



The San Jacinto Patriot

Newsletter of the San Jacinto Chapter #1, The Sons of the Republic of Texas

Special New Year's Edition

The new year ushers in an action-packed season of Texas history events, and there will be a number of events to choose from that are sponsored by the Sons of the Republic of Texas and many other organizations.

The San Jacinto Chapter will host its annual winter social at the Steamboat House on Saturday, January 27. *See the next page for more details.*

Friday, March 2 will mark the 182nd anniversary of Texas Independence as well as the 182nd anniversary of the battle where a small, rag-tag army of volunteers secured that independence at the Battle of San Jacinto—50 days after independence was declared! This year, San Jacinto Day will be on a Saturday, so plan on spending the day at the battleground, from the official ceremony honoring the heroes who prevailed in the 18-minute battle to the battle reenactment that afternoon.

The SRT annual meeting will be March 2–4 in Georgetown, Texas.

Of course, our San Jacinto Chapter will continue to hold its monthly meetings at the Post Oak Grill on the first Thursday of every month—even the summer months. Meetings are called to order at noon, and the formal program lasts an hour. The cost of lunch is \$25; no reservations are required.



San Jacinto Chapter no. 1

Winter Social
&
Presentation of the Curtis Osborne
San Jacinto Star

Saturday, January 27
Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres, 6 p.m.
Dinner, 7 p.m.
The Steamboat House
8045 N. Sam Houston Parkway, West
Houston, Texas 77064

\$50 per person + cash bar
RSVP to mgnassar@hotmail.com

Honoring Sam Houston, IV

The Sam Houston Chapter, SRT will host a ceremony to dedicate a marker at the grave of Sam Houston, IV, KSJ on Saturday, February 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Earthman Rest Haven Cemetery, 13102 North Freeway, Houston, Texas 77060. The cemetery is located on the east side of I-45 between Green Road and Rankin Road.



We hope all SRT members in the Houston area will be able to attend.

98th Annual Meeting

March 2–4, 2018

Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
1101 Woodlawn Ave.
Georgetown, TX 78628
Tel. 737-444-2700

<http://georgetowntexas.sheratonemenu.com/index.asp>

Cut-off for SRT Group Rate – February 7, 2018. For group rate, ask for “SRT Group.”

Single rooms – \$129. Double rooms – \$129. Taxes not included.

A Texas History Reading List

Every year brings new books on the history of Texas. Below is a sampling of some of them your editor has recently purchased. Since finding the actual time to read these books is much harder than actually buying them, these are not book reviews; rather, the description is the official description from Amazon.com.

They Came from the Sky: The Spanish Arrive in Texas



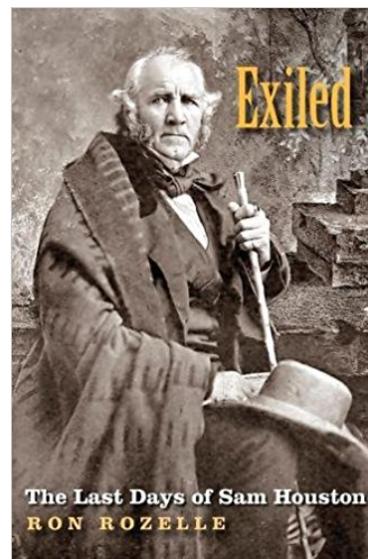
In the fall of 2017, the University of Texas Press will publish the inaugural volume of the Texas Bookshelf, a major new history of Texas by Stephen Harrigan, the New York Times best-selling author. The Texas Bookshelf promises to be the most ambitious and comprehensive publishing endeavor

about the culture and history of one state ever undertaken. Comprised of in-depth general-interest histories of a range of Texas subjects—politics, music, film, business, architecture, and sports, among many others—the Bookshelf volumes will be written by the state's brightest authors, scholars, and intellectuals, all affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin.

Published in a signed edition, *They Came from the Sky* offers an exciting preview of Harrigan's sweeping, full-length history. This tantalizing "short" begins with the earliest native inhabitants over ten thousand years ago and continues through the ill-fated Spanish explorations of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. In its pages, we encounter the prehistoric flint producers and traders who were Texas's first entrepreneurs; Spanish castaways and would-be conquerors; the Karankawas, Querechos (Apaches), and Cad-dos, whose lifeways were forever changed by contact with Europeans; and the "Lady in Blue," an abbess who mysteriously claimed to have visited the "Quivira and the Jumanas" in Texas while remaining within her Spanish cloister.

Bringing Stephen Harrigan's formidable narrative talent to the founding story of Texas, *They Came from the Sky* constitutes the vanguard of a major publishing event.

Exiled: The Last Days of Sam Houston



After an undisputed record of political achievement—leading the decisive battle for Texas independence at San Jacinto, serving twice as president of the Republic of Texas, twice again as a United States senator after annexation, and finally as governor of Texas—Sam

Houston found himself in the winter of his life in a self-imposed exile among the pines of East Texas.

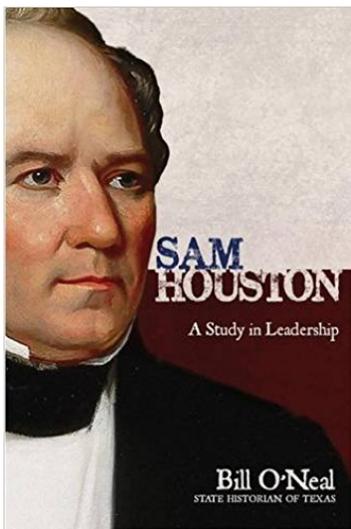
Houston was often a bundle of complicated contradictions. He was a spirited advocate for public education but had little formal education himself. He was very much “a Jackson man” but disagreed with his mentor on the treatment of Native Americans. He was a slaveholder who opposed abolition but scuttled his own political reputation by resisting the South’s move toward secession.

After refusing to take an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy in 1861, Houston was swiftly evicted from the governor’s office. “Let me tell you what is coming,” he later said from a window at the Tremont Hotel in Galveston. “After the sacrifice

of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, you may win Southern independence if God be not against you, but I doubt it." Houston died just two years later, and the nation was indeed fractured.

Ron Rozelle's masterful biographical portrait here lingers on Houston's final years, especially as lived out in Huntsville, when so much of his life's work seemed on the verge of coming undone. Artfully written for the general reader, *Exiled: The Last Days of Sam Houston* is a compelling look at Sam Houston's legacy and twilight years.

***Sam Houston:
A Study in Leadership***

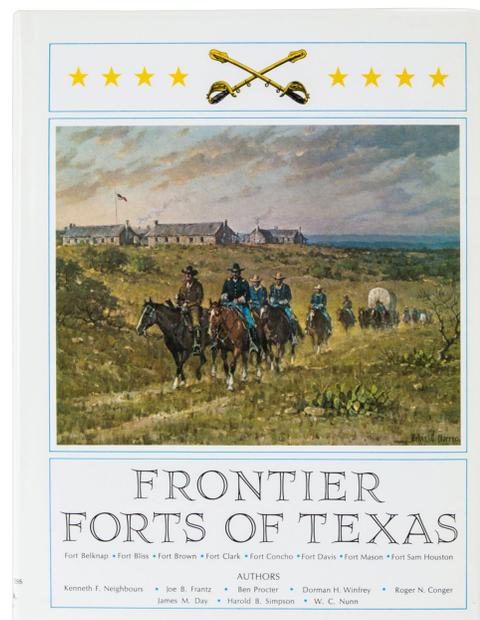


Sam Houston is a Texas icon. General Houston signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on his 43rd birthday, and six weeks later he led the Texas Army to a spectacular victory at San Jacinto. "Old Sam Jacinto" twice was elected president of the Republic of Texas;

he served thirteen years as U.S. Senator from the State of Texas; and he won election as governor of the Lone Star State. Before he came to Texas, Houston twice lived with the Cherokee. As a young army officer he was severely wounded while leading charges at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, and while still in his twenties Houston became major general of the Tennessee State Militia. In Tennessee he was elected to Congress and to the governorship, ultimately becoming the only man ever elected governor of two states. He knew and worked with fourteen consecutive U.S. presidents, from Thomas Jefferson to Abraham Lincoln, as well as Jefferson Davis, who became president of the Confederacy. Soldier, statesman, duelist, brawler, thrice married-Sam Houston lived

a turbulent and controversial life filled with drama, conflict, and superlative achievements. From Houston's Virginia birthplace to his homes and grave in Huntsville, Texas, from Horseshoe Bend to San Jacinto, Bill O'Neal repeatedly has visited the sites of Sam Houston's life. O'Neal lectured about Houston for more than three decades in Texas history classes at Panola College, and the response to his public lecture on Houston as a leader at the Bob Bullock Museum inspired this book.

Frontier Forts of Texas



Frontier Forts of Texas tells in vivid, colorful fashion the story of eight of the most important forts of the Texas frontier during the last half of the nineteenth century. Accompanying the historical narratives are the remarkable paintings of the well-known Western artist, Mel Warren of Fort Worth, Texas. Hardcover, 190 pages. Forts addressed include Fort Belknap, Fort Bliss, Fort Brown, Fort Clark, Fort Concho, Fort Davis, Fort Mason and For Sam Houston.

The Curtis Osborne San Jacinto Star Award



Named in honor of the late Curtis Osborne (San Jacinto Chapter President 2014–2016) and awarded to members of the San Jacinto Chapter who have served the Chapter with extraordinary distinction.

Past Recipients:

Sam Houston, IV, KSJ – 2014

J. Richard Reese, KSJ – 2014

Tom Green, KSJ – 2015

William P. Haddock – 2015

Randy Pollard – 2016

Ron Brown, KSJ – 2016

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