

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

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is to educate,
participate and
celebrate Texas
Independence.

- Symposium
- Cook-Off
- Art Contest
- Music



★ ★ ★ MARCH 11, 2017 ★ ★ ★

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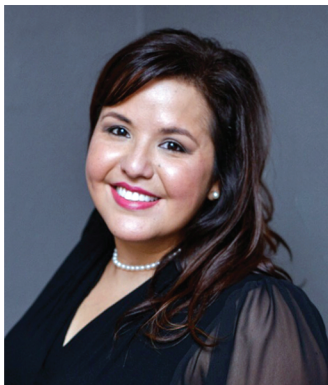
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Letter from the Originator of Texas Independence Celebration

Ten years ago, I started a small celebration of Texas Independence at my office in Harlingen, Texas. It consisted of two speakers, two cakes, tamales rice and bean, a couple who sang karaoke songs of Texas and a handful of people. Presently, I am proud to participate and welcome you to the Texas Heritage and Independence Celebration Association, Inc (THICA) 10th Annual Texas Independence Day Celebration and Symposium.

Ten years ago, three people organized the event. Today we have more than twenty-five people who regularly volunteer their time and effort to insure the growth of our event. Last year we had over 10,000 visitors who came to participate and celebrate the birthday of Texas and it was all done with the efforts of the people whose names are listed in this letter.

According to K Kris Hirst, "History is the study of the human past as it is described in the written documents left by human beings. The past, with all its decisions completed, its participants dead and its history told, is what the general public perceives as the immutable bedrock on which we historians and archaeologists stand. But as purveyors of the past, we recognize that the bedrock is really quicksand, that bits of the story are yet untold, and that what has been told comes tainted by the conditions of what we are today".

Join us for Education, Participation and Celebration. Our Symposium on March 4, 2017 will reveal bits of story that are yet untold and our re-enactment on March 11, will make history come alive with the crackling sounds of gun powder flint lock muskets, the loud roar of the cannon fire and the yelling of "Remember the Alamo" on our battlefield. Sign our Texas Declaration of Independence, Walk in our tents and talk to our Texians and Tejanos. Inspect our muskets and our attire, view our art exhibits from our talented students and see them perform the play "The Lone Star Dream Musical" and then celebrate with the music, visit our vendors at Market Days and judge the brisket, pork spareribs, chicken, pan de campo, beans and chili in the IBCA Sanctioned Texas Independence cook-off and Elks Chili cook-off.

Happy Birthday Texas!

Federico V. Garza

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TEXAS HERITAGE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
COMMITTEE



Texas Heritage Independence Association, Inc. is an organization dedicated to promote the participation of Tejanos in the Texas Independence. Our vision is to bring awareness and acknowledgement to Tejanos who participated in the Independence of Texas and in U. S. history. We (THICA) want to educate and promote Texas Independence by reenacting events of the Texas Revolution leading to Texas Independence.



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Texas Independence Day Celebration - 2017 Schedule of Events

March 4

(Berta Cabaza Middle School Cafeteria)

Symposium Agenda

8:30 - 9:00	Welcome and registration
9:00 - 9:45	Dr. Joseph Chance <i>"José María de Jesús Carbajal"</i>
9:45 - 10:30	Mr. Manuel Hinojosa <i>"The Adventures of Juan Davis Bradburn"</i>
10:30 - 11:15	Mr. Sergio Gonzalez <i>"Jose De Escandon"</i>
11:15 - 12:00	LUNCH
12:00 - 12:45	Mr. Leo Lopez <i>"Spanish Missions in Texas"</i>
12:45 - 1:00	Wrap up / Announcements

Short Breaks* and Lunch** will be scheduled after every speaker.

March 10

8 PM	Dessert Cook-off Showgrounds
Entertainment:	Dirty 3 Band

March 11

(San Benito Showgrounds)

8:00 AM	Music - DJ Franko - Cooker's Meeting
9:00 AM	THICA Market Day
10:00 AM	Lone Star Dream Musical performed by Ed Downs Elementary students
11:00 AM	Commencement Ceremony & Presentation of Colors - The San Benito Naval JROTC
11:15 AM	Invocation - Father Joe Villalon
11:20 AM	Proclamation - City of San Benito Mayor Celeste Sanchez
12:00 PM	Battle Reenactment: Battle of Gonzales, The Lexington of Texas, <i>Narrated by Jack Ayoub</i>
12:30 PM	Art Show Awards
1:00 PM	BBQ Cook-off Judging begins
2:00 PM	Battle Reenactment: Battle of the Alamo, <i>Narrated by Jack Ayoub</i>
2:30 PM	LIVE Music - Roy Solis
4:00 PM	Battle Reenactment: Battle of San Jacinto, <i>Narrated by Jack Ayoub</i>
4:30 PM	LIVE Music - The Tejano Boys
5:30 PM	BBQ Cook-off Winners Announced



Texas History Symposium 2017

Keynote Speakers

Elizandro Muñoz (*Master of Ceremonies*)

Elizandro Muñoz is an Asst. Professor of History at South Texas College, and an avid historian focusing on south Texas history. He has been recognized with a South Texas College Jaguar Excellence Award for Excellence, and a NISOD Award (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Excellence Award by the University of Texas.

He has served as a consultant for the Teaching American History grant, and a United States Department of Labor Community based Training grant, as a panelist at symposiums at the collegiate level, and featured speaker at museums, and special events.

His love for history and commitment to educational events go beyond the college classroom and to the community. He has been interviewed for several television, radio and newspaper articles focusing on local and Hispanic history. He founded the Border Studies Club at South Texas College, an award winning organization that brought historical and educational events including living history events, and invited speakers throughout south Texas. The Border Studies Club was recognized by a United States Congressman and a Texas Senator for the

work in recognizing Dr. Hector P. Garcia's contributions as an American Civil Rights leader. Elizandro Muñoz led the effort to erect a larger than life bust of Dr. Garcia in Mercedes, Texas.

Elizandro is proud to be a founding Board Member of THICA (Texas Heritage Independence Celebration Association) and the work it does in promoting Texas / Tejano history.

Dr. Joseph Chance

Dr. Joseph Chance earned a PhD in mathematics at UT in Austin in 1974 and has taught at Pan American College from 1969-2005 where he served as chairman of the math department for 12 years. He wrote a Texas history column in the Valley Morning Star, "History by Chance" and has authored 10 books: 2 of which were self-published and 8 that were published by the University press that included "The Regimental History in the War between the States and the Mississippi Rifles led by Jefferson Davis in the Mexican-American War". Dr. Chance's great-great-grandfather came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin and became a Mexican citizen, making Chance a true Mexican-American.

Sergio Gonzales

Sergio Gonzalez is a bilingual teacher at Brownsville Independent School District. He was born on October 23, 1966 in Mexico City, and came to the United States



Texas History Symposium 2017

Keynote Speakers

in 1993. He attended and graduated from the University of Texas-Brownsville and is a Certified Translator and Interpreter. He is an amateur photographer and has six years of experience as a re-enactor. Sergio lives in Brownsville with his lovely wife, Gabriela, and their three children: Daniela, Rebecca and Mauricio.

Leonel (Leo) Lopez

Leo Lopez is a life-long resident of Edinburg, Texas. He graduated from St. Anthony Catholic High School (San Antonio) and received a B. A. Degree in Social Studies from Pan American College(Edinburg) in 1966.

After college, he spent 2 years in the Peace Corps in Barranquilla, Colombia(S.A.) where, with the Colombian Red Cross, set-up the first lifeguard team on a public Colombian Caribbean beach and Physical Education.

After the Peace Corps, he taught in the Edinburg CISD schools for 32 years teaching elementary P.E., coaching tennis and outdoor and environmental education. He attended continuing graduate classes in conservation and environment education classes at Texas A&M and Kingsville A&I. In 1982, he was awarded the Texas Environmental and Conservation Teacher of the Year by the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Texas.

Leo works with and teaches at the annual Texas Outdoor Education Workshop every year and was president (1988) of the Texas Outdoor Education Association.

Retired since 2000, he does presentations on Native American history and culture, primitive skills and crafts for the outdoor workshop, college programs, schools, teachers, museums and cultural events.

Manuel Hinojosa

Manuel Hinojosa has spent the last 25 years documenting the Ancient Camino Real, starting in



Guanajuato, Mexico and crossing into Texas at Eagle Pass to the battle grounds of San Jacinto. At San Jacinto, he was part of the 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2008 archeological teams funded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grants to dig up battlefield artifacts that helped interpret the last battle for Texas Independence. At the 2009 Battle San Jacinto Symposium, he was a feature speaker, presenting findings of the latest Archeological investigation of the battle site. He also participated in 2001 in the archeology investigation at the Fannin Battleground State Historic Park and various archeological surveys at the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park. He appeared in the Discovery Channel's hour long documentary "Unsolved History, The Alamo".

Manuel Hinojosa FAIA grew up in Mission and currently resides in Port Isabel, Texas. He earned his B.A. in Art at Pan American University and degree in Architecture at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Manuel recently advanced to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Manuel is a partner with ROFA Architects in McAllen.

Pan de Campo

Old fashioned dish is official state bread of Texas

It's a little known fact that Pan de Campo is the official state bread of Texas.

After San Benito's Annual Texas Independence Day Celebration, chances are those who attend the event won't forget it.

Often baked in a cast iron Dutch oven over a mesquite fire, Pan de Campo, or camp bread, is a round loaf of bread about the diameter of the Dutch oven in which it was baked and about an inch and a half or two inches thick.

Heralded for its flavor and texture, Pan de Campo has become such a mainstay in Texan/ Mexican/ Tejano culture that there are often

festivals and celebrations specifically themed just for the bread.

This was also the case in San Benito at one point, when

Pan de Campo festivals near the Berta Cabaza

Elementary School campus were once

held. Although these festivals have

not been held in three years,

the event once attracted

not just Pan de Campo

bakers but a plethora

of other interesting

exhibitors. There

were those who

also displayed

bows and arrows

of the time and

instructed on how

to craft them, not to

mention people who

portrayed 18th century

handymen and the tools

once used.

Now for the second consecutive year,

those who attend the Texas Independence Day

Celebration in San Benito will get the opportunity

to taste the camp bread. Last year, attendees flocked first to

the Pan de Campo site before witnessing any other display

or exhibit - a true testament to the tasty bread's allure and

deliciousness.

Those who do not want to take the class approach, and

for those who don't want to cheat by baking it in their kitchen

oven, Pan de Campo can also be fried or cooked in a lidded

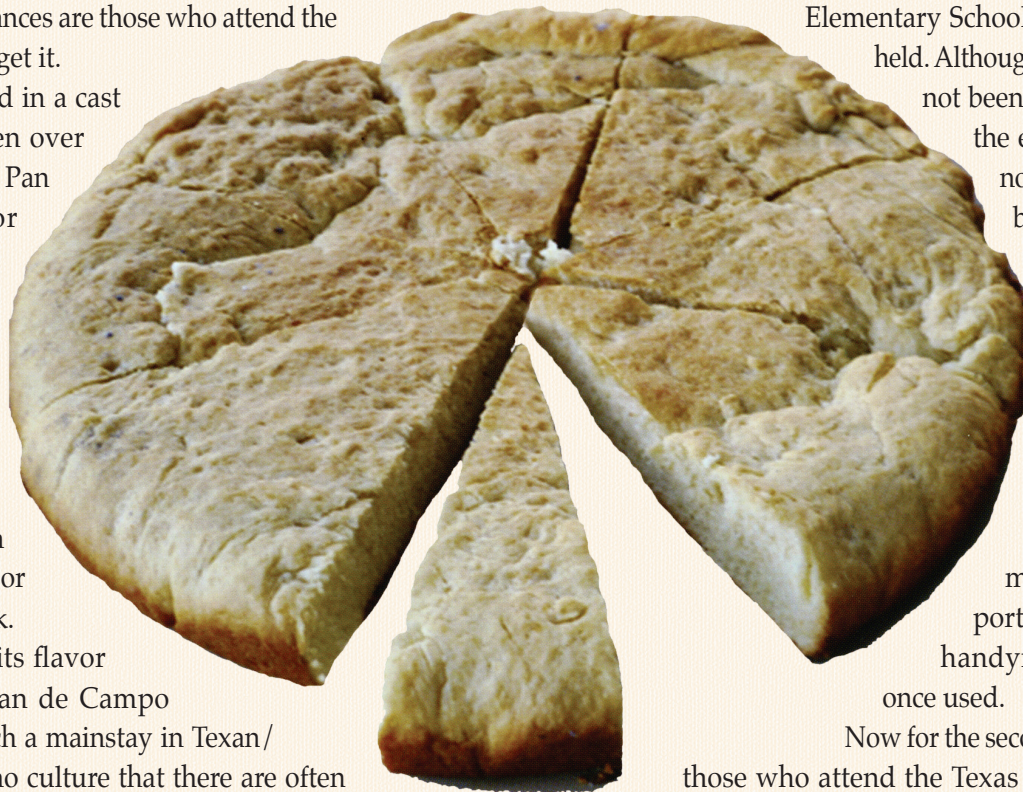
skillet. In fact, it's been known that one can also wrap the

dough around a long wooden stick and cook it over a coal

fire.

However, it has been argued by some that baking the Pan

de Campo in a cast iron Dutch oven gives it a moist texture.





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(Pan de Campo image courtesy of Lori Falcon of MyWoodenSpoon.com)

Pan de Campo Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

5 oz Evaporated Milk
4 lb bag of flour (*I recommend King Arthur*)
4 cups buttermilk biscuit mix
1 tsp salt
3/4 cup baking powder
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup lard or 1 large stick butter flavored Crisco

DIRECTIONS:

Mix all ingredients in a BIG bowl and let rest for about 20 minutes. Pinch off enough to roll out a 12" circle about 1/4" thick. Grease your dutch oven and place one dough circle inside dutch oven. Cook 15 minutes with coals on both top and bottom, then remove from bottom coals and cook another five minutes with coals on top to brown the camp bread. This recipe makes at least eight 12" pans worth.



(Pan de Campo images and recipe courtesy of Lori Falcon of MyWoodenSpoon.com)



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Blas Herrera, the Paul Revere of Texas

by Jack Ayuob

Lost and forgotten in the popular history of Texas, Captain Juan Seguin and his Tejano soldiers fought for Texas against Mexico during the Texas war for independence. These brave and heroic soldiers were infantry, cavalry, scouts, guides, guards, messengers, spies and food foragers.

These Tejano vaqueros were the best qualified for any military service that Texas required of them, but the one Tejano that Seguin always depended on for the most dangerous and most important scouting missions was Blas Herrera, the Paul Revere of Texas. Herrera was the son-in-law of Francisco Ruiz, one of the two Tejano patriots from San Antonio who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

There is a letter written by Ruiz to Herrera, asking him to please be very careful on all his scouting missions, because the Mexican Army would surely prosecute him if the truth ever came out. Ruiz's letter did not specify what the scouting missions were or how many, but in the memoirs of Captain Seguin, there were at least four that we know of.

Herrera's first and most important mission was to patrol the Rio Grande River, south of Laredo, for Mexican General Santa Ana and his army on their march to San Antonio. According

to one account, two Indians rode with Herrera and sneaked into the Mexican camp. They would cut the ropes and reins to the horses at night to scatter them over the country side. Herrera and his two Indians also burned a bridge to slow down the Mexican soldiers.



The rest of Herrera's story will be told along with Captain Seguin and his Tejanos, as well as the rest of our brave Texas heroes, who fought together and died together for Texas Independence, on Saturday, March 11th, 2017 at the San Benito Fairgrounds at 11:00am. The public is invited to watch our re-enactors take us back to the Battle of the Alamo, the Battle of San Jacinto, and the Battle of Gonzales (the Lexington of

Texas) with their gun powder loading flint lock muskets and their cannons. The public is also invited to participate in the re-signing of the names of our 59 Texas and Tejano patriots to the Texas Declaration of Independence, just like our heroes did at the Washington-on-the-Brazos on a near freezing day on March 2nd, 1836. Viva Tejas y vivan los Tejanos.

Stephen Fuller Austin

by Vanessa Garcia

Stephen Fuller Austin was born November 3, 1793 in the mining region of Virginia. He was the son of Moses Austin and Maria (Brown) Austin. The family later moved to Missouri for the prosperous mining business. He would later be known as an American empresario and the “Father of Texas”. At age eleven, Stephen was sent to school for education and later studied law.

His father, Moses Austin, was working on getting a land grant to have 300 settlers colonize in the land now known as Texas today. Moses Austin traveled to San Antonio to request the land grant and was given 200,000 acres. He later died before he could finish this task. During Moses’s last days of life, his wife, Stephen’s mother, wrote to Stephen pleading for his return home to carry out his

father’s dream. Stephen reluctantly returned home to continue his father’s work. Although Austin was not content returning home to fulfill his father’s work. He worked hard and gave his best to bring life to Texas, as his father had dreamed.

Austin immediately began to work on getting the settlers over to Tejas and was already meeting resistance from the Mexican government, as he will soon learn that this trouble will continue until the independence of Texas from the Mexican government. The Mexican government promptly refused to acknowledge the land grant in Austin’s possession because it had been granted under Spanish rule. He traveled to Mexico and promptly was able to resolve the problem using skillful diplomacy and became the colony’s empresario. This position became a challenging one for Austin. He became the middle man for his colony’s and the Mexican government. He was also directly responsible for infrastructure of the colony whether it be law, social, or engineering aspects.

Austin believed in the Mexican government and always

wanted to work with them as diplomatically as possible although the settlers did not agree. He felt he could manage to work with the Mexican government for limited control which would also allow for separation of church and state. Austin and his colonists also would look to have separation of their state so that Tejas could be become independent.



The Mexican government later would limit American impact over Tejas by outlawing further American immigration to the area. Although, Austin could continue to bring American immigrants into Tejas by a loophole, he would bring resentment from the Mexican government and his colonists would still feel the animosity toward the Mexican government.

Austin met with the Mexican President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Although the President lifted the law against American immigration, he outright refused to acknowledge the constitution proposed by the colonist to allow Texas to become its own state. With this, he imprisoned Austin under suspicion of trying to provoke rebellion in Texas.

Once Austin was released from the Mexican jail on July 1835, he joined the movement for Texas independence. On October 1, 1835, the Battle at Gonzales broke out allowing Austin to continue his drive for independence of Texas from Mexico. Here he led the command on the attack at San Antonio on Mexican troops lead by Juan Seguin. He was the commander of the first “Texan” army, which were all volunteers from his colonies. He was the first to bring these settlers over to Texas. He later would travel to Washington to seek military support and annexation of Texas by the United States as a commissioner.

Reenactors depict Texas Independence

The sounds of firing muskets and cannon blasts fill the air each year during the month of March in San Benito as part of the annual Texas Independence Celebration.

Battle skirmishes and reenactments by living historians detail the Battle of the Alamo, Siege of Béxar and finally the final clash, the Battle of San Jacinto, where Texas was born as a republic, free from Mexico.

Reenactors staged as both Texan and Mexican soldiers dress in period attire, ride on horseback and marched

in make-shift formation for the battles. Defenders at the Alamo readied their muskets and cannon in anticipation of the looming battle. Many crouched behind the fortified wooden walls and hay bales, watching the Mexican troops in crisp blue coats moving towards them.

Founded in 2007, Texas Heritage & Independence Celebration Association, Inc., (THICA), produces Texas Independence Day. The organization is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Texas, from the natives who first settled here to the numerous flags that have flown over Texas.

The group works to bring the story of the Alamo to life in celebration of Texas Independence Day. The San Benito community comes together in an effort to remember the bravery of the Texans and Tejanos for our independence.

It was on March 2, 1836, when Texas severed ties with Mexico and became a free and independent republic, when at the Town of Washington, 59 representatives voted into existence a sovereign nation: the Republic of Texas. Both Anglo and Tejano delegates declared to the world that they were different: Neither Mexican or American, but to be known as Texians.



Independence Celebration in San Benito

The Independence Day reenactments honor the independent spirit of those early Texans and the sacrifices made for the independence that was won at the Battle of San Jacinto where the battle cry that day was “Remember the Alamo” and “Remember Goliad”; The battle lasted only 18 minutes and ended with the unconditional surrender of General Santa Anna to General Sam Houston in a victory that secured Texas’ Independence.

We honor the heroes of the Texas Revolution such as Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Barrett Travis; and we honor the influential Tejanos such as Jose Antonio Navarro, Gregorio Esparza, and Juan Seguin who proudly risked death with the other signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

An emotional portrayal of the Battle of the Alamo over the years has been performed for increasingly large number of spectators coming from across the Valley to witness the historic depiction. In one performance, the audience watched in disbelief, and awed silence, as Davy Crockett was executed. In apparent disbelief at seeing the legendary hero gunned-down, the crowd remained reverently silent until the announcer asked for applause for the reenactors.

The reenactors themselves come from across the Valley, and sometimes across the state, to participate in the memorable events.

Event moderator described the scene where the defenders were holed-up in the Alamo in preparation for the advancing Mexican troops under the command of

Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

“The general ordered that no prisoners would be taken, which only deepened the resolve of the Alamo defenders to fight to the end,” moderator said.

The event has grown significantly over the years, moving from Plaza de San Benito on Stenger Street, to the San Benito Fairgrounds to accommodate side attractions and a more appropriate area to support an increasing audience base.

In recent years, the organizers have added a sanctioned cook-off for a variety of dishes, an art show is featured and arts/crafts/corporate vendors join with

food concessions to service the attendees.

THICA endeavors to retell these stories and honor the memory of those who came before us, shaping the Texas we enjoy today. Texas Heritage & Independence Celebration Association, Inc., (THICA), helps educate and celebrate Texas culture and to encourage participation by promoting the history of our state through symposiums and community events that recreate this area’s rich and colorful history.

For more information, please contact visit our website at www.happybirthdaytexas.com.





The Battles for Independence

THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

On Feb 23rd, 1836, General Santa Anna and his Mexican Army nearly caught the defenders of the Alamo by surprise, but these brave Texans and Tejanos would hold out for 13 days against impossible odds. As these defenders saw it, the Alamo was the key to the defense of Texas, and were ready to defend their fort rather than surrender

over ran the north wall. Once inside, the Mexican army turned the captured 18-pounder cannon on the southwest corner on the defenders behind the barricaded doors of the Long Barracks and the chapel. Their desperate struggle continued until all the defenders were overwhelmed. By sunrise, the battle of the Alamo had ended, as General Santa

“Remember the Alamo”

to General Santa Anna. Among their leaders were Lieut. Col. William Travis, commander of the Alamo, Col. James Bowie, famed knife fighter, and Davy Crockett, famed frontiersman and former congressman from Tennessee.

The final assault came before daybreak on March 6, 1836, with the calls of “viva Santa Anna and viva Mexico”, on each side of the Alamo. Small arms fire and cannon blasts beat back several attacks, but the 3rd assault finally

Anna entered the compound to survey the bloody scene of his military victory.

While the facts and legends of the Alamo continue to be debated by Texas historians today, there is no doubt that the Battle of the Alamo has come to symbolized a heroic struggle and the supreme sacrifice for freedom and liberty when brave Texans and Tejanos (Texas-born Citizens of Mexican and Spanish ancestry) fought and died together.



“Come and take it.”

THE BATTLE OF GONZALES

In 1835, with tensions rising with the Texans and Tejanos against the central Mexican government of General Santa Anna, the military commander of San Antonio began taking action to disarm the region. When his request for the return of a small cannon from the citizens of Gonzales was refused, Lieut. Francisco Castañeda was dispatched with 100 calvary men to seize it. Lieut. Castañeda and his soldiers were eventually attacked while they were resting at their camp about 7 miles from Gonzales, by Col. John Henry Moore and 150 Texas militia with the battle cry, “Come and take it”. Out numbered and out-gunned, Castañeda ordered his troops back to San Antonio. Although the only casualty of the skirmish was a Mexican soldier, the Battle of Gonzales, sometimes called “the Lexington of Texas”, symbolized the beginning of the Texas War for Independence, on Oct 2nd, 1835.

THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

On April 21st, 1836, General Sam Houston led his 900 Texans and Tejanos to a decisive victory over General Santa Anna and his 1300 Mexican soldiers in just over 18 minutes. Battle cries, such as “Remember the Alamo and Remember Goliad” could be heard all over the battlefield. About 630 Mexican soldiers died and 730 captured, while only 9 Texans died. Santa Anna was captured the following day and held as a prisoner of war. About 3 weeks later, the Mexican general was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco ordering his armies to leave Texas and cross over the Rio Grande River; allowing the Republic of Texas to become established as an independent country.

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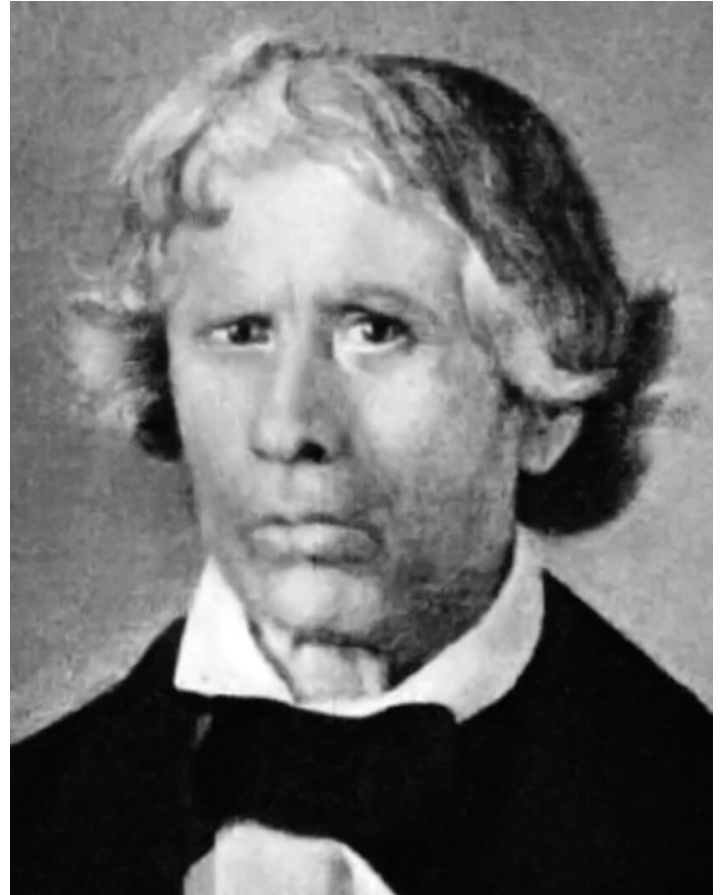
by Jack Ayoub

Jose Cassiano of San Antonio should be remembered and honored for his contributions for the Texas War for Independence. Born Giuseppi Cassini in San Remo, Italy, in 1791, he came to San Antonio in the 1820s and opened a general store. Giuseppi changed his name to Jose Cassiano and married into the prominent Menchaca family. Cassiano became prosperous and bought land and properties around San Antonio.

During the siege and Battle of Bexar (San Antonio) in December 1835, Cassiano gave the Texas army the use of his house for the officers, as well as the supplies in his general store. Financial contributions were also made by Jose for the Texas army. His good friend, Captain Juan Seguin, asked him to spy for the Texas army when he was on his trips to Mexico for supplies. Cassiano soon reported back to Seguin that General Santa Ana's Mexican army was marching to San Antonio. Unfortunately, Lt. Col. Travis did not believe Cassiano's report, but many of Seguin's company of Tejanos did. They asked Travis, their military commander, for permission to leave San Antonio so they could move their families out of harm's way. Reluctantly, Travis granted them permission on the condition that the Tejanos would come back to the Alamo. However, most of them could not get back to the Alamo before General Santa Ana's army encircled the mission. This would explain why there were 160 Tejanos at the Battle of Bexar on December 10-11, 1835, but only eight Tejanos who died at the Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

On June 21, 1836, Thomas J. Rusk, Secretary of War, granted Cassiano general permission to freely cross Texas and the United States for supplies.

Texas won its independence because of the contributions of Tejanos like Jose Cassiano, who was a Tejano by choice, not by birth.



Jose Cassiano

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Patricia DeLeon, the "Mother" of Texas

by Jack Ayoub

Texas history has long forgotten the bravery and courage of Patricia DeLeon, wife of Martin DeLeon, who was the founder of Victoria, Texas. The DeLeon family fought off wild Indians in order to establish their town and ranches, and they soon became prosperous selling cattle, horses, and mules to New Orleans. However, it was Patricia who donated the land to establish a school and a church for the Tejano settlement. After losing Martin to cholera in 1833, Patricia had to contend with the dilemma of Texas Independence in 1836 by herself. Although several of her sons-in-law supported complete Texas independence, Patricia wanted the Mexican Constitution of 1824 to be returned and enforced, but wanted Mexican General Santa Ana defeated first.

Patricia outfitted her son-in-law, Captain Placido Benavides, and his 27 Tejano soldiers, including her son, Salvador, with horses, mules, and military supplies so they could participate in the siege and the Battle of Bexar (San Antonio). Later, Mexican general Jose Urrea would discover food and supplies that were hidden for the Texas army, and had Salvador thrown in jail for his support of the Texas army. After the war, Texas General Thomas Jefferson Rusk would have Patricia and her entire family, including sons-in-law, Captain Placido Benavides and Jose Maria de Jesus Carbaja, who had fought for Texas, evicted from their homes and ranches and had them exiled to New Orleans, for their supposed sympathies for the Mexican government.

About 10 years later, when Texas joined the United States, Patricia decided it was time to return to Victoria and had John Linn, an attorney and fellow Catholic, fight in court to have most of the DeLeon land returned to the



family. Although Jane Long, another pioneering and courageous woman, is considered to be the mother of Texas, she only had to fight off wild Indians. Patricia DeLeon not only fought off wild Indians, she also fought off cattle rustlers, the Mexican Army, and the Texas Army, so many believe she truly has earned the title of "mother of Texas".

Commandancy of the The Alamo
Bejar, Feby. 24th. 1836

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World—

Fellow Citizens & compatriots—

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna — I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man — The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken — I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls — I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch — The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country — Victory or Death.



William Barrett Travis.

Lt. Col. comdt.

P. S. The Lord is on our side — When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn — We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis

The "COME AND TAKE IT" Spirit:

A brief look at the Battle of Gonzales

By Luis H. Loza

The most famous battles of the Texas Revolution are arguably the battle at the Alamo and the Battle at San Jacinto, but the Battle of Gonzales is another battle worth remembering and retelling.

Unlike the battles at the Alamo and San Jacinto, which were clearly defined as direct intentional war conflicts with Mexico for the independence of Texas, the battle that took place in the small town located approximately 75 miles northeast of San Antonio, was a result of failed attempts by the Mexican government to take back a small cannon that had been given to settlers in Dewitt County, which Gonzales served as the capital city.

The six-pound cannon which historian Timothy Todish described as "a small bored gun, good for little more than starting horse races," was given to Gonzales in 1831 in order to help settlers defend themselves against attacks Indian tribes such as the Comanche.

According to historian Stephen Hardin, on September 10, 1835, a Mexican soldier bludgeoned a Gonzales resident, which outraged and public and led to protests. The attack on the Gonzales resident along with political tension caused by Mexican states revolted during the early 1830s, raised fears among Mexican authorities, who came to suspected Texas might want to break away as well. Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea the commander of Mexican forces in Texas began to be suspicious and thought it would be unwise for Mexican government to leave the residents of Dewitt County with the cannon.

Ordered by the Mexican government to avoid using force if possible Col. Ugartechea sent six soldiers to retrieve the cannon. The request was denied. Ugartechea sent 100 soldiers in response. On September 29, news of the Mexican troops approaching the town of Gonzales forced the residents of Dewitt County to use several excuses to keep them from the town and the cannon. One of excuses was demanding Ugartechea be physically present to make the request for the

canon. Tactics such as this one delayed fighting and allowed the Texans to covertly relay messages to surrounding towns for support. During the next two days approximately 140 Texians and Tejanos (Texas-born citizens of Mexican and Spanish ancestry) gathered in Gonzales. With a larger number of volunteers poised to do battle, the Texas settlers voted on October 1 to delay the battle no more.

Although women were excluded from physically participating in the battle, they were still able to contribute in a special way. The women created a home-made flag from a white bed sheet and charcoal which featured the black silhouette of the disputed

canon placed horizontally in the center with the muzzle pointed to the right. A black star was placed above the cannon and the words **COME AND TAKE IT** in capital letters were written below it. The rally cry evoked by the flag led to the controversial piece of artillery to become better known as the Come and Take it Cannon.

Hoping to draw first blood, the Texas fighters

approached the Mexican camp during the early hours of October 2, but they were spotted and the Mexican Army fired at them. After several hours of firing the Mexican troops retreated. According to several historians the skirmish had little military significance; however, the Texans and Tejanos had made their intentions clear with their actions. The war for the Republic of Texas had officially begun, and like the controversial cannon that had led to the Battle of Gonzales, Mexico's Army and its infamous dictator Antonio López de Santa Anna would have to "**COME AND TAKE IT**", by force because they were not going to give up the land without a fight.

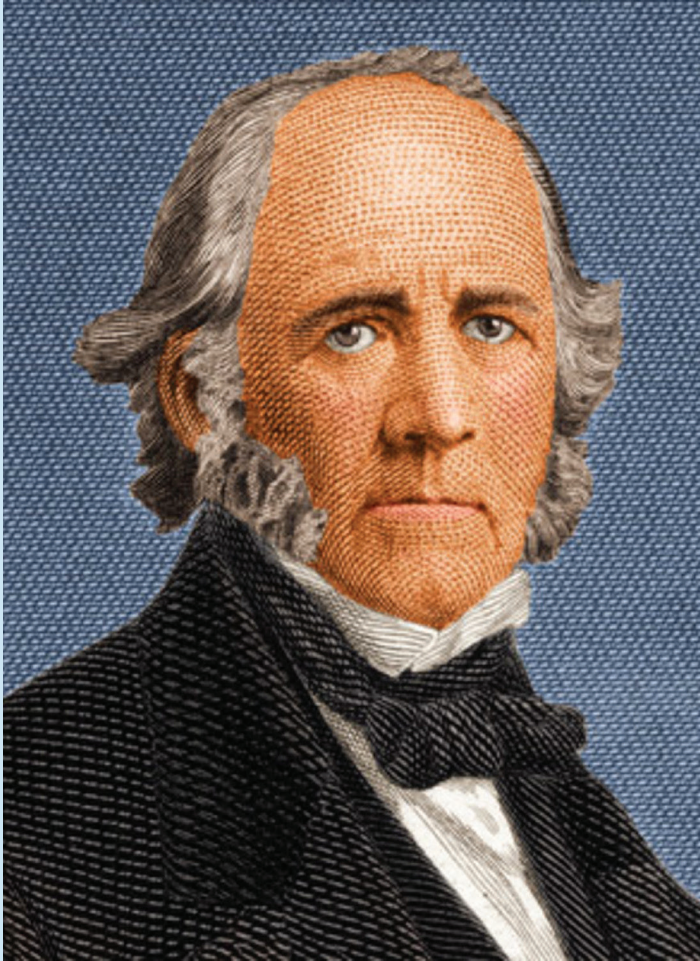
Although the Battle of Gonzales took place more than 180 years ago, the spirit of the colonists and fighters who helped birth the Republic of Texas lives on through the efforts of the proud Tejanos of today.

(Information from various authors and historical sources was used in this article.)



Sam Houston

by Roger Martinez



Sam Houston
'George Washington of Texas'

Sam Houston also known as the 'George Washington of Texas' became a notable political and military figure in the conflict between the United States of America and Mexico. Born in Virginia, Sam Houston, a previous lawyer, and congressman in Tennessee, decided to move to Texas around 1832. His greatest achievements would come to the light of day in the years to come.

Sam Houston was no ordinary man. Educated, well mannered, and a pro-slavery individual would have triggered the radars in the nation's highly prestigious men. Sam Houston served in the war of 1812 and with his outstanding performance and leadership skills captured the eye of no other than General Andrew Jackson. Sam Houston will sometime later become a believer of General Andrew Jackson's political ideas as he represents Tennessee for two full terms.

Sadly, Sam Houston's life was not perfect. Sam Houston was elected by the people of Tennessee to be their governor in 1827. This will eventually come to a sudden end in 1829 as Sam Houston was suffering from his failed marriage. The event caused him to resign from his office. The fact of the matter is that Sam Houston despite being an excellent congressman and an outstanding military figure, people often accused him of a Texan insurrection against the rule of the Mexican. This however, cannot overshadow his accomplishments.

Sam Houston is credited with defeating the Mexican army at San Jacinto, and capture of its commander, Mexican President Santa Anna. Houston then spends the rest of his life in Texas.

History.com Staff. "Sam Houston." History.com. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 02 Feb. 2017.

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-Juan Seguin



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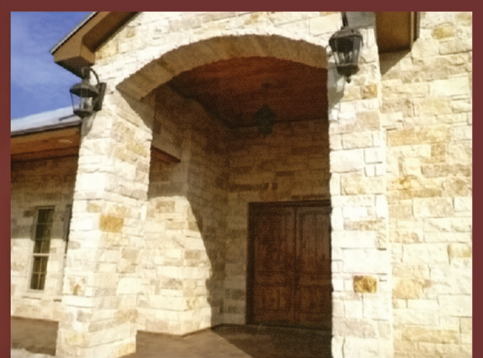
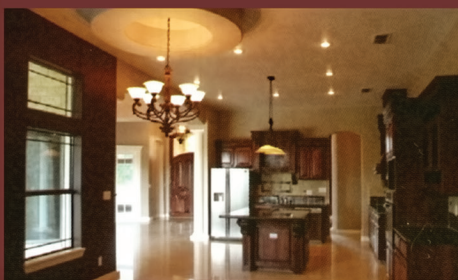


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