

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.

The Answer Is "Yes"

The questions are:

Was Sam Houston's first term in office as President of the Republic of Texas short because he was really completing the term of the first President, David G. Burnet? Sam was the first elected President; Burnet was filling in the first term until a President could be elected.

Is it true that you can have John Wayne appear in your retirement community? Jack Edmondson does an incredible job as Duke.

Was the first effective revolver used by the Texas Rangers the Walker-Colt? The pistol was co-designed by Captain Samuel Walker of the Texas Rangers, and inventor and manufacturer Samuel Colt.

Can you book a Heroes Of History school performance for next year right now? American history and Texas history teachers can book up to a year in advance.

Is the Palo Duro Canyon the second largest canyon in the United States? The Grand Canyon is the only U. S. canyon that is larger.

Does Heroes Of History do after-dinner theater? All performances are considered one-person short plays.

Is El Paso, Texas, closer to San Diego, California, than it is to Houston, Texas? It is 745 miles from Houston to El Paso. It is only 723 miles from El Paso to San Diego. Resource: Google Maps

Was the Texas State Historical Association started in 1897? Old Rip Ford, who had tried starting one in the 1850's and again in the 1870's, was one of the original members.

Are the stories told by Heroes Of History performers true stories? There was no one around "way back then" recording conversations, but the facts are as accurate as we can make them based on the research of known and reliable historians.

Did Sam Houston give Stephen F. Austin the title of "Father of Texas"? Sam sent out a broadside (flyer) announcing Austin's death with similar wording, and then said it in a eulogy at Austin's funeral.

Miscellaneous Stuff

175 YEARS NEXT MARCH

Next March 2nd marks the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration Of Independence from Mexico. This will be a big event in Texas. The Star of the Republic Museum **Notes** has the following announcement:

"Star of the Republic Museum is launching a long-term genealogical project to identify living descendents of the 59 men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1836. Volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will be gathering genealogies and tracing the lineage of these heroic men. Direct descendents will be recognized in March 2011 in commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration. If you would like more information about this project, please contact the Museum's Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Dr. Shawn B. Carlson, at scarlson@blinn.edu."

TEXAS MONTHLY

Did you see our ad in *Texas Monthly* magazine for July? Check out page 78 or www.TexasHeroes.net/TXMo.pdf. This issue features **Lonesome Dove at 25** ...as in 25 years since it came out. Larry McMurry, author of the best seller book series and TV mini-series, based some of the story-line on the adventures of Charles Goodnight.

Since I portray Charles Goodnight, there seemed to be perfect tie-in.



PTA SUMMER LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

We will again have a booth at the Texas PTA's Summer Leadership Seminar in Austin. This year the conference is held July 23-24 at the Austin Convention Center. They estimate that 3,500 PTA leaders from across Texas will attend.

If you attend the conference, please stop by booth #406 to say "hi" to my wife, Elizabeth, or myself. We will be letting PTA members know about our:

- Educational programs which they can sponsor
- Fundraising events which they can organize



"Today is yesterday's pupil."

Benjamin Franklin
(Date and source unknown)

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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: When Texas declared its independence, it wanted to join the United States immediately

What We Know Now: In December, 1835, a Texas Consultation decided to create a government, and representatives were sent to the United States to raise money and troops for a revolution. Stephen F. Austin, William H. Wharton and Branch Archer left Texas at the end of 1835 and had been in the United States for four months when Texas declared independence. After that event, representatives rushed off to join them in such haste that they neglected to bring diplomatic authority to negotiate for annexation, or even to officially ask for recognition of independence. "If we had had those powers," Austin wrote, "Texas would have been, by this time [two weeks before San Jacinto], recognized, if not admitted into this Union."ⁱ

In 1836, the first national election of the Republic of Texas was held. The people asked Sam Houston, their new President, to lead them into annexation with the United States. They did not know that politics in Texas, the United States, Britain, France and Mexico would prevent it for 10 years. Actually the United States had attempted to annex Texas before Texas became a Republic in 1836. "John Quincy Adams had offered Mexico \$1 million for Texas, and [Andrew] Jackson was willing to pay \$5 million, but Mexico would not sell."ⁱⁱ

Just before Christmas in 1836, Wharton arrived in Washington, D.C., with the proper papers. It was hoped that U.S. President Andrew Jackson, who was very pro-Texas and a friend of Sam Houston, would immediately speak out for annexation, or at least officially recognize Texas. He did neither for three months.

Mexican General Santa Anna arrived in Washington a month after Wharton, with a proposal to sell Texas to the United States. President Jackson said "he would perish before he would be guilty of any injustice to Texas, or attempt to bind her against her consent."ⁱⁱⁱ In March, 1837, one of Jackson's last acts as President was recognizing Texas as an independent nation.

Jackson's successor as President, Martin Van Buren, was not in favor of annexation; the formal proposal for annexation was withdrawn by Texas in October, 1838.^{iv} Back in Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar won the 1838 presidential election. Lamar was against annexation so it was not offered to the U. S. during his 3 year term.

Sam Houston could run for President again in 1841—he did and he won. Beginning with his second term as President in December, 1841, annexation was again brought to the table. After waiting a year for action by U.S. President John Tyler, the proposal was again withdrawn by Texas in July, 1843. But, two months later, Tyler did take action on annexation and in October, U.S. Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur formally accepted the 3rd Texas annexation proposal. The United States was now moving toward annexation.

Upshur thought he could get the two-thirds majority of the U. S. Senate required for approval of annexation. "He [Upshur] negotiated a treaty with the Texas charge, Isaac Van Zandt, in February 1844, but before Upshur had signed it he was killed by the explosion of a cannon on the battleship *Princeton* during a weapons demonstration."^v

To replace Upshur, President Tyler appointed John C. Calhoun as Secretary of State. Calhoun alienated most northern and western politicians because they saw Calhoun as too closely aligned with the Southern coalition. To complicate things even further, it was a Presidential election year in the U.S. and most politicians misjudged the people's desire for national expansion.^{vi}

In February, 1845, the U. S. Congress passed a resolution of annexation. In July, Texas decided for annexation. On December 29, 1845, the U. S. Congress accepted Texas as the 28th state. On February 19, 1846, the last President of Texas, Anson Jones, ended his valedictory speech with, "The final act of this great drama is now performed. The Republic of Texas is no more." As he lowered the Texas flag, the weather-beaten flag pole broke in two.^{vii}

References

ⁱ *Anson Jones - The Last President of Texas* by Herbert Gambrell, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX 1947, pp 120

ⁱⁱ *The American Nation - A History of the United States* by John A Garraty, American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY 1966, pp 310

ⁱⁱⁱ *Anson Jones - The Last President of Texas* by Herbert Gambrell, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX 1947, pp 122

^{iv} *Rip Ford's Texas* by John Salmon Ford edited by Stephen B. Oates, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX 1963, pp38

^v *The American Nation - A History of the United States* by John A Garraty, American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY 1966, pp 311

^{vi} *The American Nation - A History of the United States* by John A Garraty, American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY 1966, pp 311-313

^{vii} *Anson Jones - The Last President of Texas* by Herbert Gambrell, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX 1947, pp 419

Heroes Of History

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July Performances

Day Organization

	1	Querencia at Barton Creek, Austin
	2	The Towers on Park Lane, San Antonio
	2	Westminster Manor, Austin
	3	Chandler Apartments, San Antonio
	3	The Inn at Los Patios, San Antonio
	3	Franklin Park Sonterra, San Antonio
<i>Independence Day is coming!</i>	4	Chandler Retirement Apartments, San Antonio
	4	Englewood Estates, Austin
	4	Morningside Ministries at Menger Springs, Boerne
	5	Horizon Bay at San Antonio, San Antonio
	5	The Summit at Westlake Hills, Austin
	7	Timberhill Villa, San Antonio
	9	McKenna Village, New Braunfels
	13	Park Central Retirement Community, Amarillo (3 performances)
	15	Ventura Place, Lubbock
	15	Grand Court, Lubbock
	26	Franklin Park Hometown, N. Richland Hills
	27	Trinity Terrace, Fort Worth
	28	The Waterford at Plano, Plano

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)