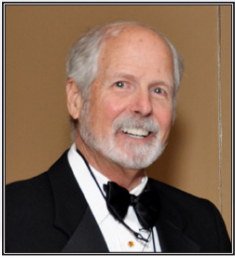


The Invincible

Texas Navy Association Newsletter



Report From TNA President Bill Turner



Texas Navy Board Elections

The TNA membership will elect 3 Board Members to 3 year terms to begin in January 2014. Anyone interested in serving on the TNA board, should submit a short bio & contact information to the Nominating Committee. Submissions should go to ttaylor@bushramirez.com and must be received no later than 5:00 pm, November 15.

Texas Navy History Preservation and Education Project

The TNA has contributed \$13,000 toward creation of a permanent Texas Navy Exhibit in the Texas Military Forces Museum, Camp Mabry, in Austin. An additional commitment has been made, for up to \$11,500, in the form of a dollar for dollar match against other donations. Please support this effort by visiting <http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/PayPal2.html> and giving your personal donation. This exhibit will serve as a model for additional Texas Navy history preservation and educational projects across Texas.

Congratulations and welcome aboard to all members of these recently affiliated Squadrons:

Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron in Shoreacres: Adm Ed Bluestein, Commander and Adm Dave Haglund, TNA Board Appointee.

Sam Houston Squadron in Seabrook: Adm Don Genitempo, Commander.

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron in Dallas: Adm Micki Sander, Commander and Nick Ricco, TNA Board Appointee.

Edwin W. Moore Squadron in Austin: Adm Larry Schroeder, Commander and Adm Gordon Kelso, TNA Board Appointee.

If you have not yet seen the new TNA website, please take a minute to go and look around. There, you can sign up for the Christmas Party and other events, check recent news and past newsletters. [Log In](#) to the Members>Directory area and create your personal listing for the Directory. You will be able to determine what personal information is and is not viewable to other members. More features are being added as time permits. A special thanks to Admirals, Jim Tyson and Judy Fisher for their many hours of development effort to create the new website.

Texas Navy History in Texas School Books

– UPDATE

In an email to Admiral Chris Barbee, Gail Lowe, past Chairperson of the State Board of Education reports the following:

“The Grade 7 social studies standards contain the reference to the Texas Navy, and this information must be taught. The specific wording for Grade 7 TEKS standard 4 is:

(4) History. The student understands how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of the Republic of Texas and early Texas statehood. The student is expected to:

(A) identify individuals, events, and issues during the administrations of Republic of Texas Presidents Houston, Lamar, and Jones, including the Texas Navy, the Texas Rangers, Edwin W. Moore, Jack Coffee Hays, Chief Bowles, William Goyens, Mary Maverick, Jose Antonio Navarro, the Cordova Rebellion, the Council House Fight, the Santa Fe Expedition, public debt, and the roles of racial and ethnic groups;

(B) analyze the causes of and events leading to Texas annexation; and

(C) identify individuals, events, and issues during early Texas

statehood, including the U.S.-Mexican War, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, population growth, and the compromise of 1850.

Social studies textbooks and instructional materials will be reviewed and considered for adoption in the summer of 2014. The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing in the fall of 2014 on these materials and will certify what percentage of the TEKS standards are covered by each publisher. (The Legislature now requires textbooks to cover only 50% of the TEKS, although school districts still are responsible for teaching 100% of the standards.)

These new instructional materials will be available for purchase and use in Texas classrooms in the fall of 2016. The last time new history books were adopted was in 2002, I believe -- the year before I joined the SBOE...Gail Lowe”

Congratulations and thanks to Admirals Barbee, Greiner, Brown and all others who have been involved in the effort to increase the emphasis on teaching Texas Navy history in Texas’ public schools.

Local Seafarers Had Active Role In The Texas Navy

The Baytown Sun

By Wanda Orton
Contributor
Published April 12, 2009

Sea-going guys in the bay area helped win the war in the 1830s.

At long last, the Texas Navy is gaining recognition for its role in the struggle for independence from Mexico, and maritime leaders like the Scotts, the Spillmans and other locals played a key role in this nautical success story.

As early as 1832, when the revolution started heating up, Baytown area seafarers were busy on the bay, playing both offense and defense.

Who do you think prevented reinforcements from reaching that tariff tyrant, Col. Juan Bradburn at Fort Anahuac? Local men like David Kokernot, James Spillman and son, and William Scott and his sons – that’s who.

Composed of three schooners with a total of 18 men aboard, the feisty flotilla sailed over Galveston and Trinity Bays, blockading any vessels destined for the Mexican garrison.

Capt. Kokernot, at the helm of the Red Rover, discovered one such vessel crossing Galveston Bay, gave chase and caught her.

Near the mouth of Double Bayou, Capt. Scott of the Stephen F. Austin, nabbed an Anahuac-bound boat, and Spillman, captain of the Waterwitch, nailed two boats off Cedar Point.

These guys were typical of early Texans who lived on the waterfront, built boats and navigated them with confidence and competence.

Scott’s home faced Scott Bay in the vicinity of the present-day Exxon Mobil docks, while Kokernot had a home upstream. Today his domicile would be pinpointed on part of the Baytown Nature Center, formerly the Brownwood subdivision.

Spillman’s place stood on an island directly opposite from Black Duck Bay, where the Baytown-La Porte Tunnel would be dug out in the next century.

By September 1835, Scott planted his sea legs on the ground, drilling the Lynchburg Volunteers for the Texas Army, but son George stayed afloat in the Texas Navy.

As a Navy man, George Scott participated in one of the most daring adventures of the Texas Revolution – the capture of the Correo – about the same time that his dad’s Army unit was organizing and flaunting a battle flag with a lone star and the

wording, “independence.”

Young Scott served aboard the San Felipe, a schooner owned by brother-in-law Samuel May Williams and Thomas F. McKinney.

The San Felipe’s main claim to fame, before the Correo affair, was bringing the notable Stephen F. Austin back to Texas from Mexico after he had been released from prison.

Along with the steamboat Laura, also owned by Williams and McKinney, the San Felipe sailed out of Velasco in pursuit of the Correo, a Mexican schooner of war commanded by Thomas M. Thompson, an Englishman whom the Texans hated.

Thompson had stirred their anger by capturing a sloop en route from Anahuac to Velasco and warning the folks in Anahuac that they better not form a militia. Furthermore, he threatened to hang William B. Travis and to seize the Texans’ faithful little steamer, the Cayuga.

“Them’s fightin’ words!”

The Texans went after Thompson with a vengeance, capturing him and his vessel. Having been named the prize captain, George Scott had the honor of sailing the Correo to New Orleans where Thompson, allegedly lacking proper credentials in the Mexican government, faced charges of piracy.

His trial is another whole story in itself as it turned into a kind of comic opera, complete with lawyers yelling and throwing inkwells and books. The judge was so disgusted that he jailed the lawyers on both sides and released Thompson and his crew from the New Orleans jail.

The official Texas Navy was launched in 1836 with the purchase of four vessels, the Independence, the Invincible, the Brutus and the Liberty. Thanks to the Big Four, plus various other schooners

operating from Galveston to Tampico, Texans succeeded in dominating the coast and blocking reinforcements for Santa Anna’s Army.

Historian Jonathan Jordan, author of “The Lone Star Navy,” said, “The Texas Navy, as much as the Battle of San Jacinto, saved Texas and thereby altered the history of the American west.”

*Wanda Orton is a retired managing editor of The Baytown Sun.
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Sam Houston Squadron’s First Year Anniversary

The Sam Houston Squadron of the Texas Navy celebrated their First Anniversary on October 13 in the Ballroom of Lakewood Yacht Club, joined by special guests from the TNA Board, President Bill Turner, Vice President John Nicholson, and Secretary Tom Taylor. From the Tom Toby Squadron, Vice Commander Beth Fisher also celebrated the SHS Anniversary among many friends and familiar faces. The SHS was honored to have Former Secretary of State, George Strake and his wife Annette as very special guests.

Master Sgt Lennie Hutton opened the evening with a beautiful, traditional a cappella version of the National Anthem. Long time friend Rev. George Aurich delivered a warm and personal invocation for the special anniversary. After cocktails and dinner, a panel of speakers presented fascinating stories, images and artifacts from Texas history. Texas State Marine Archaeological Steward, Andy Hall shared stories from his most recent published work, The Galveston-Houston Packet - Steamboats on Buffalo Bayou. SHS member, Frank Clements displayed Susie, the beautiful and fully operational 5’ steamboat model he built, which enhanced the steamboat discussion and imagery. Award winning author and Civil War historian Ed Cotham honored the 150th anniversary of

the sailors and soldiers who fought some of the most interesting and important battles of the Civil War in Texas waters, culminating in the Battle of Sabine Pass. From the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M, Justin Parkoff and Jessica Stika brought artifacts, stories and displays from their USS Westfield project currently underway with the Texas City Museum. The Westfield was a side-wheel steam ferry turned Union gunboat destroyed by her own Captain and crew near the end of what is now the Texas

City Dike, to prevent her capture by the Confederacy. Excavation continues on the site.

It was an enjoyable and educational evening! Commander Don Genitempo and Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor accompanied by SHS Founder Admiral Jack Thomas promised to continue offering more opportunities designed to expand knowledge of our rich Texas history among the camaraderie of other Texas Navy Admirals. Yes, the SHS

is often reminded by fellow Admirals and historians that General Sam Houston really didn't like the Texas Navy very much back in the 1830's, but we're out to prove that if he knew us today, he would approve of our work.

Article written/submitted by SHS Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor. Photos of Sam Houston Squadron Anniversary



(L) SHS Commander Adm. Don Genitempo, Master Sergeant Lennie Hutton, Adm. Bob Fuller



(L) Adm. Jacob Deegan, Jack Frassanito, Former Secretary of State Adm. George Strake, TNA President Adm. Bill Turner



(L) Andy Hall, Tom Toby Vice Commander Adm. Beth Fisher



(L) Master Sergeant Lennie Hutton, SHS Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor; Program Presenters Justin Parkoff, Ed Cotham, Jessica Stika, Andy Hall



(L) Admirals Bob & Rubye Garrett



(L) Carol Nicholson, TNA Secretary Adm. Tom Taylor, TNA Vice President Adm. John Nicholson, SHS Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor



SAVE
THE
DATE!

**TNA
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
BANQUET &
MEETING**

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7, 2013**

**LAKEWOOD YACHT CLUB
SEABROOK, TEXAS**

TO SIGN UP NOW FOR THE BANQUET AND BOOK
YOUR DISCOUNT ROOM CLICK THIS LINK

WWW.TEXASNAVY.COM

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

Cordially Invites All Squadrons of the Texas Navy to an Event honoring the Sam Houston Squadron on Saturday, November 9th at:

Islamorada Fish Company Restaurant
(on the West Shore of Lake Ray Hubbard in Garland, Texas
In the lower level of Bass Pro-Shop at Exit 61B of I-30
Use the Large Elevators at the rear of the Pro-Shop)

6 PM - Fellowship Hour (Cash Bar)

7 PM - Dinner (Choice of Beef: 7.5 oz grilled Filet; or Chicken: hickory-fired Rotisserie; or Fish: Portofino Tilapia w/shrimp & lobster sauce with soup/salad, vegetables, tea/coffee and dessert)

\$35. per person

We have a number of new squadrons forming and all are invited to participate in this event, exchange ideas, and enjoy the comradeship. We have a program planned for your enjoyment, and look forward to seeing each of you.

Please Reserve By: To: P. M. McEnroe
1129 Beaverbrook Ln.
DeSoto, TX 75115-2752

Please make checks payable to: Nimitz Squadron and Specify Dinner of Beef, Chicken or Fish

For Additional Info, Call 214-577-8684 or 972-296-1446
Pat McEnroe, Special Events Officer



It is with great pleasure that I extend an invitation to you and your guests to attend the grand opening of the Texas Military Forces new exhibit *From Gonzales to Appomattox and Beyond: The Texas Military Forces in the Nineteenth Century*. Your generous financial and moral support has helped make this ambitious exhibit a reality and we hope that you will be able to join us to celebrate its completion.

Highlights of this 2,600 square foot tribute to the militia and volunteer units of Texas as a Republic and State include

- More than 100 original artifacts used by Texas troops between 1823 and 1901.
- 28 original or reproduction flags carried by Texas troops during the Texas Revolution, the Mexican War, the War Between the States and the Spanish-American/Philippine-American Wars.
- Four interactive exhibits that allow guests to hear the haunting strains of the Duegello at the Alamo, vote for or against the secession of Texas in 1861, learn how to fire a Civil War musket or artillery piece, listen to Civil War era bugles calls or discover the role of the Texas Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg.
- A life-size cross section of the gun deck of a Texas Navy warship, circa 1842.

- A full-scale reproduction of a Civil War artillery emplacement.
- A recreated sharpshooter's position in Devil's Den on the battlefield of Gettysburg.
- Dramatic dioramas of the battles of the Alamo, San Jacinto, Galveston and Sabine Pass.
- More than 70 interpretive panels detailing the role Texas troops and units played in the Texas Revolution, the struggle for the frontier, the Mexican War, the War Between the States and the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars.

During the weekend of November 9-10, visitors to the museum will be allowed a sneak peek into the exhibit. The formal grand opening and ribbon cutting will take place starting at 1 p.m. on Monday, November 11 inside the museum's Great Hall. Admission to the museum and its programs is free. Visitors must show a photo ID, such as a driver's license, to enter Camp Mabry.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend the exhibit opening, or if not, that you will visit the museum and its new exhibit in the very near future. If you are able to attend please RSVP to me at Jeffrey.w.hunt10.nfg@mail.mil or call 512-782-5659.

I look forward to seeing you and thanking you for your support!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Wm Hunt

Director

Texas Military Forces Museum

Nautical Trivia Quiz

3. What is the origin of the term "mayday" for an emergency call? Answer on page 10

TNA Affiliated Squadrons

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

If you live in the Dallas area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Micki Sander at 972.662.1818 or micki@thgolfspot.com

Sam Houston Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of Lakewood Yacht Club or a reciprocal club to Lakewood Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Sam Houston Squadron, please contact the Sam Houston Squadron Commander, Admiral Don Genitempo, at 832.771.3222 or dtempo@msn.com

Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron

If you live in the Austin area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Larry Schroeder at lschroeder@grandecom.net

The Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron

"If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of the Houston Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron, please contact Squadron Commander Ed Bluestein at marshed@swbell.net.

Non-TNA Affiliated Squadrons

Captain Jeremiah Brown Squadron

If you live in the Fort Worth area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Adjutant Admiral Jim Sutton at jim@suttonsonline.com

The Tom Toby Squadron

If you live in Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Curtis Osborne at curtosborne@windstream.net (281.242.4972)

or Vice-Commander Admiral Beth Fisher at bethfis@aol.com (281.304.0081)

A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming. If you live in Corpus Christi and have an interest please contact Admiral Mark Underhill at mark.b.underhill@uscg.mil or 409 .882.4675

Announcements



Adm. Schroeder

Moore Squadron by Adm. Schroeder: The opening of the Texas Navy exhibit at Camp Mabry's Texas Military Forces Museum to the public is November 9th & 10th. The Grand Opening is Monday, November 11, Veteran's Day, at 1pm. The Moore Squadron has reserved the meeting room at the museum for noon so that any Admirals, guests, etc can congregate before the ceremony. If there are any interested in joining/getting info/meeting other squadron members of the Central Texas Squadron, please introduce yourself to Adm Larry Schroeder. Hope to see you there.



Adm. Bluestein

Lamar Squadron by Adm. Bluestein: The Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron at the Houston Yacht Club held a meeting on October 29 and elected the following officers:

Squadron Commander - Admiral Ed Bluestein
Squadron Deputy Commander - Admiral Tom Deen
Squadron Delegate to the TNA Board - Admiral Dave Haglund

The Squadron's roster now consists of 35 Commissioned Texas Navy Admirals.

The Texas Navy Time Line

1838

January 4: Senator William C. Preston introduces a resolution for a tripartite treaty between the U.S./Mexico/Texas in the U.S. Senate.

January 10: Mexican President Anastasio Bustamante declared that the war to reconquer Texas was “the first obligation of the government and all Mexicans.”

March 21: French diplomats present Mexico with an ultimatum for payment of claims brought by French citizens against the Mexican government. The ultimatum would escalate into a French naval expedition against Veracruz later named the “Pastry War.” During this conflict, a French naval squadron under Admiral Charles Baudin, a veteran of Trafalgar, sailed into Veracruz, bombarded the fort of San Juan d’Ulloa, and captured the Mexican Navy stationed there.

March 31: Oaths of office are distributed to the officers of the Texas Navy by Secretary of the Navy William M. Shepherd. The oath for Captain Wheelwright stated: “I Geo. Wheelwright do solemnly swear that I will bear true allegiance to the Republic of Texas and that I will serve her honestly and faithfully against all her enemies or opposers whatsoever, and observe and obey the orders of the President of the Republic and the officers appointed over me according to the rules and articles for the Government of the Navy of the Republic.” (Wheelwright ultimately refused to take the oath, and for this reason among others, President Houston sacked him.)

April 9: Captain Wheelwright refuses to take the officers’ oath, on grounds that only petty or warrant officers (not commissioned officers, like himself), take an oath, under U.S. Naval regulations then in force. Houston disagreed, citing Article V, section 3 of the Texas Constitution, and fired Wheelwright on April 15. The next day, Acting Secretary of the Navy George Hockley appoints Lieutenant

John W. Taylor to assume command of the Texas Navy. Several officers of the Texas Navy submitted an unsuccessful petition to Congress to reinstate Captain Wheelwright.

April 11: Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Texas finally settles the claims of the U.S. government over the capture of the American brig Pocket by the Invincible in April 1836.

April 26: Great Britain formally charged the Texas Republic with committing illegal acts on the high seas because of the seizure of the English ship Eliza Russell by the warships Invincible and Brutus during the Texas Navy’s summer 1837 cruise.

May 1: Naval secretary William Shepherd, who replaced Fisher, reports to the Texas Secretary of State on disciplinary action taken against Secretary Fisher and Captain Thompson for the seizure of the British ship Eliza Russell.

May 23: President Houston signs a Congressional resolution compensating the officers and sailors of the Invincible and Brutus for prizes taken during their 1837 cruise.

May 25: USN officer John Grant Tod joins the Texas Navy, eventually becoming commander of the Galveston Navy Yard.

June and July: John Quincy Adams speaks against the annexation of Texas all morning, every morning in the U.S. House of Representatives.

June 10: President Sam Houston orders former U.S. Navy midshipman (and Mexican Navy officer) John G. Tod to the United States to look into matters affecting Texas naval interests.

June 14: Resolution introduced by Senator William C Preston on

January 4th for a tripartite treaty between the U.S./Mexico/Texas in the U.S. Senate is tabled.

June 14: U.S. Senate approves a treaty satisfying U.S. claims for the seizure of the merchant vessel Pocket by the Invincible in April 1836. Samuel May Williams, a merchant from Velasco (and later Galveston), begins negotiations with the firm of Frederick Dawson of Baltimore for the purchase of six new ships for the Texas Navy. These negotiations would eventually result in Texas acquisition of the Austin, Wharton, Archer, San Antonio, San Jacinto and San Bernard.

July 2: President Houston appoints George W. Hockley acting Secretary of the Navy. Hockley would serve as Houston's permanent Secretary of War and Marine during his second administration.

July 6: Texas and the United States enter into a treaty resolving claims against Texas for the seizure of the merchant brig Pocket by the Texas warship Invincible in April 1836. Under the treaty, Texas agrees to pay \$11,750, plus interest for the brig's capture.

October 9: Galveston merchant Samuel May Williams, on a special mission from the Texas Government, reported that Texas might be able to purchase the steamship Charleston for conversion to a steam-powered warship. A contract was executed on October 24, and repairs and modifications began the next month. The Charleston was renamed the Zavala, and became Texas' only steamer of war. (It was found buried under a Galveston parking lot some 150 years later.)

October 12: Texas withdraws the offer of annexation because of the U.S. Congress' lack of action on the proposal.

October 30: Secretary of the Navy William M. Shepherd reported to Houston on the decrepit condition of the Texas Navy (it had only one unarmed ship in the whole fleet). He urged Houston to fund the armament of the receiving ship Potomac in case she was needed for maritime defense. Secretary Shepherd also recommended providing

land bounties to Texas seamen, an idea that eventually became a congressional resolution that Houston vetoed.

Nautical Trivia Quiz Answer

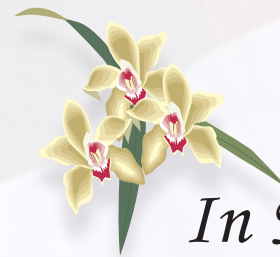
3) "Mayday" is said to have originated from the French phrase "M'aidez" - meaning "Help me."

(source: http://sailing.about.com/od/introductiontosailing/ss/Nautical-Trivia-Quiz-For-Sailors_2.htm)

Check out the changes to our Ships Store!

It is very easy to navigate and the buyer now has payment options such as PayPal, credit card or check. Your Shopping Bag is visible without having to scroll back to the top of the page. All of the items are categorized for easy shopping...such as: Miscellaneous, Apparel, Jewelry etc. To go to the Ships Store click <https://texasnavy.com/Default.aspx?pageId=1654114>

Any suggestions please email shipstore@texasnavy.com



In Memory Of

Admiral R. J. Ritter
Admiral Robert George Crabb
Admiral C. Roland Haden

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

