

AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN TEXAS HISTORY

From Spanish-Colonial times to Annexation



"Aspiration" (1936)



"Into Bondage" (1936)

Battle of *San Jacinto* Symposium 2016



PRESENTED BY THE SAN JACINTO
BATTLGROUN CONSERVANCY

AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN TEXAS HISTORY

From Spanish-Colonial times to Annexation

Presented by the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy

Sat. Apr. 9, 2015, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The United Way Community Center, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston TX 77007

Africans have been present in Texas since Estabanico, a North African slave, meandered through with Cabeza de Vaca and other survivors of Spain's disastrous 1528 expedition. People of African heritage also were part of later Spanish campaigns and formed an important part of Spanish Texas society. An increasing number came to Mexican Texas with Austin's "Old Three Hundred" – often as the property of cotton farmers – but free black families came as well. Finally, Afro-Texans participated in the Revolution then helped build towns, ports and roads during the days of the Republic.

8:00 a.m.

CHECK IN

On-site registration

Visit exhibits

9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Joe Edd Nelson, President

San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy

GREETINGS

Merline Pitre, PhD

Professor of History, Texas Southern University

9:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

Symposium Co-Moderator

James E. Crisp, PhD

Professor of History, North Carolina State University

9:30 a.m.

THE AFRO-HISPANIC EXPERIENCE IN SPANISH TEXAS

Frank de la Teja, PhD

Director, Center for the Study of the Southwest

Texas State University

10:15 a.m.

THE 1804 INSURRECTION FROM RIVIERE AUX CANNES

Rolonda Teal, PhD student

Stephen F. Austin State University

11:00 a.m.

BREAK

11:15 a.m.

KING COTTON, AFRO-TEXANS, AND THE ORIGINS OF
TEXAS PLANTATION SOCIETY

Andrew Torget, PhD

Assistant Professor of History, University of North Texas

12 noon

LUNCH

INTRODUCTIONS

Graham Painter, Co-Chairman

San Jacinto Symposium Committee

REDEDICATING EMANCIPATION PARK

Algenita Scott-Davis

Vice Chair, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #7

SPECIAL LUNCHEON ADDRESS

BRINGING JOE TO LIFE

Lee Spencer White

Founder, Alamo Defenders Descendants Association

1:45 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Symposium Co-Moderator

Frank de la Teja, PhD

Director, Center for the Study of the Southwest

Texas State University

2:00 p.m.

EMILY D. WEST AT THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO -- WAS
THE "YELLOW ROSE" REALLY IN SANTA ANNA'S TENT?

Jeff Dunn

Advisory Director, San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy

2:45 p.m.

BREAK

3:15 p.m.

SLAVERY, SLAVES, AND FREE AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN
THE TEXAS REVOLUTION AND REPUBLIC

Alwyn Barr, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Texas Tech University

4:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

4:30 p.m.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Presenters

James E. Crisp returns as Symposium co-moderator. His latest book, *How Did Davy Die? And Why Do We Care So Much?*, was published by Texas A&M Press. A Rice graduate, Dr. Crisp is a fellow of the Texas State Historical Association.

Frank de la Teja, Symposium co-moderator, was the first State Historian of Texas. He is also a consultant for the Texas State History Museum and former book review editor of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. His most recent publications are *Faces of Béxar: Early San Antonio and Texas* (Texas A&M University Press, 2016) and the edited volume *Lone Star Unionism, Dissent, and Resistance: Other Sides of Civil War Texas* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2016).

Rolonda Teal is an ethnographer who has worked extensively on the Louisiana-Texas frontier. She is the author of *African Americans in Natchitoches Parish* (Arcadia Publishing, 2007), a photo essay covering local residents from antebellum to the Civil Rights Era. Her work on the Underground Railroad led to the first link of a National Historic Trail with an established enslaved escape route.

Andrew Torget is a historian of the U.S.-Mexican borderlands and nineteenth-century North America at the University of North Texas, where he directs a digital humanities lab. His latest book, *Seeds of Empire: Cotton, Slavery, and the Transformation of the Texas Borderlands, 1800-1850* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015), won two prizes (in one day!) from the Texas State Historical Association – one for best book on Texas history; the other for significant historical research. The Texas Institute of Letters also has given it the Ramirez Family Award.

Lee Spencer White is a seventh-generation Texan whose fourth-great grandfather died at the Alamo. The research that produced the book about Travis' slave, Joe: *The Slave Who Became an Alamo Legend*, is the topic chosen by its co-author.

Jeff Dunn, an attorney and a founder of the San Jacinto Symposium, brings new information to his favorite topic, Emily D. West, also known as "The Yellow Rose." Dunn has written numerous articles about the Battle of San Jacinto and authored four official Texas State Historical markers on the road between Gonzales and San Jacinto. The Conservancy dubbed him a "Hero of San Jacinto" in 2015.

Alwyn Barr is the author of *Texans in Revolt: The Battle for San Antonio, 1835* (University of Texas Press, 1990), and *Black Texans: A History of African Americans in Texas, 1528-1995* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1966). He is a former president of the Texas State Historical Association and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters.

The San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy

2016 Battle of San Jacinto Symposium is presented by the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy, a Section 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, reclaim, and restore the San Jacinto Battleground and build greater public awareness and scholarship concerning the Battle of San Jacinto. The Symposium, which has been held annually since 2001, is the premier annual conference on the era of the Texas Revolution. It offers Certified Professional Education credit for teachers.

Donors and Sponsors

The Symposium is presented by the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy and is co-sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the Center for the Study of the Southwest at Texas State University. It is made possible by generous grants from (as of this printing) Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment of the Humanities; the C. Howard Pieper Foundation; the Strake Foundation; and the Lancaster Hotel.

The San Jacinto Symposium Committee

Co-Chairs: Graham Painter and Barbara Eaves
Debra Blacklock-Sloan
David Brittain
James Davis
Jo Frances Greenlaw
Will Haddock
Will Howard
Fred Kolflat
Michael McGinity
Joe Edd Nelson
Mark Pirtle
David Singleton
Lisa Struthers
Wolfram Von-Maszewski
Loretta Williams

Advisors

James Crisp, PhD
Frank de la Teja, PhD
Jan DeVault
Jeffrey D. Dunn

SJBC Board of Directors

Joe Edd Nelson, President
Jan DeVault, Treasurer
Graham Painter, Secretary
David Brittain
Gregg Dimmick, MD
Charles L. Duke
Barbara Eaves
George S. Gayle, III
Jo Frances Greenlaw
Lucy Martin
Elizabeth Whitlow

SJBC Advisors

Denton Bryant, Houston, TX
Kathleen M. Carter, San Antonio, TX
Chris E. Cookson, Houston, TX
James E. Crisp, PhD, Raleigh, NC
Jeffrey D. Dunn, Dallas, TX
Ann T. Hamilton, Houston, TX
Karen J. Hartnett, Houston, TX
Frank S. Hinnant, Houston, TX
J. C. Martin, Austin, TX
A. Lee Miller, Midland, TX
C. David Pomeroy, Ashville, NC
Ryan Weller, Houston, TX

Cover art: "Into Bondage" and "Aspiration" are by Aaron Douglas, an African-American painter who played a leading role in the Harlem Renaissance. These murals were commissioned for the "Negro" exhibition hall at the Texas Centennial in Dallas.



Center for the
Study of the Southwest
Texas State University
San Marcos