

San Jacinto News

JANUARY 2017

Six Flags Flying for 6th Annual Fun Run

A little more exercise one of your New Year's resolutions? Make good on that decision,



and on your commitment to supporting Texas history by participating in the San Jacinto Texas Independence Fun Run/Walk on March 4, 2017. There will be 10K and 5K runs, a 5K walk, and a 1K kids' run, events suitable for all ages.

To receive discounted registration, visit www.active.com or call the museum at 281-479-2421 by February 17. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



Lunchtime Learning

Membership does have its benefits! Besides receiving free admission to the Observation Floor and special exhibits, one of the most

popular incentives for acquiring a membership with San Jacinto is an invitation to the annual Membership Luncheon. In past years, museum staff and members came together for this tasty and educational event at locations around town like the Lancaster Hotel and Taste of Texas. This year, join us for seafood and steaks on February 18th at McCormick & Schmick's near Post Oak from

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The speaker for the event is Dr. Laura Lyons McLemore, the William B. Wiener, Jr. Professor of Archives and Historic Preservation at LSU-Shreveport.

What distinguishes her work is that it is focused on those writers who have delved into the history of the Lone Star State. Dr. McLemore's most recent work, *Adele Briscoe Looscan: Daughter of the Republic*, brought her out to San Jacinto several times to explore the history of the first woman president of the Texas State Historical Association who used her influence to encourage public education and the preservation of historic landmarks.



Her lunchtime talk will address the meaning of "archives," both the word and the concept, which has been defined over time in many ways. Dr. McLemore will explore what that means for the creators, donors, collectors, and users of archives and will field questions from the audience about how to get the most from their own research experiences. RSVP for this event by calling 281.479.2421, or mailing the form on page 3.

Veterans of 1879

The Texas Veteran Association was formed in 1873, with membership limited to those men who were soldiers, seamen, or government officials serving from 1820 to 1845.

The 1870s saw the passage of several laws to fund pensions for needy veterans of the Republic of

Texas. Reports of the 1879 meeting of the TVA indicate that the veterans, as well as the general public, were highly concerned about fraudulent claims for relief based on military service. The Indigent Pension Law of July 28, 1876, was repealed on March 13, 1879, because more than ten times the number of applications were received than had been

expected, and there was a deficit of \$150,000 in the pension funds (1879 dollars), set at \$1 million. Less than one third of the pensioners were members of the TVA.

When the TVA met in Galveston in 1879, many of the men visited P. H. Rose's photography studio. The *Galveston News* reported that Rose was

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Letter from the President

Dear Museum Members,

The nonprofit educational San Jacinto Museum of History Association was created as a steward of history to honor veterans, to promote friendship and understanding between nations and to advocate for the value of history in our lives today and into the future. During our annual *Special Evening with Texas History*, we reach out to those who have demonstrated an acute awareness and respect for the heritage and history of America. Persons who by their deeds illustrate a commitment to the preservation, interpretation and discovery of the past and who have sought a way forward to our destiny.

On November 3, 2016, we honored two American veterans who each took divergent paths in their service to our country. Wayne Smith served in the U.S. Army and later served as State Representative of District 128, which encompasses the San Jacinto Battlefield; he has long been an advocate for the museum, the park, and the Battleship *Texas*. Smith co-sponsored legislation and was instrumental in raising the 1.5 million dollars necessary to build the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument on the capitol grounds in Austin. Gene Kranz, former Flight Director and Director of NASA Mission Control, retired after 30 years of dedication to America's boldest and most inspired endeavor, our lunar space mission.

In addition to celebrating the accomplishments of these men, this evening provided funds for a major renovation in the museum's theater that will allow for the presentation of a wide variety of new educational and revenue producing programming through the purchase of two new digital light laser projectors and a full size commercial feature film screen. This is just one example of our investment in our museum's future to become a world-class history museum.

As always, thank you for your support, encouragement and commitment.

Larry Spasic
President, San Jacinto Museum of History



Above and Below: Gene Kranz speaking to the guests and to members of the Sam Rayburn H.S. ROTC color guard.
Bottom: Wayne Smith and Larry Spasic.
Right: Guests enjoy the Special Evening presentation.



Today's Heroes of San Jacinto New and Renewing Members

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Mr. James A. Reeder
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Dr. J. Marvin Smith, III

Continued from **VETERANS** on page 1 taking photographs of the veterans for free, for the purpose of identifying those men who were actual Republic-era veterans: "The desire and design of the association is to procure such a group as will serve both as a memento and, to a great extent, as a guard against fraud." The result of Rose's work is the composite photograph titled *Veterans of San Jacinto 1836-1879*. An enlargement of this photograph is now on display, with information about the TVA and some of the men pictured, and reasons why the composite may or may not have been successful in identifying the veterans of San Jacinto.



Volunteers Propel Museum

In 2016, as in most years, volunteers played a major role in helping the San Jacinto Museum of History accomplish projects. From members of the Sam Rayburn High School ROTC who help set up for the Fun Run and man the water stations in March, to students from San Jacinto College who with the Boy Scouts and volunteers from Clean Harbors set up and take down tents and signage at the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment in April, Pasadena Strawberry Festival volunteers who drive golf carts at the festival, to Sam Rayburn ROTC members serving as the color guards at the annual Special Evening with Texas History, thousands of hours are contributed each year. In the library, two special volunteers through the TPWD Park Host program, Jan Moon and Carole Miller, have scanned prints and photographs to be shared online, updated files on the men who fought at San Jacinto, and helped update data on the museum's newspaper collections.

If you are interested in volunteering with one of the museum's major events, such as the Fun Run or the San Jacinto Day festival, your hands would be welcome!

Special Evening Sponsors

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Reservation Form

San Jacinto Museum of History Membership Luncheon, February 18, 2017
 McCormick and Schmick's Seafood and Steaks, 1151-01 Uptown Park Blvd., Houston, Texas 77056
 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

I will attend the Membership Luncheon

Number attending ____ Museum Circle, Monument Society, Sam Houston Society, or San Jacinto Society Free Member Benefit
 Number attending ____ Museum member, Other Levels \$50.00 per person \$_____
 Number attending ____ Non-member \$60.00 per person \$_____

Name: _____ Total \$_____

Names of additional attendees: _____

____ My check is enclosed for \$_____ Charge my credit card \$_____ (Visa, MasterCard, AmEx, Discover)

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

R.S.V.P. by February 13, 2017. To make your reservation by phone, call 281.479.2421.
 Mail to: San Jacinto Museum of History, One Monument Circle, La Porte, Texas 77571-9585



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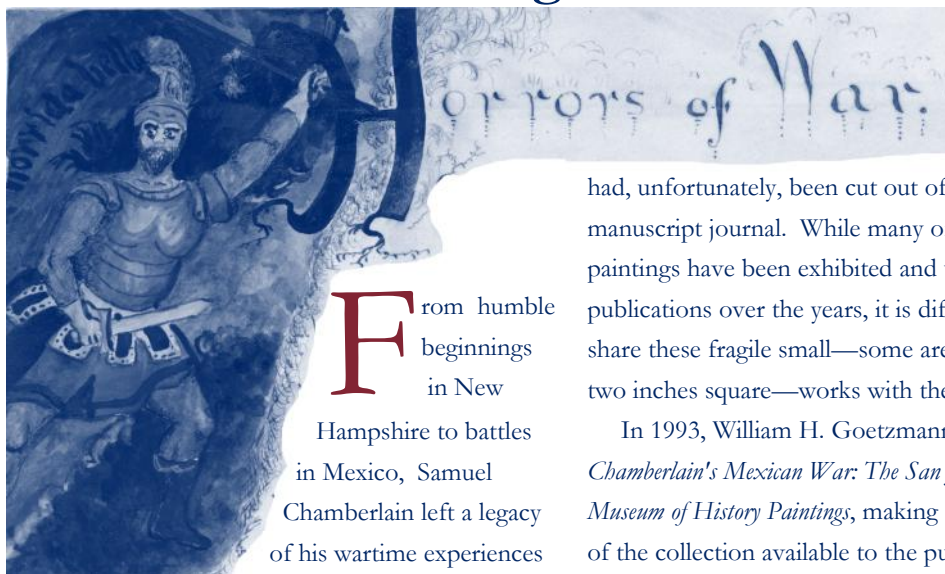
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The San Jacinto Museum of History
Association was chartered in 1938 to preserve
and revisualize the early history of Texas.

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Chamberlain Paintings Online



Left: Image on back of a Chamberlain painting.

From humble beginnings in New Hampshire to battles in Mexico, Samuel Chamberlain left a legacy of his wartime experiences

in the form of an illustrated journal. Written accounts of the U.S.-Mexican War are numerous, but first-hand artistic renderings are rare. Private Chamberlain of the 1st Regiment of the U.S. Dragoons carried a sketchbook with him throughout the war and made drawings of the people, places, and events he saw and even some he did not see.

In later years, he recounted his experiences in manuscript form, enhancing his earlier drawings with watercolors to illustrate his journal. In 1956, the San Jacinto Museum acquired over a hundred of the artist's illustrations from a dealer after they

had, unfortunately, been cut out of the original manuscript journal. While many of these paintings have been exhibited and used in publications over the years, it is difficult to share these fragile small—some are less than two inches square—works with the public.

In 1993, William H. Goetzmann wrote *Sam Chamberlain's Mexican War: The San Jacinto Museum of History Paintings*, making the majority of the collection available to the public in book form. In January 2017, the museum will release online the entirety of the museum's Chamberlain paintings—including those not printed in Goetzmann's catalogue—as well as written and pictorial content from the back of many of the paintings that have never been on view to the public. The online catalogue, available at www.sanjacinto-museum.org/Museum/, will also allow users to magnify these high-resolution scans up to 300%, providing the viewer with an amazing opportunity to view these historic gems.

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Association**

One Monument Circle
La Porte, TX 77571-9585

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