

TEXAS TOASTS

Huzza for Texas! Huzza for Liberty and the rights of man!
-William Barret Travis, 1835

The practice of toasting has been around for many centuries, and is common throughout many cultures. The term “toasting” originated from the Roman practice of putting a piece of burnt toast into the goblet to mellow the flavor of the wine.

In England, a piece of toast was placed in the bottom of a glass and a person would drink until they got to it. Ancient Greeks offered a toast as a gesture of good faith, since their punch was often spiked with poison. Clanking glasses together with a toast was thought by some as a way to drive the evil out of the spirits, making them safe to drink.



Early Texans were serious drinkers, partially due to the fact that little fresh water was available. Drinking etiquette was clearly defined.

According to Francis Sheridan, an Englishman who visited Texas in 1839, new friends were invited to “take a drink,” because “it is held indispensable to wet every commission of friendship as soon as it can be conveniently done.” It was also considered bad manners for one who was about to partake not to invite all within a reasonable distance to join in. Licensed retailers were required to keep a respectable and orderly house that prohibited gaming, quarrelling and other misconduct.

Frequent Texas toasts were to “God and Liberty!” or “Texas and Liberty!” After visiting a tavern in Galveston, Sheridan commented that many cordial toasts were offered, including “May England soon be able to recognize our independence.” Others were offered to “the President of Texas” and to “the Queen of England” with some complimentary remarks.

Stephen F. Austin ended his speech on September 8, 1835 with a toast to Texas at a public dinner in Brazoria given in honor of his return from Mexico. He said, “With these explanatory remarks I will give a toast—The constitutional rights and the security and peace of Texas—they ought to be maintained; and jeopardized as they now are, they demand a general consultation of the people.”

Barroom items from the Museum collection:



Wooden rum keg



Demijohn



Wooden brandy barrel

MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES



Elaine Platt recently joined the museum staff as the Visitor Services Coordinator. She comes to the museum with 20 years of classroom teaching experience with a focus on Texas history. She has a Bachelors degree in Education from Sam Houston State University and a Masters degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas. Elaine has a long-standing interest in Texas history, museum culture, and community involvement. Her responsibilities include developing and providing superior visitor services, including developing educational materials and programs, managing marketing and web-based communication, and conducting tours and outreach presentations.



Donna Barker is the new Visitor Services Assistant. She is a military spouse who recently moved to Brenham in preparation for her husband's impending retirement from the Navy. She received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and earned a Master of Arts in Education while stationed in Sicily. Donna has nearly 20 years of experience in education, working with various age groups and in community service. Her responsibilities include organizing and scheduling tour bookings for all the sites in the park, as well as conducting school tours and programs at the museum.

Night at the Star of the Republic Museum

Night at the Star of the Republic Museum was held on Saturday, November 3, as the lights were turned off and the museum's exhibits told the story of the Texas Republic. Over 300 visitors explored the museum by flashlight; never quite sure of what would be found around the corner! As in the movie "Night at the Museum," the exhibits came to life after dark! Actually, live characters were stationed in the exhibits, and each had a story to tell. Visitors met such characters as Stephen F. Austin, a Mexican *soldado*, a Texas Ranger, a Spanish priest, a riverboat captain, and numerous early Texas settlers.

The Museum would like to thank the volunteers and cast who made the evening possible: (from left to right) Cheryl Dowdy, Brandon Gonzales, Dallas Gonzales, Barb King, Kenny Lewis, Kellie McKenney, Jon Failor, Ketra Williams, Mark Sanders, Denise Campbell, Jeff Bolich, Sheri Finke, Debbie Gau, and Tom Scaggs.



MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Star of the Republic announces the public launch of its fully redesigned website, www.starmuseum.org. Blinn College's Graphics Designer, Charlie Kelm and Web Coordinator, Layla Barrett were instrumental in creating the new interface which offers better navigation, improved content, and an updated look.

In addition to general visitor information, the website provides valuable teacher resources, online exhibits, and a section specifically for descendants of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. The spotlight section on the homepage provides easy access to news about featured events. Detailed information about the museum collection, with a searchable database, are also included.



BRAZOS VALLEY REGIONAL HISTORY FAIR

Plans are underway for the eighth annual Brazos Valley Regional History Fair, hosted by the Star of the Republic Museum on February 8, 2013. The regional fair is one step on the road to National History Day, a year-long, non-profit education program dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history. Students in grades 6-12 choose their own topics of study related to an annual theme, conduct extensive research, and choose the best method for displaying their findings. The theme for 2013 is "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events." Students can choose to enter historical papers, documentaries, exhibits, performances or websites. Projects can be done individually or as a group with up to five members. Students compete to advance to the state competition and for special monetary prizes from our sponsors. The top two winners in each category at the state contest advance to National History Day.

Volunteers, sponsors and judges are still needed. If you or your organization would like to help, please contact Anne McGaugh, Regional Coordinator, at (936) 878-2461, ext. 237 or amcgaugh@blinn.edu.

Texas Pioneers: Girl Scout Day

Star of the Republic Museum will host "Texas Pioneers," a three-hour interactive event for Girl Scouts of the Brazos Valley, on Saturday, January 19. The goal of the event is to promote an awareness of how living has changed from pioneering days to modern times, and to create a sense of appreciation for modern luxuries. Problem solving, creativity, endurance, respect, and coping and management skills will be the focus of the day. Activities will include making butter, constructing a broom, making simple candy, and cooperatively doing daily chores. Each participating scout will earn a Texas Pioneer patch. The event will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and will cost \$8 per scout. Interested troop leaders should contact Amber Trueblood, Program Pathway Coordinator at 979-774-0050 or ambert@gscctx.org. Space is limited.



P. O. Box 317 Washington, Texas 77880

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8 Christmas on the Brazos

Make a Christmas craft at the Museum from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm! Visit Independence Hall for readings from favorite 19th century Christmas literature throughout the day. Enjoy a candlelit tour of Barrington Farm from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



December 24-January 1, 2013
Museum closed—

Happy Holidays!

January 11 Registration deadline for Brazos Valley Regional History Fair

January 19 Girl Scout Saturday

Earn a “Texas Pioneer” patch, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
Cost: \$8

February 8 Brazos Valley Regional History Fair

Regional competition for students in grades 6-12, which culminates with National History Day.

March 2-3 Texas Independence Day Weekend

Join us for a giant party celebrating Texas’ 177th birthday, to recognize the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence. All admission fees waived!

YEAR-END GIFTS

Star of the Republic Museum relies upon the generosity of its friends for the continued preservation of history. Our current fund raising campaign is directed toward the purchase of the Asa Hoxey Family Papers, a collection of over 1500 documents from the 1830s to the early 1900s. Tax-deductible donations can be made through the Blinn College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, at 902 College Avenue, Brenham, Texas 77833.

STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

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

936-878-2461 (fax) 936-878-2462

www.starmuseum.org
www.txindependence.org
www.facebook.com/staroftherepublic

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