendment is very clear – *the people have the right to keep and bear arms*. This appears to be the original intent. But then, as it so often does now, in the Congressional process the statements got switched around causing the meaning to become nebulous. Was this intentional? We have a wonderful political system of government that easily turns clear water into swamp water (including a couple of roads paid for with tax dollars running through it.)

Heroes Of History

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January Performances

Day Organization

- 11 Cowart Elementary School, Dallas
- 12 Meadow Lakes Retirement Community, North Richland Hills
- 14 Presbyterian Village North, Dallas
- 15 Davis Elementary School, Garland
- 18 Horizon Bay, Wichita Falls
- 19 Park Central Retirement Community, Amarillo (3 performances)
- 20 Western Plateau Elementary School, Amarillo
- 20 Palo Duro Retirement Community, Canyon
- 21 Windsong, Lubbock
- 21 Grand Court, Lubbock
- 25 Prestonwood Christian Academy, Dallas
- 25 Sun City, Georgetown

*Another new
year! I hope it is
your best ever.*

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](http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas_Heroes_calendar.htm)