



# The Austin Town Gazette

Vol. X No. IV



## Settlement in Texas

A correspondent of the New-Orleans Mercantile Advertiser has furnished that paper with a description of Austin's Colony in the province of Texas, Mexico. From which we learn that the settlement was commenced by Colonel Stephen F. Austin, under the authority of the Mexican Government, in the autumn of 1823, although many families had resided there for more than two years previous. The territory designated for the settlement of the families introduced by him, has for its eastern boundary the river San Jacinto; its northern boundary the upper road leading from Bexar to Nacogdoches; its western, the river Lavaca; and its southern the sea coast or shores of the Gulf. The rivers running through the colony are the Brazos and the Colorado, besides many large creeks. The soil of the margins of the Colorado and Brazos is generally alluvial, and covered with timber, consisting of ash, elm, cottonwood, hackberry, sycamore, live oak, red oak, interspersed with very large cane breaks, and is by planters considered equal to any soil in the world for the cultivation of cotton and sugar. The prairies are covered with grass, affording an inexhaustible range for cattle and horses during the whole year; while on them cotton and corn are cultivated with very great advantage.

The population of the colony is from 3000 to 4000 inhabitants, the majority of whom are agriculturists, while others are engaged in raising cattle on the prairies, which latter is exceedingly profitable. The prospects of the crops in the middle of July last were very flattering, and it was estimated that 1000 bales of cotton, 150,000 bushels of corn, and 130 hogsheads of sugar would be made, the latter being an experiment which has fully answered the expectations of the colonists.

Justice is administered, in a prompt and summary manner. Crimes are rare, and, "generally speaking, there is less disorder than in sections of the western countries of the United States." The climate is remarkable healthy and good water abundant.

The surplus produce of the colony is exported to Matamoras, Tampico, and Vera Cruz; the cotton is sent to New Orleans.

Lands can be obtained by actual settlers, the expenses on which will not amount to more than four dollars per acre. Emigrants are required to produce testimonials of character from their last place of residence.

"At San Felipe de Austin, the capital of the colony, there is a very good school, conducted by a teacher of the first rate literary acquirements, from the state of New York; there are also several other small schools in various parts of the colony. There are seven cotton gins in operation in the colony, two saw and grist mills, and one steam saw mill nearly ready to go into operation.

Matagorda and Galveston Bays afford fine harbors and safe entrance; there being never less than twelve and at times fifteen and sixteen feet water on the bars. At present, the principal part of

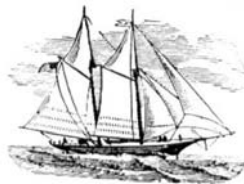
the trade of the colony is carried on in small vessels, which enter the Brazos River, where there is a bar about thirty yards wide, over which, six feet of water can be calculated on with certainty, although there is often seven to nine feet water.

[From the Connecticut Herald, September 22, 1929]

## Brazoria Militia

In 1823, the Mexican Legislature authorized the formation of militia units for service in Austin's Colony. Stephen F. Austin organized civilian-soldiers into five companies, each of which was assigned to respond to emergencies within designated regions of the Colony. The third company, the Brazoria Militia, was responsible for the area between the San Bernard River and Chocolate Bayou Mound to the Gulf of Mexico and worked out of the town of Brazoria. Militia units were called into service in the early 1820s to serve as coastal patrols in guarding against an anticipated Spanish re-conquest of Mexico. Frequently, militia units were called upon to handle problems with Indians and renegades as well as in time of unrest or supposed invasion.

As a part of the Nation's Bicentennial in 1976, a group of Brazoria County residents sent out the call for a militia muster and the Brazoria Militia was re-instituted. Currently, the Militia operates as a not-for-profit living history group that focuses on education. The Brazoria Militia and Women's Auxiliary meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the First Capitol Replica in West Columbia. Regular meetings are open to the public.



### Port of Brazoria

Arrived: Schooner Comet, Calf., from  
New Orleans

For New Orleans: The schooner *Helen Marie*.

### Victoria Hotel

The subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he has opened a House of Entertainment at this place in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Edward Robertson, and hopes, by assiduous attention to his guests, to obtain a share of public patronage.

Attached to the house, is a large stable and horse lot, which he pledges himself shall always be well supplied with corn and fodder and attended by an experienced and careful Ouster.

T.H. Brenan



## Revolution in Texas

We published a few days ago, on the authority of a gentleman recently from Anahuac that a revolution had broken out, in Austin's Colony.

The misrule and tyranny of Bradburn at Anahuac, in mal-treating and imprisoning the colonists, has been the cause of the shedding of blood, and of a just resistance to oppression, for which, as he is now in the power of the oppressed, he will no doubt pay dearly.

The citizens rose en masse to revenge the wrongs committed by the soldiers of the government, under the authority of their officers, and to restore their countrymen to liberty. On the night of the 27th of June, Captain John Austin, with about one hundred of the colonists, under his command, made an attack on Fort Velasco, at the mouth of the Rio Brazos, which was garrisoned by 125 Mexican troops, and after a desperate engagement, which lasted until eight o'clock the following morning, when the fort surrendered to the victorious arms of Capt. Austin.

The schooner Brazoria was employed against the fort, having on board three field pieces, mounted on a cotton bale battery (the good old Orleans plan) with which she was lucky in making a breach in the fort, and affording the citizen soldiers an opportunity of carrying it by storm, in which they effectually succeeded.

The commanding officer was sent to Matamoras, under a pledge of his honor never to act against the interest of the colony, or that of Gen. Santa Anna. The soldiers were also deprived of their arms and sent to Matamoras in the schooner Brazoria, where they were to be set at liberty according to the terms of capitulation. The loss sustained by the colonial troops, is 7 killed, 4 dangerously and 12 slightly wounded. The loss on the part of the enemy is not precisely known; but it is supposed to be about 40 in killed and wounded.

Another division of the colonial troops proceeded to Anahuac, attacked the fortress, and overpowered and took prisoners, the commander, Bradburn, and those under his charge

Tranquility is again restored, and the trade to this flourishing colony will not be retarded or trammelled by the change. Our informant says that Santa Anna, once successful, emigrants will have nothing to fear, but every thing to hope.

[From the New Orleans Advertiser, July 13, 1832]

### Doctor James A.E. Phelps

Tenders his services to the citizens of the colony, in the practice of MEDICINE, SURGERY, and OBSTETRICS.

## Texas Women and a Few Brave Men

The Texas Women was formed in 1997, with the inception of the Austin Town Historical Re-enactment.

Needing volunteers to grind corn, make soap, cook and display chores of everyday pioneer women, about 15 women volunteers from the Varner-Hogg State Historical Site were called upon to assist with this event.

The Texas Women have attended many events around the State, including the Battle of San Jacinto, the Runaway Scrape, Washington-on-the-Brazos, and Bluecrossings. Recently, they have allowed a few brave men to join their group.

At the annual Austin Town festivities, the Texas Women recreate the Brazoria Inn that was owned by Jane Long.

## Convention to Meet in San Felipe

San Felipe de Austin, August 22. The Alcaldes of San Felipe today sent a call to the other towns and settlements in Texas for the election of delegates to a convention to be held at San Felipe on October 1, for the purpose of pledging support to Santa Anna and proclaiming the interest of the colonists in the liberal movement in Mexico. Invitations were sent to San Antonio and Goliad as well as to the settlements with American populations.

This will be the first meeting to represent people from all parts of Texas. Prior to this time all decisions have been made by Stephen F. Austin or by isolated groups.

Since the convention will have many problems to discuss, it is hoped that every community will send delegates.

The decisions made by this convention will be of great importance and may even determine the future of American settlement in Texas.

## Wholesale & Retail Store

(An Entirely Fresh Stock)

McNeel & Woodson have just received the schooners Sabine and Bertha and are now opening (in the building originally designed for the Customs House) in Brazoria, a General Assortment of Dry Goods, GROCERIES, READY MADE CLOTHING, SHOES, BOOTS, HATS, SADDLERY, HARDWARE, CUTTLERY, QUEENSWARE, CASTINGS, IRON, STEEL, POWDER, LEAD, SHOT, &c. of all which they design keeping on a constant supply, and will sell at wholesale and retail on moderate and accommodating terms.

## School Books and Writing Paper

Just received, and for sale at the office of this paper, Murrays English Reader, Bobycastle's Arithmetic Cap and Letter Paper of good quality, low for cash.

## Texas Army

The Texas Army was organized in 1835, in an effort to secure independence for the Mexican province of Texas. The Army was comprised of volunteers from Texas, the United States and a few foreign countries.

Army members had no uniforms, but were provided with some weaponry and other military gear. Most, however, dressed in buckskins and brought their personal weapons. Although some of the Army members had seen action fighting Indians on the frontier, the men typically lacked formal military training and discipline. General Sam Houston was appointed commander of this unique army.

On April 21, 1969, a new Texas Army was formed to honor its predecessor and keep the memory of those gallant men alive. The Texas Army participates as the special honor guard in the Gubernatorial Inauguration Parade. In addition, members host State functions and official ceremonial events, re-enactment events of 1835-1836, and travel internationally representing Texas and the Texas mystique.

Like its predecessor, the modern-day Texas Army is comprised of volunteers who provide their own authentic uniforms, weapons, and camping equipage. The Texas Army is dedicated to perpetuating the memory of those early patriots who fought as the first Army of the Republic of Texas and to educating the public about Texas History.

## St. Jerome's Ballet Folklorico

In 1992, with 10 young people, Ms. Juanita Lopez formed a small group at St. Jerome Catholic Church to celebrate the day of Our Lady of Guadalupe by performing danzas.

In 1997, a dance group in the area and Ms. Juanita's group decided to combine their dances of pre-Hispanic and Folklorico. St. Jerome Ballet Folklorico is a not-for-profit, cultural organization that teaches traditional, regional dances of Mexico to interested youth.

They perform at various functions throughout the Brazosport and Houston areas. Through the generosity of Father Jim Lynes, the Ballet Folklorico has had an opportunity to learn about and develop the richness of the Hispanic Culture through dance.

## Mustang Stable



For

Livery

By W.E. Thomas  
Houston, Allen's Landing

## Chorus Sine Nomine

Chorus Sine Nomine is a unique community group founded and directed by Elva Ulbrich of Friendswood, Texas.

It responds to a popular appeal of many years for an intellectual and historically-correct musical outlet for skilled vocalists that goes beyond the typical choral experience offered by church choirs and other groups.

Taking its name from the Latin term "chorus without name," Chorus Sine Nomine makes classical choral music, both secular and sacred, readily available to audiences throughout Texas. The members seek to preserve and uphold broad appreciation for excellence in choral music performance.

The Chorus sets itself apart by keeping alive the musical heritage immigrants have brought to Texas and their links to the old country. The Chorus has experience singing in six original languages.

## Carriages



The subscriber informs his customers and the public that he has on hand, finished or finishing, a complete assortment, comprising every variety of pleasure Carriages in use in this country, and VOLANTES, for the Spanish market.

## Constant Supply and General Assortment Merchandize

George Huff and Son keep their STORE IN SAN FELIPE, a regular supply of articles suited to the demands of the country, consisting of

Dry Goods

Hardware

Hollow Ware

Cutlery

Queen's Ware

Ready Made Clothing

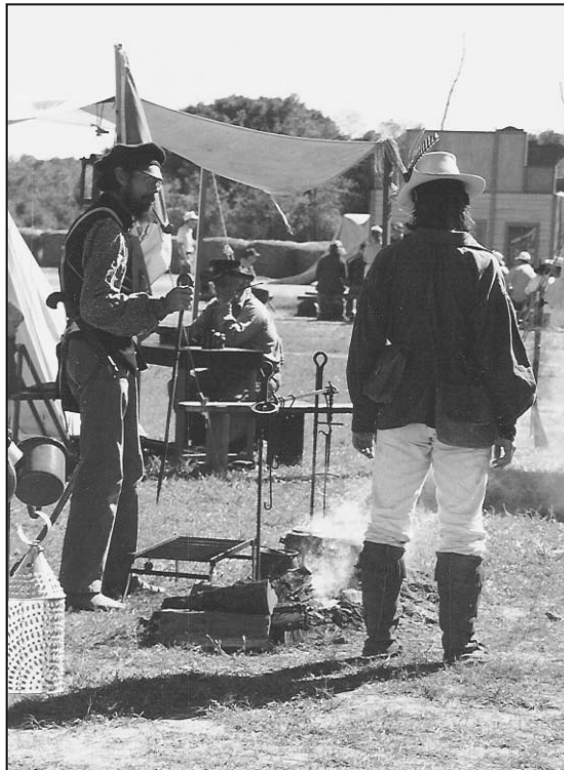
Fur & Wool Hats

Shoes, Stationary

Groceries, &c.

Which they offer to the citizens of the surrounding country, at reasonable prices, for Cows and Calves, Bees' wax, Peltries, or CASH.

# Enjoy a weekend of history and entertainment



Step into the past at Austin Town and watch history come to life. Bring the whole family for a fun way to learn about our past.



## Performance Schedule

### Saturday, Oct. 30

- 10:00a Cannon Fire & Musket Salute to open Austin Town
- 10:30a Cooking Demonstration in Brazoria Militia Camp
- 11:00a Helen Johnson & Laura Schiller - Yellow Rose
- 12:00p Carolyn Weatherly portraying Mary Austin Holly (Music and Stories)
- 1:00p Charlie, Wilma, Daniel and Molly Ogilvie portraying the Thomas Bell Family.
- 2:00p Ballet Folklorico (Traditional Mexican Dances) near Food Vendors
- 2:30p Barbara Bell (autoharp)
- 3:00p Stanley Murray portraying Stephen F. Austin
- 3:30p Jennifer Curtis and Les Curtis (Authentic Era Stories)
- 4:00p Michael Rees portraying Father Muldoon
- 4:30p Jay Mallard portraying James "Brit" Bailey

### Sunday, Oct. 31

- 10:00a Cannon Fire & Musket Salute to open Austin Town
- 10:25a Cooking Demonstration in Brazoria Militia Camp
- 10:30a Michael Rees portraying Father Muldoon
- 11:00a Charlie, Wilma, Daniel and Molly Ogilvie portraying the Thomas Bell Family.
- 12:00p Jennifer Curtis and Les Curtis (Authentic Era Stories)
- 12:30p Carolyn Weatherly portraying Mary Austin Holly (Music and Stories)
- 1:00p Jay Mallard portraying James "Brit" Bailey
- 1:30p Stanley Murray portraying Stephen F. Austin

Unless otherwise indicated, all performances are in the School.

## Austin Town Sponsors

Stephen F. Austin

**Dow USA, Texas Operations  
ConocoPhillips  
The City of Angleton  
Angleton Wal-Mart**

Juan Seguin

**BASF  
Brazoria County Historical  
Commission  
First State Bank**

Jane Long

**Angleton Chamber of  
Commerce  
Ms. Eleanor Rea  
Windswept Seafood  
Restaurant  
Neal Insurance Agency**

**Austin Town is  
Made Possible**

**by these  
Generous  
In-Kind**

**Contributors**

- Angleton Feed Store
- Arby's
- Brazoria County Sheriff's Dept.
- Brazoria County Pct. 2
- Brazoria County Library System
- Brazoria County Road and Bridge
- Brazoria County Parks Dept.
- Brazoria Polaris
- Brazosport College
- The Bulletin
- Burger King #4278
- Brian's Bar-B-Q
- Clute Sanitation Department
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Damon Farm & Ranch
- DER Equipment
- Domino's Pizza
- First Baptist Church
- Goe Kawasaki
- Golden Corral
- Hobby Lobby
- IESI
- Miken Specialties
- Pettigrew Distributing Company
- Pizza Hut
- Prime Equipment
- Randall's
- Republic Waste
- Texas State Guard
- TxDOT
- Varner-Hogg Volunteers
- Varner-Hogg State Historic Site
- Viola Funeral Home
- Lake Jackson Wal-Mart
- Whataburger

# The Austin Town Re-enactment

Step back in time with the Brazoria County Historical Museum as it presents the Eighth Annual Austin Town. A living history re-enactment, Austin Town recalls and celebrates the lives of those pioneers who settled Colonial Texas from 1821 to 1832. Set just north of Angleton, the fictitious "Austin Town" typically features character interpreters, demonstrators, sutlers, militia drill units, and period games.

The Austin Town site is located approximately 3 miles off of State Highway 288 on Business 288, just north of Angleton, Texas.

Austin Town is open to all visitors on Saturday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission Prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 and senior citizens over 65.

## Brazoria County Historical Museum

(979) 864-1208  
(281) 756-1208  
(979) 388-1208

## Local County Courthouse

Ext. 1208  
100 E. Cedar  
Angleton, TX, 77515  
www.bchm.org

## Museum Staff

Jackie Haynes  
Executive Director

Joyce McHam  
Business Manager

Bruce Taylor-Hille  
Program Coordinator

Michael Bailey  
Curator

Jamie Murray  
Information Services Coordinator

Rose Olivares  
Secretary

Rosemary Duke  
Store Manager

Bettye Snell  
Curatorial/Library Assistant

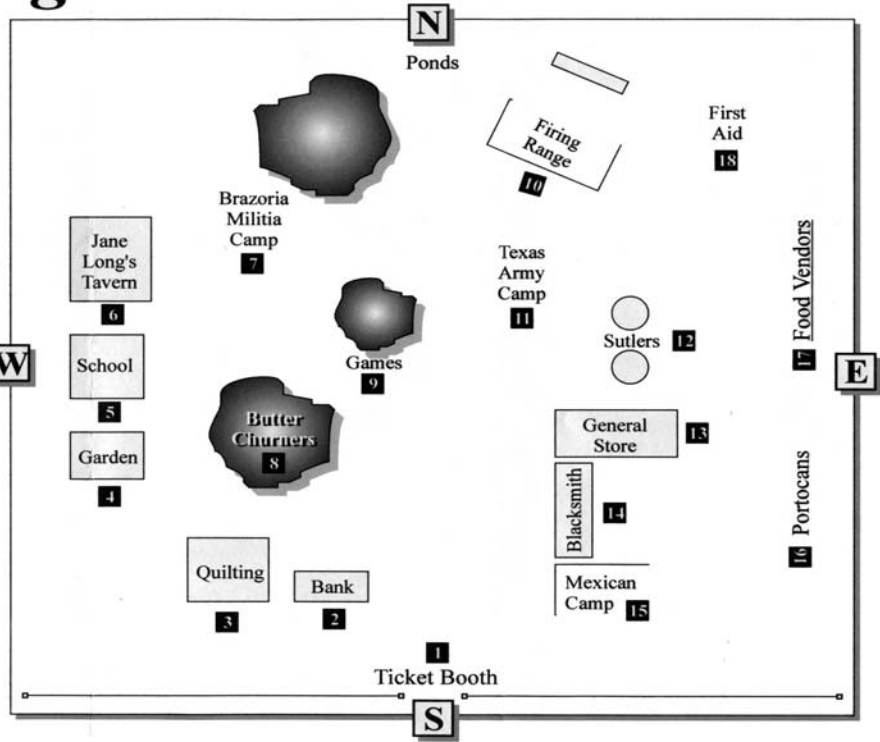
## Getting Around Austin Town

**LEGEND**

1. Ticket Booth
2. Bank
3. Quilting
4. Garden
5. School
6. Jane Long's Tavern
7. Brazoria Militia Camp
8. Butter Churners
9. Games
10. Firing Range
11. Texas Army Camp
12. Sutlers
13. General Store
14. Blacksmith
15. Mexican Camp
16. Portocans
17. Food Vendors
18. First Aid

 Shade Trees

 Rail Fence



**CERTIFIED CLEAN PEST FREE**

By 

**KILLUM PEST CONTROL**

"KILLUM KILLS 'EM"

297-9993 • 849-6738

*We don't make a lot of products you buy, we make a lot of products you buy better.*

BASF Corporation  
Freeport, Texas

**BASF**



**For People Who Know Candles**

**Wicks'n'Sticks™**

(979) 285-3808  
Brazos Mall, Lake Jackson

**NEAL Insurance**



Providing Quality Insurance for a Long, Long Time

(979) 849-5779  
1-800-566-6383

101 West Mulberry  
Angleton

Intersection: Hwy. 2888 & Hwy. 35  
(Downtown in the Bank Building)

*At Sweeny refinery, being environmentally responsible is not an option ...*

*It's a way of life.*

**ConocoPhillips**  
Sweeny Refinery