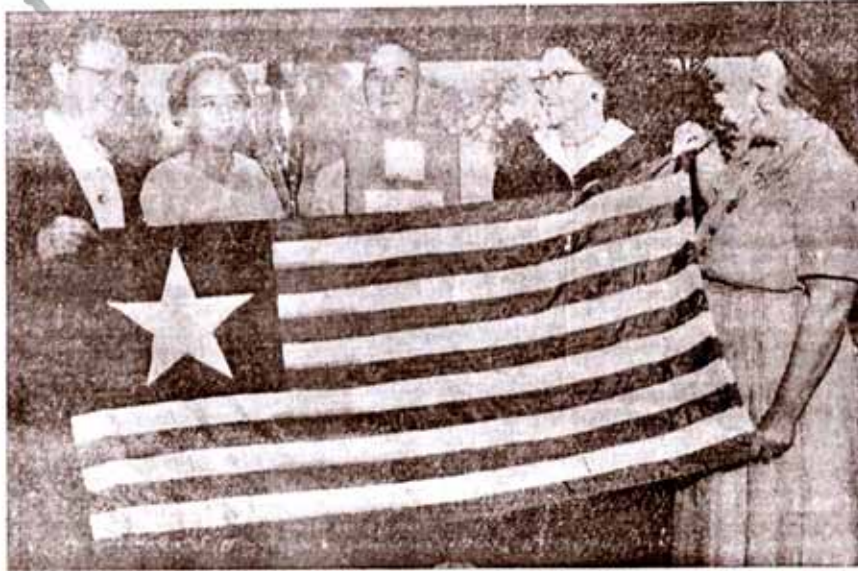




Texas Navy Association

Historical Article



Mrs. Edna Hinde A Garland Adair Mrs. George Davis Mrs. John Caldwell
Garland Roark

Daily Facts Review

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First Texian Navy Day Observed In Brazosport

Texian Navy Day was celebrated Thursday for the first time.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas hope to make it an annual affair. The original celebration was held at the Dow Hotel in Freeport, however the DRT plans to hold it at the site of Fort Velasco in the future.

More than 50 persons from all over Texas were present to pay honor to the Texas Navy. Many of the visitors recalled fragments of the tiny Navy's major roll in the Texas War for Independence.

Those present at the meeting included Mrs. Edna Hinde of Dallas, DRT president; A. Garland Adair, Austin Museum curator and executive director of the Texas Heritage Foundation; Garland Roark of Nacogdoches, author of "Star in the Ringlets"; and Mrs. George Davis of Angleton, president of Brazoria County's "Cradle of Texas" DRT chapter. Mrs. John Caldwell of Freeport was chairman for the event.

The county DRT chapter has been designated by the state organization to handle the annual event. This is because the two major naval battles of the Texas Revolution were fought within sight of the Old Velasco harbor.

Adair, principal speaker at the meeting, said Texian Navy Day will designate one of the four major events of Texas history. He said the first three as recognition

of Thomas F. McKinney, financier of the Texas Revolution; Commodore Edwin A. Moore, Texas Navy commander; and Henry Smith, first provisional governor of Texas.

"You have taken care of one of them. Now see what you can do about the other three," Adair challenged the gathered Daughters of the Texas Revolution.

Adair presented the "Cradle of Texas Chapter" with a copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and a segment of stone from the Alamo.

During the presentation to Mrs. Davis, Adair declared, "You ladies have been the army in the fight to keep our Texas history alive. Your record is splendid, and I am sure your future accomplishments will be of equal value to Texas."

Roark presented a replica of the first Texas Navy flag to the local DRT chapter. The flag was designed by Provisional President James Burnett and made the Navy's official flag on March 9, 1836 and remained so until 1839 when the present Texas flag was adopted.

He explained his current novel was based on the life of Capt. Jeremiah Brown, first commander of the Texas Navy. It was Capt. Brown who ran his schooner Sabine through the Mexican blockade of the Velasco harbor in January 1832.

September 2, 1835 saw the first naval action of the Texas Revolution. On that day the Steam Sloop

Laura circled the becalmed Mexican Schooner Correo de Mepico and pounded her to pieces with cannon fire. This action took place within sight of the mouth of the Brazos River.

Adair said the Texas Navy kept Santa Anna from landing an army on the Texas coast and cutting the colony in two. It forced him to march his troops overland to San Antonio where the defense of the Alamo gave Texas time to organize.

"After the peace treaty was signed at Velasco the Texas Navy, with unintentional help from France, foiled a plan by Santa Anna to reinstate the republic," Mr. Adair said.

Ships commissioned into the Texas Navy were the Liberty, Invincible, Brutus, Independence, Potomac, Xavalla, San Jacinto, San Antonio, San Bernard, Wharton, Austin and Archer.

The last four named vessels were transferred to the U. S. Navy in June of 1846.

Texas still has a Navy. Its commander is Commodore E. H. Perry of Austin.

One of the highest honors Texas can bestow is an honorary commission in the Texas Navy. The Navy's fleet are the ships in service of various branches of the state's governmental bodies.

Governor Allan Shivers has proclaimed September 2-8 as Texian Navy Week. And has set September 2 as Texian Navy Day