

### Asa Hoxey: A Man of Dignified and Courtly Presence

Dr. Asa Hoxey was a pioneer settler in Washington County, an active supporter of Texas Independence, and an advocate for education in Texas. He was born in Georgia in 1800, the oldest son of Asa Hoxey, Sr. and Sarah Appleton. He graduated from the University of Georgia, received a medical certificate from the University of the State of New York, and then moved to Montgomery, Alabama to establish a medical practice.

While in Alabama, Dr. Hoxey corresponded with many early Texas settlers, including Robert McAlpin "3-legged Willie" Williamson, who convinced him to immigrate to Texas in April of 1832. Williamson acquired eleven leagues of land for Hoxey in Robertson County. Between October 1833 and May 1834, Dr. Hoxey moved further south with his wife, Elizabeth Bennett, to Stephen F. Austin's colony. His new property rested on the western portion of what would become Washington County. Here, he established his home and built an elegant house, which would become a popular meeting place for many Texans.

In 1835, Dr. Hoxey and several associates reserved land for the founding of the town of Washington. The men successfully petitioned that the area be separated from San Felipe de Austin into a new jurisdiction. Thus, Washington became the first town organized in the newly created Washington County. To promote settlement, the men started the Washington Town Company of which Dr. Hoxey was president.

Meanwhile, mounting tensions in 1835 between the central Mexican government and the Texas settlers resulted in a call to arms. Dr. Hoxey joined the first Texas Army under Stephen F. Austin and participated in the siege of Bexar. The primary objective of the march was to force the Mexican army to withdraw from Texas.

Dr. Hoxey also served as the representative delegate from Washington County to the General Consultation of 1835. Although the Council did not declare independence, it created a provisional government and appointed Sam Houston as Chief of the Regular Army. A year later on March 2, 1836 Texas officially declared independence from Mexico, establishing the Republic of Texas. Following the Revolution, Dr. Hoxey signed a petition to again make Washington the capitol of the Republic. The town became the temporary capitol from 1842 to 1845 when Texas was annexed by the United States.



A man of many interests, Dr. Hoxey remained a town proprietor while running a lucrative plantation and experimenting in mercantile business. Sam Houston, then President of the Republic of Texas, appointed him to the Board of Medical Censors, a body that granted licenses to practice medicine in the Republic. Dr. Hoxey was also a constant supporter of education, donating generously to schools in Washington County. Both his children, Sarah Ann and Thomas, attended Baylor University (and Baylor's Female College), which was then located in Independence, Texas. He died on May 20, 1863 and was buried in Old Independence Cemetery.

## Asa Hoxey Papers

The Star of the Republic Museum has been presented with a unique opportunity to acquire a collection of Asa Hoxey papers consisting of over 1,500 documents totaling in excess of 3,000 pages. A direct descendant of Asa Hoxey is the current owner. The collection documents Dr. Hoxey's life in Washington in the 1830s and later in Independence until his death in 1863. In addition, the papers continue to follow his family until the early 1900s. Highlights of the collection include: numerous personal letters, land transactions and survey maps, slave records, letters and receipts from notable early Texans such as Moses Evans, John Seward, John Borden, Robert Williamson, and many others. These documents tell the story of the Republic, the State, and Washington County. Contributions are being accepted to help the Museum purchase this significant collection. If interested, please contact Houston McGaugh, Director, at 936-878-2461 ext. 238 or [hmcaugh@blinn.edu](mailto:hmcaugh@blinn.edu).



### **Texas Historical Commission Honors Star of the Republic Museum receives Nau Award of Excellence for identifying Declaration signers' descendants**

The Texas Historical Commission honored Dr. Shawn B. Carlson, curator of collections and exhibits at the Star of the Republic Museum on April 5, with the John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence in recognition of her efforts to identify the descendants of those who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico in 1836.

The "Adopt-a-Signer" project began in 2009 when Dr. Carlson offered the opportunity for genealogy buffs across the state to help research the lineage of the 59 delegates who convened at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Dr. Carlson began by enlisting the aid of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), which led to an endorsement by the Texas State DAR. Eventually, 47 volunteers representing 15 DAR chapters, seven Daughters of the Republic of Texas chapters, and one Sons of the Republic chapter, as well as the Burleson County Historical Commission, contributed more than 4,000 hours to researching Texas' heritage.

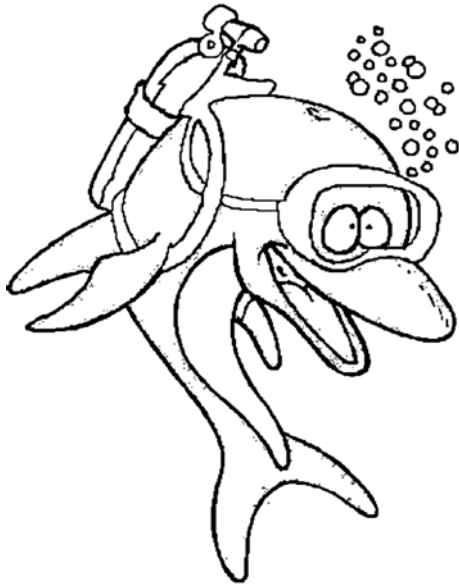
The outcome resulted in 1500 descendants from 28 states and Japan attending the 175th anniversary celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site on February 26-27, 2011. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a descendant of delegate Charles Stanfield Taylor, was the keynote speaker. The delegates were honored with a solemn roll call of their names, with their descendants answering "Here" on their behalf. Fifty of the 59 elected delegates were represented, along with the Secretary of the Convention, Herbert Simms Kimble.



*From left: Star of the Republic Director Houston McGaugh, Texas Historical Commission History Programs Division Director Bratten Thomason, Carlson and Blinn College President Harold Nolte.*

"Dr. Carlson's leadership at the Star of the Republic Museum and her ingenuity in the development of this research project brought this real story of Texas history to life in a very unique way," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. "Enlisting the aid of volunteers from across the state to participate in this exercise in Texas history demonstrates the commitment Texans share to preserve and promote the Lone Star State's unique and exciting legacy."

The Nau Award, named in honor of the former Texas Historical Commission chair, recognizes an individual or institution in the museum field for significant achievement in the areas of historical interpretation, museum education, or conservation of collections and/or community involvement. The Texas Historical Commission selects no more than one winner each year.



**Dive Into the Archives!**  
at the Star of the Republic Museum  
Thursday, June 14, 2012

**A Teacher Workshop on Using Primary Sources  
and Historical Documents in the Classroom**

Are you looking for ways to make history more interesting to your students? Have you heard your students complain that history is boring? Jump on board and dive into the archives at Blinn College's Star of the Republic Museum at Washington on the Brazos for a first-hand look into history! History will never be the same for your students! Curriculum based on historical documents will sharpen student enthusiasm for history and social studies by helping them identify with people and problems of the past.

This workshop will include:

- A discussion on the definition of primary sources
- A "behind the scenes" tour of the archives at the museum
- Examples of historical documents from the museum collection that enrich and expand the information found in textbooks
- A visit to Independence Hall to learn more about the most famous historical document that was created there, along with the opportunity to experience writing with a quill pen
- A visit to Barrington Living History Farm to see how the interpreters created a live historical experience for visitors based on the journals of Dr. Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to create classroom materials based on items in the archives and share them with fellow participants. The TEKS-aligned workshop is targeted for teachers in Grades 4-8, but educators at all levels can easily adapt the information to their particular needs. Participants should bring a laptop, if one is available.

Teachers may elect to receive six hours credit towards the TAGT Awareness Certificate for Gifted/Talented training in Creativity and Instructional Strategies or six contact hours of Continuing Professional Education credits from Blinn College. The cost of the workshop is \$50, which includes lunch. Workshop hours are from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. For more information, please contact Anne McGaugh, Curator of Education, at (936) 878-2461, ext. 237 or [amcgaugh@blinn.edu](mailto:amcgaugh@blinn.edu). Registration forms are available at [www.starmuseum.org/registration2012.pdf](http://www.starmuseum.org/registration2012.pdf) or can be faxed upon request. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 8. Space is limited!



P. O. Box 317 Washington, Texas 77880

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### What's New at the Museum?



Thanks to Life Scout, Jake Blaszak of Bryan, the Museum has a new touch screen kiosk for the general store exhibit. The exhibit contains approximately 100 artifacts which can now be explained in more detail with the kiosk.

The project was completed as Jake's Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout project. Jake and other volunteers from Troop 383 designed the hardware requirements and graphical interface, researched the purpose and use of each artifact, choreographed the touch screen navigation, and installed the hardware.

Visitors now have easy and instant access to more detailed information about each item in the general store.

Thank you, Jake, for a job well done!



### *Words of Wisdom:*

"A false friend is like the shadow in a dial, it appears in clear weather, but vanishes on the approach of a cloud."

*from*

-*Telegraph and Texas Register*,  
Vol. 1, No. 3  
Monday October 26, 1835

## 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](http://www.starmuseum.org)  
[www.txindependence.org](http://www.txindependence.org)  
[www.facebook.com/staroftherepublic](http://www.facebook.com/staroftherepublic)

Director . . . . . Houston McGaugh  
Curator of Collections & Exhibits . . . . . Shawn Carlson  
Curator of Education & Editor . . . . . Anne McGaugh  
Public Programs Coordinator . . . . . Sheri Finke  
Museum Secretary . . . . . Effie Wellmann



Articles may be reprinted  
with permission.



*Proven.*