



President's Report

A brief update on a few projects our Board has been working on:

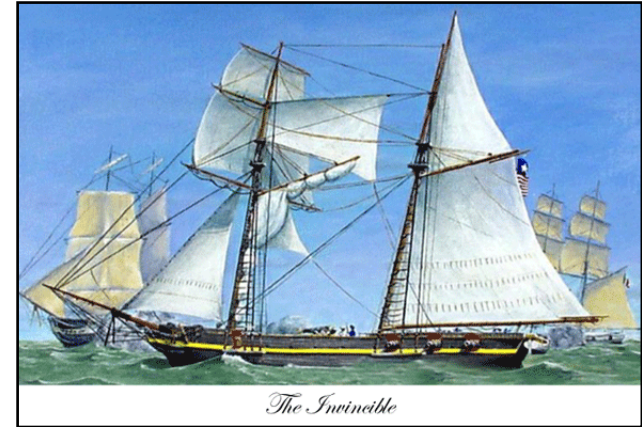
1. The formal partnership agreement with the Galveston Historic Foundation/Texas Seaport Museum has been finalized and signed! Meetings have been held with the museum staff and the planning process has been started. **TNA Admiral Jim Bevill** has begun writing copy for the museum display panels.
2. **Admiral Jim Bevill** will be presenting a program on the first Texas Navy at the Austin General Land Office Symposium in September. (Details in this newsletter)
3. After a meeting with **Robin Sabo**, President-elect of the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association, we have been invited to speak to their membership, at an October statewide conference to be held in Galveston. Robin has agreed to work with us to add lesson plans and research material to our web site, for use by teachers and students.

The Invincible

By Admiral Wayne Gronquist


In the fall of 1835, with the Mexican Navy blockading Texas ports, the provisional government of Texas responded by issuing Letters of Marque creating privateers to defend Texas waters and the colonist's vital maritime trade. They also created the first Texas Navy, consisting of four ships, the Invincible, Liberty, Independence and the Brutus.

These two fleets made the victory at San Jacinto possible; and they, along with the third fleet, (Second Texas Navy 1839-1845) maintained Texas independence for the next 10 years by controlling the Gulf of Mexico. The flagship of the First Texas Navy, the Invincible, was built in Baltimore



and arrived in Galveston for duty on January 1, 1836. The Invincible, a Baltimore clipper similar to the US Revenue Cutters, was said to be sharp built and, of course, fast. The Baltimore Tonnage Certificate list the ship as being 83 feet eight inches in length, 21 feet 8 inches in breadth, 8 feet 8 inches in depth and weighing almost 7 tons. Upon her arrival, the Invincible was immediately outfitted with 9 cannon, ranging from four- to sixpounders, to an eighteen-pounder at midship. She then joined her sister Texas Navy ships and the privateers to protect Texas shipping by breaking the blockade and driving the Mexican Navy from Texas waters. But the Invincible, the Navy's finest, was given an additional order - find and destroy the Montezuma, the Mexican Navy's newest and most formidable warship.

In February 1836, the Invincible was delivering volunteers to Copana Bay for Colonel Fannin's command and continuing the patrolling the Texas coast to engage Mexican ships.

n March 6th, the day the Alamo fell, the Invincible was in Velasco, having just returned from New Orleans where her weaponry was augmented with two nine-pounders and an additional eighteen-pounder. Within days after the fall of the Alamo, with Mexican eagles and serpents marching in three separate armies across Texas, Captain Jeremiah Brown finally found the Montezuma blockading her own port at the mouth of Rio Grande to keep news of the impending Mexican invasion from breaking out.

The Montezuma was readying for a 2000 man division invasion of Texas to reinforce Santa Anna's troops when the Invincible engaged her and ran her aground, thwarting the invasion.

The Invincible then captured the Pockett and took her war supplies to Sam Houston, just as her sister ship, the Liberty, had done a few days before when the Liberty captured the Pelicano. The Pelicano was laden with barrels of gunpowder hidden in larger barrels of flour. Those supplies, all intended for Santa Anna, and the Twin Sisters delivered by the privateers, bolstered the morale of the army. The Invincible of volunteers so much that they forced Sam Houston to engage the enemy at San Jacinto. Sam Houston had other plans for his army (retreating to the Louisiana border) and but for the victories of the Navy at sea and the assistance of the privateers, the battle probably would not have been fought, and if fought, lost.

For a time after the battle, Santa Anna was kept prisoner aboard the Invincible for his own safety, and the Texans enjoyed a brief peace. But the war didn't cease (both sides renounced the treaty) and within two months the Mexican Navy sailed into Capano Bay with three ships full of supplies for the Mexican armies that weren't at San Jacinto. All three ships were captured by the Texas Mounted Riflemen, who became known as the Texas Horse Marines. The Texans had bought themselves still more time.

By the summer of 1836, the plight of the Texans worsened, as more Mexican warships resumed the blockade of Texas ports. The Texas Navy and the privateers continued to battle the Mexican Navy, but they were battling a far superior force. In April 1837 the Independence gallantly fought two larger, more powerful Mexican Navy ships. She was eventually captured in full sight of many Texans, including the Secretary of Navy, S. Rhoads Fisher, who watched the battle from shore. The Liberty had earlier been captured by New Orleans creditors, leaving the Texas Navy with only two remaining ships, the Invincible and the Brutus.

Fearing invasion by sea, Sam Houston (now president of the Republic) ordered his Navy to stay in Galveston to protect the city. Navy Secretary S. Rhoads Fisher and his two new captains, Henry L. Thompson (Invincible) and James D. Doylan (Brutus), knew that Houston's order amounted to a strategic disaster, so they decided to defy Houston's orders and take to sea to engage and divert the enemy from Texas waters. The entire fleet, two ships, then began a daring 77 day raid of Mexican port towns and villages.

They captured dozens of paragues, at least six Mexican merchant ships, and generally raised enormous havoc and grief in Mexico. Eluding and diverting the larger Mexican Navy, the Invincible and Brutus even went to Isle Megeres and Cozumel for supplies, and R&R, and claimed them for the Republic of Texas. The offensive successfully diverted the Mexican Navy for two and half months by forcing the superior Mexican navy to stay at home to protect their own ports and shipping.

The Texas Navy returned to Galveston triumphantly on August 26, 1837 with several prize ships. The Brutus towed a prize ship crossing the bar into Galveston Bay, while the larger, heavily laden (with booty) Invincible anchored outside the bay, only to see two Mexican brigs, the Lubardo and the Vencedor del Alamo chasing a Texan

supply ship headed for Galveston. That ship, the Sam Houston, successfully made it into the Bay while the Invincible, set her sails, exchanged signals with the distant Brutus in the Navy yard, hoisted her colors and stood out to engage the two larger Mexican warships. In her haste to join the battle, the Brutus slipped her rudder and ran onto the shoal leaving the Invincible to carry on the day long battle alone.

Captain Thompson's own account of the battle says he inflicted great damage on the enemy and fired his guns until they were too hot to fire anymore and then tried to lure the enemy onto the bar only to slip his rudder as he crossed the bar causing the Invincible to run into the shoals. Both darkness and a storm were approaching and the two damaged Mexican brigs set sails for home. The ensuing storm broke up the Invincible and over the next 48 hours she sunk below the water and ultimately below the sand where her nine cannon (possibly more) and a storehouse of other historical artifacts lie today.

Something New for our Members

Check out the 'Members Only' area of the web site and you will find a new page for 'Texas Navy Quizzes'. Test your knowledge of Texas Navy history while having a little fun. Click [here](#) to go there now.

Just a Reminder

Keep in touch with fellow TNA Members by putting your name on the web site's Members Directory. Need help? Send an email to admjfisher@texasnavy.com asking her to add you to the list. Click [HERE](#) to go to the directory.

San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Re-Enactment



On April 26th the Texas Navy Association held a booth at the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Re-enactment. Manning the booth is (L) **Admiral Dick Hatch**, **Admiral Fount McKee** and his wife **Linda**. Other Admirals who participated in the event are **Admiral Bill Turner** and **Admiral Derek Bateman**. Admiral Bateman brought a number of Ships Store items to display and sell at the event.

Texas Navy Quiz

The first Ship purchased by the second Texas Navy was the Potomac in 1838. What was it used for?

(Answer on page 7)

Tom Toby Squadron Brings In Big Project

At a cost of approximately \$75 million, the Nau Center will be a “State of the Art” Texas history center designed to capture historical tourism and provide aspirational learning through interactive and immersive exhibits. It will appeal to students, educators, and visitors. It will be built adjacent to the Houston convention center. The facility is being designed by Bailey Architect and the Exhibit Designer is BRC Imagination Arts from Hollywood. There will be some artifacts sprinkled around the facility and at the main entrance; however, this facility is being designed to appeal to Millennials through interactive modules.

The chronological scope will start with early Texas history and cover milestones such as NASA, Spindle top, and the great Texas Medical Center. It will cover the history from Southeast Texas. Included will be a 4-D theater such that you may experience misting when watching a presentation on Allen's Landing or the floor shaking when learning about Spindletop. When learning about the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Washington on the Brazos an interactive exhibit may allow visitors to participate in an actual signing.

The name “The Nau Center” is due to the very generous donation being made by **John H. Nau, III** who is the Chairman and CEO of Silver Eagle Distributors and the former Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission. Mr. Nau is an astute historian and has served several United States presidents on various Boards and continues to actively on a number of Boards.

The Tom Toby Squadron identified the Nau Center Project as a very important exhibit as it will reach as many as 1 million visitors a year. The Tom Toby Project committee worked for several months to generate the opportunity to meet with Mr. Nau to request his

consideration in including the Texas Navy history in the Nau Center exhibit. As part of this effort, we identified Mr. Nau as an extraordinary candidate for an Admiral’s Commission. The



(L) Adm Jim Bevill, Adm Nau, Toby Commander- Adm Curt Osborne, TNA President- Adm Bill Turner, Nau Center Project Liaison-Adm Beth Fisher

Commissioning Ceremony was performed by Tom Toby Commander **Curt Osborne**. Participating on the Commissioning Team were: TNA President **Bill Turner**, Nau Center Committee Chairman **Beth Fisher**, and Historian/Author **Admiral Jim Bevill**. The commissioning event was held in Mr. Nau’s magnificent office which has an incredible exhibit of Civil War artifacts and fabulous art.

The Tom Toby Squadron is very excited about this fantastic opportunity to tell the story of a very important part of the history of this State and our glorious Texas Navy.

For more information on this as well as other projects of the Tom Toby Squadron please contact, **Curt Osborne**, Commander curtosborne@windstream.net (281-242-4972); **Admiral Beth Fisher**, Nau Center Liaison bethfis@aol.com (281-304-0081). Please read more about the Nau Center at www.naucenter.org.

Dock Tales with the Sam Houston Squadron

The Sam Houston Squadron, an affiliate of the Texas Navy Association, met for their quarterly program on Saturday, June 16, Flag Day, starting with a Dock Tales hour on the south dock of Lakewood Yacht Club's inner harbor. **Commander Don Genitempo** and **Admiral Roy Shaw** docked their boats nearby for the guests to enjoy, and a musician played island tunes accompanied by a gentle summer breeze. The party moved into the LYC Ballroom for dinner and the program. Sunflowers in crystal vases appointed tables set in navy, gold and white linen.



The Texas Navy flag given to the new SHS by the Nimitz Squadron stood in its' place of honor, topped by the brass Texas Star presented at the March program, by **Admiral Bob Callanan**, also of the Nimitz Squadron.

Commander Genitempo welcomed the group to the event and welcomed **Admiral Mike Dehart** as a new member to the Squadron. LYC members who are or become Texas Navy Admirals are encouraged to join and

participate in the SHS by sending a copy of their Admiral certificate and a request to the Squadron Commander and the Membership Committee. **Admiral Genitempo** then introduced **Rev. George Aurich** who delivered the invocation. **Adjutant Officer Bob Warters** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag and the Texas flag, followed by **Secretary Marisa Hegyesi** who led the National Anthem and the Texas Anthem accompanied by **Admiral Sue Warters** on piano.

Four new squadron commissions were then made, as four new Texas Navy Admirals were introduced to the SHS. Those four individuals were **Rev. George Aurich**, **Margaret Hill**, **Lou Marinos**, and **Cindy Brooks Winton**. Squadron recommendations for Admiral commissions are decided in a process that begins with a nomination of an LYC member by a squadron member to the SHS Executive Committee and Membership Committee. Recommendations for Admiral Commission requests are made by the



Sam Houston Squadron to the Governor of Texas, for LYC members who have distinguished themselves by service to the people of the State of Texas. New squadron members are also encouraged to join the Texas Navy Association. LYC's **Chef Cristy Jones** prepared a delicious panko-crusted chicken with a mango jalapeño salsa, followed by a vanilla mousse with fresh berries. Then the evening's speaker, **Jim Bevill**, presented a very entertaining and amusing program about the First Texas Navy, a version new and unfamiliar to most of the audience. **Admiral Bevill's** version (which by no coincidence echoed his most recent book) included many little-known colorful facts and tidbits about otherwise well known events and persons from Texas Navy history. **Admiral Bevill** is a member of the Tom Toby Squadron in Houston, the Texas Navy



(L) **Adm Jim Bevill** and SHS Commander **Adm Don Genitempo**

Association and the Sons of the Republic.

As **Admiral Bevill** (and most other program presenters) cajoled the group, General Sam Houston wasn't a big fan of the Texas Navy. True, but Sam Houston is an icon of Texas history, and one of his most famous accomplishments took place in a field just a few miles down the road from LYC, at the Battle of San Jacinto in what is now La Porte, Texas. In this era, Sam Houston might reconsider the Texas Navy and decide he wants to join our very social squadron as we work to promote awareness of the proud Texas Navy history. We do have several things in common, love for Texas being first.

Deputy Commander Marsha Taylor

TNA Affiliated Squadrons

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

If you live in the Dallas area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Micki Sander** at 972.662.1818 or micki@thegolfspot.com

Sam Houston Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of Lakewood Yacht Club or a reciprocal club to Lakewood Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Sam Houston Squadron, please contact the Sam Houston Squadron Commander, **Admiral Don Genitempo**, at 832.771.3222 or dtempo@msn.com

Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron

If you live in the Austin area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Larry Schroeder** at lschroeder@grandecom.net

The Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of the Houston Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron, please contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Ed Bluestein** at marshed@swbell.net.

The Tom Toby Squadron

If you live in Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Curtis Osborne** at curtosborne@windstream.net (281.242.4972) or **Admiral Ron Brown** at 713 621-5660.

Non-TNA Affiliated Squadrons

Captain Jeremiah Brown Squadron

If you live in the Fort Worth area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander **Admiral Jim Sutton** at jim@suttonsonline.com

A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming. If you live in Corpus Christi and have an interest please contact **Admiral Mark Underhill** at mark.b.underhill@uscg.mil or 409 .882.4675

A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming in Galveston. If you live on Galveston Island or near by and have an interest in joining a Squadron please contact our Membership Chairman/Marketing Director **Admiral Dick Hatch** at richardbhatch@gmail.com

If you are in the San Antonio area and are interested in joining a Squadron; there is one forming. Please contact our Membership Chair/Marketing Director, **Admiral Dick Hatch** at richardbhatch@gmail.com

Nimitz Squadron Meeting

We are having our August meeting on August 2, 2014 at the May Dragon Restaurant which is a famous Dallas Landmark. Our speaker is Alice Linahan who is a leader with Women on The Wall. She is very involved with the educational system in Texas and will provide us with insight into getting information to our children. Please join us for this meeting by responding to **Admiral DA Sharpe** at da@dasharpe.com. The cost of the meeting which includes dinner is \$30.00 per person. The meeting starts at 5 pm for social and 5:30 pm for dinner and 6:30 pm for speaker.

Tom Toby Squadron Invitation

Texian Navy Day is held on September 20, 2014 at the Battleship Texas State Historic Site: 3523 Independence Pkwy, La Porte, TX 77571

The Tom Toby Squadron would like to invite Texas Navy Admirals, Commanders and Lieutenants who are attending the Texian Navy Day function to gather at the Monument Inn Restaurant for lunch (dutch treat). Please R.S.V.P. to **Admiral Curt Osborne**: curtosborne@windstream.net to reserve a place. This is a good opportunity to meet fellow Texas Navy members.

Texas Navy Quiz Answer

It stayed in Galveston Bay as a receiving Ship.

Texas Navy Ball

Ladies & Gentlemen, you have plenty of time to find some comfortable dancing shoes by December! Then we'll kick up our heels or at least do some light-hearted toe-tapping and have a good time at the Grand Texas Navy Ball!

As previously announced, the holiday weekend plans are centered at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, Texas, the weekend of December 12 - 14. **Admiral Judy Fisher** has done a great job of setting up a Holiday Weekend section on the [TNA web site](#) and you can now make your hotel reservations online, using a password for the super discount rates. Judy's instructions are easy to follow, even if you've not done this online previously. OR, of course, you can call the hotel directly, toll free at 888 388 8484 and tell them you're with the Texas Navy group. We are working out a few more details on the evening before we announce the per-person ticket price for the party, but expect it to be in the general range of previous years' parties.

TWO items of BIG new news from the Event Team!

First, **Admiral Amy Borgens** has agreed to attend the weekend and make a 15-20 minute multi-faceted presentation early in the evening. Officially, Amy is the State Marine Archeologist for the Texas Historical Commission. She is young, dynamic and has many interesting facts and fascinating experiences to share with

us. If you've ever met or heard Amy speak about her passion for Texas marine archeology of the Texas Navy period, you too will be looking forward to this treat. Some of you may have met her if you attended the Monterrey Shipwreck program last fall, which she arranged for the public in Galveston. For more about Amy, click [HERE](#) or [HERE](#). She has recorded historic shipwrecks around the world dating from the Byzantine Period to the mid-twentieth century and her specializations include early nineteenth century Gulf of Mexico maritime history and artifact assemblages. Amy is being very generous with her time for the TNA that weekend, so stay tuned!

Next big new news from the Event Team is that we have put much time and thought into selecting a band for the Ball, and we are very pleased to have secured an arrangement with "Mid Life Crisis & the Hot Flashes." This is a band familiar to many Admirals and friends around Texas and beyond, and they have a 20+ year successful history of making good music that's fun to dance to, for groups of all ages. There are even some mariners in

the group! The band is comprised of doctors, lawyers, dentists and other professionals who came together through their love for making music, and they have created a colorful and successful history, including Inaugural Balls in Austin and in Washington. If you would like to listen to some of their sounds, see a list of some of their previous venues, or learn a bit more about the members of the band, click [HERE](#).



The Texas Navy Association 4th Quarter Board Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting will begin at 2 pm, Saturday December 13. A Sunday Brunch will be offered at the charming and historic Artillery Club on Sunday, and details are pending. There will be much more news to share with you in the coming months, so watch your mail and check your emails! Please remember and spread the word, ALL Admirals and their guests are invited to this holiday weekend. It will offer educational and purely entertaining experiences for everyone to have and enjoy.

We hope to see you and your guests there! The TNA Event Team

Mark Your Calendar

The Texas General Land Office **Save Texas History Symposium - Making Waves On Land and Sea: Legends and Controversy In Texas History** will be held at the William B. Travis Building: 1701 N. Congress Ave, Austin, Texas 78701 from 8 am 'til 5 pm.

One of the notable speakers will be our own **Admiral Jim Bevill**.



James P. Bevill has spent his career in the financial services industry since graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1983. He is a Senior Vice President – Wealth Management in the River Oaks office of UBS Financial Services. He is the author of *The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas*, a non-fiction work on the social and economic history of Texas from the colonial period through the annexation by the United States in 1846. His book was named as the 2010 winner of the Summerfield G.

Roberts literary award by the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and as the Best Specialized book on U.S. Paper Money by the Numismatic Literary Guild at the ANA World's Fair on Money in Boston.

For more information about this event and to have access to the registration form click [HERE](#)

New Partnership and New Project for the Texas Navy Association

The **Partnership:** The Texas Navy Association and Galveston Historical Foundation have entered into a formal partnership for the purpose of creating a long-term and potentially permanent Texas Navy Exhibit in the Foundation's Texas Seaport Museum. The exhibit is to occupy 600 square feet of the Museum's second floor, which is located adjacent to the 1877 Iron Barque Elissa, the official Tall Ship of Texas. A highlight of the exhibit will be the large, 18 pounder, swivel gun from the Texas Navy Warship "Brutus".

The **Project:** Pursuant to the Texas Navy Association's Mission Statement, "To preserve and to promote an appreciation of the historic character and heroic acts of the Texas Navy", the TNA is creating a catalog of documents, drawings, paintings and other artifacts associated with the original Texas Navies.

Member **Participation:** All members of the Texas Navy Association are encouraged to help locate Texas Navy related artifacts statewide. A form is linked for your use,

if you have or know of any documents/artifacts you would want us to know about. To fill out this form please click [HERE](#)



Introducing our New Ships Store Logo

Marketing Director, **Admiral Dick Hatch** felt a special logo for our Ships Store was in order. He challenged **Admiral Judy Fisher** to come up with a new design. After creating several versions, the above design won out.

Our Ships Store Team have been very busy checking out new items for the Ships Store. Ships Store Manager **Admiral Derek Bateman** has been taking items to various venues throughout the state. We now have a satellite store at the Texas Military Forces Museum. And, another store is in the planning for the Texas Seaport Museum. Keep checking in with the Store...new items will be there soon!_Go there [NOW](#).

Announcement

Texas Navy Association
Quarterly Board Meeting
Saturday, August 9, 2014
Houston Yacht Club

The Quarterly Board meeting of the Texas Navy Association will be hosted by the Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron at the Houston Yacht Club, located at 3620 Miramar Drive, Shoreacres, La Porte, Texas. The meeting will be preceded by a buffet luncheon at 11:30 pm and will feature a discussion of items of historical interest regarding the Texas Navy and the Houston Yacht Club. The discussion will be presented by Past Commodore Ginny Garrett and Club Historian Sam Akkerman.

The Board meeting will be conducted from 1 to 3 pm (followed by informal discussion) and all Board members, Admirals and guests are welcome. The agenda will include normal business, progress on organization issues, and updates on special projects. Highlighted will be the new Partnership with the Galveston Historical Foundation Museum, The Texas Navy exhibit at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, and The Toby Squadron project with the Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage in Houston. Plans for the Texas Navy Ball, our annual gala event, to be held on Saturday, December 13 and the Board meeting will be presented.

The luncheon will cost \$20, credit card or club charge; please make reservations via email to dshaglund@comcast.net by Thursday, August 7.



In Memory Of
Admiral Robert Garrett

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

