

LEOH Trip

San Jacinto Monument & Museum

July 12, 2023



Thank you, Ann Fairchild,
for another interesting
and fun trip!



Thank you, James,
our Precinct One bus driver,
for a safe trip!



The sheer size of the monument was quite impressive!





One of our first stops inside was the Jesse H. Jones Theatre for Texas Studies, to enjoy a movie and refresh our memories and facts regarding Texas history.



A BATTLEFIELD OF REMEMBERS



This 1893 photograph documents some of the earliest improvements to the Battlefield, including the surveying of some of the first land preserved for public ownership.



In 1894 a group of veterans, including veterans of the battle of San Jacinto, visited the Battlefield to identify the locations of the Battle's key events. A few years later, the locations were re-identified and marked with iron pipes. In 1912, the pipes were replaced by the present-day granite boulders, 20 in all, funded by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.



Oyster shell roads provided access to the significant spots on the Battlefield as identified by the San Jacinto veterans.

Immediately following the battle, a stream of visitors came to the plains of San Jacinto, some souvenir hunters, some curiosity seekers, others with a true sense of the history made at this site. After the State purchased the first 10 acres containing the graves of the fallen heroes of San Jacinto in 1883, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas led efforts beginning in the early 1890s to preserve shrines of Texas independence.



An unidentified group pose in front of the monument marking the grave of Benjamin Rice Brigham, one of the Texan soldiers killed in the battle.



In 1894, eleven years after the State acquired the first tract of land at San Jacinto, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas accompanied Governor Culberson and influential lawmakers on a picnic excursion to San Jacinto in a successful lobbying effort to obtain additional park acreage. By 1900, the State had acquired 336 acres.



Wrought iron vehicular and pedestrian gates, placed in the park in 1910, marked the entrance to the "San Jacinto Battlefield" during the early half of the twentieth century.

There were numerous battles and skirmishes between the Mexican army and the Texans, who were fighting for independence. When the Alamo in San Antonio fell on March 6, 1836, and Alamo defenders were either killed during the battle or executed afterward, and when hundreds of Goliad defenders were executed on March 27, "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" became the Texan battle cries.

The opportunity for revenge and Texas independence came the following month, as General Sam Houston and his troops pursued Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and his army, who were heading south to control the coastline. Both armies were headed for Lynch's Ferry, where Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River flowed together into the bay. The Texans arrived first and took control of the ferry. When the Mexicans arrived on April 20th, a brief skirmish ensued, then both sides retreated.

Santa Anna's choice of campsite, plus a lack of sentries on the afternoon of April 21st, allowed the Texans to mount a surprise attack for an easy victory. Mexican troops numbered about 1,250 at the time, while the Texan troops numbered about 930. After a battle of around 18 minutes, the Texans had lost just a handful of men, while the Mexican casualties were about 630, with another 700 taken prisoner, including Santa Anna.

A MONUMENT TO THE HEROEES



On April 21, 1936, one hundred years after the battle, a team of oxen pulling an 1836 plow breaks the ground for the San Jacinto Monument.



By September, 1936, W. S. Bellows Construction Corporation was well under way preparing to pour the foundation of the Monument. Over 5,700 cubic yards of concrete were used in the pour.



A crane with clamshell bucket for excavation, a dump truck and a team of mules – all manner of "horsepower" was used to build the Monument.



The Lone Star flag waves proudly as the Monument's base, the future home of the San Jacinto Museum of History, takes shape.



Topping off the Monument.



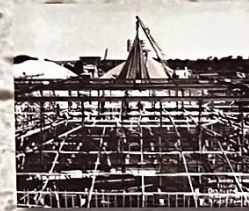
Jesse H. Jones lays the cornerstone at the northeast corner of the Monument on April 21, 1937.



All photos courtesy of the San Jacinto Museum of History and the Houston Public Library.

Architect Alfred C. Finn designed the structure, topped by the chosen symbol of the Lone Star State, standing 12 feet taller than the Washington Monument.

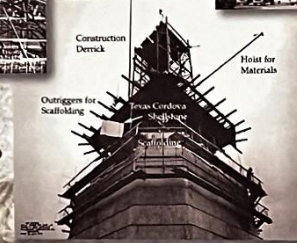
BUILDING AN ENGINEERING LANDMARK



The steel reinforcement was placed prior to pouring the concrete foundation.



In less than a year the walls of the Museum surround the base of the Monument shaft.



The fluted shaft of the Monument takes shape.



Hoisting a large stone in place on the Museum. Note the microphone for directing the crane operator.



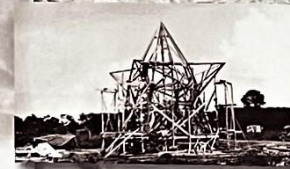
Smaller stones could be set by hand.

Using a small lift, two men maneuver an 8,000-lb. block of limestone into position.

Finishing touches – a stone frieze panel is lifted into place.



The structural engineer for the Monument was Robert J. Cummins.



A mock-up of the star was built on the ground to test the assembly of a star that would have five points from any viewing angle.



A workman sets an exterior stone on the star. Concrete was poured between the stone exterior and the wood interior form.

The 567.31-foot San Jacinto Monument is a National Engineering Landmark. The 70,300,000-lb. structure is built of steel-reinforced concrete and is faced with fossilized Cordova cream shellstone. Talent and hard work were needed to build this memorial to the heroes of San Jacinto and all those who helped win independence for Texas.



Jesse H. Jones and Andrew Jackson Houston, the last surviving son of General Sam Houston, are pictured here at the dedication of the Monument on April 21, 1939.

Building The Monument

The Texas Veterans Association began planning a formal monument at the battle site not long after the battle; however, the land was privately owned. Funding was finally received by the state to purchase the land in the 1890's.

After years of pushing by the Sons and Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and later with a little help from President Roosevelt's Secretary of Commerce, the notable Houstonian and businessman/philanthropist Jesse H. Jones, additional funding was finally raised to build the impressive monument.

It was designed by architect Alfred C. Finn, engineer Robert J. Cummins, and Jesse H. Jones.

Groundbreaking took place on the battles' centennial date, April 21, 1936, and the completed monument was dedicated on April 21st, 1939.



Monument Facts

The monument is 567 feet tall (taller than the Washington Monument), is the tallest war monument in the U.S., and is said to be one of the finest examples of Moderne (Art Deco) architecture in the U.S. The American Society of Civil Engineers has recognized it as a National Historical Engineering Landmark.

The monument base contains text panels highlighting significant historical events of the Texas Revolution.

The 34-foot tall star at the monument top weighs 220 tons, and is made of stone, steel, and concrete.

In 1938 the San Jacinto State Park Commission requested that George A Hill, Jr., chair a board to plan and organize a museum of history within the monument. Mr. Hill had already been collecting historical documents and relics in Texas as well as in Mexico for many years, to one day become museum exhibits.

He continued to procure exhibits from others, as well as donations. These can be viewed on the first floor, which also includes the theater and a gift shop.

The second floor contains the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library, which contains writings, research materials, and much more.

The library may be visited by appointment only.

The top floor serves as the observation deck, which affords impressive views of the ship channel and the locations of the Texan and Mexican camps.

Texas Forever!!

the paintings

This exhibition is a selection from 35 historical paintings by Charles Shaw designed and created specifically to illustrate, in part, the script for *Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto*.

The paintings are the result of years of meticulous research conducted by the San Jacinto Museum of History staff with special assistance from leading historians throughout the nation.

Shaw is nationally recognized for his special skills in historical art and is a native Texan presently living near Austin.

Reproductions of several of these paintings are available in poster form in the Museum store.



Beautiful paintings,
and even some
dioramas!



Prisoners of War

After the battle ceased, the Texians rounded up about 650 surviving Mexican soldiers and held them as prisoners of war (POWs), a common war custom. The POWs were brought to the Texian camp and told to sit in groups of two on the ground, the officers and common soldiers were separated, and a list of the officer's names was compiled. Many Mexican soldiers feared for their lives, not knowing whether they would be put to death.

About fifty of the Mexican POWs were held until Texas secured its independence from Mexico. Holding the POWs prevented a regrouping of the Mexican army and provided the Republic with leverage to end the war between Texas and Mexico through a formal peace treaty.



Dr. George M. Patrick
Year: 1879

Dr. George M. Patrick participated in key events in the Texas Revolution, including capturing the Mexican fort and garrison at Anahuac in 1835 and serving as commander of the volunteer fleet. This Texian privateer transported the two cannons used by Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Capturing Santa Anna



On April 22, 1836, following the orders of Colonel Edward Burleson, Sergeant James Austin Sylvester led one of several search parties to patrol the Buffalo Bayou area and look for Mexican officers and soldiers.

During their search, the six men came across a man dressed as a common soldier; unknown to them, it was General Antonio López de Santa Anna. With the orders to capture and not kill, Sylvester's search party brought Santa Anna back to the camp where all the other prisoners of war were located; he was recognized by the POWs who yelled "El Presidente!" Immediately following the POWs' reaction, Santa Anna asked to speak with General Sam Houston.



James A. Sylvester
Year: circa 1836
Sergeant James Austin Sylvester's search party captured General Santa Anna.
Sylvester had come to Texas in January 1836 and held the rank of second sergeant in Captain William Wood's company. He carried the only flag flown by Texans during the battle.



Names of the soldiers who captured Santa Anna.
Sergeant James Sylvester's search party:
Sergeant James Sylvester
Sion Record Bostick
Alfred Miles
Charles B. Thompson
Joel Walter Ambler
Joseph D. Vermillion

The Surrender of Santa Anna



During the battle, a musket ball shattered General Sam Houston's right tibia bone. As he lay under an oak tree, General Santa Anna was brought to him. To confirm Santa Anna's identity, two translators, Texian third sergeant Moses Austin Bryan and Mexican colonel Juan Almonte, assisted in translating between Spanish and English, and confirmed Santa Anna's identity.

In opposition to the majority of the Texian army who believed Santa Anna should be put to death for the atrocities committed at Goliad and the Alamo, Houston decided to spare his life. Houston reasoned that the Mexican general was more valuable alive than dead and holding him captive would provide the Republic with leverage to secure Texas's independence.

The withdrawal of the Mexican army

To preserve his life, Santa Anna swiftly agreed to send orders to the Mexican army to withdraw. Santa Anna drafted a letter ordering General Vicente Filisola and Colonel José de Urrea to withdraw to Bexar and not destroy any property. San Jacinto soldier Erastus "Deaf" Smith delivered the letters to the Mexican officers in Wharton County, and the orders were followed by General Filisola, who ordered the rest of the generals to do the same.

General Filisola was challenged by Colonel Urrea, who objected to the swift retreat of the armies. Within months, Filisola was replaced in command by Urrea, and while Santa Anna remained a prisoner, the interim Mexican government supported a possible reinvansion of Texas.

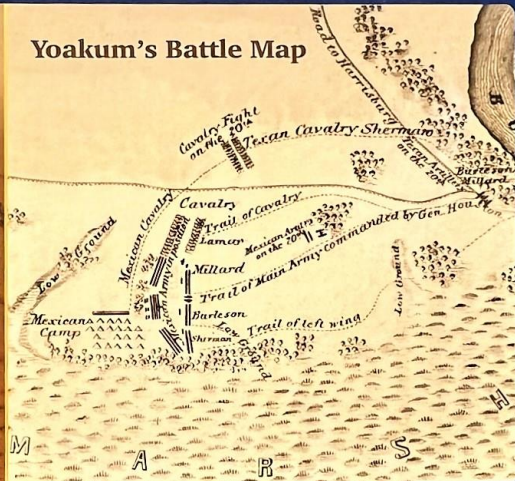
The military opposition among the Mexican generals and government threatened the proposed peace negotiations between Texas politicians and General Santa Anna, causing Texans to distrust Mexico's political and military intentions.

After the Battle of San Jacinto

On the late afternoon of April 21, 1836, the Mexican army encamped near here was overwhelmed by the Texian forces. Many Mexican soldiers scrambled to fight but ultimately surrendered and withdrew from the conflict, fleeing to the swamps near Peggy's Lake and the surrounding areas.

During the battle, the Commanding General and president of Mexico, Antonio López de Santa Anna, slipped away in a private's uniform, escaping the two hours of killing that followed the battle. About 630 Mexican and 12 Texian soldiers died on the battlefield or due to battlefield wounds.

Yoakum's Battle Map



The Guerrero Battalion was led by Colonel Manuel Guerrero. After hours-long hours of searching, the Guerrero Battalion arrived at San Jacinto in the morning of April 22, 1836. Exhausted from their march, most of them were resting when the Texian army attacked. The Mexican losses: many of the soldiers in this battalion were killed or wounded.



Title: *After the Battle of San Jacinto*

Artist: Charles Shaw Year: 1986 - 1990

In Charles Shaw's interpretation, the Mexican prisoners of war were guarded beside campfires, and those Mexican soldiers who had died were left where they had fallen.

"The appearance of the battle ground be better imagined than described. Piles and clusters of their dead and dying lay in every direction inured the ground was liberally covered. But the recollection of the dreadful massacre of our brave companions at the Alamo and Goliad, in great manner relieved our feelings from the horrors of the scene."

Quoted from: *Memories of the Battle of San Jacinto*, 1836. Printed in Capt. Manly Baker's Company



Dr. Nicholas D. Labadie

San Jacinto veteran Nicholas Descomps Labadie was a physician and businessman. General Houston appointed him surgeon of the First Regiment of the regular Texas Army on April 6, 1836. At San Jacinto, Labadie fought under Sidney Sherman and tended to the wounded.

Across Buffalo Bayou from the San Jacinto battlefield was the home of Texas's first vice president, Lorenzo de Zavala. It was temporarily converted into a hospital where wounded soldiers, both Texian and Mexican, were treated. Medicine during the 19th century was rudimentary: anesthetic chemicals such as chloroform and ether had not been developed. To minimize pain and suffering, opiates were used, and surgical procedures were often performed swiftly.

In 1838, the Labadie family moved to Galveston, where the doctor established a drug store and continued to practice medicine.

"Our rejoicing was not, however, unmingled with sorrow, as we heard of the death of some of our friends. Lieut. Lamb was shot dead on the ground, and young Brigham was mortally wounded, and both were buried with the honors of war."

—Nicholas Labadie

"I was assisted by only one attendant with a candle. Scarcely could I dress the wounds of one, when others would call on me for relief from their great sufferings. Thus, I continued until seven had passed through my hands."

—Nicholas Labadie

The Treaties of Velasco



David G. Burnet
ad interim Texas president

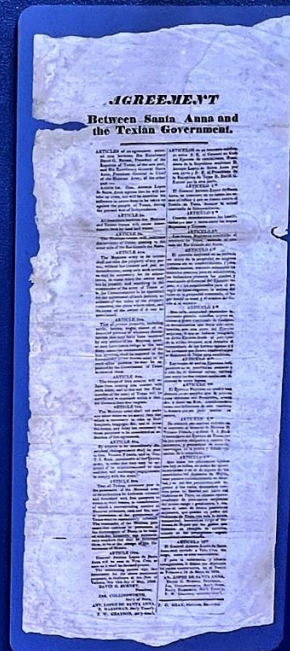
The Texas Revolution ended diplomatically on May 14, 1836, when Santa Anna and the *ad interim* Texas president, David G. Burnet, signed one public and one secret treaty.

The Public Treaty of Velasco

The public treaty outlined ten articles. It declared the end of hostilities between Mexico and Texas. Mexico would not make war against Texas, the Mexican Army would remain south of the Rio Grande, prisoners of war would be exchanged, and Mexico would provide reparations to Texas for destroyed property.

The Secret Treaty of Velasco

The secret treaty promised Santa Anna would obtain immediate freedom and return home to Mexico. Upon returning to Mexico, Santa Anna would personally ensure that Mexico officially recognized Texas's independence and that the Rio Grande was the southern border of Texas.



Visions for the Republic

The policies and governing styles adopted by presidents Sam Houston and Mirabeau B. Lamar were directly influenced by their visions for the Republic. Houston's goal was to annex the republic to the United States; he focused on pulling Texas out of bankruptcy and avoiding costly military clashes. Houston's approach to national defense against Mexico was friendly and cautious. He acted similarly in his dealings with the indigenous tribes, with whom he regularly conducted peace talks.

In contrast, Lamar's vision for the Republic was to remain independent and become a great nation that would eventually expand to the Pacific Ocean. This goal meant maintaining a hard line against Mexico and indigenous peoples. Lamar was unafraid to threaten Mexico if that nation refused to recognize Texas as an independent nation. In addition, Lamar maintained an uncompromising stance regarding indigenous tribes and the eradication of indigenous people in Texas.

Governing the Republic

On March 1, 1836, fifty-nine delegates met at Washington-on-the-Brazos to draft a constitution for the Republic of Texas. The document was ratified fifteen days later by vote of the people. As an independent nation, the Republic was now governed by its constitution, which provided for a bicameral legislature with a Senate and a House of Representatives; a four-tiered judiciary system, and an executive branch headed by a president.

Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Republic of Texas

President: **David G. Burnet**
(March 17, 1836 - October 22, 1836)
Vice President: **Lorenzo de Zavala**
March 17, 1836 - October 17, 1836
Office vacant (October 17 - 22, 1836)

President: **Sam Houston**
(October 22, 1836 - December 10, 1838)
Vice President: **Mirabeau B. Lamar**
(October 22, 1836 - December 10, 1838)

President: **Mirabeau B. Lamar**
(December 10, 1838 - December 13, 1841)
Vice President: **David G. Burnet**
(December 10, 1838 - December 13, 1841)

President: **Sam Houston**
(December 13, 1841 - December 9, 1844)
Vice president: **Edward Burleson**
(December 13, 1841 - December 9, 1844)

President: **Anson Jones**
(December 9, 1844 - February 19, 1846)
Vice President: **Kenneth Anderson**
(December 9, 1844-July 3, 1845)
Office vacant (July 3, 1845-February 19, 1846)

According to the constitution, the president served a two-year term. Presidents could not succeed themselves, but there was no limit to how many times someone could run and hold office.



President
David G. Burnet



President
Sam Houston



President
Mirabeau B. Lamar



President
Anson Jones



Title: Sam Houston

An oil on canvas portrait of Sam Houston done after the 1857 photograph of Fredricks of New York. Houston commanded the Texian army to victory over the Mexican forces in the Battle of San Jacinto. He was elected as president of the Republic two times.

The Republic is No More

The Republic remained independent for nearly a decade. On December 9, 1844, Anson Jones became the last president of the Republic. As president, he favored peaceful policies toward the indigenous people of Texas, stabilizing the economy, maintaining an aggressive policy toward Mexico, and working toward getting Texas annexed by the United States. It took some political and diplomatic maneuvering, but Texas joined the Union in late 1845, which provoked the Mexican American war, but it also sparked a new wave of immigration toward the state of Texas that stimulated agricultural and industrial development, pushing towns farther inland from the coast.



The image shows Anson Jones,
the last Texas president.

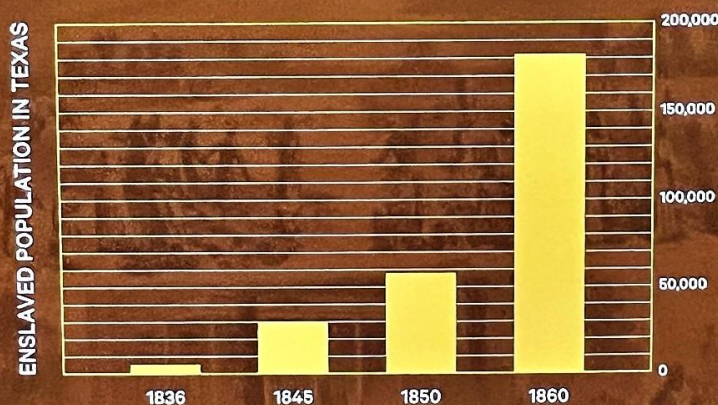
Texas's independence did not provide freedom for everyone. After the Revolution ended, the number of enslaved people brought to Texas through New Orleans and Galveston increased. Between 1836 and 1845, the enslaved population grew from 5,000 to 30,000 and continued growing after the U.S. annexed Texas.

The majority of the enslaved population in Texas were forced to work the cotton, sugarcane, and corn fields, and on the construction of the railroads. Those enslaved near towns were put to work as carpenters, blacksmiths, and as domestic servants.

Although the enslaved population grew, Texas never experienced a slave insurrection such as occurred in other places, but many protested their situation by running away like Joe Travis did.

Slavery in Texas

1836 – 5,000 enslaved population	1850 – 58,161 enslaved population
1845 – 30,000 enslaved population	1860 – 182,566 enslaved population



Joe Travis

Joe was a twenty-three-year-old enslaved person who remained with William Travis during the battle for the Alamo. According to some accounts, during the battle Joe attacked Mexican soldiers on several occasions and, fortunately, avoided execution. After the Alamo's fall, he was released and fled east toward Sam Houston's Texian army in Gonzalez. There, Joe told Houston and his men of the Battle of the Alamo's outcome, sparking Houston to order his troops to retreat east, eventually reaching San Jacinto.

News clipping from *Telegraph and Texas Register*.

Fifty Dollars

WILL be given for delivering to me on Bailey's Prairie, seven miles from Columbia, a negro man named Joe, belonging to the succession of the late Wm. Barret Travis, who took off with him a Mexican and two horses, saddles and bridles. This negro was in the Alamo with his master when it was taken; and was the only man from the colonies who was not put to death: he is about twenty-five years of age, five feet ten or eleven inches high, very black and good countenance; had on when he left, on the night of the 21st April ult. a dark mixed suit of round jacket and new white cotton pantaloons. One of the horses taken is a bay, about 14½ hands high, very heavy built, with a blaze in his face, a bushy mane and tail, and a sure back; also the property of mild succession, the other horse is a chestnut sorrel, about 16 hands high. The saddles are of the Spanish form, but of American manufacture, and one of them covered with blue cloth. Forty dollars will be given for Joe and the small bay horse, (Shavano), and ten dollars for the Mexican other horse and saddles and bridles. If the runaway are taken more than one hundred miles from my residence, I will pay all reasonable travelling expenses, in addition to the above reward.

JOHN R. JONES, Esq. of W. B. Travis.

Bailey's Prairie, May 21st, 1837. 70-3m 17

After Joe Travis escaped an ad was placed on the *Telegraph and Texas Register* offering a reward for Joe's recapture and return.

Telegraph and Texas Register, camh-dob-014316_0003, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

Texas's Black Settlers

The freedom and personal liberties of Black settlers in Texas came into question when the Republic was established. The constitution of 1836 authorized and protected slavery, and free Black settlers living in Texas were required to leave the Republic or petition congress to remain in Texas.

Samuel McCulloch, Jr.

Samuel McCulloch, Jr. moved to Texas in May 1835 with his white father and three Black sisters in search of better opportunities. On October 5, 1835, McCulloch enlisted as a private in the Matagorda Volunteer Company and four days later was injured during the Battle of Goliad—making him the first Texas Revolution casualty.

From 1836 to 1840, McCulloch petitioned for his right to live in Texas and to receive pay in land for military service. Eventually, McCulloch was allowed to remain in Texas as a free Black settler and he received one league of land as a veteran with permanent disability from military service.

Even though he was permanently disabled at Goliad, McCulloch continued his military service in Texas up until the 1840s. He remained in Texas with his family and attended the annual reunion of the Texas Veteran Association. Samuel McCulloch, Jr., died on November 2, 1893.

AN ACT
Concerning certain Free Persons of Color

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas, in Congress assembled, That Samuel McCulloch, Jr., and his three sisters, to wit: Jane, Harriet and Mary, and their descendants, being known as the free children of Samuel McCulloch, were, prior to the Republic of Texas, together with a free colored girl, known by the name of Fide or Fiddle, a member of said McCulloch's family, he, and the same are hereby from henceforth, exempted from all the provisions of any act concerning free persons of color, approved 15th of February, one thousand eight hundred and forty.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the aforesaid free persons, he, and his family from henceforth, are permitted and allowed to remain in said Republic within the limits of the Republic of Texas.

DAVID S. KAUFMAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ANSON JONES,
President pro tem. of the Senate.

Approved December 15th, 1840.

DAVID G. BURNETT

During the Fifth Congress, the displayed Laws passed, permitted McCulloch and his family to stay in Texas.

McCulloch, Samuel, age 58, married, South Carolina, at the capture of Texas, 1835. Houston, Bay, Jacinto, Texas county. James B. age 31, orphaned in 1832, moved against Anahuac and came to Texas, at 1835, Houston, Bay, Jacinto, Texas county.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TEXAS VETERANS
ASSOCIATION
HOLDEN
AT THE ANNUAL REUNION
OF THE
TEXAS VETERANS
ASSOCIATION
AT THE
HOTEL
AT
HOUSTON,
TEXAS
JANUARY 1893

The Proceedings of the Texas Veterans has a list of the Texas veterans who fought during Texas revolution.

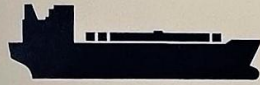


Time to enjoy the wonderful views
from the observation floor
and take pictures!





As you look out the Observation Floor windows, you may see several types of marine vessels:



These ships are used to carry the unrefined crude oil into the refineries and petrochemical sites that line the Ship Channel, as well as carry refined products such as gasoline, diesel and chemicals to other parts of the world.



The Greater Houston Area is known for having some of the best seafood dishes, including shrimp, redfish & more. These marine vessels often depart in the early hours of the day and return before noon with their catch.



Some of the more frequently seen passenger ships are the Lynchburg Ferry, the Sam Houston tour boat, and the Battleship Texas which is permanently docked in the San Jacinto Park beyond the reflection pond.



To the right:
While enjoying the views of the grounds and ship channel, the up-close view of the layering on the outer monument walls was also attention-getting. A beautiful finishing touch, comprised of fossilized Cordova cream shellstone.



To the left:

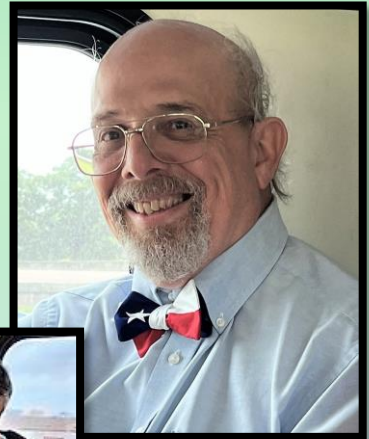
Our trip to the monument was not complete without a very interesting and entertaining bus tour of the grounds and accompanying talk by Katelyn, the battlegrounds tour director. She pointed out the Mexican and Texan camps and other sites, while giving us a fuller picture of how and where the battle unfolded, and its aftermath.

She also passed around a 4-lb musket ball. Both 4 and 6-lb balls were used in the battle.

To the right:

Everyone enjoyed riding in a sleek new Precinct One hybrid bus, plus having great views from the windows!

Seating was also improved, with an elevated section, and with some seats facing different directions. (And note the proud owner of a new Texas-themed bow tie from the Monument gift shop!)





No trip is complete without
a lunch break!

We stopped in at the
Monument Inn, and enjoyed a
great lunch and great view
of the ship channel.



