



SAN JACINTO PATRIOT

*Dedicated to the memory of those who fought
at the Battle of San Jacinto – April 21st, 1836*

October 2011

Publisher - San Jacinto Chapter No. 1 of The Sons of the Republic of Texas



The picture above is the famous painting *The Battle of San Jacinto* by **Henry Arthur McArdle**. It was completed in 1898 and hangs in the Senate Chamber in the Texas Capitol.

Two hundred fifty years ago on October 4, 1761, Moses Austin (left) was born in Durham, Connecticut. Of course we all know that in 1821 he was granted an empresarial contract under Spanish law to colonize Spanish Texas. The news was given to Austin by his friend Erasmo Seguín (father of Juan Seguín). But on June 10, 1821 Moses Austin died, apparently of pneumonia, and it fell to his son Stephen F. Austin to carry out the colonization plan. What may not be as readily remembered is that in his 30's Moses Austin was known as the "Lead King" and furthered the production of lead shot using arsenic. Arsenic and Old Shot? (Read more below.)

(photo believed to be in public domain; courtesy of Brazoria County Historical Museum)

Monthly Luncheon Meeting:

Held the First Thursday of Every Month at Noon

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, October 6, 2011**, at the **Post Oak Grill**, 1415 South Post Oak Lane, Houston, Texas at Noon. Many attendees arrive by 11:30; be there by 11:45 a.m. to ensure you get a good parking spot and a seat. The cost of lunch is **\$22.00**, payable at the door by cash or check. Parking is free in the garage - enter restaurant from the rear door in the garage.

September's Guest Speaker:

LEONARD G. LANE, JR.

"Court Houses in Texas"



Mr. Lane received a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Rice University in 1974 and a Master in Architecture from Harvard University in 1979.

He is currently an Architect and Principal at Chelsea Place Design, Inc. in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Lane will give us a presentation on "Court Houses in Texas" and an update on his project to photograph all the court houses in the state.

Chapter President's Report:



Well now it is October. The year is really going by fast. I hope everyone has had a safe and happy summer. Get ready for a fine Fall.

This month we have **Mr. Leonard Lane**, AIA Architect coming to speak to us. Mr. Lane has made a personal vendetta for photographing all the Court Houses in Texas. He is almost complete. What a fine job he has done too. He is coming to our meeting to tell us what he has learned and show some pictures of all the Court Houses he has seen. This should be a very interesting meeting.

On Sept. 17, 2011 we had the Texian Navy Day Ceremony at the Battleship Texas. **Mr.**

David Hanover has done an extremely fine job of getting all this coordinated. If you see Mr. Hanover give him a pat on the back for a job well done. We have included some pictures of the event in the Newsletter.

We are extremely appreciative of **Mr. Ben Brooks**, Bugler, **Mr. Harry Isensee**, Bagpiper, and **Mr. Clint Hamilton**, Drummer, both from St. Thomas Episcopal High School. We should thank **Mr. Lyric Todkill** for his assistance here. **Mr. Steven Howell** of the Battleship Foundation, the sponsor of the event, **Mr. Russ Kuykendall** of the San Jacinto Battleground complex, and the **United States Coast Guard**, also were extremely helpful.

The Texian Navy Committee is comprised of **Mr. David Hanover**, **Mr. Will Haddock**, **Mr. D. A. Sharpe**, and myself. **Mr. Doak McBryde** was the official photographer of the event.

For the month of November we have the Tomball Parade to go to. It will be held on Nov. 19. The theme is "All Texas, All the Time". Mr. Denton Bryant is our main man for this event. Make plans to come and participate.

The Quarterly meeting is coming up in Victoria in December, and the Annual meeting is coming up in March. **Sam Clark**, KSJ, and President General will give us some words on the Annual Meeting. See **Dale Williamson** for information on the Genealogy tours coming up. Also see **Tom Green** on opportunities for speakers and participation in Flag programs. **Mr. Reese** and **Mr. Cloud** are feeling pretty good, be sure to tell them we appreciate all their hard work.

Well that is just about it for this month. Get ready for the annual Christmas Party!

Hope to see all of you at this month's meeting.

Ronald W. Brown - 2010 President - San Jacinto Chapter #1

The Sons of the Republic of Texas

Arsenic and Old Shot

Outcroppings of lead along the New River in Wythe County, Virginia had been discovered as early as 1756 by Colonel John Chiswell, who with his partners began to mine the lead. It is said that this mine was the main supply of ammunition during the Revolutionary War.

In 1785, Moses Austin married Mary Brown, whose family was involved in iron mining. Austin, seeking to start his own mining business, traveled to the New River mines area and in 1789, with his brother Stephen, purchased the mines. This is where Moses' son, Stephen F. Austin, was born in 1793.

There is some controversy as to when the Jackson Ferry Shot Tower (shown at right) was built, but an advertisement in the August 30, 1791 edition of the *Virginia Chronicle*, detailing the manufacturing of shot at the Shot Factory in Southwest Virginia, may suggest that the tower dates back to the time that the Austin brothers were running the mines.

The shot tower was used to produce lead shot for firearms. Firewood and lead were hauled to the top of the tower, where a furnace was fired to melt the lead. The molten lead was poured through a sieve, which would form drops of lead of a specific size depending on the sieve used. The molten drops would then free-fall 150 feet, during which they would become spherical in shape, and cool enough to become rigid. A large kettle full of water at the bottom would complete the cooling process, and provide a soft enough landing to keep the shot from deforming. In the *Austin Papers* are found hand written remarks by Moses Austin concerning the English patent for drop shot, dated August 1, 1791, "*by experience I have found a much better mode to introduce arsenic and find the white much preferable to the yellow from it[s] purity in strength. And that a material difference of the height is required in the Climate of America in the different seasons of the year*". Arsenic hardens lead, and is used in alloys for making lead shot. The small village around the mines became known as Austinville. After running up large debts, the Austin brothers venture collapsed and Moses Austin, in late 1796, headed to Missouri, then part of Spanish Louisiana, to investigate rich lead deposits and Spanish mines. In 1798, the Spanish Crown granted to Moses one-league (4,428 acres) and in return he swore allegiance to the Spanish Crown and stated he would settle some families in Missouri. In the Panic of 1819 Moses Austin lost his fortune, so once again he turned to Spain and in 1820 presented his plan to colonize Texas. The rest is Texas history. Happy Birthday Moses!



More shot tower info see: <http://files.asme.org/ASMEORG/Communities/History/Landmarks/5576.pdf>

Dodd Eastham – San Jacinto Patriot Newsletter Editor
“One man’s Oral History is another man’s Aural History”
Send comments to: [newsletter editor](#)

Recent Events of Interest:

Texian Navy Day, September 17, 2011

Right – Ben Brooks – Buglers Across America

Below – Audience on the Battleship Texas



Lower right - Harry Isensee, Bagpiper,
and Clint Hamilton, Drummer

Below – Enlisted Sailors of the Year from the
USS San Jacinto



(photos courtesy of D. A. Sharpe)

Texian Navy Day, September 17, 2011



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Parks-and-Wildlife-San-Jacinto-BattlegroundBattleship-TEXAS-SHS/119582324747411?v=wall>

Upcoming Events of Interest:

15th Annual Alton C. Allen Historical Conference Episodes of the Texas Revolution Reconsidered

**Saturday, October 15, 2011
American Legion Hall, 107 E. Park Street, Hallettsville, Texas**

Speakers:

Stephen L. Moore -- a sixth generation Texan is the author of 14 books on Texas History & World War II. Steve's Texas history books include the four volume series, Savage Frontier: Rangers, Riflemen and the Texas Indian Wars. He is also author of other history books, including Eighteen Minutes: The Battle of San Jacinto and the Texas Independence Campaign. (2004)

Dennis R. Riedesel, Ed D. -- After several years of presenting the Goliad Massacre, the members of the Crossroads of Texas Living History Association noticed that many of the spectators never understood what happened on Palm Sunday of 1836. Dr. Riedesel did the research on Isaac Hamilton and combined his primary documents, the primary documents of many other participants of this event, some secondary documentation from the Hamilton Family, and some interpolations from other sources to develop a "First Person Impression of Isaac Hamilton".

The Brazoria Historical Militia -- a living history organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the history of Brazoria County, Texas, with the intent of promoting historical research and awareness. Their time period is 1823-1837, representing Austin's Colony during colonial and republic periods, including the Anglo and Mexican political cultures present in the area. These activities will be conducted through proper use of dress, arms, and equipment as used by the average craftsman, citizen, and militiaman residing in Austin's Colony.

Dr. Gregg J. Dimmick -- Dr. Dimmick is a medical doctor whose avocation for many years has been archeology. Beginning with his work with the "Sea of Mud" in Wharton County, Gregg Dimmick has done more to advance our understanding of the Mexican Army in Texas during the Texas Revolution than any other historian or archeologist before him. He is a member of the Houston Archeological Society and the Texas State Historical Association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground and the Wharton County Museum.

Preregistration is recommended. Registration will be accepted on the day of the conference. Cash or check is accepted. Make checks payable to the Lavaca County Historical Commission.

Registration Fees: \$15.00 per person / \$20.00 per couple / \$5.00 per student / Seniors \$5.00
Special for Any Teacher: Show proper School District ID \$5.00 per person

Registration Includes Lunch: Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup with Chicken Salad Sandwich

http://www.txgenweb2.org/txlavaca/historical_commission.htm

The Brazoria County Historical Museum
An exhibit and two evening lectures that focus on Civil War blockade runners and skulls found on the San Jacinto battleground.

Free.

Brazoria County Historical Museum, 100 E. Cedar St.

Information: Michael J. Bailey, 979.864.1591, curator@bchm.org

Oct. 1–31, "**Items from the Civil War Blockade Runner Acadia**" This exhibit is open to the public during regular museum hours (weekdays: 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Saturdays: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.)

Oct. 13, "**Making Heads and Telling Tales of San Jacinto**" Beginning at 6:30 p.m. Forensic artist Amanda Danning will relate the story of six skulls of Mexican soldiers killed on the San Jacinto battleground and collected by James J. Audubon in the late 1830s. The presentation will feature facial reconstruction work by Danning on one of the skulls.

Oct. 20, "**Blockade Runner Archaeology**" Beginning at 6:30 p.m. Andrew Hall, a member of the THC's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, will give a PowerPoint presentation on Civil War blockade runners on the Texas coast.

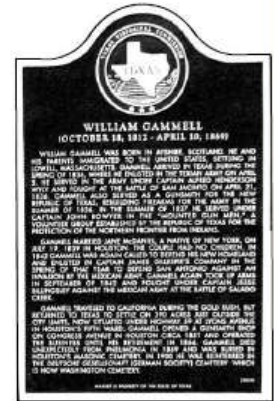




Washington Cemetery Historic Trust,
The San Jacinto Descendants, and
The Harris County Historical Commission

Invite you to the dedication of

Official Texas Historical Markers
in honor of
Battle of San Jacinto Veterans
Ellis Benson
and
William Gammell



and the dedication of Memorial Medallions for
Citizens of the Republic of Texas

Ellis Benson
William Gammell
Jane McDaniel Gammell
Mary Schiermann Behrman Tips

Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Washington Cemetery
2911 Washington Avenue
Houston, Texas 77007

R.S.V.P. by October 15, 2011 to
Bernice Mistrot, 281-531-1956, bmist@juno.com



2011 Executive Committee Meetings

Dec 2-3, 2011 **Victoria**

Hampton Inn, 7006 N. Navarro Street, Victoria, TX. 77904 (361)-573-9911
ask for group code "SON" - Room rate \$99 + plus tax.

October at a Glance:

October 06 - San Jacinto Chapter meeting. Speaker will be Leonard G. Lane, Jr. Noon.

October 06 - Hugh B. Johnston Chapter meeting. Johnston's Ranch House on FM1011 near Liberty, Texas – 7:00 P.M.

October 11 - Lone Star Chapter monthly Luncheon/Meeting - Where: Pappadeaux, 18165 I45 South, Shenandoah, Texas - When: October 11, 2011, 11:30 A.M. – Info: 281-386-7915 - Cost: \$15.00

October 15 - 15th Annual Alton C. Allen Historical Conference - Hallettsville, Texas

October 17, 24, & 28 - Texas History Lectures, Montgomery College, 11-1 PM Univ. Ctr

October 29 - The Houston History Association is celebrating Houston's 175th birthday by hosting the first annual Houston History Conference at the University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center on October 29, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more info:
www.houstonhistoryassociation.org

November 3 - Stephen F. Austin's Birthday (Father of Texas)

November 4, 5 - Texas State Genealogical Society 2011 Genealogy Conference - Place: Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport - www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs OR www.claytonlibraryfriends.org Registration is required!

November 12 Pioneer Day at Jesse Jones Park, 10 AM - 4 PM

November 19 Tomball Holiday Parade, 9:00 AM

December 2-4 - SRT Executive Meeting, Hampton Inn, Victoria Texas



San Jacinto Chapter #1 – October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Moses Austin's Birthday	5	6 San Jacinto Chapter Meeting	7	8
9	10	11 Lone Star Chapter Meeting	12	13	14	15 Historical Conference
16	17 History Lecture Montgomery College	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 History Lecture Montgomery College	25	26	27	28 History Lecture Montgomery College	29 Houston History Conference
30	31	1	2	3 Stephen F. Austin's Birthday	4 TSGS Genealogy Conference	5 TSGS Genealogy Conference

[Click here to view the San Jacinto Chapter website calendar.](#)



San Jacinto Chapter #1 Officers 2011 - 2012:

President:	Ronald W. "Ron" Brown	713-621-5660	ron@ronwbrown.com
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Immediate Past President:	L. Clay Fisher	713-785-9136	clay@LCFisher.com

From the *Texas State Historical Association* "Texas Day by Day"

[Click here to view "Texas Day by Day" entries for October.](#)

Visit our chapter website for more information: www.sanjacintosrt.org

If anyone has any information or news to include in the *San Jacinto Patriot* or on the web page, or if you need to update your e-mail address, please contact:

San Jacinto Chapter President - **Ron Brown** (ron@ronwbrown.com)

San Jacinto Chapter Webmaster - **Dodd Eastham** (deastham@velaw.com)
