



THE BATTLE REPORT

San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

"The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the site's day-to-day natural and cultural resource management activities. Our goal is to inform and educate our staff, partners, and friends – and those we have yet to meet – Welcome!"



20 AUGUST 2007 - 26 AUGUST 2007

Navy Chiefs groups visit Battleship TEXAS

Photo by Abbie Salyers

A group of Navy Chiefs and their selectees from the Navy Operational Support Center of Houston came aboard Battleship TEXAS for an overnight adventure and service project on August 25th - 26th. They began the evening with a tour of the ship by First Texas Volunteers Don Fischer, Stan Adams, Bob Lunsford, Herb Powers, and John Stock. After a late night of movies, the group was up at 5am for PT and breakfast before beginning their service project. They spent the morning working on various parts of the ship, including needle - gunning the new education locker. Thanks for all your hard work!!



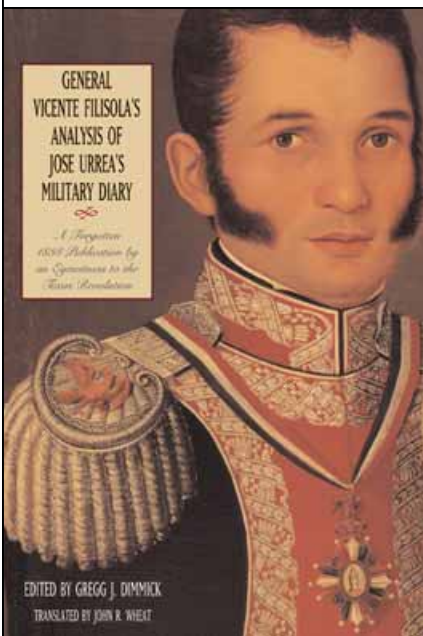
Reveille

Friends Group Director contributes to new book



This long-forgotten eyewitness account of the Texas Revolution has been translated into English for the first time. Gen. Vicente Filisola was second in command of the Mexican army in Texas during the Revolution. After the defeat of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna by Sam Houston's Texans at San Jacinto, Filisola became commander-in-chief of the 4,000 Mexican soldiers that remained in Texas. The Mexican army eventually retreated to Matamoros, Mexico, and Filisola became the scapegoat for all that went wrong in the campaign in Texas. His chief accuser in this disastrous action was Gen. Jose Cosme Urrea, commander of one of the Mexican divisions in the campaign. In 1838 Urrea published a book he entitled *The Military Diary of General Jose Urrea*. Filisola published his ultra - critical analysis of Urrea's diary that same year. Totally focusing on the actions of the Mexican army, and especially Urrea's division, Filisola critiques Urrea's every move, from his advance into Texas until the disastrous and humiliating trip back to Matamoros in May and June 1836. After reading this fascinating account of the Mexican army in Texas the reader may well need to reevaluate his opinions of the Mexican army's generals.

Gregg J. Dimmick is on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground and is the author of *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto, An Archeological Investigation*.



John Wheat, archives translator at the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, is the translator of numerous historically significant documents of borderlands history including *Almonte's Texas: Juan N. Almonte's 1834 Inspection, Secret Report, and Role in the 1836 Campaign*

General Vicente Filisola's Analysis of Jose Urrea's Military Diary: A Forgotten 1836 Publication by an Eyewitness to the Texas Revolution

edited by Gregg J. Dimmick Translated by John Wheat

Scuttlebutt

Founders' Cemetery Dedicated

The resting place of the founders of Houston and defenders of Texas liberty, including the Battle of San Jacinto, was dedicated on August 25th. Mayor Bill White, Sheila Jackson - Lee and THC chairman John Nau III spoke at the dedication. Volunteer Services Coordinator Kenneth Grubb and Interpretive intern Abbie Salyers represented San Jacinto State Historic Site at the ceremony.



Other Duties as Assigned...

Photo by Barbara Graf

The last line of every job description is put to us every day here at San Jacinto. Last week, Park Ranger Delton Branch plays electrician-for-a-day as he repairs a light fixture in the park.

Interpretive Panels to get face lift

Photo by Barbara Graf

The interpretive signs located in the San Jacinto Marsh have taken a beating in the Texas sun. Wally Reinhart and Rudy Garcia from Interpretation and Exhibits and Walt Bailey from the Region 4 office met with Park Management to get these signs replaced. These signs provide information about the flora and fauna present in the marsh.



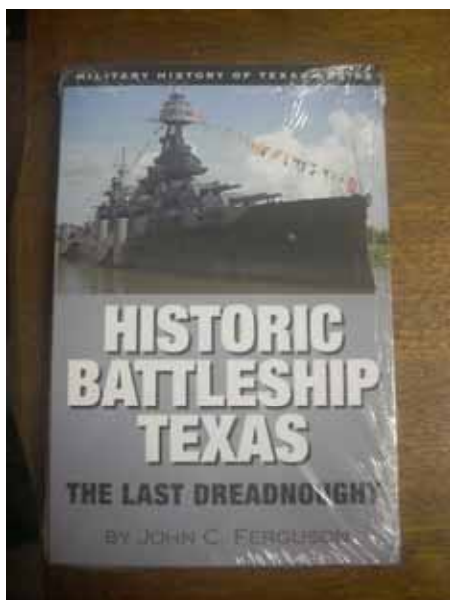
Meet the Staff



Monument Ranger Delton Branch

The San Jacinto Monument stretches 570ft and is supported by a massive concrete foundation. A different type of foundation keeps the monument running on all cylinders. Whether it's keeping the museum cool or preparing the Monument for a hurricane, Delton does it all. He has been with Texas Parks and wildlife for almost 24 years. He is the father of 3 and the grandfather of 2. With the rash of electrical storms that have hit the park this summer, Delton has been working a lot of long hours. From elevator breakdowns to power outages, Delton and the other Monument Rangers help keep the pride of Texas rolling along.

Ship's Store Showcase



Latest book from our former
Park Police Officer and
Volunteer Services Coordinator
John Ferguson

“Historic Battleship TEXAS”

\$16.99

On the Horizon



Upcoming Events

Sept. 8 - City of La Porte Safety Fair.
9:00am - 1:00pm.

Sept. 22 - Law Enforcement Day at
Greenspoint Mall

Sept. 29 - National Public Lands Day

Oct. 6 - Wings Over Houston Air Show
at Ellington Field

Words of Wisdom

“Among those whom I like or
admire, I can find no common
denominator, but among those
whom I love, I can: all of them
make me laugh”

-W. H. Auden
English Poet



This Week in History

Aug. 20

1905 - Jack Teagarden, outstanding trombone
player of the Big Band Era, is born in Vernon,
Texas

Aug. 21

1906 - Captain William (Bill) McDonald of
the Texas Rangers quells a race riot in
Brownsville, Texas

Aug. 22

1775- King George III proclaims colonies to
be in open rebellion, vows to send more troops
1918 - BB-35 leaves Firth of Forth with
British Grand Fleet

Aug. 23

1864- The Union navy captured Fort Morgan,
Alabama. In reply to the warning, "Torpedoes
ahead!" given by the forward ships, com-
mander Admiral David Farragut called out,
"Damn the torpedoes!"

Aug. 24

1949 - Herman Barnett, the 1st black student to
attend the Univ. of TX Medical Branch in
Galveston TX

Aug. 25

1917 - Governor Jim Ferguson resigns after
being impeached

Aug. 26

1836 - The Allen Brothers buy the site that
would become Houston.

Parting Shot

Last night, the last story on the evening news was about a beauty pageant Contestant from South Carolina attempting to answer a questions about why she thought 1/3 of Americans could not point to North America on a map. While her answer was incoherent, the question was even more disturbing. So, this week we're going to do our own little geography quiz. Here is a map of the United States of America (which is in North America, in case you were wondering). See if you can name all name all fifty states. No cheating!!

