

# Star of the Republic Museum

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Government Publications  
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# Notes

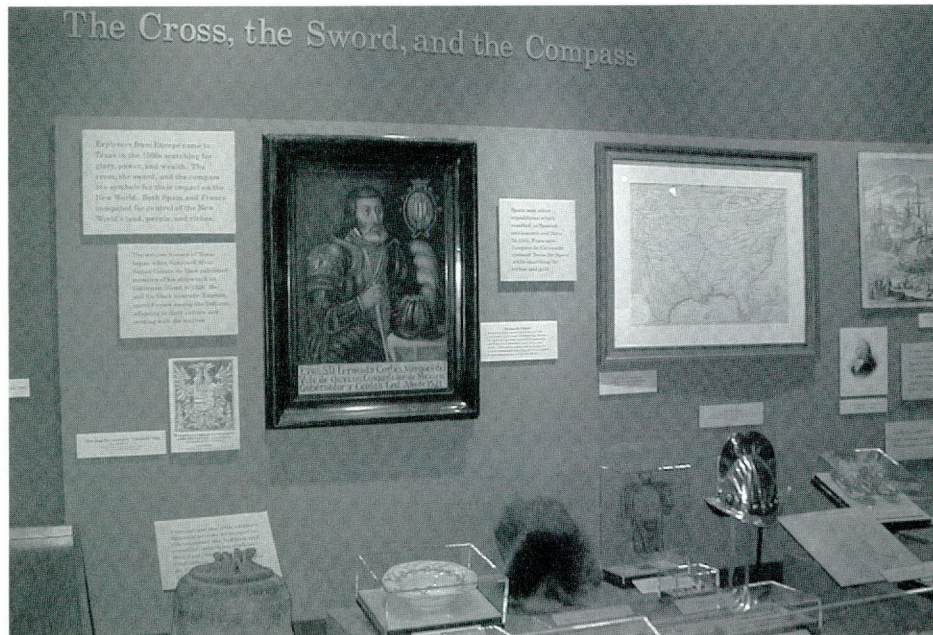
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## Republic of Texas Exhibition *First Floor Opening*



The Star of the Republic Museum proudly announces the opening of the first floor exhibits in **The Republic of Texas** Exhibition on October 7-8, 2000. The new exhibition interprets the early history of Texas through the conclusion of the Mexican War in 1848.

A dynamic entrance greets visitors with an eye-catching collage entitled "Welcome to Texas." Set against the dramatic backdrop of a giant Texas flag, the collage offers a glimpse of the Texas mystique, and invites visitors to explore what makes Texas special.

Exhibits on the first floor tell the story of Texas in chronological order, beginning with the Native Americans who were indigenous to the area. A focal point of this area is a life-sized buffalo mount standing in front of a hand-painted mural of a prairie scene.

Next, visitors encounter a section devoted to European exploration of early Texas, which began in the 1500s. Highlights include horseshoe nails excavated from the 1541 Coronado expedition into Blanco Canyon and several items recently recovered from LaSalle's ship, the *LaBelle*, which sank in Matagorda Bay in 1686.



Naturalists from all over the world were lured to Texas to study the native plants and animals. The vast landscape offered opportunities for observation of an immense array of specimens. Some of nature's bounty can be observed in the section titled "A Beautiful, Promising Land," where full mounts of a whitetail deer, a black bear, a javelina, and a wild turkey can be seen.

As Texas' reputation began to spread, thousands of colonists were attracted to Texas in the early 1800s. "Gone to Texas" illustrates how these settlers came to Texas, whether by land or water, and displays typical items that would be found in a covered wagon en route to Texas. The backdrop is a spectacular reproduction of *Advice on the Prairie*, painted in 1853, by William Tylee Ranney.

A truly unforgettable interpretation of the "Voices and Faces of Texas" awaits the visitor entering the next section. Hauntingly realistic voices representing different cultures and perspectives speak from inside a dark cave, dramatically telling what their lives were like in early Texas.

"The Road to Independence" highlights the battles and leaders of the Texas Revolution. The focal point of this section is a seven-by-nine foot painting of *The Reading of the Texas Declaration of Independence*, by Charles and Fanny Normann, painted in 1936. Artifacts include several types of firearms; as well as walking canes from Martin Parmer, a signer of the Declaration, and from Jesse Billingsley, a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Interpretation of the "Republic of Texas" begins with the oldest known Lone Star flag, and includes artifacts that belonged to the Presidents of the Republic. The significance of the printing industry is also examined, and copies of some early newspapers are available for perusal. The historical and mythical role of the Texas Ranger is also explored, and features a leather jacket worn by actor Chuck Norris on the modern-day television program, "Walker, Texas Ranger." The exhibit concludes with "The Mexican War," elegantly depicted on a fine collection of Texian Campaign china.

The Museum is grateful to the many supporters who have made **The Republic of Texas** Exhibition possible through generous gifts and grants. The opening of the first floor exhibits marks the completion of Phase 2 of our three-part project. Phase 1 was completed with the opening of the Showers-Brown Discovery Center in February, 1999. Phase 3 begins shortly with construction of the second-floor exhibits. We look forward to presenting the story of Texas with intriguing and innovative new exhibits.

by Anne Simms, Assistant Curator of Education



The Star of the Republic Museum gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following donors who made the Millennium Campaign a success and enabled us to continue to present the story of the Republic of Texas.

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as of August 7, 2000

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## Museum and Park Announce New Staff Members



Holly Mathis joined the museum staff on September 5<sup>th</sup> as the new Public Programs Coordinator. Holly received her undergraduate degree in history from Howard Payne University in 1997. While at Howard Payne, she became a member of the University's Honors Program and was named a Sumners Scholar. She was also awarded the Outstanding Student in History Award as well as gaining recognition for "Best Undergraduate Thesis," an honor voted on throughout the University.

Holly began graduate studies at Baylor University in 1997. After a year of coursework in the history department, she broadened her studies to the Museum Studies Department. During this time she worked as a graduate assistant in both the History Department and Baylor's Institute for Oral History, and taught history and government part-time at Waco Christian School.

In May of 1999, Holly became the curator of the Bell County Museum. During her time with this institution, she planned and developed a 2,000+ square-foot, multi-media, interactive exhibit that chronicles over two hundred years of county history.

Holly will receive her Master of Arts degree in museum studies from Baylor in December. She and her husband, Elton, reside in Chappell Hill.



On September 5, 2000, Seneca McAdams joined the team at the Star of the Republic Museum as the Marketing Director. This is a new position at the Museum in which the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, Star of

the Republic Museum, and the Park Association will be represented as one main destination site for visitors.

Seneca received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Mass Communications from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Her senior year, she was part of a team that won Advertising Project of the Year.

Her prior experience brings eight years of community service through the television medium. She worked in the local markets of Brenham, Navasota, and then expanded to the New Caney and Kingwood areas on the north side of Houston as producer and anchor. Throughout her television career, Seneca's main goal was to promote the community and all its assets. During those eight years, Seneca won numerous awards for Community Service projects from the Texas Cable Association. In 1997, a Bronze Award was received for a project entitled Texas History Facts: Star of the Republic Museum. Seneca resides in Brenham with her husband Mack.



Todd Stockwell joined the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park staff September 1, 2000, as Interpretive Specialist for Independence Hall and the Washington town site. His primary duties include the public tour and

school education programs for that area of the park. Originally from Ohio, Todd was an intern at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and was a graduate Fellow in the Hagley Program and Museum Studies Department at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

In addition to consulting on a number of agricultural museum interpretive plans, Todd was an Interpretation & Education Specialist with Lake Metroparks, Lake County, Ohio, and the 1850 Farm Agriculture Interpreter and Supervisor at Living History Farms, Des Moines, Iowa. Todd moved to Texas in 1997 to initiate the development of a museum program at the Burton Cotton Gin Museum where he remains involved as an advisor and volunteer. Todd is excited to join in the continued growth and improvement of the Republic of Texas Park Complex.

*As a state funded institution, we are required to periodically ask our readers if they wish to remain on our mailing list.*

**Would you or your institution like to continue receiving our quarterly publication “Notes”?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Recently many rural addresses have changed; to help us keep our mail list current, please note any name or address corrections:

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**Please return this form no later than November 1, 2000, or your name will be removed from the Museum’s mailing list.**

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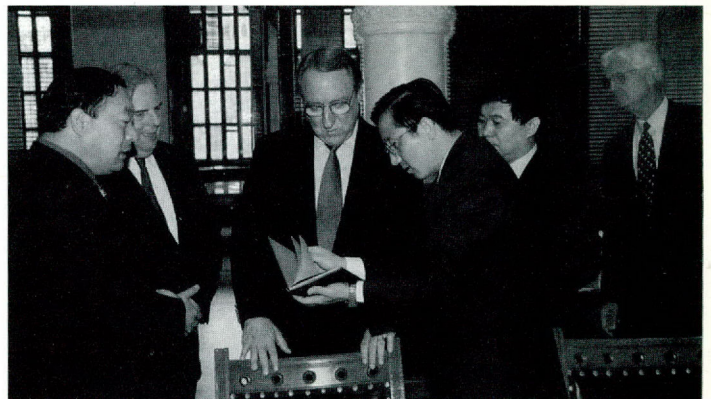
**...on loan from the Shandong Confucius Museum!**

The Star of the Republic Museum is pleased to announce an exchange of items with the new Confucius Museum in the Shandong Province of China. How does this relate to the Republic of Texas? You could say that it is part of the Texas Mystique, one of the themes of the new exhibit project at the Museum. In 1839, the Empress of China sent a tea set to President Sam Houston as formal diplomatic recognition of the Republic of Texas as an independent nation. The tea set remained in the Houston family for years, and now the only remaining item, the teapot, belongs to the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas in Austin.

The Museum recently sent a bronze bust of Sam Houston as a loan to the newly opened Confucius Museum; they reciprocated by sending a beautiful book of the Confucius Analects or philosophical sayings, printed on pages of gold. Confucius, believed to have been born in 551 B.C. in what is known today as the Shandong Province, was the most influential and respected philosopher in China from 100 B.C. until the 1900s. Confucianism, while not a religion, is a major component of the culture of Asia with emphasis on individual integrity, trustworthiness, and courtesy, such as the Principle of Reciprocity, almost identical to the Golden Rule. This philosophy is not dissimilar from the beliefs of the early Texans, which emphasized fair play, hard work, and individual freedoms and responsibilities. It is particularly interesting that when Texas became a nation, one of the first countries to recognize its independence was China.

The new downstairs exhibit will feature the book “*Confucian Analects*,” along with the teapot, on loan from the Texas Memorial Museum. The Museum would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Tieman “Skipper” Dippel; Mr. Zhenya Liu, Chairman of the Shandong Electric Power Company and the Luning Confucius International Culture Exchange; and Donald E. Voelter, President of Blinn College, for their assistance.

On August 15, 2000, the book “*Confucian Analects*” was formally presented to the Star of the Republic Museum by a delegation from China, headed by Mr. Zhenya Liu. In attendance at the presentation were representatives from the Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce, Texas Department of Economic Development, Texas Commission on the Arts, Baylor University, and the University of Texas at Austin. Also present were Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Pete Laney; Representative Bob Hunter’s aide, and numerous other individuals.



*Presentation at the State Capitol of the Confucian Analects book  
L-R: Zhenya Liu, Tieman Dippel, Speaker Pete Laney, Ted Li,  
Chinese delegate, President Donald E. Voelter*

P. O. Box 317 Washington, Texas 77880

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Washington-on-the-Brazos  
Schedule of Events (through December)

**October 21 Heirloom Plant Symposium**  
What's old is new again! Gardeners are rediscovering heirloom plants and you can learn what's new in landscaping from our speakers. Heirloom varieties will also be available for sale with proceeds benefiting the Park. Symposium cost is \$25.00, which includes lunch.

**October 21-22 Lone Star Legacy Weekend**  
Experience all the Park has to offer. Tour fees will be waived for visitors this weekend. Instead we are asking visitors to donate to Lone Star Legacy, an endowment fund that has been established to ensure our future. Special activities are planned throughout the weekend for everyone to enjoy.

**November 11-12 Smithing in Texas**  
Blacksmithing organizations from around Texas have joined together to reproduce equipment needed at Barrington Farm and to share this ancient art that is enjoying a rebirth. If you would like to see the work or are interested in becoming a smith, join us for this exciting weekend.

**December 9 & 16 Candlelight Christmas**  
Join us as we celebrate the season as Texans in the 1850s did. A festive evening of food, music, and dancing await visitors to Washington-on-the-Brazos from 6 to 9 each evening.

Artifact donors, September 1999-August 2000

**Howard Bennett** of Brenham, Texas, gave the Museum a hand-hewn ox yoke with hand forged hardware.

**Mary Currie** of North Carolina contributed a linen and silk sampler, dated November 2, 1829.

**Chuck Norris**, star of the CBS television show "Walker, Texas Ranger," and the Amadea Film Productions, Inc., donated a leather jacket worn by Mr. Norris on the

program. It is displayed in the Texas Ranger section of the new exhibition.

**Frank A. Palmer** of Merlin, Oregon, donated a cane which had belonged to his ancestor, Martin Parmer, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

**Ellice Heaton Hall Pugsley** gave the Museum a sampler made by Catherine Brown Wright in September of 1825.

**Herbert Whileyman** of LaGrange donated a copy of a 1939 Texas Independence Day address, published by the *LaGrange Journal*.

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

*The Republic of Texas, First Floor*

Opening October 7, 2000

MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Open Daily  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

936-878-2461 (fax) 936-878-2462  
Administered by Blinn College, Brenham, Texas

website: <http://www.starmuseum.org>  
e-mail address: [star@acmail.blinn-col.edu](mailto:star@acmail.blinn-col.edu)

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