



# WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Summer Issue  
August 2020

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 1  
Issue 2

### Beef on the Brazos raises \$100,000 for site

When we set out in February to sell our goal of 2,000 tickets, we had no idea what was in store for 2020. Within a few weeks of starting our raffle, the world began to shut down for the pandemic. Our historic site closed soon after. With everything going on and the extreme hardships people have had to endure during this time, we wondered if we could meet our goal. However, you guys showed up for the place Where Texas Became Texas and we were able to raise \$100,000 for the historic site.

The funds raised this year will go towards the maintenance of the site, exciting living history events and much more. So THANK YOU again for your purchase of a raffle ticket and we look forward to doing it again in 2021.



Winner, Jake Fultz from Houston, with his herd.

### Join us for our 3rd Annual Bark in the Park

**Bark  in the Park** Presented by  **DOGWATCH**  
HIDDEN FENCES

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site  
September 26 | 10am - 2pm

-  Adoptions
-  Vendors
-  Food and Drink
-  Historical Talks
-  Pet Portraits
-  Demonstrations

\*All activities will be socially distanced

Share a beautiful day at the park with your four-legged friends while social distancing! Visitors are invited to bring their dog (on a leash) to the Site for a day full of fun.

**Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation**

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Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation was created in the 1950s as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to facilitate preservation projects, celebrations and educational programming at the Washington on the Brazos Historic Site and its four attractions, Barrington Plantation, Independence Hall, Star of the Republic Museum and Fanthorp Inn.



www.wheretexasbecametexas.org

# Plough to Plate

Join Barrington Plantation for Plough to Plate on October 24 from 6pm-9pm. This inaugural event brings in food from local farms prepared by Simply D'Lish Catering. It will be held on the steps of the Anson Jones House and will truly be a one of a kind dining experience.

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)



# Renew your membership

The year 2020 has established itself as a year of uncertainty. That was a story familiar to Texans where, in 1836 at Washington on the Brazos, 59 delegates put their lives on the line to declare Independence for the Republic of Texas.

This historic site has not escaped the adverse effects of COVID 19. Events and programming were cancelled, along with the Foundation's cornerstone fundraiser, the Sundown Social. Washington on the Brazos is resilient,

but we need your help to continue telling our story.

Exhibit your love of Texas by partnering with this historic treasure. Become a member of the Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation today. If already a supporter, consider participating at a higher level. Every dollar goes directly to the place Where Texas Became Texas!

[Join today!](#)

# Museum celebrates 50th anniversary

This year the Star of the Republic Museum will enter an exciting new era in its 50 year history spent telling the story of the Texas Republic.

Built to commemorate the historical importance of Washington on the Brazos, the Star of the Republic Museum was officially dedicated on March 1, 1970. The construction of the star-shaped, two-level, 20,000-square-foot complex was completed in less than one year.

However, its history goes back much further. Designed to revamp a neglected Washington on the Brazos State Park in 1955, several Brenham citizens formed the Texas Independence Day Organization (TIDO). The group began raising funds to develop the park and construct a museum.



Four years later, Rep. Gus F. Mutscher of Brenham, with the support of the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association (formerly

TIDO), sponsored legislation to finance the construction. During the following 18 months, the Association finalized plans for the museum.

The Star of the Republic Museum officially opened on March 2, 1970, with a parade, ribbon cutting, and keynote address by Governor Preston Smith. Prior to the opening, John P. Landers, the first director/curator, traveled around the state collecting and borrowing objects for temporary display. Artifacts were brought to Washington to ensure that



The official opening ceremony on March 1, 1970.

there would be exhibits in the galleries on opening day.

During the museum's first decade, the collections grew with donated and purchased objects that represented the Republic of Texas period. At the start of the new Millennium, the galleries were redesigned, new exhibits added, audio/visual components were selectively placed to enhance exhibits and an 1,800-square-foot interactive Discovery room for visitors of all ages was built.

Now, as the museum enters its 50th year, it is stronger than ever. Through the new partnership with Blinn College District and the Texas Historical Commission, the museum will be administered by two institutions committed to its success.

We look forward to spending the next 50 years telling the story of our Texas forefathers

and providing a window into this exciting time in the history of the Lone Star State.



Aerial photo taken in October 2019 by Toni Klemm

# New clothing exhibit in the Museum



We have a great new exhibit at the Star of the Republic Museum. "Threads of History: Clothing in the Republic of Texas" is all about the the clothing and materials worn by Texans between 1836 to 1846, giving us more insight into their daily lives. If you stop by the exhibit or the site, be sure and tag us in your photos on social media.



Washingtononthebrazos



Washington\_on\_the\_brazos

## Upcoming Events

Due to COVID, some events may be canceled or postponed. Please check our website and social media pages for continued updates. In the meantime, here are some of our scheduled events for the rest of 2020.

### Living History Saturday

Third Saturday of the Month

### Farmer's Market

Third Saturday of the Month  
(Except for August)

### Bark in the Park

September 26, 2020

### Plough to Plate

October 24, 2020

### Christmas on the Brazos

December 2020