

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.

Now booking

for

Charles

Dickens

Reads

A

Christmas

Carol

(November-December)

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The Texas Army Exists

Few people know that an official Texas Army exists today. The Texas Army was established to honor the Army of the Republic of Texas and to keep the memory alive of those gallant men who fought for Texas freedom.

Forty years ago, April 21, 1969, the Texas Army was formed, and two months later was officially reactivated by Governor Preston Smith for ceremonial purposes. In addition, the Army hosts state functions, official ceremonial events, re-enacts events of 1835 and 1836, and travels internationally representing Texas.

Each member of the Texas Army is a commissioned "Colonel" by the Governor of Texas. The Texas Army also participates as the special honor guard in the Governor's Inauguration Parade.

For many years, the Texas Army has participated in the Texas Independence Day Celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Sam Houston IV has just succeeded General Carroll A. "Curly" Lewis, Jr., Commander of the Texas Army, who died on January 7.



The appointment of Sam Houston IV came at a dinner following a special memorial service for General Lewis conducted at the San Jacinto Monument on January 20.

Sam Houston IV, great-grandson of the Hero of San Jacinto and first elected President of the Republic of Texas, is a member of the Sam Houston Chapter #38 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. Houston has dedicated much of his adult life to preserving the history of Texas.

It is quite a sight to see the Texas Army ring the top of the amphitheater at Washington--on-the-Brazos for the Texas Independence Day program. They raise their rifles and fire a volley saluting Texas.

Miscellaneous Stuff

OLD RIP FORD

I hadn't performed as Old Rip Ford for some time, so when I portrayed him the other day it reminded me that hardly anyone has ever heard of him.

Old Rip (actually John Salmon Ford) is one of those fantastic characters that make Texas history so rich. He was involved in almost every major event in Texas from right after the Battle of San Jacinto until after the Civil War...he was the Confederate commander of the last battle of the Civil War. A piece of trivia is that he won the last battle of the Civil War for the south.

Some years ago, I wrote a series of articles on **The Life and Times of Rip Ford**. You can still read the series. Go to the **Heroes Of History** home page and scan down the left hand menu for Texas Stories.

ONLY 164 YEARS AGO

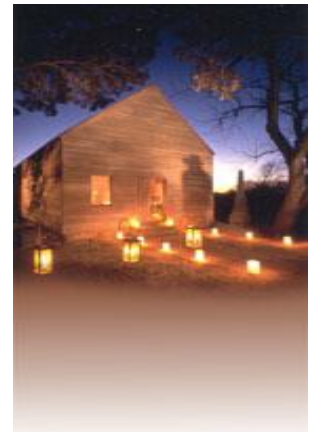
On February 19, 1846, Anson Jones, the last President of The Republic Of Texas, handed over the keys of government to the first Governor of the State Of Texas, James Pinkney Henderson. The ceremony was held on the grounds of the old national capitol building and new state capitol building in Austin.

The newly written State Constitution required that a vote of the people be taken in 1850 to determine the site of a permanent state capitol... Austin won. However, another vote of the people was required twenty years later. In 1872, the City Of Austin finally became the permanent-permanent state capital by handily defeating Houston and Waco.

—◆—
"A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for."
Grace Hopper

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE

Don't miss the Texas Independence Day Celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos February 27-28



Independence Hall
Photo credit: TxDOT

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 burned remains of the Alamo defenders were never found

What We Know Now:

In September of 1836, four months after the Battle of San Jacinto in which he fought for Texas freedom, Texas Army Captain Juan Sequin was ordered to form a Battalion of men and take possession of San Antonio de Bexar and The Alamo. By December, 1836, Sequin was Commandant of Bexar.

Texas heroes

Nine months earlier, March 6, 1836, Mexican General Santa Anna made a final attack on the Texian revolutionaries defending the old Spanish mission in Bexar called The Alamo. After a thirteen day siege, his army overwhelmed the Alamo defenders and killed or executed all of them. After the battle, Santa Anna had the Texian bodies burned. Two months after taking possession of Bexar, Sequin had the remains and ashes of the Alamo defenders gathered up in a ceremony.

Here is a supposed transcript of Juan Sequin's speech at the ceremony and published in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* newspaper, April 4, 1837:

"Bexar, February 25, 1837

Companions in Arms!! These remains which we have the honor of carrying on our shoulders are those of the valiant heroes who died in the Alamo. Yes, my friends, they preferred to die a thousand times rather than submit themselves to the tyrant's yoke. What a brilliant example! Deserving of being noted in the pages of history. The spirit of liberty appears to be looking out from its elevated throne with its pleasing mien and pointing to us, saying : "there are your brothers, Travis, Bowie, Crockett, and others whose valor places them in the rank of my heroes." Yes soldiers and fellow citizens, these are the worthy beings who, by the twists of fate, during the present campaign delivered their bodies to the ferocity of their enemies; who, barbarously treated as beasts, were bound by their feet and dragged to this spot, where they were reduced to ashes. The venerable remains of our worthy companions as witnesses, I invite you to declare to the entire world, "Texas shall be free and independent, or we shall perish in glorious combat."

Conclusion: To this day, no one knows for sure where the remains were taken or buried. It is probable that the remains have been scattered by all of the construction in the area.



Most of the information for this Legend came from the book **A Revolution Remembered – The Memoirs and Selected Correspondence of Jauna N. Sequin** by Jesus F. de la Teja. *The conclusion is mine.*

Professor and Department of History Chair Jesús Francisco de la Teja, or "Frank" to most people, has spent his career studying and educating others on Texas' past. In 2007, Professor de la Teja became a part of Texas history.

On February 25, 2007, Governor Rick Perry appointed Professor de la Teja to serve for two years as the first **Texas State Historian**. The Legislature had created the volunteer position in 2005. In this position, Frank helped enhance Texans' knowledge about the state's history and heritage, encouraged the teaching of Texas history in public schools, and consulted with top government officials on the promotion of Texas history.

Heroes Of History

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March Performances

Day Organization

Texas
Independence
And
The Fall Of
The Alamo

- 1 EdenTerrace at Kingwood, Kingwood
- 1 The Conservatory at Champion Forest, Spring
- 2 The Wesleyan at Estrella, Georgetown
- 2 Regents School of Austin, Austin
- 2 St. Thomas Episcopal School, Houston
- 2 Parkway Place, Houston
- 2 Forum at Memorial Woods, Houston
- 3 Camden Royal Oaks, Houston
- 3 Horizon Bay, San Antonio
- 3 The Buckingham, Houston
- 3 Patriot Heights, San Antonio
- 3 University Place, Houston
- 4 Lakewood Village, Fort Worth
- 4 Englewood Estates, Austin
- 4 Parc Place Retirement, Bedford
- 4 Querencia at Barton Creek, Austin
- 5 The Lamplighter School, Dallas
- 5 The Towers On Park Lane, San Antonio
- 5 Trinity Towers, Fort Worth
- 6 Town Village Arlington, Arlington
- 6 Three Fountains, Dallas
- 8 Lakewood Village Book Review Club, Fort Worth
- 8 Horizon Bay, Wichita Falls
- 9 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon (3 performances)
- 10 Park Central Retirement Community, Amarillo
- 11 Crockett Middle School, Amarillo
- 11 Tolbert Elementary School, Dallas
- 12 Hillcrest Elementary School, Plainview
- 12 Sartartia Middle School, Sugar Land
- 12 Village On The Park Steeplechase, Houston
- 12 Carillon, Lubbock
- 12 Grand Court, Lubbock
- 19 Highland Springs, Dallas
- 19 McKenna Village, New Braunfels
- 23 EnAmie Book Review Club, Houston
- 24 Pattison Elementary School, Katy
- 25 The Terrace at Clear Lake, Webster
- 26 Milam Elementary School, Dallas
- 26 Valley Ranch Elementary School, Porter
- 30 Highlander Cardin School, Dallas
- 31 St. Joseph Village, Coppell

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)