

The HHA Courier

The Newsletter of the Houston History Association

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Message from the President

January 2011 marked a changing of the guard on the Houston History Association's Board of Directors. After serving for nearly five years as president, Pamela Young decided it was time for a break. The board elected me to take over as president but did not let Pam escape completely. She agreed to serve as vice-president, with Katy Butterwick as secretary and Christina Erwin as treasurer. As we move forward, I would like to thank Pam Young for her years of service as founding president. She worked very hard to lay a solid organizational foundation upon which we will continue to build.

This year also marks the 175th anniversary of Houston's founding in 1836. Current plans (subject to change) call for city-wide celebrations to begin in August and continue through San Jacinto Day in 2012. The weekend of October 29-30, 2011, will mark a two-day festival across the city with approximately ten venues open to the public, all commemorating Houston's 175 years. The next issue of the HHA *Courier* will have more details.

In conjunction with this celebration, the Houston History Association will host its first annual Houston History Conference. The event will be held at the Hilton-University of Houston Hotel on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 8:30-3:30. More information will be posted on our website soon. Be sure to visit us at our website for updates and information: www.houstonhistoryassociation.org.

This promises to be an exciting year and we appreciate your continued support. Feel free to email us at: info@houstonhistoryassociation.org.

—William H. Kellar, PhD, President
Houston History Association

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Texas Independence--Houston History Spotlight: San Jacinto Day Festival and Reenactment



The 2011 San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment will be held Saturday, April 16, 2011. This is an admission-free event with living history demonstrators, music, and craft vendors culminating in the largest reenactment in the state honoring those who fought for Texas' independence. (Parking and security fees may be charged.)

The San Jacinto Monument is located on the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, just minutes away from downtown Houston. Take Highway 225 east just past Beltway 8 to the Independence Parkway exit. Travel north on Independence Parkway approximately three miles (veer to the left when the road divides). The park is open daily 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For more information about the Battle of San Jacinto and the San Jacinto Museum of History, please visit www.sanjacinto-museum.org, follow on Facebook, or call 281.479.2421.

San Jacinto Symposium: The Legacy of San Jacinto



"Battle of San Jacinto" by H.A. McArdle (1901). Courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com) and Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground

The Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground will hold their 11TH Annual Battle of San Jacinto Symposium on Saturday, April 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel & Conference Center 4800 Calhoun Road, Houston, TX 77204. The \$55 registration fee includes lunch and parking.

For additional information and to register, visit www.friendsofsanjacinto.org.

Four outstanding speakers at the 2011 San Jacinto Symposium will explore the legacy of the Battle of San Jacinto on the history of the United States, Mexico, Texas, and culture through art.

The Battle and its Impact on the United States

Daniel Walker Howe, Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in History for his book, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, is Professor of American History Emeritus at Oxford University and Professor of History Emeritus at the University of California in Los Angeles.

The Battle's Impact on Mexico

Romeo Ricardo Flores Caballero, of Monterrey, Mexico, is a noted Mexican authority on the American-Mexican frontier, Director of the State Archives of Nuevo León in Monterrey, Mexico, a former member of the Mexican Congress, and former Consul General of Mexico in Los Angeles.

The Battle's Impact on Texas

Ty Cashion, Professor of History at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, is an award winning author, inductee of the Texas Institute of Letters, co-editor of *The Human Tradition in Texas* (2001). His book-length study-in-progress, "Myth of Texexceptionalism," deals with the question of Texan uniqueness.

The Battle's Cultural Legacy Through its Depiction in Art--Sam DeShong Ratcliffe

of Dallas, is Head of the Bywaters Special Collections at the Hamon Arts Library at Southern Methodist University. He is curator of art and teacher of history and literature of Texas and the American West.

James E. Crisp, Associate Professor of History, North Carolina State University, returns to moderate the Symposium. Dr. Crisp is author (along with Dan Kilgore) of *How Did Davy Die? And Why Do We Care So Much?* published by Texas A&M University Press in 2010.

Across the State: Celebrating 175th Anniversary of Texas Independence with the new "Passport to Texas History"

Texans are celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Texas Revolution by traveling with a new "Passport to Texas History."

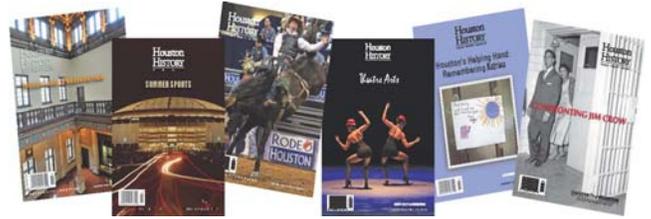
The Texas Revolution began with the first shot fired on October 2, 1835 in Gonzales and ended with the Texan victory at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. In between these two iconic dates are the numerous events and skirmishes that are an important part of our state's illustrious history.

Historic sites across Texas have created a way for visitors to re-live the events of the Texas Revolution by offering a "Passport to Texas History." Travelers can learn about the Revolution as they visit the sites where Sam Houston, Davy Crockett and Santa Anna made history. Just like an official government passport, visitors can get their book stamped at each site they visit. Collect stamps from all sites and receive a commemorative gift from the Texas Independence Trail Region (through December 2011).



Preview: *Houston History Magazine*

By Debbie Harwell



The Spring 2011 issue of *Houston History*, “Oil in Houston,” will be out in early April. Editor Joe Pratt reflects on how both wildcatters and refinery workers combined their dreams and skills to embody the spirit of Houston, making it a city of opportunity.

The magazine opens with “The Faces of Texas Oil,” which features historic photographs from the collection of Story Sloane’s Gallery in Houston. “We’re Sticking by Our Union: The Battle for Baytown” by Michael Botson looks at the struggle between unions for worker loyalty during the 1940s at the Humble Oil & Refining Company Baytown facility. Houstonian Bob Nicholas, one of the first Exxon representatives on the scene of the *Exxon Valdez* spill relates his experiences in a conversation with Jason Theriot. An interview with Jane Blaffer Owen, daughter of Humble president R. L. Blaffer, recalls Houston’s early days and its oil men. The Houston History Archive preserves the records of leading Houstonians such as oilman Joseph S. Cullinan. Archivist Terry Tomkins-Walsh summarizes the collection that focuses on energy, environment, and diversity. The magazine closes with the second part of the series, “When There Were Wards.” It includes articles by Ezell Wilson, “Third Ward, Steeped in Tradition of Self-reliance and Achievement,” Trilla Pando, “Two Worlds a Mile Apart, A Brief History of the Fourth Ward,” and Tomiko Meeks, “Freedmen’s Town, Texas: A Lesson in the Failure of Historic Preservation.”

Please visit the magazine’s new website, www.houstonhistorymagazine.org, for a look at current and past issues as well as information on how to subscribe, or call 713-743-3123.

HHA *Courier* Editor: Bill Kellar
Graphic Design: Laurie Feinswog

Share Texas history with family and friends this year! Travel with your Passport to:

- Gonzales: When Mexican soldiers tried to steal the settlers' cannon - the fight was on!
- San Felipe - Where Stephen F. Austin established his colony in 1823.
- San Antonio: In 1836, defenders at the Mission San Antonio de Valero (Alamo) were defeated by Mexican soldiers and the battle cry "Remember the Alamo" was born.
- Washington-on-the-Brazos: Representatives of Texas settlements met to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico in early March 1836.
- Goliad: In late March 1836, Colonel Fannin's forces were executed after surrendering in defeat, marking this as the largest single loss of life during the days of the Texas Revolution.
- La Porte: The San Jacinto Monument stands as the world's tallest memorial stone column on the site where Mexican rule over Texas came to a dramatic close on April 21, 1836.

For more information on these and other passport sites, as well as a state-wide Texas independence event calendar, visit www.txindependence175.org.