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STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

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ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1994 - AUGUST 1995

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**STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM
ANNUAL REPORT
September 1, 1994--August 31, 1995**

PURPOSE

An educational institution, the Star of the Republic Museum interprets the history of the Republic of Texas and its influences. Interpretation is conducted through exhibits, school and group programs, media programs, and community programs. The Museum collects and preserves artifacts to implement the programs and extensively researches to ensure authenticity of the collections and presentation.

Adopted by the Blinn College Board of Trustees, 1979

AUTHORITY

The Star of the Republic Museum, located in the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, was created by the State of Texas in 1970. House Bill No. 634, of the Sixty-first Legislature, in regular session, transferred the control and custody of the Museum to Blinn College, Brenham, in Washington County, Texas, from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The Museum was created to interpret the ten year history of the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1846, and to commemorate the site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the last capital of the Texas Republic. The Star of the Republic Museum is the only AAM accredited museum in the state devoted exclusively to collecting and interpreting pre-1850 Texas history and material culture.

ATTENDANCE

The Museum's total attendance for the year was **63,069**, which is an increase over last year's total of 60,060. The Curator of Education, her staff, and volunteers conducted over 420 programs and tours for over 9,518 individuals.

EXHIBITS

This year several traveling exhibits were brought to the Museum to offer a variety of interpretive experiences for our visitors.

Moving the Fire* *March 5-26, 1995* **Exhibits USA*

Encroachment of Euro-American settlers onto tribal lands in the southeastern United States initiated conflicts which the government settled by removing native peoples from their ancestral homelands. Those who survived this journey remembered it as the "Trail of Tears." Some of the Native Americans who were pushed out of the southern United States settled in Texas.

El Vaquero* *April 1-May 31, 1995* **Institute of Texan Cultures*

This bilingual traveling exhibit presented an intimate look at Mexican cowboys and their everyday work on a large ranch in northern Mexico. As part of Mexico, Texas ranching has its roots in Mexican ranching techniques.

Texas Furniture June 1-December 31, 1995

On June 1st, a new exhibit opened in the Showers-Brown Exhibit Hall to showcase the recent acquisitions from the Hatfield Plantation collections. A number of pieces in the exhibit are Texas-made, some in nearby Chappell Hill and La Grange, and provide a sharp contrast to those imported from other areas of the United States and Europe. Some pieces were more than functional, such as those made by French immigrant Paul Maureaux in San Antonio. His bookcase-secretary in this exhibit has a certain elegance of style and intricately carved floral designs.

Some of the designs were influenced by the European origins of the Texas craftsmen. Sometimes furniture makers would purchase several acres of timber, such as a stand of virgin walnut which Maureaux acquired and made furniture for several years. Much of the furniture in the exhibit is made from Texas woods and represents different levels of wealth, backgrounds, and times.

African Americans in the Texas Revolutionary War May 15-June 30
Texas African American Heritage Organization

This exhibit focused on several African American men and women who were involved in the war for Texas Independence at the Alamo, Gonzales, Goliad, the fortress at La Bahia, the storming of Bexar, the Plum Creek encounter, the Battle of Salado Creek, and at the final victory at San Jacinto.

Mexican Folk Toys June 1-30, 1995 **Institute of Texan Cultures**

These toys showed a variety of materials and skillful construction techniques. Some of the objects were miniatures of household utensils, while others are pure fantasy--ceramic figures, wooden animals, lead soldiers, and shaped tops and whistles. Although made in Mexico, these toys were representative of playthings used in many Mexican-American homes in Texas today.

The Tejanos

This long-term exhibit, which opened in September of 1994, illustrates the lives of Texans of Mexican descent, the Tejanos, who were here before the Anglo settlers came. The influence of Tejano culture remains visible today. For example, today's ranching practices reflect a rich Mexican tradition of the roundup, branding, and open range grazing. Exhibit objects exemplifying this tradition include spurs, a saddle blanket, a burro pack saddle, a Mexican saddle with a large wooden horn, and a horsehair hatband.

Visitors may view a large wooden Spanish church door, a mission bell, a portrait of the folk healer Don Pedrito Jaramillo, a *mano* and *metate* (corn grinding stones), an antique Mexican ornamental comb, and herbs used for healing, among other items of cultural significance. There is also an 1820 Spanish document discussing schools in San Fernando de Béxar (San Antonio), where children attended classes from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. (with three hours off in midday), and were taught morality along with their lessons, including abstaining "from the detestable use of obscene words."

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Tours

The number of individuals visiting the Museum in organized tours this year was 9,518 representing 167 groups, of which 139 were student groups, comprised of 8,489 students.

The Museum offers the opportunity for school groups to participate in five expanded programs. These programs utilize a hands-on approach to present a unique educational experience for students. Using the inquiry teaching technique, exhibits, artifacts, films, and interpretive programs, the students receive an in-depth, interdisciplinary interpretation of Republic life in Texas within the context of national history. This program has led to the development of the Discovery Room, where students can explore Republic life through hands-on artifacts and visual supplements. Topics addressed by the program include childhood, medicine, cotton, Native Americans, and multiculturalism.

Begun in the Spring of 1995, the Museum and Park offers a new option for adult visitors, expanded adult tours. For groups of twenty or more, adults can explore the history of the Republic in greater detail. At the Museum, a variety of activities are available to choose from. The "Behind the Scenes" tour allows the visitor to take a peek at the Museum most people never see; to examine the process of developing what is presented to the public, and how the Museum preserves artifacts. "Fightin' the Devil" examines the efforts of organized religion, and inspired individuals, to establish a foothold in a land where the citizens were often indifferent to religion. In "The Texas Mystique," visitors explore the allure of Texas, born in the fight for freedom, steeped in myth, and shaped by individuals who created an identity for the state that has been able to survive into the 20th century. Over just a few months, nearly 100 adults participated in these new programs.

Art Contest

In an attempt to make the history of the Texas Republic more meaningful to area school children, once again the Museum sponsored the Republic of Texas Art Contest for the fourth grade students of Brenham Intermediate School, First Baptist Church School in Brenham, and John C. Webb Middle School in Navasota. Strongly supported by the principals and staff at these schools, a total of 230 students participated. An award ceremony was held in the Museum theater during the Texas Independence Day Celebration, and the winning entries were exhibited in the Museum from March 4, through May 31, 1995. The judges for the contest were Ms. Margie Germany of Chappell Hill; Ms. Beverly Stone of Anderson, representing the Navasota Art League; and Ms. Nezille Dallmeyer of Brenham, representing the Fine Arts League of Brenham.

Texas Independence Day

As part of the Texas Independence Day Celebration, held March 4 and 5, and in conjunction with the traveling exhibit "Moving the Fire," the Museum sponsored two performances of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Dancers. ExhibitsUSA awarded an educational grant of \$528 and the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association contributed \$150 to help support this program. The two performances drew a crowd of nearly 700 visitors.

April Folk Weekends

The Star of the Republic Museum's "April Folk Weekends" provided demonstrations of traditional folk art and crafts. Every Saturday and Sunday in April, throughout the day, the Museum offered visitors a chance to observe and participate in folk demonstrations representing various aspects of everyday life in the Texas Republic.

On Saturday, April 1, visitors were treated to an "a cappella" singing tradition that dates back to the 18th century and includes an unusual four part harmony. The "Texas Sacred Harp Singers" performed the singing that was very much a part of the rural traditions in early 19th century Texas and is seldom heard today outside of certain Baptist denominations. Another musical treat was offered on Sunday, April 23, when the North Harris County Dulcimer Society performed traditional dulcimer and autoharp music.

During the remainder of April, folk demonstrations included: the colorful art of redware pottery production by Nancy Goodwin; a variety of needlework techniques demonstrated by the Curator of Education, Lisa Kalmus; the intricate and labor-intensive craft of chair caning

demonstrated by Don Henthorne. In addition, the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild brought several members who demonstrated quilting techniques and involved visitors in making quilt pieces. April Folk Weekends concluded on April 29 and 30 with participation by Evelyn and Cliff DeWitt who educated and entertained visitors with their demonstrations of thrown pottery, spinning, and natural dyeing.

Pioneer Day Camp

The Star of the Republic Museum invited children between the ages of six and eleven to take a journey back in time and discover the way people lived before electricity, cars, and television, by participating in the ninth annual Pioneer Day Camp. A total of two camps were offered; one for ages 9-11 on Friday, June 23; and one for ages 6-8 on Friday, June 30.

The 6-8 year-old group had the opportunity to explore "pioneer lifestyles" and cultures of Texas through such activities as making tortillas, Native American crafts, games, weaving, and painting ethnic symbols. The 9-11 year-old group participated in Tejano crafts, making tortillas, grinding corn, basketry, and games. In addition to these activities, participants enjoyed exploring the Museum's traveling exhibit on "Mexican Folk Toys" consisting of hundreds of brightly colored and decorated folk objects made from a variety of materials. A total of 62 children representing 11 communities participated in the two camps.

Christmas Program

On Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 the Museum joined the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park in their second annual "T'was a Nineteenth Century Christmas." Visitors explored how the Texans of the nineteenth century celebrated the holiday season. Children of all ages delighted in the activities held at the Museum which included: playing with Republic toys, making rag dolls, and listening to stories of the past. Over 250 visitors participated in the various activities at the Museum.

Outreach

Schools and other organizations utilized the Museum's "outreach programs," which include a 16 mm film and video on the Texas Republic; a video of the Sesquicentennial film, "Independence," highlighting the actual signing of the Declaration; a video on nineteenth-century medicine; and an activity suitcase which examines entertainment in the Texas Republic through multicultural folk toys, games, folk tales, and a music tape. All of these programs are available through the mail, free of charge, except for return postage and insurance. Outreach programs were utilized by 761 individuals last year.

The Museum's Education Department implemented an "in-school" program for pre-kindergarten through first grade in Navasota and Brenham. Presented by Ladonna Vest, the program was about Native Americans, and reached over 216 students in 12 classes. A similar program was presented at the Cub Scout Day Camp at Camp Brosig. Over 30 Boy Scouts learned about Native Americans during the half hour programs.

In conjunction with the Republic of Texas Art Contest, a half-hour "in-school" program on the Republic period was developed which implemented props and hands-on items. In the local communities, 642 students received the new program.

In addition, the Museum staff presented a variety of programs to various civic and cultural organizations. In February, the Curator of Education spoke with the nearly 100 students in attendance at the Texas A&M University Career Fair sponsored by the TAMU Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, and reached another 160 individuals at 6 speaking engagements. This year, the Curator of Education assisted the Bryan Academy of Visual and Performing Arts with the historical research required for the development of a musical presentation of Texas history entitled "Arts Alive: The Spirit of Texas" performed in March before an audience of more than 200.

PUBLICATIONS

The quarterly newsletter, *Notes*, was distributed to over 1,500 individuals last year. Topics presented in the *Notes* included: **"The Tejanos: Foreigners in Their Native Land"** which gave readers the opportunity to learn about the lives of Texans of Mexican descent, the Tejanos, who were here before the Anglo settlers came and their many contributions to the Republic of Texas. **"Moving the Fire: The Removal of Indian Nations to Oklahoma"** focused on the first of a series of traveling exhibits hosted by the Museum which examined the struggle of Native Americans to retain their heritage following removal from their native lands and midst the intrusion of white "civilization." **"Friendship in Adversity: Freemasonry and the Texas Republic"** addressed how the tenets of Freemasonry played a major role in the development of early Texas, not only in political and philosophical ways, but also in the development of public education and the common good in the burgeoning nation. The summer issue **"Wanderlust: German Immigration during the Republic"** examined how the courage and perseverance of German pioneers made them an important part of the Texas population from the beginning.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

In 1993-94 and 1994-95 the Museum received a \$56,334.00 grant from the Institute of Museum Services, a federal granting agency which serves the museum community. This grant was awarded over a two year period. The Museum also received an additional \$48,422 in other donations and grants.

Museum Acquires Artifacts from Christie's

On January 24, 1995, the entire contents of the Hatfield Plantation, just three miles down the road from the Museum, were sold at auction in New York at Christie's East. This mid-nineteenth century plantation house was furnished with many items which were appropriate for the Museum and many were made in Texas, some in nearby Chappell Hill and LaGrange. It was felt that these items should not leave Texas and that they would be important for the Museum to preserve and display. The Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association provided over \$9,000 in financial assistance, enabling the Museum to acquire several items from this collection.

Houston McGaugh, the Director, and John Barkman, Blinn College Executive Vice President, went to New York and purchased sixteen artifacts from our period. These pieces are of good quality and most were acquired below the anticipated sale price. Some of the artifacts purchased were from known Texas furniture makers, including a fruitwood secretary by Paul Maureaux, and a fruitwood linen press featured in the book by Taylor and Warren, *Texas Furniture: The Cabinet Makers and their Work 1840-1880*. The Museum also acquired a pianoforte, a pair of child's side chairs, eight pieces of English ceramics, a pair of glass oil lamps, a late Federal table, a painting of a Black woman peeling apples, two late Federal work tables, a Chappell Hill bed, a yellow pine cupboard, two pastel portraits of a mid-nineteenth century German immigrant couple, a New Braunfels trundle bed, a walnut post bedstead, and a Federal shelf clock.

The Museum also received the following donations:

19th Century Pieced quilt, Alabama, made by Vera Saddler, grandmother of donor, Joyce Schoepf, Hockley, TX

19 Sesquicentennial artifacts including glasses, cups, and other containers, a framed drawing of Alabama Coushatta Chief Clayton Marion Sylestine, a pine needle basket made by Florence Robinson, Coushatta, a rivercane basket made by Maggie Poncho, Alabama, and a grass basket made by Isabella Robinson, Coushatta; all of these people are members of the Alabama Coushatta tribe of Texas. These were given to the Museum by Frances Broemer of Livingston.

Early 19th Century style "Calash" bonnet, Mrs. Kathryn Winkelman, Rockport

Large map of Grimes County printed on linen, Ollie Mae Cox Hamilton and Elmer G. Hamilton, Houston

Souvenir Programs, for Texas Independence Day, March 2, 1939, and March 2, 1940. Arbor Day, January 16, 1979, Program. Mrs. Sudie Stark, Brenham.

Quilt, documented, early 19th century. Alene Moody Arrington and Jesse Moody Brown, Anderson.

Early 19th century Staffordshire canteen, anonymous donor.

Republic of Texas land grant and two deeds. Mr. and Mrs. Alton Linne, Bryan.

Quilt, made by Joanna Troutman, the "Betsy Ross of Texas." John Benson, Byron, Georgia.

Glass press molds, early 19th century cotton gin, shaving horse, and harrow. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Anderson of Calvert.

The Curator of Collections, Sherry Humphreys was able to convert several loans into donations:

Spanish colonial figa, Nancy Connelley, Roanoak, Virginia.

Physician's scale, early 19th century, Howard L. Evans of Houston.

Cotton Press screw, Eli Reese Family.

Spanish Mission bell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Fred Staacke and family, Houston.

The Museum has also made a number of artifact purchases this year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sponsored by the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association, the Texas Independence Day Celebration held on Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 1995, was the major event of the year. Serving as keynote speaker for the celebration was state governor, the Honorable George W. Bush. Estimated attendance was between eight and ten thousand people during the weekend of activities and events. Approximately 125 persons attended the Museum's exhibit opening on Saturday evening, March 3.

VOLUNTEERS

Last year the Museum continued its effort to recruit, train, and utilize volunteers in several areas of museum operation, providing invaluable assistance in the Museum Gift Shop, and serving as tour docents, exhibit helpers, and receptionists. This core group of fifteen volunteers assisted the Museum throughout the year. Volunteers also assisted with special events, including: the Christmas Program, Texas Independence Day, April Folk Weekends, and Pioneer Day Camp. A total of 175 volunteers contributed 1,799.5 hours for 1994-95.

On November 1, the Star of the Republic Museum and Park staff held a recognition picnic for the many hours of service provided by the Museum *Star* volunteers. Following a special tour of the Anson Jones Home by Park Superintendent Tom Scaggs, the volunteers were treated to a catered picnic lunch in the pecan grove by the river. Volunteers were recognized for their service to the Museum and Park, and were presented certificates of appreciation. Lisa Kalmus, Curator of

Education for the Museum, and Tom Scaggs discussed future programs and vounteer needs at the Park and Museum. The Museum could not provide the quality nor quantity of programs and services without the help of the *Stars*. The Museum staff offers their sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the volunteers.

PERSONNEL

Museum Staff

Houston McGaugh has been the Director since July of 1987. He received his M.A. in Museum Science from Texas Tech University, and has eighteen years of museum education and administrative experience. He is the past President of the Central Texas Museum Association, has served on committees and panels for the Texas Association of Museums, served on the AAM Standing Professional Committee on Education for the Mountain/Plains Museums Region and currently a member of the Washington County Historical Commission. He was also appointed by Governor Ann Richards to serve on the Sam Houston Bicentennial Commission and the Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial Commission. In 1995 he was elected to serve on the Texas Association of Museums' administrative council. The Director assumes overall responsibility for the long-term and daily operations of the Museum, oversees the curators and staff in their duties, and reports to the governing authorities.

Sherry Humphreys has served as the Curator of Exhibits/Collections at the Museum for twenty-one years. She received her B.A. from North Texas State University, and her M.A. in Anthropology from Southern Methodist University. She was a participant in the Winedale Museum Seminar, the A.A.S.L.H. Exhibit Seminar, and has won seven awards for interpretive exhibits from the Texas Historical Commission. She has served on the Publications Committee and other committees, such as Disaster Recovery and Prevention, for the Texas Association of Museums, conducted workshops on exhibit design, served on the Board of the Central Texas Museum Association, acted as a consultant for other museums, and works with local history groups. The Curator of Exhibits/Collections is responsible for accessioning, cataloging, conservation and storage of the artifact collections, and directs the exhibit program.

Lisa Kalmus joined the Museum in December of 1993 as Curator of Education. She received her B.A. degree in History from Trinity University in San Antonio, and her M.A. degree in History from Texas A&M University. While attending Texas A&M University, she served as president of the Sigma Rho Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta from 1991-1992 and chaired the Spring 1992 Regional Meeting. She participated in the Winedale Museum Seminar on Administration and Interpretation held in November of 1994. Ms. Kalmus is responsible for all areas of education at the Museum, including direction of all educational and interpretive programs, preparation and production of educational materials, recruitment and training of volunteers, coordinating special events production and programming, and is also responsible for Museum publicity and publications.

Gayle Piper served as the Administrative Assistant through January, 1995.

Diana Evans assumed the position of Administrative Assistant on March 1, 1995. She is responsible for managing the Museum's Gift Shop, including part-time clerks, and coordinating all Museum orders and purchases. Ms. Evans maintains the computer network and all Museum files.

Additional Staff:

Cordelia Lauter, General Assistant
 Edith Dickschat, Curatorial Assistant
 Ladonna Vest, Education Assistant
 Bobbi Lee, Gift Shop/Clerical through 5/95
 Wanda Busse, Gift Shop/Clerical beg. 7/95

Virgie Griffith, part-time Gift Shop
 Misti Hartstack, part-time Gift Shop
 Christie Roese, part-time Gift Shop
 Michelle Wendt, part-time Gift Shop

Blinn College Administration

Donald E. Voelter, President
 John D. Barkman, Executive Vice President Administration and Planning and has administrative responsibilities for the Star of the Republic Museum
 Pamela D. Anglin, Vice President Fiscal Affairs
 Ronald L. Johnston, Vice President Academic Affairs
 John D. Harris, Vice President Student Services
 Barbara Pearson, Vice President, Brazos County Campuses

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1994/95 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income	Actual	Budgeted
State Appropriations	\$192,682.00	\$192,682.00
Transfer from Reserve	1,159.00	23,000.00
Museum Shop Revenue	72,262.00	80,000.00
IMS Grants	26,816.00	26,817.00
Education Program Revenue	1,285.00	7,500.00
Other Income	47,137.00	45,700.00
TOTAL INCOME	341,341.00	375,699.00
Expenses		
Salaries, Wages, & Benefits	171,815.00	192,668.00
Collections	22,611.00	5,000.00
Equipment	6,146.00	7,100.00
Supplies	11,859.00	12,500.00
Travel	2,772.00	3,400.00
Utilities	23,893.00	46,500.00
Repair & Maintenance	14,714.00	10,000.00
Library	2,111.00	2,600.00
Publications	2,225.00	2,000.00
Insurance	2,679.00	4,000.00
Education Services/Freight/Other	3,964.00	6,250.00
Administrative	18,000.00	18,000.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	282,789.00	\$310,018.00
Museum Store Expenses	57,936.00	57,863.00
Education Program Expense	616.40	7,700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$341,341.00	\$375,581.00

