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(Please email or call for photos, videos, advance interviews, etc.)

March 2019

**Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site**

**April through June 2019 Special Events and Celebrations**

***Site’s attractions and parkland open year-round with special activities***

It was March 2, 1836 when 59 delegates bravely met at Washington, Texas to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico. From 1836 until 1846, the Republic of Texas proudly existed as a separate nation. Washington on the Brazos is, indeed, “Where Texas Became Texas.”

[Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org) has many onsite amenities open daily, as well as an incredible schedule of events and programs. On the grounds of this 293-acre, TPWD-run state park is [Independence Hall](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/independence-hall/) (the site in 1836 where the representatives met to write the declaration of independence); the [Star of the Republic Museum](http://www.starmuseum.org/) (collections honoring the history, cultures, diversity and values of early Texans; administered by Blinn College); and [Barrington Living History Farm](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/barrington-living-history-farm/) (where interpreters dress, talk, work and farm as the earliest residents of the original farmstead did). The site’s Visitor Center features interactive exhibits which present a timeline of the Texas Revolution and highlight the historic attractions located within the park; it also houses the spacious Washington Emporium Gift Shop, which offers snacks and a wide range of Texas-themed items and keepsakes. The [Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/fanthorp-inn/) is a wonderfully preserved example of a 19th century stagecoach inn, located nearby in Anderson, TX. The entrance to the park grounds, Visitor Center and parking is always free; fees apply for access to Barrington Farm and the Star of the Republic Museum, and for tours of Independence Hall.

**April 27, 2019: *Sundown Social*;** 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. (Rockin R’ Ranch): The Washington on the Brazos State Park Association will celebrate 183 years of Texas-where roots run deep-at its annual Sundown Social. This fundraiser features a gourmet steak dinner by a team of chuck wagon cookers led by Jimmy Detro, cocktails, entertainment by Kelly Willis and Bruce Robinson, honoring of Jim Ellison and auctions filled with Texian treasures. Tickets are limited; contact Ginger Moreland at 979-830-1824 or office@wheretexasbecametexas.org for tickets. Deadline to RSVP is April 19, 2019. All proceeds will benefit the Washington on the Brazos Park Association and its educational programming and expansion of the 293-acre Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site.

**June 22, 2019: *Juneteenth Heritage Celebration;*** 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Visitor Center Complex): On the 19th of June 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and made a declaration of freedom ending the bondage of approximately 250,000 enslaved men, women and children in Texas.  Since that time, Juneteenth has been celebrated and remembered by picnics, parades, family reunions, pageants, barbecues and games. Washington on the Brazos will observe this important occasion and celebrate the rich African American heritage and culture of the Brazos Valley, past and present.  Now in its second year, the Juneteenth Heritage program will include exhibits, art displays, guest speakers, living history, music and more. Contact Jon Failor at (936) 878-2214 ext. 224 or jon.failor@tpwd.texas.gov.

**SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS – APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2019:**

**April 6 & 7, 2019 – *Cooking at the Quarters*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): There’s nothing like a hot meal after a hard day of work. For the enslaved at Barrington, this typically meant cooking their ration of cured pork and cornmeal over an open fire, supplemented with seasonal vegetables from their garden. Come join us as we demonstrate cooking a traditional meal for the enslaved using period ingredients and methods. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Ben Baumgartner for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**April 13, 2019 – *Stagecoach Saturday*:** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Fanthorp Inn): Take a trip back to 1850 as you explore what life was like travelling on the Texas frontier! Don’t miss this great opportunity to ride our mule-drawn stagecoach, take a tour of Henry Fanthorp's beautifully preserved inn or sit on the front porch and enjoy the sweet sound of dulcimer music. Texas Parks and Wildlife presents Fanthorp Inn to you without admission fees but with a suggested donation of $4 ($10 w/ coach ride) for adults and $2 ($5 w/ coach ride) for children. Coach rides take place 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**April 13 & 14, 2019 – *Sounds of 1850*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): They may not have had Spotify in the 19th century, but Texans have always enjoyed a catchy tune. Lucky for us, if they really liked a song - they wrote it down! So come on down to the farm and listen to some of the most popular music of yesteryear. This is a special program at the farm. Contact Barb King for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**April 20, 2019 – *Living History Saturday*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Independence Hall): Travel back in time to where a nation was born in 1836.  On the third Saturday of each month staff and volunteers dressed in period clothing bring to life the people and events of Old Washington providing a unique opportunity to discover various aspects of life surrounding the birth of the Republic of Texas.  This month’s activities include a Blacksmithing demonstration, equipment of Texas militiamen and a presentation on the Republic of Texas and Native American relations. (Activity may change due to weather). Contact Jordan Anderson at 936-878-2214 x224.

**April 20, 2019 – *Runaway Scrape Escape Room*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): After his victory at the Alamo, Santa Anna and his army are on their way, you must quickly determine what to take on your journey and make your way to safety with the help of your friends and family. In the newest program at the Star of the Republic Museum, participants must use teamwork and problem-solving skills to decipher puzzles and riddles in order to get out of the room in the 45-minute time limit. “Runaway Scrape Escape” will be open on the third Saturday of each month through May. The escape room is opened to ages 10 and up and is designed for families or a group of children in cooperation with at least one adult. Admission is $15 for adults, $13 for students ages 18 and under, and $10 for Blinn employees and students. Advanced registration is recommended, although walk-ups are accepted based on availability. For more information or to make a reservation, visit [www.starmuseum.org/calendaror call 936-878-2461](http://www.starmuseum.org/calendaror%20call%20936-878-2461).

**April 20, 2019 – *Farmers Market*:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Visitor Center Complex) Join us under the Live Oaks at our Visitor Center to shop local and support area farmers.  Fresh vegetables, baked goods, food vendors, artisans and much more!  For more information or to become a vendor contact Celeste Doty at 936-878-2214 x230.

**April 20, 2019 – *Hands-On History***: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): Join museum staff on the third Saturday of each month to make crafts and toys that pioneer kids made during the Republic time. This month is Wendt Eggs. Contact Donna Barker at (936) 878-2461, ext. 236 or Donna.barker@blinn.edu.

**April 20 & 21, 2019 – *Plant Thick and Chop Thin*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Dr. Jones noted in his journal on April 13, 1854 – “Ridged up balance of cotton ground, planted cotton in the new field.” Cotton is King. Like most settlers in Texas, Dr. Jones did not grow cotton to make homespun clothes, but rather typically shipped it out of the country (often England) in exchange for cash money. Come help us ridge up and plant Dr. Jones’ cash crop! This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Ben Baumgartner for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**April 27 & 28, 2019 – *Women’s Work*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Women in the mid-Victorian period were expected to be concerned about, and very involved in life around the home. How did their education, for daughters like Sarah Jones, maintain expectations for that lifestyle as they grew up? Discussions at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Barb King for more information at 936-878-2214 x.246.

**May 4 & 5, 2019 – *Cooking at the Quarters*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): There’s nothing like a hot meal after a hard day of work. For the enslaved at Barrington, this typically meant cooking their ration of cured pork and cornmeal over an open fire, supplemented with seasonal vegetables from their garden. Come join us as we demonstrate cooking a traditional meal for the enslaved using period ingredients and methods. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Ben Baumgartner for more information at 936-878-2214 x246

**May 11, 2019 – *Stagecoach Saturday*:** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Fanthorp Inn): Take a trip back to 1850 as you explore what life was like travelling on the Texas frontier! Don’t miss this great opportunity to ride our mule-drawn stagecoach, take a tour of Henry Fanthorp's beautifully preserved inn or sit on the front porch and enjoy the sweet sound of dulcimer music. Texas Parks and Wildlife presents Fanthorp Inn to you without admission fees but with a suggested donation of $4 ($10 w/ coach ride) for adults and $2 ($5 w/ coach ride) for children. Coach rides take place 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**May 11 & 12, 2019 – *Gleaning for Pie!:*** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Gathering fruit is an old way to keep Jack from being a dull boy! Come and see the different pie fillings the Jones family might have gathered from the farm in spring, or purchased from the store since Anson missed his Northern fruits. Kitchen activities are ongoing. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Barb King for more information at 936-878-2214 x.246.

**May 18, 2019 – *Living History Saturday*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Independence Hall): Travel back in time to where a nation was born in 1836.  On the third Saturday of each month staff and volunteers dressed in period clothing bring to life the people and events of Old Washington providing a unique opportunity to discover various aspects of life surrounding the birth of the Republic of Texas.  This month’s activities include Blacksmithing demonstration the equipment of a Texas Militiaman and peak into the life of a print press worker from the 1800s (Activity may change due to weather). Contact Jordan Anderson at 936-878-2214 x224.

**May 18, 2019 – *Runaway Scrape Escape Room*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): After his victory at the Alamo, Santa Anna and his army are on their way, you must quickly determine what to take on your journey and make your way to safety with the help of your friends and family. In the newest program at the Star of the Republic Museum, participants must use teamwork and problem-solving skills to decipher puzzles and riddles in order to get out of the room in the 45-minute time limit. “Runaway Scrape Escape” will be open on the third Saturday of each month through May. The escape room is opened to ages 10 and up and is designed for families or a group of children in cooperation with at least one adult. Admission is $15 for adults, $13 for students ages 18 and under, and $10 for Blinn employees and students. Advanced registration is recommended, although walk-ups are accepted based on availability. For more information or to make a reservation, visit [www.starmuseum.org/calendaror call 936-878-2461](http://www.starmuseum.org/calendaror%20call%20936-878-2461).

**May 18, 2019 – *Farmers Market*:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Visitor Center Complex) Join us under the Live Oaks at our Visitor Center to shop local and support area farmers.  Fresh vegetables, baked goods, food vendors, artisans and much more!  For more information or to become a vendor contact Celeste Doty at 936-878-2214 x230.

**May 18 & 19, 2019 – *Plows & Petticoats; True Texas Women***: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): From an early age, most Victorian women were trained for the worthy profession of caring for a family. Sewing, cleaning, cooking, and childcare comprised the main elements of “the Arts and Mysteries of Housewifery.” Did a woman’s role change when she moved to the rough and tumble frontier of Texas? Hear some stories about the women of the Jones family, and learn what life was like for women in early Texas. This is a special program at the farm. Contact Barb King for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**May 18, 2019 – *Hands-On History***: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): Join museum staff on the third Saturday of each month to make crafts and toys that pioneer kids made during the Republic time. This month is Mom Cutouts. Contact Donna Barker at (936) 878-2461, ext. 236 or Donna.barker@blinn.edu.

**May 25 & 26, 2019 – *Ploughing the Weeds*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Dr. Jones noted in his journal on May 14, 1850 - “Finished ploughing and hoeing corn first time.” The crops are short and the weeds are tall, it’s time to cultivate! Come help us clear between the rows of our field crops using our single ox and walk-behind cultivator. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Ben Baumgartner for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**June 1 & 2, 2019 – *Forgotten Roots***: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Dr. Jones noted in his journal on July 19, 1846 – “Ripe peaches from my Orchard at Barrington.”

Caring for an orchard takes skill and patience, but it can be highly rewarding! Come help us haul water and cultivate the orchard as you learn about heirloom trees and fruit growing in the 19th century. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Ben Baumgartner for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**June 1, 2019 – *Hands-On History***: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): Join museum staff on the third Saturday of each month to make crafts and toys that pioneer kids made during the Republic time. This month is Wildflowers. Contact Donna Barker at (936) 878-2461, ext. 236 or Donna.barker@blinn.edu.

**June 8, 2019 – *Stagecoach Saturday*:** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Fanthorp Inn): Take a trip back to 1850 as you explore what life was like travelling on the Texas frontier! Don’t miss this great opportunity to ride our mule-drawn stagecoach, take a tour of Henry Fanthorp's beautifully preserved inn or sit on the front porch and enjoy the sweet sound of dulcimer music. Texas Parks and Wildlife presents Fanthorp Inn to you without admission fees but with a suggested donation of $4 ($10 w/ coach ride) for adults and $2 ($5 w/ coach ride) for children. Coach rides take place 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**June 8, 2019 – *Hands-On History***: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): Join museum staff on the third Saturday of each month to make crafts and toys that pioneer kids made during the Republic time. This month is Knot Tying. Contact Donna Barker at (936) 878-2461, ext. 236 or Donna.barker@blinn.edu.

**June 8 & 9, 2019 – *Chased by Mops & Buckets***: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Spring cleaning is a yearly ritual that modern conveniences have obliterated the need to have. Preparing the house for warmer weather, chasing out cobwebs and dirt, scrubbing walls and floors, is much more laborious than cleaning today. Help wash windows, beat rugs, and wash and wax furniture as needed. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Barb King for details at 936-878-2214 x.246.

**June 15, 2019 – *Living History Saturday*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Independence Hall): Travel back in time to where a nation was born in 1836.  On the third Saturday of each month staff and volunteers dressed in period clothing bring to life the people and events of Old Washington providing a unique opportunity to discover various aspects of life surrounding the birth of the Republic of Texas.  This month’s activities include Blacksmithing demonstration, 1830s children’s toys as well as 1830s clothing for children to try on and don’t forget to sign your very own Texas Declaration of independence with ink and quill. (Activity may change due to weather). Contact Jordan Anderson at 936-878-2214 x224.

**June 15, 2019 – *Runaway Scrape Escape Room*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): After his victory at the Alamo, Santa Anna and his army are on their way, you must quickly determine what to take on your journey and make your way to safety with the help of your friends and family. In the newest program at the Star of the Republic Museum, participants must use teamwork and problem-solving skills to decipher puzzles and riddles in order to get out of the room in the 45-minute time limit. “Runaway Scrape Escape” will be open on the third Saturday of each month through May. The escape room is opened to ages 10 and up and is designed for families or a group of children in cooperation with at least one adult. Admission is $15 for adults, $13 for students ages 18 and under, and $10 for Blinn employees and students. Advanced registration is recommended, although walk-ups are accepted based on availability. For more information or to make a reservation, visit [www.starmuseum.org/calendaror call 936-878-2461](http://www.starmuseum.org/calendaror%20call%20936-878-2461).

**June 15, 2019 – *Farmers Market*:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Visitor Center Complex) Join us under the Live Oaks at our Visitor Center to shop local and support area farmers.  Fresh vegetables, baked goods, food vendors, artisans and much more!  For more information or to become a vendor contact Celeste Doty at 936-878-2214 x230.

**June 15, 2019 – *Hands-On History***: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Star of the Republic Museum): Join museum staff on the third Saturday of each month to make crafts and toys that pioneer kids made during the Republic time. This month is Weaving. Contact Donna Barker at (936) 878-2461, ext. 236 or Donna.barker@blinn.edu.

**June 15 & 16, 2019 – *Field Work and Free Time*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): Though free time for the enslaved at Barrington was typically limited to Sundays and occasional holidays, time off provided an opportunity to enjoy a variety of games, music, and entertainment. Come learn about the pastimes of the enslaved. Make and take a clay marble home with you. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Ben Baumgartner for more information at 936-878-2214 x246.

**June 29 & 30, 2019 – *Seeds and Soil*:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Barrington Living History Farm): What kinds of chores did early Texans do in their gardens? Find out in this extremely hands-on program. Learn how yesterday’s gardening techniques and varieties can improve our gardens today, and take some heirloom seeds for your garden at home. This is a special focus weekend at the farm. Contact Barb King for details at 936-878-2214 x.246.

**TEMPORARY EVENTS**

**Temporary Exhibit: "So Others Could Follow: Four Centuries of Maps that Define Texas”:** The Star of the Republic Museum presents, “So Others Could Follow: Four Centuries of Maps that Define Texas.” This exhibit explores how, without maps, we would not be able to envision the shape of Texas, something which has now become so distinct. Using maps from the Museum's collection, the story of how early explorers created, what features these individuals thought it was important to show, and how that changed over time. The exhibit features a 1561 map by Girolamo Ruscelli and John Senex's 1721 map, as well as others.