



## Our Mission

The San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy (SJBC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and securing the San Jacinto Battleground for future generations by facilitating conservation of land, artifacts and native habitat original to the 1836 battlefield and educating the public about the history and significance of the battle for Texas independence.

## ***Wars, Treaties and Boundaries – A Look at the Shape of Texas***

### **Battle of San Jacinto Symposium 2013 Speakers Announced**

Since 2001, the annual Battle of San Jacinto Symposium has featured outstanding scholars providing a public academic dimension to the commemoration of San Jacinto Day. Speakers have come from across Texas, other states, Mexico and Europe. The Symposium is organized by the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy with the assistance of an all-volunteer Symposium Committee headed by David Brittain and Dave Singleton.

The 2013 Symposium will be held on Saturday April 13 at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on the UH campus. Rooms will be available at the hotel for those coming from out of town. Registration details and admission cost will be posted on our website.

The theme for 2013 is “Wars, Treaties and Boundaries – A Look at the Shape of Texas.”

One often overlooked aspect of the battle of San Jacinto is its impact on the boundaries of Texas. During the military campaign, the eastern boundary formed by the Sabine River became a point of controversy as United States troops gathered on that border possibly for the purpose of intervening if the Texans could not stop the Mexican army’s advance.

After the battle, the focus shifted to the southern boundary. The captive Santa Anna signed public and private “treaties” – called the Treaties of Velasco – that required Mexican troops to retreat beyond the Rio Grande, thus establishing that river as a claimed boundary. These issues were not finally settled until 1848, following the war between Mexico and the United States.

Two years later, the congressional Compromise of 1850 created the current shape of Texas after the state gave up its claim to half of what is now New Mexico.

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Above, the Battleship TEXAS lists in its slip at the San Jacinto Battleground in late June. Even before multiple leaks from taking on water temporarily closed the ship, the dryberth project was shelved due to lack of funding. Reports on the dryberth project and the ship’s condition can be viewed at [www.dryberthTEXAS.com](http://www.dryberthTEXAS.com). A helpful and recent report, [www.hnsa.org/handbook/navsea2012.pdf](http://www.hnsa.org/handbook/navsea2012.pdf) explores the plight of historic ships and owner obligations to the U.S. Navy.

### **San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy**

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## 2012 Battle of San Jacinto Symposium held on April 14

With the theme, “Linking the Past to the Present: Preserving a Great Texas Battlefield,” moderator James E. Crisp introduced speakers Paul Hutton from the University of New Mexico, Dallas attorney and San Jacinto historian Jeff Dunn, National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program manager Kristen McMasters, and archeologist Douglas Magnum to explore the topic of preserving the San Jacinto Battlefield.

In 1998, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) adopted the goal of restoring the San Jacinto Battleground to its 1836 appearance. The speakers explained why this goal is important, battlefield preservation principles, archeology surveys to date, and the challenges that lie ahead in achieving this goal.

The luncheon speaker was Michael Strutt, Manager of Cultural Resources for TPWD, who gave an overview of TPWD’s mission to protect the historic and cultural resources of the state.

David Pomeroy, a founder and former officer of SJBC, was honored for his hard work on behalf of SJBC as well as his dedicated efforts in promoting Texas history. David recently moved from Pasadena, Texas, to Asheville, North Carolina. He remains on SJBC’s Advisory Council.

Sponsors for the 2012 conference included the Texas State Historical Association, The Summerlee Foundation, and Humanities Texas. Segments of the 2012 Symposium were shown on Houston’s Access TV throughout the summer. DVDs for all symposia, 2001 through 2011, are available for purchase on SJBC’s website.

***We’ve moved! --- After more than five years in the soon-to-be-leveled Houston Club Building, we have moved our office to the historic Esperson Building in downtown Houston. We are grateful to Cameron Management for their gracious assistance in helping us relocate. Our new address is 808 Travis, Suite 1429, Houston, TX 77002. Our phone numbers remain the same. Please drop by if you are in the neighborhood. We love visitors who share our interest in the San Jacinto Battleground!***



Above, William Reaves graciously welcomed 2012 Symposium Patrons to his gallery featuring a special collection of contemporary western portraiture. The Symposium “Patrons’ Party” is traditionally held on Friday evening prior to Saturday’s event. Organized by Symposium Committee member Jim Davis, the event is a popular way to meet and talk with Symposium speakers and other Texas history buffs in an intimate setting while supporting the Symposium.



The ballroom of The Houston Club, above, was near capacity as Symposium attendees listened intently to Douglas Mangum of Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. discuss work on the battlefield. SJBC has sponsored a number of these archeological projects as part of our mission. Gregg J. Dimmick serves as chair of SJBC’s archeology team.

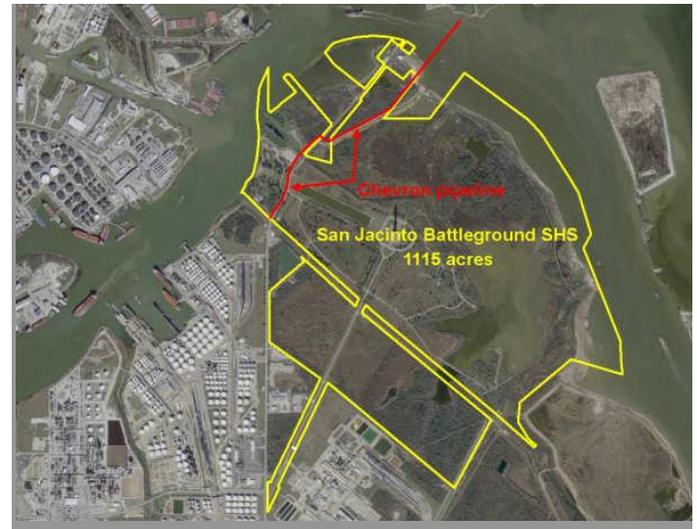
## **Stone Fort Consulting completes terrain study and recommends expansion of NHL boundaries**

A team of seasoned military historians composed of Douglas Cubbison, Dr. Walt Powell and Michael Beard from Stone Fort Consulting, LLC, has completed a comprehensive military terrain study of the San Jacinto Battleground using a process known as OCOKA analysis. (OCOKA is the acronym for Observation and Fields of Fire, Cover and Concealment, Obstacles, Key Terrain, and Avenues of Approach). This type of examination recognizes the connection and relationship between the terrain and features of a battlefield landscape, and the military tactics employed by army commanders.

OCOKA analyses are the benchmarks for determining the boundaries of historic battlefields according to National Park Service guidelines. The Stone Fort report concluded that the San Jacinto battlefield includes lands outside the existing boundaries of the state historic site which still retain their historic integrity, and therefore are eligible for inclusion in the National Historic Landmark designation. This area encompasses property purchased by the SJBC in 2010, commonly known as the "O'Quinn tract."

***DID YOU KNOW? Since 2006, SJBC has been the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program for San Jacinto Battlefield National Historic Landmark.***

**Tejano Monument dedicated in Austin.** *SJBC joined many individuals and organizations to help finance the impressive Tejano Monument unveiled in March close to the front gate of the capitol in Austin. This memorial is a milestone in commemorating the significant role played by Tejanos in the history of Texas.*



## **Pipelines easement triggers Section 106**

A serious and continuing threat to the battlefield is industrial encroachment. Earlier this year, Chevron Phillips Chemical, LLC proposed an expansion of existing easements to accommodate two new pipelines. These easements run through the Texas Army camp and directly in front of the Battleship Texas. Parks and Wildlife Commissioners approved these easement expansions at their March and May 2012 meetings. (Because of the significance of San Jacinto, TPWD requires a two-meeting approval process.)

Chevron asked to expand its existing easement to construct a 12" diameter pipeline for the transmission of ethylene and a 10" pipeline for the transmission of natural gas liquids. The new lines will be directionally drilled. During TPWD/Chevron negotiations, TPWD discovered that a 10" transmission line installed in 1969 partially wanders out of the old easement, corresponding to the SH134 right-of-way, and onto the park.

SJBC is appreciative of TPWD staff and their insight and cooperation in sharing documents and information with us concerning these easements. SJBC commented on the Chevron request during the public comment period to both TPWD and the US Corps of Engineers and has received "consulting party" status for the analysis to be conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Our objective is to prevent or mitigate any adverse effects this project may pose to the historic integrity of the battlefield landscape. Other consulting parties are TPWD, Texas Historical Commission, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation .

New supplies of oil and gas flowing from south Texas to refineries in the area near San Jacinto have caused a marked increase in land purchases as well as the construction of new facilities and corresponding infrastructure such as pipelines.



*At left, the headstone of the grave of Captain William Wood, who commanded the Kentucky Volunteers at the battle of San Jacinto, is immediately adjacent to the visitors' parking lot for the Battleship Texas. Other modern intrusions on the San Jacinto cemetery, once considered one of the most historic cemeteries in Texas, include power poles and trash barrels, as seen in this photograph. The 10-acre cemetery tract was purchased by the State of Texas in 1883 to honor the fallen heroes of San Jacinto who are buried a few steps from this photograph---it was the first parcel of the battlefield to become public property.*

## ***2013 Symposium Speakers Announced (continued from page 1):***

The Symposium speakers who will focus on these border issues include three outstanding American scholars and one Mexican historian:

**Gene Allen Smith, PhD**, will discuss the Adams-Onís Treaty (1819) and how the Sabine River boundary affected relations between Mexico and the United States, the outcome of the San Jacinto campaign of 1836, and relations between the Republic of Texas and the United States. Smith is a professor of history and director of the Center for Texas Studies at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. He holds a joint appointment as curator of history at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

**Manuel González Oropeza, PhD**, will address the treaties of Velasco (1836) and Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) as well as Texas boundaries from the Mexican perspective. Dr. González Oropeza, professor and supervisor of the Graduate School of Law at the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), has been a judge of the Supreme Court for Elections in Mexico since 2006. He is a founder of the Researchers National System and a researcher at the Institute for Legal Research at UNAM.

**Jerry Thompson, PhD**, will address the Rio Grande boundary that was claimed by the Texas Republic shortly after the battle of San Jacinto and secured by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo at the end of the Mexican American War in 1848. Thompson is regents' professor of history at Texas A&M International University in Laredo and recipient of the A&M System's 2010 Chancellor's Teaching Award. He is past president of the Texas State Historical Association, has written more than 20 books, and has won numerous accolades from historical societies in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

**Mark J. Stegmaier, PhD**, will talk about the origins and consequences of the northwestern boundary of Texas with New Mexico as established by the Compromise of 1850. He is the author of *Texas, New Mexico and the Compromise of 1850: Boundary Dispute and Sectional Crisis*, which was named by the TSHA as the most outstanding book of Texas history for 1996. He is professor of history at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

**James E. Crisp, PhD**, professor of history at North Carolina State University, returns as moderator.

In addition to the SJBC, confirmed co-sponsors to date include **The Texas State Historical Association**, the **Center for the Study of the Southwest at Texas State University- San Marcos**, and the **Texas Map Society**. The Symposium also will feature booksellers, exhibits, and fellowship with Texas history buffs.