

San Jacinto News

JANUARY 2013

Museum Launches New Texas History Curriculum Guide

Registration Open for Fun Run

Beginning and ending at the base of the San Jacinto Monument, the second annual San Jacinto Texas Independence Fun Run/Walk will take place on the grounds of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on Saturday, March 9, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. In addition to the 5K route, there will be a new 1K kid's run, and an area with activities for children to enjoy after they complete their race.

Last year 186 people participated in the run/walk; more are expected this year. The major sponsor of the event is Office Systems of Texas, which is also planning to send a team to take to the route.



Early registration is available online at the San Jacinto Texas Independence Fun Run/Walk page on Active.com, by submitting the form on the San Jacinto Museum of History

See "FUN RUN" on page 2 Website,

In January 2013, a two-year project will culminate when the San Jacinto Museum releases a completely redesigned curriculum guide for students to assist in their study of Texas history. Created in response to the recently revised Texas Education Agency objectives known as Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)—the state standards for what students should know and be able to do—the goal of the guide, which will be available for download on the Internet, is to supplement classroom experiences with lessons derived from critically using primary and secondary source documents from the collections of the San Jacinto Museum.

Over 500 pages in length, the guide includes over 90 lessons, many with multiple lesson plans and activities that are designed to appeal to a wide range of students and can be used by educators to share the fantastic-but-true stories that make up the history of the region. The guide is accompanied by a linked online image gallery with more than 500 related images of photos,

documents, newspaper articles, artifacts and document transcriptions. The Image Gallery will also be an excellent resource for genealogists, the general

public, publishers and the media to identify images that they need for their work and interests.

"With severe budget cuts in educational funding for many states across our nation today, there is a real need for non-profit organizations to take an active role in providing relevant, detailed and state-mandated content free of charge to school districts, educators and parents," says Larry Spasic, San Jacinto Museum of History President.

The guide was written by educational consultant, Yvonne Jackson Pittman with contributions and assistance from museum staffers Elizabeth Appleby and Lisa Struthers. Pittman believes the guide will be an important tool for educators. "In 2010, Texas revised the objectives that teachers are expected to teach in every social studies course. In

addition to new student objectives, a new more rigorous series of end-of-course exams was put into place. However, teachers were not provided new textbooks and resources. This guide is an important project because it provides meaningful primary and secondary sources for teachers and students through an image gallery of beautiful photographs. It has been an exciting endeavor for me and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to fulfill my greatest passion: helping teachers and students." Pittman spent 25 years teaching history and political science in Katy ISD before retiring recently as Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist. Visit the museum Web site for more information and links to this important new educational resource.



Opening screen for the Curriculum Guide Image Gallery, showing some of the sections covered.

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

It has been a very productive year for the San Jacinto Museum of History. No organization with the heavy schedule of programs and events offered at our museum can accomplish and do what it does year in and year out without volunteers such as Barbara and Jay Chandler who have volunteered in our library for many years now. Mission partners such as the San Jacinto Volunteers, Texas Park & Wildlife Department, Battleship Texas Foundation and the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board are also essential to our success as a non-profit educational association.

Sponsors such as Kirby Corporation, John P. McGovern Foundation, Stedman West Foundation, John L. Wortham & Son, H-E-B Tournament of Champions, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., The Dow Chemical Company, Noltex, Union Pacific Foundation, Office Systems of Texas, Houston Endowment Inc., Apache Corporation, DEW Foundation, Van Dyke Energy Company, Vopak, Port of Houston Authority, CenterPoint Energy, Solvay, ChevronPhillips Chemical Company, Lubrizol Foundation, Strake Foundation and the Hood-Barrow Foundation help make our educational mission a reality. Without the financial support of these volunteers,

businesses and foundations our programs of research, interpretation, conservation and educational outreach would simply not be possible.

A talented and dedicated staff is the final element of our formula to successfully implement our mission statement's many goals. As each year comes to a close, the question of how we accomplish all of these things is always a concern; the answer, of course, is listed right above this paragraph and below. The support of our friends, members and Board of Trustees guide us through challenging times so that we may see our way forward building on the lessons of our past, allowing us to achieve success today. Our past has given us perspective and vision for a bright future.

Thank you to everyone and a wonderful holiday season to all!



Larry Spasic
President, San Jacinto Museum of History

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or by telephone at 281-479-2421. Preregistration through January 31 is \$20 for the adult run and \$15 for the kid's run; prices rise to \$25 and \$20 in February, and is \$30 and \$25 in March.

If you would like to participate in the event, but don't want to take the course, volunteers are needed on the day of the event. Contact Carolyn Campbell to volunteer, or for more information about the event, at ccampbell@sanjacinto-museum.org.



AIA Houston Architecture Center at Member Lunch

This year Museum members will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual walking tour of Houston presented by members of the AIA Houston Architecture Center at the annual Membership Luncheon. The visual presentation will take a look at some of the significant buildings in Houston, without the need to travel between the buildings. Free for members at the Museum Circle level or higher, the event will occur on Saturday, February 9. Look for more details in your invitation which will be sent soon, or at www.sanjacinto-museum.org.

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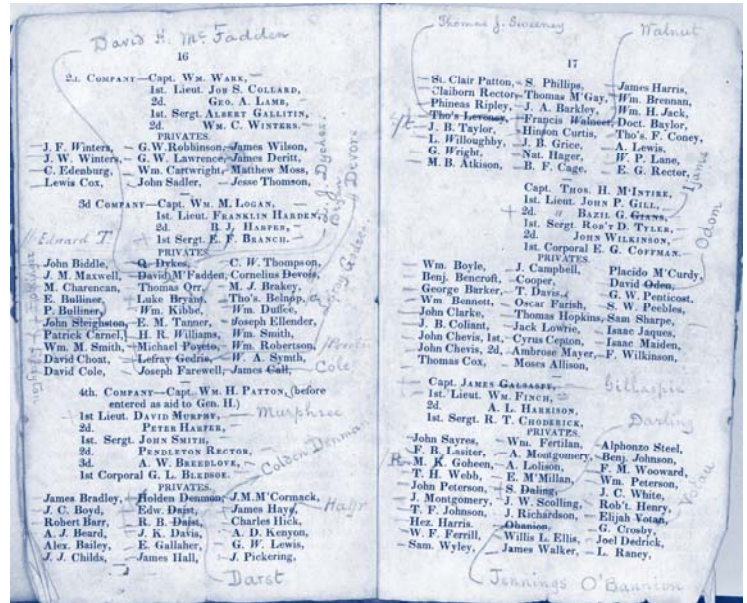
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Early List Helps Identify, Confuse San Jacinto Veterans

Over the past five issues of the San Jacinto News, you have had an opportunity to learn about the five men who were added to the list of San Jacinto Veterans in 2011, the 175th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto. Five times that number of names were reviewed by the historian consultant hired by Texas Parks and Wildlife for this process, but there was either insufficient information to prove that the person was present at the battle, or there was contradictory proof that the person was not present.



Two pages from Moses Austin Bryan's copy of *Documents of Major Gen. Sam Houston*. Bryan served as secretary of the Texas Veterans Association, and annotated his copy in blue pencil from the membership rolls of the organization.

Determining who fought at San Jacinto is not an easy task. The first list of the soldiers who fought at San Jacinto was published in *Documents of Major Gen. Sam Houston, Commander in Chief of the Texian Army, to His Excellency David G. Burnet, President of the Republic of Texas: Containing a Detailed Account of the Battle of San Jacinto*. This small pamphlet was published by John Cox in New Orleans in the spring or summer of 1836, and contains a "list of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates engaged in the Battle of San Jacinto, on the 21st of April, 1836." Unfortunately, the list leaves out Capt. Alfred H. Wylie's company, and does not list the companies who were at Harrisburg guarding the baggage or those who were left there due to illness. The list also leaves out a number of names within the companies, omits first names, and has several misspellings. As an example of the problem in relying on this list, see the image above for Capt. Wm. M. Logan's company and the listings for Wm. M. Smith, Wm. Smith, and W. A. Symth. Captain A. Turner's company lists "Smith, 1st" and "Smith, 2nd" with no first names. The original list sent to David G. Burnet was lost when the Adjutant-General's office burned in October 1855. Of the approximately 935 men believed to have been present, Houston's report lists only 837.

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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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Celebration of Silver on Exhibit

The forty year period between 1875 and 1915 was a time of exceptional achievement for America's silver industry, as well as one of extraordinary change. During these years



Silver sardine fork owned by soldier and entrepreneur Sidney Sherman.

silver production and consumption by a wide range of consumers reached new heights, and many foreign observers conceded that this country was the international leader in production. A few even began to believe that America had surpassed Europe in workmanship and quality of design. Innovations and changes in technology, economics and society all served to change the way that Americans approached setting their dinner table. The cost of raw silver became so low at one point in the 1890s that silverware was less expensive than plated ware. This, combined with innovations in machine manufacturing, reduced the cost so that silver at the table—once a luxury available to only the wealthy—could be found in one in three houses in America by 1915.

But the table was not complete with just forks, knives and spoons. Innovations in food technology (canning, freezing, cooking, etc.) made many new food products available to consumers,

and silver makers created new forms to celebrate their arrival at the table. The ability to preserve foods like sardines and anchovies in the 1860s was celebrated with the creation of small, rake-like silver forks to serve them. The popularity of ice cream in the 1860s spurred manufacturers to create hatchets and spoons for cutting blocks as well as specialized individual spoons and forks with cutting edges. Different sets for breakfast, lunch and dinner were also designed and purchased. Today these ornate often intricately-designed artifacts often sit abandoned in boxes and drawers in American households with the intended use behind many of the odd forms like marrow spoons and butter picks lost to history. From late November to February 15th, the museum lobby will exhibit many of these odd forms and explain their purpose as well as display silverware pieces owned by such notables as Sam Houston and Sidney Sherman.



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