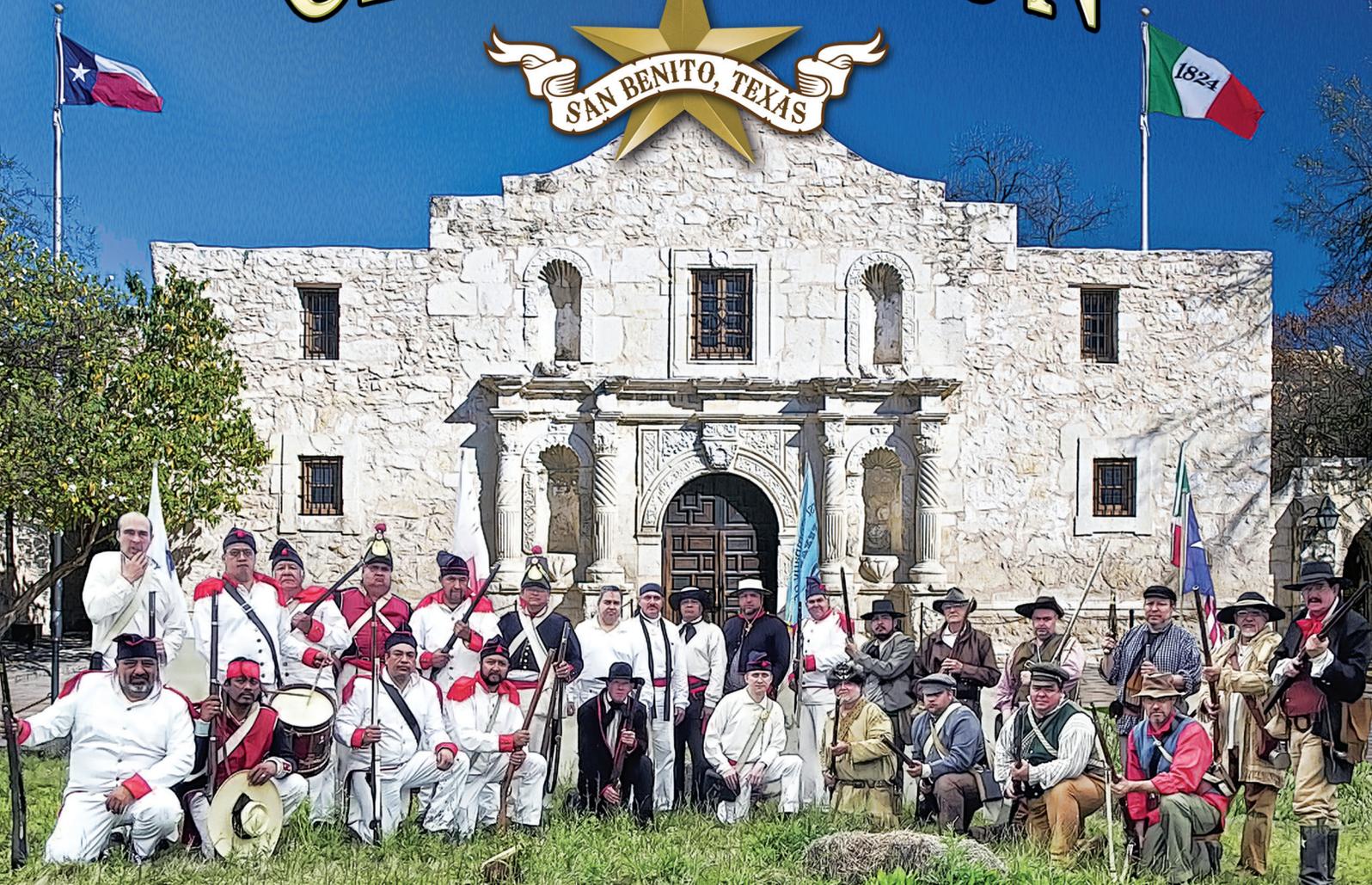


TEXAS INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

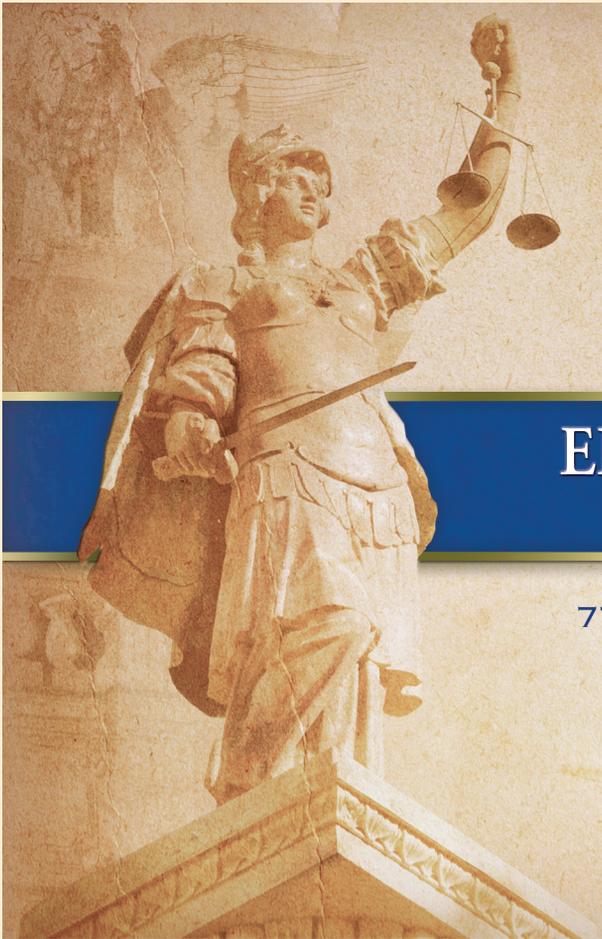


- Symposium
- Cook-Off
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Letter from the President



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Welcome to THICA's 9th Annual Texas Independence Day Celebration and Symposium.

One hundred and eighty years ago, a few volunteers stood against insurmountable odds and an absolute guarantee of death in the face of Mexico under Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana. Those volunteers were not only Texans and Tejanos, but were Mexicans, Americans, Irish, Scots, Germans, English, Natives, Africans, Italians, Spaniards, etc. These settlers were as diverse as any group that could be gathered today. They were farmers, bankers, ranchers, traders, soldiers, clergy, frontiersman, lawyers, tailors, and even a few thieves. Texas, for them, was a fresh start, a new beginning, a place to call their own, and where they could live and raise their families on their own terms. A place to live and let live, a place they would have to fight and, for many, die to acquire and conserve.

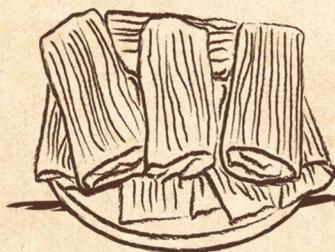
One hundred and eighty years later it is easy to reflect in our minds or on a screen, their struggle without perceiving the very real danger, panic, or fear those Volunteers, those Dreamers, those Lifted Offerings of Texas, bravely endured during the struggle for independence and against tyranny.

It is our hope that we can bring the reality of those sacrifices a bit closer to home during our symposium and our battle reenactments. It is a time to remember those who plunged into the deep end, ran towards the cannon fire, and were willing to give all in order that their children's children would never have to experience those feelings ever again. It is time to celebrate their lives and to celebrate the freedom we enjoy today!

God Bless Texas Forever!

Marco DeLaFuente

President - THICA



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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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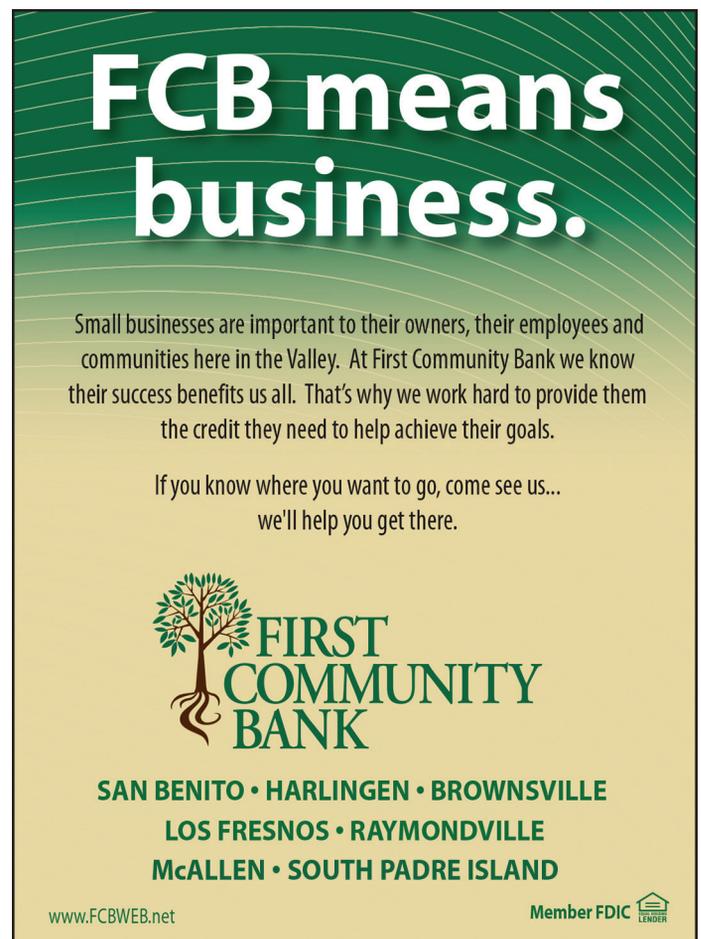


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Texas Independence Day Celebration - 2016 Schedule of Events

March 5 (BeckyJoe's Party Hall)

Symposium Agenda

- 08:00 – 09:00 Registration (Welcome)
- 09:00 – 10:00 Dr. Trinidad Gonzalez
Reflections on Remembering Texas Independence with a New View for Liberation
- 10:00 – 11:00* Mr. Dan Arellano
The French Connection to the Alamo
- 11:00 – 12:00 Dr. Andres Tijerina (Keynote Speaker)
Tejano Patriots in the Wars for Independence
- 12:00 – 1:00 Mr. Jose Antonio Lopez
The First Texas Independence
- 1:00 – 1:30** Dr. Joe Frank Cherry
Cowboy Poetry
- 1:30 – 2:00 Mr. Rickey Pittman (Lunch/Entertainment)
Songs and Stories of Texas
- 2:00 – 3:00* Mr. Manuel Hinojosa
The De La Peña Diary
- 3:00 – 4:00 Mr. Wade Marcum
The Battles of the Texas Revolution

Short Breaks and Lunch** will be scheduled after every second speaker, 11:00*, 1:00**, and 3:00**

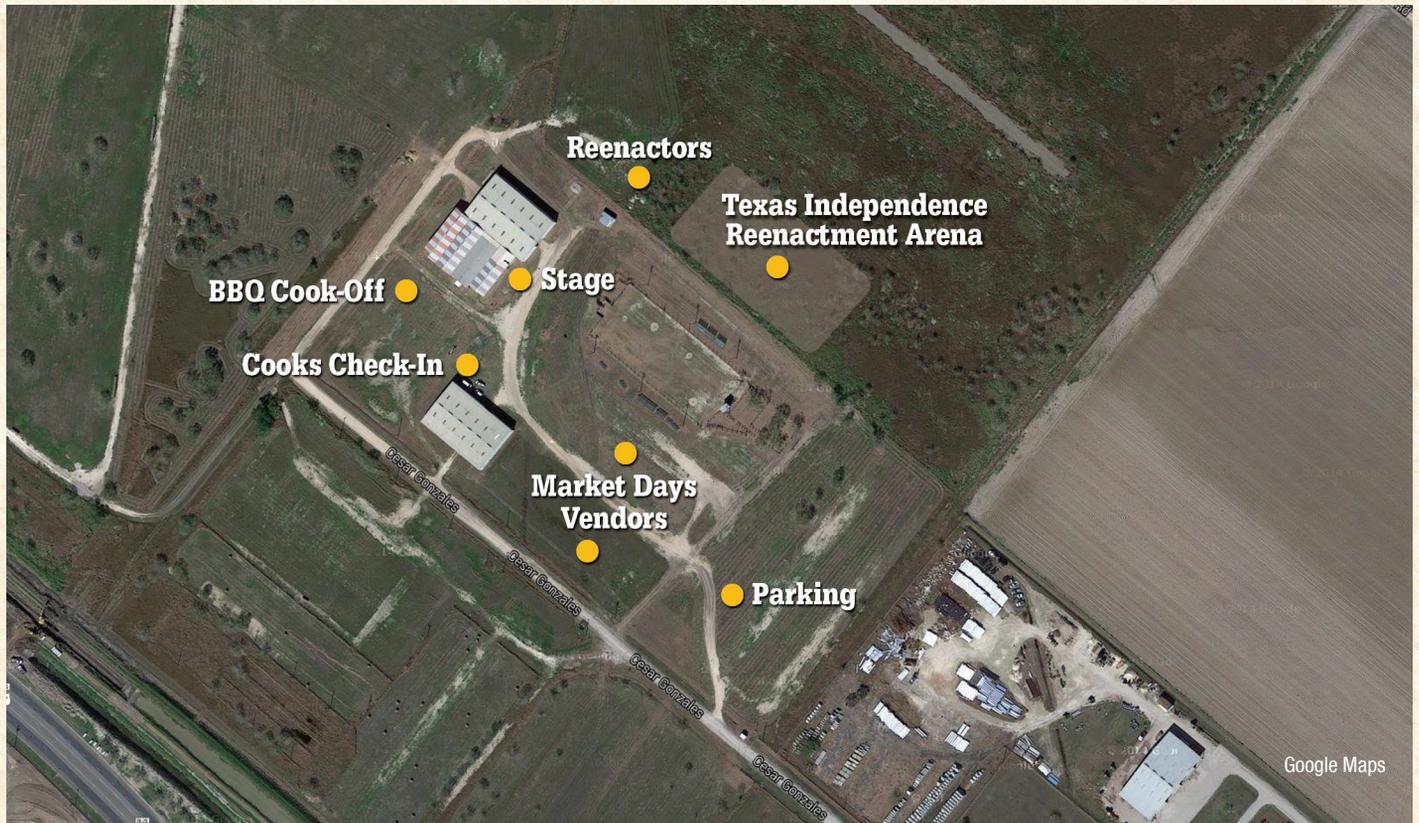
- 5 PM Art Show Awards Assembly

March 11 (Sam Houston Blvd, Batts St. to Rose St)

- 6 PM THICA Parade
- 8 PM Dessert Cook-off Showgrounds

March 12 (San Benito Fairgrounds)

- 8 AM Music - DJ Franko - Cooker's Meeting
- 9 AM San Benito Market Days
- 10 AM ENTERTAINMENT – San Benito High School Flamenco Ensemble
- 11 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
- 11:25 AM Keynote Speaker – Elizandro Muñoz
- 11:30 AM Re-signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence - Public
- 12 PM Battle Reenactment: Battle of Gonzales (The Lexington of Texas), Narrated by Jack Ayoub
- 12:30 PM Festivities – LIVE Music – Roy Solis
- 1:00 PM BBQ Cook-off Judging Begins
- 2:00 PM Battle Reenactment: Battle of The Alamo, Narrated by Jack Ayoub
- 2:30 PM Festivities – LIVE music – The Tejano boys
- 4:00 PM Reenactment: Battle of San Jacinto, Narrated by Jack Ayoub
- 4:30 PM Festivities – DJ Franko
- 5:30 PM BBQ Cook-off Winners Announced



Texas History Symposium 2016

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Andrés Tijerina (*Symposium Keynote Speaker*)

Andrés Tijerina, a native of Ozona, earned his Bachelor's degree from Texas A & M University, Master's from Texas Tech, and Doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. Following teaching stints at Tech, UT Austin, UT San Antonio, and Texas A & M - Kingsville, Dr. Tijerina joined the faculty of ACC and serves with distinction as Professor of History at the Pinnacle Campus.

Dr. Tijerina is the author of *Tejanos and Texas Under the Mexican Flag* and *Tejano Empire: Life on the South Texas Ranchos*. He edited Andrés Saenz's *Early Tejano Ranching In Duval County* and co-edited Elena Zamora O'Shea's novel entitled *El Mesquite*. All four works are available through A & M University Press. Organizations such as the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Texas State Historical Association, and the Texas Historical Commission have officially recognized the significance of such works with the Presidio La Santa Award, the Kate Broocks Bates Award, and the T. R. Fehrenbach Award.

Dr. Tijerina is a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association and an active presenter to gatherings of historians throughout the state. His writings have appeared as chapters, articles, and book reviews in journals ranging from the Southwestern Historical Quarterly to the American Historical Review.

Dr. Trinidad Gonzales

South Texas College history professor Dr. Trinidad Gonzales was elected to the AHA's Council Teaching Division in November, and began his three-year term on Jan. 2, 2014 at the association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Gonzales, helps coordinate the STC Mexican American Studies Program. "It will be an opportunity to be involved in conversations related to the field of history that AHA engages in throughout the year."

Dr. Gonzales' leadership role within the division will include being involved in policy-making decisions for the AHA and providing standards for the profession of history, and to advocate for the highest degree of respect for the importance of history to the nation's educational policy makers.

Dr. Gonzales earned his doctorate from the University of Houston and received a Center for Mexican American Studies Graduate Fellowship and a Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship. His areas of research include Borderlands, Chicana/o, and Civil Rights histories, specializing in early 20th century Lower Rio Grande Valley history. Dr. Gonzales' most recent publication

is "The Mexican Revolution, Revolución de Texas, Matanza de 1915," in *War Along the Border: The Mexican Revolution and Tejano Communities*, edited by Arnolde de León and published in 2012.

Dr. Joe Frank Cherry

Dr. Joe Cherry was born in Dale County Alabama. His goal from about 6 years old was to join the Army and go to Texas. Dr. Cherry served 20 years in the military. Seven (7) of those years he served in the great state of Texas. Dr. Cherry received 2 meritorious service awards as well as winning numerous other awards as a shooter on the rifle and piston teams at various assignments. In addition, Dr. Cherry has been a member of Mensa since 1977.

Dr. Cherry obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree and graduated as the distinguished honor graduate in 1977. In 1988 he obtained his doctor's degree and graduated with the honor of Cum Laude. Dr. Cherry was fortunate to attend 10 various colleges and universities.

Dr. Cherry is a member of the white water long rifles. He has done numerous reenactments in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. He also enjoys the art reciting cowboy poetry.

Elizandro Muñoz (*Celebration Keynote Speaker*)

Elizandro Muñoz earned a M.A. in history and has been an assistant professor of history at South Texas College, where he has been recognized with a South Texas College Jaguar Excellence Award and an NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Excellence Award. Mr. Muñoz always volunteers with various organizations that promote, preserve, and celebrate history and is proud to be a founding member of THICA (Texas Heritage and Celebration Association, Inc.) serving as vice chair of our committee. While helping the Harlingen Heritage Day Event to become established, he became associated with military re-enactors and with the Bear Clan Indian Tribe with their 30 foot teepee that would become our foundation for the Texas Independence Day Celebration in San Benito. On March 7th, Mr. Muñoz will be one of the featured Texas history speakers at the Texas History Symposium at the San Benito School District building with his topic, "Early Spanish Ranches in Texas".

Wade Marcum

Wade Marcum was born and raised in central Indiana. At a young age, he showed an interest in history and spent his

summers visiting battlefields across the eastern US and working at airshows with the CAF. After graduating high school, he attended Purdue University and studied Aviation Technology. Realizing that this was not where his heart truly was, Wade left Purdue and moved back to his hometown. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as an Airborne Infantryman with the 1/325 AIR of the 82nd Airborne Division. After meeting a beautiful girl from south Texas, he married and moved to the Rio Grande Valley. After much consideration, Wade went back to school and upon finishing his Bachelor's Degree in Education, Wade taught 8th grade US History for 12 years until recently taking the position of Executive Director at the Weslaco Museums.

Wade has had a passion for military history since he was very young. Family vacations were often centered around visiting US battlefields, and he has visited many throughout his lifetime and studied the causes, tactics, and effects of these struggles on our history. He is very involved in Living History especially the years prior to the 1890's, has worked on several History Channel funded documentaries, as well as working on the upcoming WGN series "Underground." Wade enjoys riding his Harley-Davidson, horseback riding, collecting and shooting military firearms, as well as attending Living History encampments with his friends and family.

Dan Arellano

Dan Arellano has been an activist for almost 40 years. He was a member of the Austin Optimist Club for 25 years and is a past president. He was a member for seven years and president of the Tejano Genealogy Society for three years. He is a current member of the Bexareno Genealogy Society. He has testified twice before the State Board of Education and was successful in having the Battle of Medina and the First Texas Republic adopted and is now in the curriculum to be taught in the 7th grade. He is also a professional actor appearing in Machete Kills along side Cuba Gooding Jr., in a speaking role. He is also the Co-Host of the Eddie Arevalo Spotlite TV Show. He is currently lecturing on Tejano History at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum in Austin.

He has been preserving Tejano History by doing the living reenactment of the Battle of Medina in Losoya Texas for 9 years and also the First Texas Republic which was founded by our Tejano ancestors under the leadership of Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara on April 6, 1813 which is now formally recognized in House Resolution 709 approved by the 83rd Texas State Legislature. He is also the President of The Battle of Medina Historical Society whose mission is to protect, preserve and promote Tejano History.

Jose Antonio (Joe) Lopez

Mr. José Antonio (Joe) López was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. USAF Veteran. Served over 37 years in military / Federal Service.

He is a direct descendant of Don Javier Uribe, one of the earliest families that settled in what is now South Texas in 1750. He is married to the former Cordelia Jean "Cordy" Dancause of Laredo. He and his wife reside in Universal City, TX. They have one daughter, Brenda Jo. Mr. López is a Martin High School graduate, Class of 1962. He has college degrees from Laredo Jr. College and Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. He earned a Master's Degree in Education.

He is the author of four books: *"The Last Knight (Don Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara Uribe, A Texas Hero)"*, *"Nights of Wailing, Days of Pain (Life in 1920s South Texas)"*, *"The First Texas Independence, 1813"*, and *"Preserving Early Texas History (Essays of an Eighth Generation South Texan)"*.

Manuel Hinojosa

Born and raised in Edinburg Texas, Manuel is a graduate of Pan American in Edinburg, Texas with a degree in Art in 1974. Afterwards he attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana (University of Louisiana Lafayette) where he received a Bachelor of Architecture in 1977. In 2004, The American Institute of Architects elevated Manuel Hinojosa to Fellow of the AIA. The post nominal designation of Fellow is bestowed on him for making outstanding contributions to the profession through design excellence, contributions in the field of architectural education, or to the advancement of the profession. As a licensed Architect with 30 years of educational facility design and experience and after serving as a City Manager in the Cities of San Benito and Port Isabel, his passion for historically significant buildings has led to a variety of restoration projects in South Texas. The list includes Port Isabel's Champion Mercantile Store Restoration, Historical City of Roma Plaza and Visitors Center, La Lomita Chapel, Mission, Our Lady of Visitation Restoration at Santa Maria and the San Juan Hotel. Yet, his lifelong interest in history and culture has led him into the research of the story of the Mexican Soldado.

Rickey Pittman

Rickey Pittman, the Bard of the South, is a native of Dallas. He travels extensively through East and South Texas with his historical presentation of "Songs & Stories of Texas." This award winning author, storyteller, and songwriter has published twelve books and four music CDs. Pittman is passionate about Texas history, and through his songs and important but often forgotten stories of Texas, he brings Texas history to life.

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

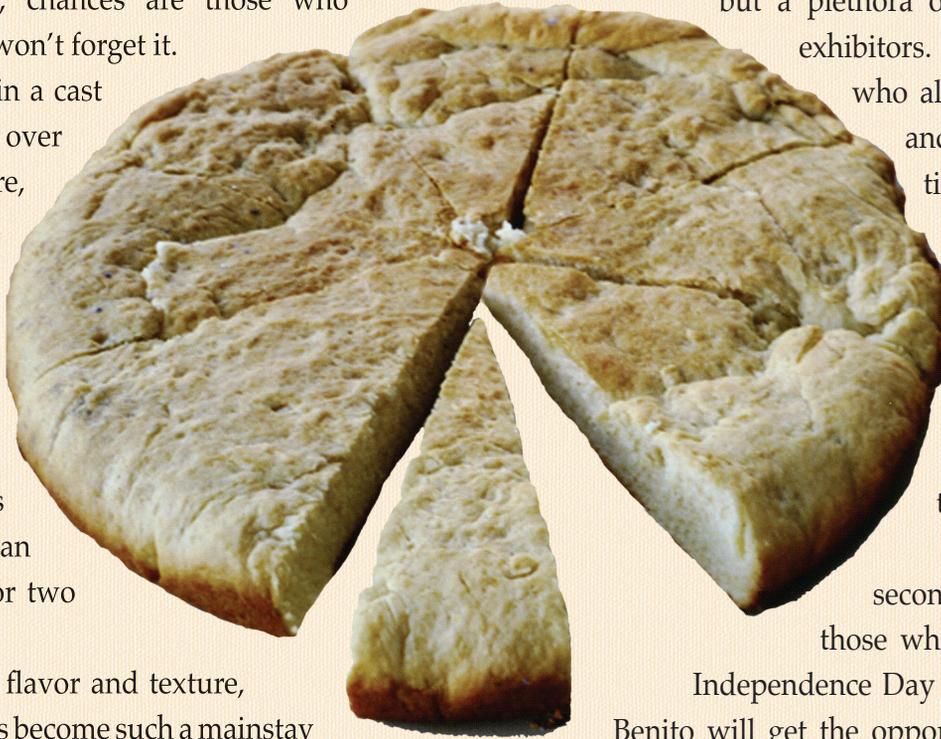
who also displayed bows and arrows of the time and instructed on how to craft them, not to mention people who portrayed 18th century handymen and the tools once used.

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.



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

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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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THICA Youth Representatives



L-R: Seth Rodriguez, Galec Lopez, Elisa Fernandez, Roger Diaz, Chelsea Rodriguez, Alexis Piña Garcia, Danielle Susa, Richard Flores, Isaias Hernandez, Amanda Villafranca

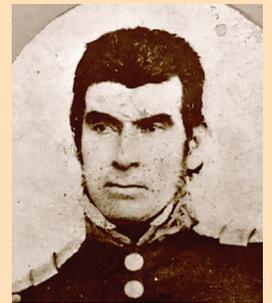


Isaias Hernandez

José de Urrea

by Isaias Hernandez

Serving directly under Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna during the Mexican Revolution, José de Urrea was a Mexican general renowned for his role in the Goliad Campaign of 1836, in which his Mexican forces were tasked with retaking the Texas Gulf Coast from the Texian Army. De Urrea completed this campaign with a stunning victory, as his forces never suffered defeat at any point in the war. He also managed to earn the Mexican Army's first victory of the revolution at the Battle of San Patricio. Here, 43 Texian soldiers were planning an assault on Matamoros, but were ambushed by de Urrea's 200 Mexican troops, who had traveled from Matamoros and followed the Texians. After a victory at the Battle of Coleto, de Urrea had successfully forced 400 Texian soldiers to surrender to the Mexicans. With de Urrea temporarily absent from the battlefield, Santa Anna ordered the execution of the captive Texians, resulting in what is known as the Goliad Massacre.



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Jose Francisco Ruiz

by Jack Ayoub

Texas history has long forgotten another Tejano hero, Jose Francisco Ruiz, one of the 59 Texas patriots who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2nd, 1836. Ruiz would serve Texas as an educator, a city civil servant, a legal advisor, a military officer, a public servant in the Senate, as well as a Texas patriot.

In 1803, he was San Antonio's head school master was elected to the city council in 1805. Later, in 1809, his duties would soon include being the city attorney, administering the legal affairs of the city. His long military career started when he joined the Bexar (San Antonio) Provincial Militia on January 14, 1811, with the rank of Lieutenant. Several years later, he joined the Republican

Army at Bexar and took part in the Battle of Medina for independence from Spain on August 18, 1813. With the defeat of the revolutionaries by the Spanish General Joaquin Arredondo, he and his nephew, Jose Antonio Navarro, would live in Louisiana until there was a general amnesty for the Ruiz family in 1822.

With his long exile ended, Ruiz returned to Texas and

was appointed to the Mounted Militia, where he took an active part in negotiating a peace treaty with the Lipan Indians in Mexico City in September of 1822. Eventually, Ruiz would be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and be given a command at Fort Tenoxtitlan in Texas in 1832



to prevent any further American colonization. After retiring from military service, he later joined the Texas cause for liberty and traveled to Washington-on-the-Brazos, along with his nephew, Jose Antonio Navarro, as delegates from San Antonio, to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Ruiz's life and contributions for Texas independence will be honored and remembered at the Annual Texas

Independence Day Celebration at the San Benito Fair Grounds on Saturday, March 12th, 2016. At the opening of the event, all the visitors will be asked to re-sign the Texas Declaration of Independence with the names of our 59 Texas patriots, and who will want to personally re-sign Jose Francisco Ruiz's signature to this famous document, just like this Tejano patriot did, 180 years ago.

Reenactors depict Texas Independence

By Martha McClain

First published in "Our Hometown Magazine"
- Summer 2015

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.

Jack Ayoub, former chairman of THICA, said the group works to bring the story of the Alamo to life in celebration of Texas Independence Day. "We worked together for a community effort of San Benito to remember the bravery of the Texans and Tejanos for our independence," said Ayoub.

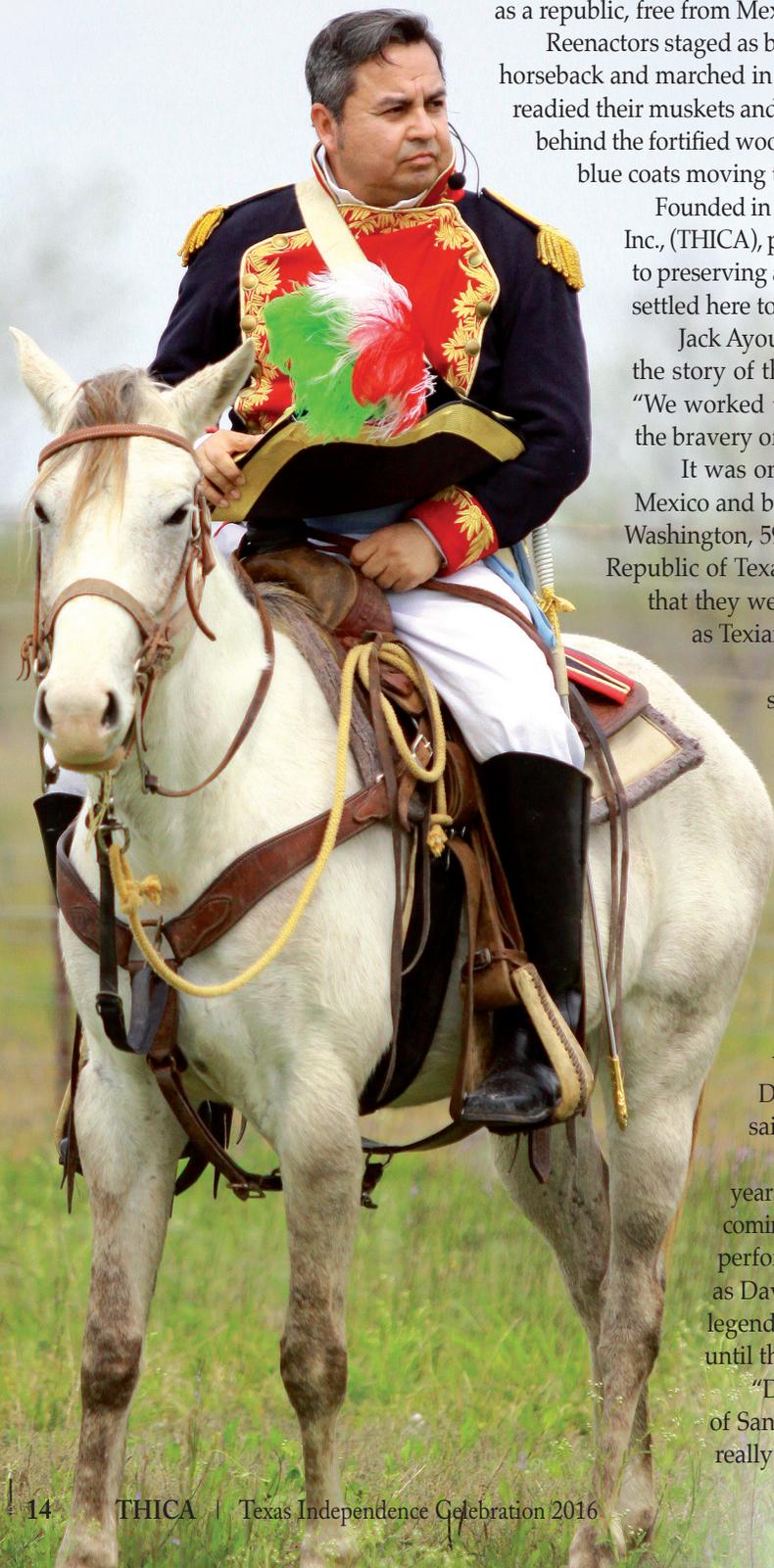
It was on March 2, 1836, Ayoub said, when Texas severed ties with Mexico and became a free and independent republic, when at the Town of Washington, 59 representatives voted into existence a sovereign nation: the Republic of Texas. "Both Anglo and Tejano delegates declared to the world that they were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

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, Ayoub said.

"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," Ayoub, an avid Texas historian said.

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.

"Davy Crockett really was captured and executed on the order of Santa Anna," he said. "This is a time every year we learn what really happened. It's part of our education."



Independence Celebration in San Benito



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

Event moderator Wade Markum 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," Markum 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. It is their mission of Texas Heritage & Independence Celebration Association, Inc., (THICA), is to 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.

Officers of the organization include President & Director of Communications Marco DeLaFuente; Vice-President & Director of Operations Leticia Gonzalez; Secretary Anabeth Molina-Cordova; Treasurer Sheryl Ackerman; Director of Living History Ruben Cordova and Director of Education Elizandro Muñoz.

For more information, please contact Marco DeLaFuente at delafuente.marco@yahoo.com or Leticia Gonzalez at lettyg022@aol.com.





The Battles for Independence

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 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 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 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



“Come and take it.”

THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

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 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.

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.

“Remember the Alamo”

UNANIMOUS

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

BY THE

DELEGATES OF THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS,

IN GENERAL CONVENTION,

AT THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON,

ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1836.

When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted; and so far from being a guarantee for their inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression. When the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted Federal Republic, composed of Sovereign States, to a consolidated Central Military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the ever ready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants. When, long after the spirit of the constitution has departed, moderation is at length so far lost by those in power, that even the semblance of freedom is removed, and the forms themselves of the constitution discontinued, and so far from their petitions and remonstrances being regarded, the agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons, and mercenary armies sent forth to force a new government upon them at the point of the bayonet.

When, in consequence of such acts of maleficence and abduction on the part of the government, anarchy prevails and civil society is dissolved into its original elements, in such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of self preservation, the inherent and inalienable right of the people to appeal to first principles, and take their political affairs into their own hands in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right towards themselves and a sacred obligation to their posterity to abolish such government, and create another in its stead, calculated to rescue them from impending dangers, and to secure their welfare and happiness.

Nations, as well as individuals, are amenable for their acts to the public opinion of

mankind. A statement of a part of our grievances is therefore submitted to an impartial world, in justification of the hazardous but unavoidable step now taken, of severing our political connection with the Mexican people, and assuming an independent attitude among the nations of the earth.

The Mexican Government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America.

In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez Santa Ana, who having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers, as the cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyrannies, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood.

It hath sacrificed our welfare to the state of Coahuila, by which our interests have been continually depressed through a jealous and partial course of legislation, carried on at a far distant seat of government, by a hostile majority in an unknown tongue, and this too, notwithstanding we have petitioned in the humblest terms for the establishment of a separate state government, and have, in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution, presented to the general congress a republican constitution, which was, without a just cause, contemptuously rejected.

It incarcerated in a dungeon, for a long time, one of our citizens, for no other cause but a zealous endeavour to procure the acceptance of our constitution and the establishment of a state government.

It has failed and refused to secure, on a

firm basis, the right of trial by jury, that palladium of civil liberty and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

It has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources, (the public domain;) and although it is an axiom in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self government.

It has suffered the military commandants, stationed among us, to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny, thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizen, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.

It has dissolved, by force of arms, the state congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the seat of government, thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.

It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to seize and carry them into the interior for trial, in contempt of the civil authorities, and in defiance of the laws and the constitution.

It has made piratical attacks upon our commerce by commissioning foreign desperadoes, and authorizing them to seize our vessels and convey the property of our citizens to far distant parts for confiscation.

It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a National Religion, calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God.

It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defence—the rightful property of freemen—and formidable only to tyrannical governments.

It has invaded our country both by sea and by land, with the intent to lay waste our

territory, and drive us from our homes; and has now a large mercenary army advancing, to carry on against us a war of extermination.

It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless savage, with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenceless frontiers.

It has been, during the whole time of our connection with it, the contemptible sport and victim of successive military revolutions, and hath continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt, and tyrannical government.

These, and other grievances, were patiently borne by the people of Texas, until they reached that point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defence of the National Constitution. We appealed to our Mexican brethren for assistance: our appeal has been made in vain; though months have elapsed, no sympathetic response has yet been heard from the interior. We are therefore forced to the melancholy conclusion, that the Mexican people have acquiesced in the destruction of their liberty, and the substitution thereof of a military government; that they are unfit to be free, and incapable of self government.

The necessity of self preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation.

We, therefore, the delegates, with plenary powers, of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare, that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas, do now constitute a FREE, SOVEREIGN, and INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, and are fully interested with all the rights and attributes which property belong to independent nations; and, conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations.

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Erasma Seguin

By Jack Ayoub

Capt. Juan Seguin and his company of Tejano soldiers were on the battlefield of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836 when Texan Army achieved Texas independence from Mexico. But it was Tejanos like Juan Seguin's father, Erasma, who were the first to dream of an independent Texas.

Erasma Seguin was prominent citizen, politician and businessman from San Antonio, serving as postmaster from 1807 to 1835 with only two political interruptions, and as alcalde (mayor) in 1820. Governor Antonio Martinez in 1821 appointed him to inform Moses Austin that his petition to start a colony in Texas had been approved. Several months after Moses Austin's death, Erasma Seguin would start a lifelong professional and business relationship with Stephen E. Austin, who would often stay at Seguin's ranch, Casa Blanca, whenever he was in the San Antonio area. Davy Crockett also spent a few nights at Seguin's ranch when he first came to the Alamo.

Erasma Seguin's most important service was his appointment as a Texas representative to the Mexican Federal Congress that wrote the Constitution of 1824, promoting the interests of Tejanos in San Antonio as well as the new Anglo-American settlers. After General Santa Ana came to power and did away with the Constitution of 1824, Erasma Seguin, together with his son Juan, organized a convention opposed to the Mexican dictator in 1834. In October 1835, because of his political actions and the military actions of his son, Juan, Mexican General Cos stripped Erasma Seguin of his position as postmaster and of his horse, forcing Erasma to walk 3 miles to his ranch. He used this opportunity to ask for volunteers for his son's



company of Tejano soldiers.

During the Revolution, the Texan Army was supplied with corn, cattle and horses from Erasma Seguin's ranch. In 1840 a grateful Republic of Texas compensated Erasma Seguin with \$ 3,000.00 for all his patriotic efforts during the war.

March 2 was Texas Independence Day, and the City of San Benito again marked this great Texas holiday with a day of education and celebration to remember and honor the bravery, courage and the contributions of Tejanos like Erasma Seguin for Texas independence.

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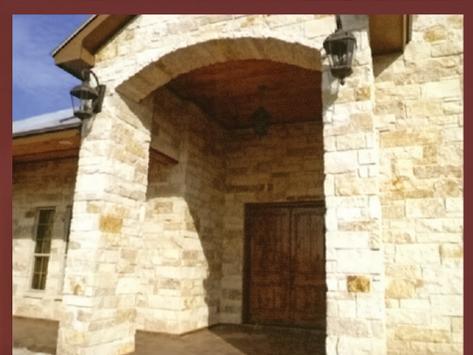
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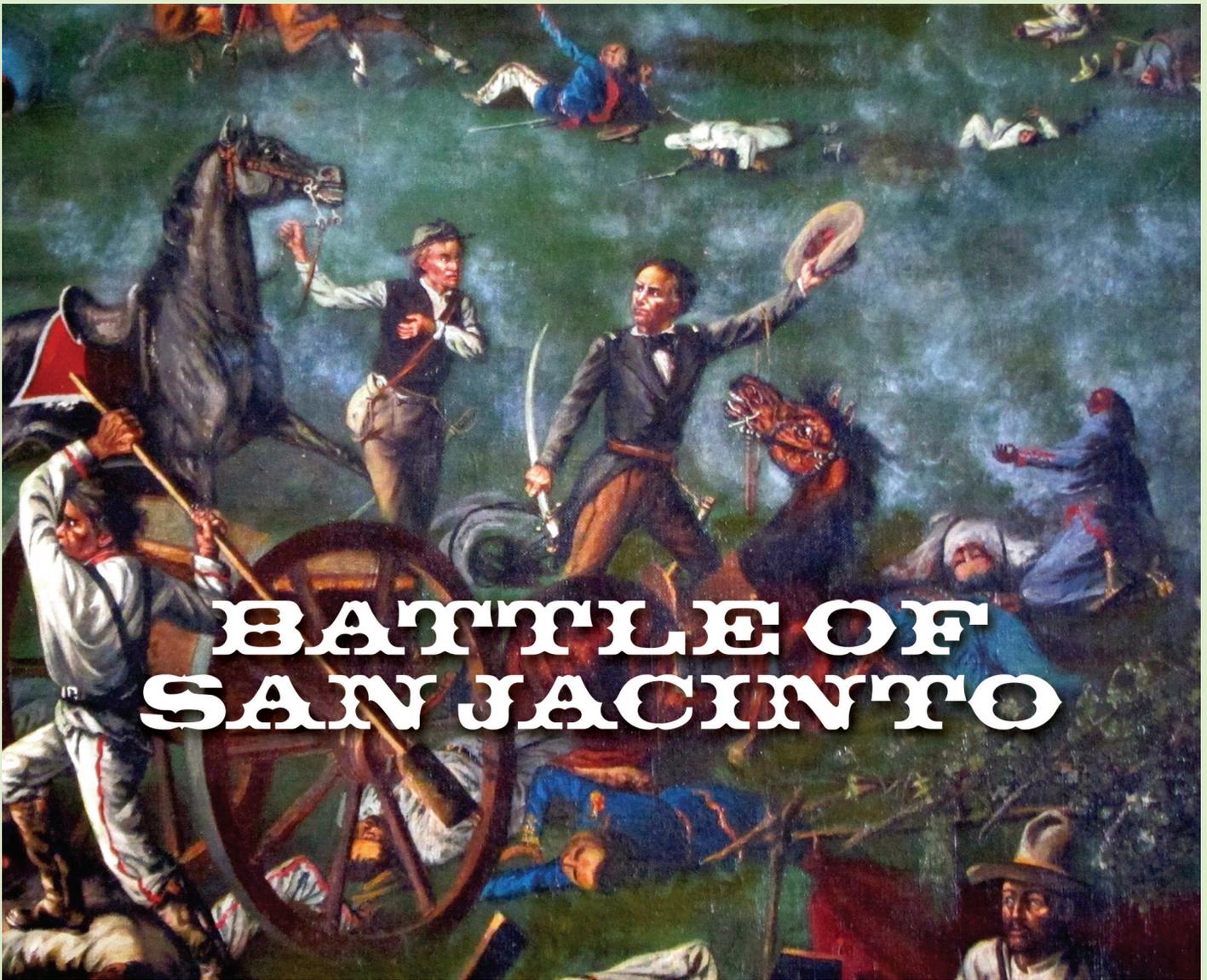
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By: Erica Gomez
South Texas College, Student

In present day Harris County, a short, but historically significant battle took place on April 21, 1836. This iconic battle is what molded Texas and secured her independence. A mere 800 men volunteered to seek freedom from the clutches of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, president of Mexico. Mexico had gained independence from Spain in the 1820's, and welcomed foreigners to settle in Texas with open arms. Many Anglo settlers from the United States traveled down south to settle along the Brazos River. Texas was Mexican territory at the time and held a legislation of their own. While slavery or freedom of religion was not accepted in Mexico an arrangement was made in order for the settlers to feel at home and work the land by the Mexican government officials but all that came to a halt as soon as Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna ruled Mexico.

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna became president of Mexico in 1833 and shortly after declared himself dictator in 1835. In March of 1836 Santa Anna defeated Sam Houston at the battle of the Alamo. With the defeat fresh in Houston's mind he assembled about 800 volunteered men into a strategically planned out attack on Santa Anna's Mexican army which were approximately 1500 soldiers. The Mexican soldiers were caught blindsided by Houston's brigade since the attack occurred in the evening rather than in the morning as they had anticipated. "Remember the Alamo!" cried Sam Houston's men as the Battle of San Jacinto took place lasting approximately 18 minutes. Shortly after the battle Santa Anna was captured disguised as a peon lying low within the brushes.

The defeat at San Jacinto was short lived but remains significant in Texas history, for this is the battle that ended it all, and yet it started a new chapter, independence for Texas from Mexico and the eventual adoption into the United States.

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

Jose Maria de Jesus Carbajal

by Jack Ayoub

Texas history has long forgotten the many accomplishments of another Tejano hero, Jose Maria de Jesus Carbajal. Born in San Antonio, Jose went to Kentucky to work as a tanner and saddle maker. He later renounced Catholicism and became an ardent Protestant. With the help of Stephen F. Austin, Jose returned to Texas as the official surveyor for Martin Deleon, the founder of Victoria, to layout the town and married Deleon's daughter, Maria. Being bi-lingual and Protestant, he was quickly embraced by the incoming Anglos and continued to survey and issue land titles in East Texas until he was arrested by the Mexican Colonel John Davis Bradburn.

However, he was soon released by this Kentucky mercenary in the service of General Santa Anna.

In 1835, Stephen F. Austin issued an appeal for arms and supplies to equip the Texas army in the war against Santa Anna. In New Orleans, Carbajal joined his brother-in-law, Fernando Deleon, to ship munitions and supplies aboard the Hannah Elizabeth, but their ship was boarded by the Mexican Navy war ship, the Bravo. They were both transported in chains to the Mexican prison, Casa Mata, in Matamoros, Mexico. With the help of his other brother-in-law, Captain Placido Benavides from Victoria, Tx, Carbajal and Deleon were able to escape back to Victoria.

Carbajal was elected as a delegate with Juan Antonio Padilla from Goliad to the Texas Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos to declare Texas Independence from Mexico but could not attend because he feared for his family's safety. Jose described himself to be a "true Mexican who was not in opposition to Mexico, but rather to General Santa Anna." Any Tejano who was not an active participant in battle against Mexico was considered to be a Mexican sympathizer by the Texans. After the

war, Texas General Thomas Jefferson Rusk confiscated the homes and ranches of Carbajal, Capt. Benavides, and all the families of Martin Deleon and

Jose described himself to be a "true Mexican who was not in opposition to Mexico, but rather to General Santa Anna."

exiled them to Louisiana. Jose soon renounced all his ties to the Republic of Texas and never forgave Texas.

After the Texas War for Independence, Carbajal continued his revolutionary career but in Mexico. In 1846, Carbajal commanded a division of Mexican soldiers against the United States in the Mexican-American War, and in 1862, joined the Benito Juarez Liberal Army against the French. Was Carbajal a Tejano patriot or a Mexican traitor? Did Carbajal betray Texas or did Texas betray Carbajal? Texas history should remember and honor his life and let his actions be judged, but not ever forgotten...

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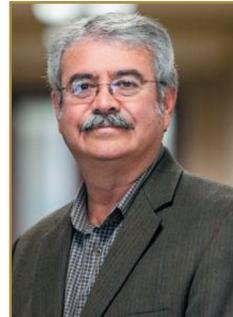
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“Texas shall be free and independent, or we shall perish in combat.”

-Juan Seguin



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