

The Military Historical Society of Australia

ACT BRANCH

LE GROGNARD!

July 2010

Committee 2009/2010

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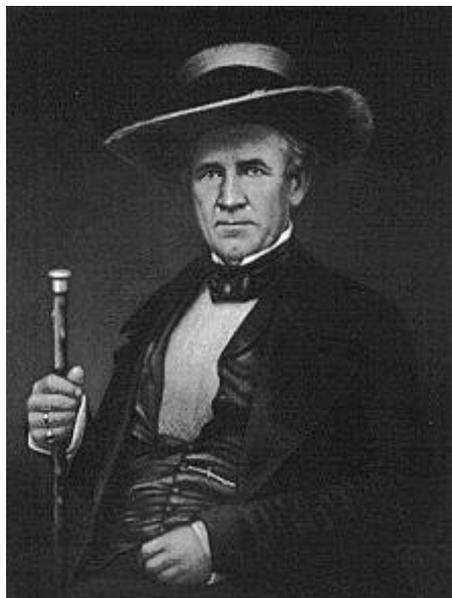
NOTE!

Next Meeting – Monday 26 July 2010

Venue: Aegean Rm, Hellenic Club, Woden, 7:30pm

REMEMBER THE ALAMO...

AND SAM HOUSTON, AN EXTRAORDINARY AMERICAN



Samuel Houston was born on March 2, 1793 and died **July 26, 1863**. He was a 19th century American statesman, politician, and soldier. Born in Timber Ridge, just north of Lexington in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, Houston was a key figure in the history of Texas.

This included as the first and third President of the Republic of Texas, Senator for Texas after it joined the United States, and finally as governor. Although a slaveowner and opponent of abolitionism, he refused, because of his unionist convictions, to swear loyalty to the Confederacy when Texas seceded from the Union, bringing his governorship to an end.

To avoid bloodshed, he refused an offer of an army to put down the rebellion, and instead retired to Huntsville, Texas, where he died before the end of the Civil War.

His earlier life included immigration to Tennessee, time spent with the Cherokee Nation (into which he was adopted and later married into), military service in the War of 1812, and subsequent successful involvement in Tennessee politics. Houston is the only person in US history to have been the governor of two different states (although others were governors of multiple American terri-

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Any person, irrespective of occupation and age, who has an interest in the study and research of military: history, customs, traditions, dress, arms, equipment, medals, and kindred matters, is most welcome to attend meetings.

Anyone interested in joining the Society may contact the ACT Branch Secretary, PO Box 7139 Watson, ACT, 2602.

Feel welcome to visit our website at: <www.mhsa.org.au>.

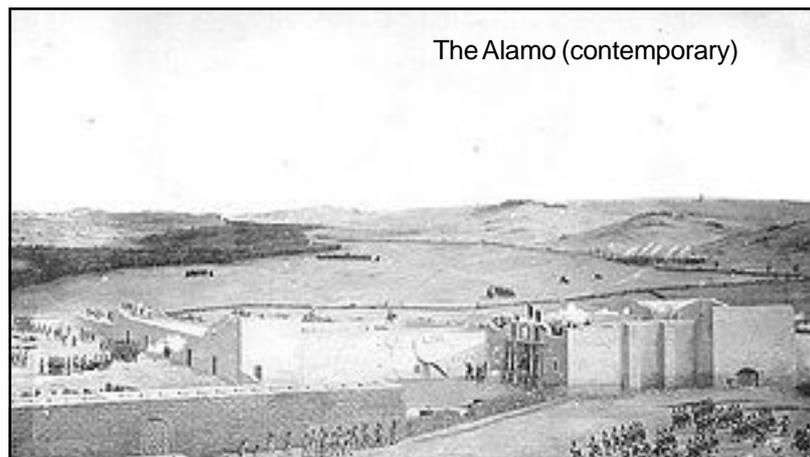
tories). A fight with a Congressman, followed by a high profile trial, led to his emigration to Mexican Texas, where he soon became a leader of the Texas Revolution. He supported annexation by the United States rather than seeking long term independence and expansion for Texas.

The city of Houston was named after him during this period. Houston's reputation survived his death: posthumous commemoration has included a memorial museum, a US Army base, a national forest, a historical park, a university, and the largest free-standing statue of an American figure.

In 1812 Houston enlisted in the 7th Infantry Regiment to fight the British. By December of that year, he had risen from private to third lieutenant. At the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March 1814, he was wounded in the thigh by a Creek arrow. His wound was bandaged, and he rejoined the fight. When Andrew Jackson called on volunteers to dislodge a group of Red Sticks from their breastworks, Houston volunteered, but during the assault he was struck by bullets in the shoulder and arm. He returned to Knoxville as a disabled veteran, but later took the army's offer of free surgery and convalesced in a New Orleans, Louisiana hospital.

Houston left his home with the Cherokee in December 1832, and was immediately swept up in the politics of what was still a territory of the Mexican state of Coahuila-Texas. There has been speculation over the years that Houston went to Texas at the request of President Andrew Jackson to seek the annexation of the territory for the United States, but there was no documentation to prove the suspicion. Houston attended the Convention of 1833 and was then made a Major General of the Texas Army in November 1835, then Commander-in-Chief in March 1836. He negotiated a settlement with the Cherokee in February 1836.

On March 2, 1836, his 43rd birthday, Houston signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. He soon joined his volunteer army at Gonzales, but was shortly forced to retreat in the face of the superior forces of Mexican General (and dictator) Antonio López de Santa Anna, whose soldiers killed all those at The Alamo Mission at the conclusion of the Battle of the Alamo on March 6. Later, at Goliad, Santa Anna ordered the execution of approximately 400 volunteer Texas militia, under James Fannin, who had surrendered.



At the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, however, Houston surprised Santa Anna and the Mexican forces during their afternoon siesta. In less than 18 minutes, the battle was over. Badly beaten, Santa Anna was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco, granting Texas independence. Although Houston stayed on briefly for negotiations, he returned to the United States for treatment of a wound to his ankle.

Houston was twice elected president of the Republic of Texas (the first time on September 5, 1836). He served from October 22, 1836, to December 10, 1838, and again from December 12, 1841 to December 9, 1844. On December 20, 1837, Houston presided over the convention of Freemasons that formed the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, now the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The settlement of Houston was founded in August 1836 by brothers J.K. Allen and A.C. Allen. It was named in Houston's honor, and served as capital. Gail Borden helped lay out Houston's streets. In 1835, one year before being elected first President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston founded the Holland Masonic Lodge. The founding of the lodge took place in Brazoria and was relocated to what is now Houston in 1837.

The city of Houston served as the capital until President Mirabeau Lamar signed a measure that moved the capital to Austin on January 14, 1839. **[July 26 1947 is also the date when both the US Defence Dept and CIA were founded.]**

INTREP

Military Quote of the Month

It is the soldier, not the minister, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag,

Who serves beneath the flag,

And whose coffin is draped by the flag,

Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

Charles M. Province ©1970, 2005 [US Army veteran]

Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, USMC.

Dennis O'Brien was studying for the Catholic priesthood in 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. O'Brien immediately left the seminary and enlisted in the US Marines, serving with the 1st Marine Division at Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa. Returning to his studies for the priesthood after mustering out in 1946, O'Brien was ordained a priest in the Maryknoll Missionary Order in 1953 and served as a missionary and parish priest until his death from cancer in 2002. Intensely proud of his service as a Marine, Father Dennis Edward O'Brien always styled himself 'USMC' for the rest of this life.

'Take Care of My Flag.'

Sir Thomas Pasley was one of the many notable sailors who rose to prominence during the great sea wars of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Born in 1734, he joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman at the age of 16, in 1751, saw active service during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), the War of the American Revolution (1775-1783), and in the opening phases of the Wars of the French Revolution (1793-1801).

The crowning moment of Pasley's career took place during the battle of 'The Glorious First of June' (1 June 1794). By then a Rear Admiral of the Blue, Pasley was commanding the van squadron of the Channel Fleet, with his flag in HMS Bellerophon, a 74 gun ship of the line. Pasley and his squadron had already distinguished themselves in a number of smaller actions on 28 and 29 May, taking some damage as elements of the Channel Fleet clashed with the French Atlantic Fleet, which was escorting a very large convoy from America to France.



As the battle opened on 1 June, Pasley's squadron clashed with the French and a hot fight developed. Shortly before 11am Bellerophon found herself engaged by three or four French ships-of-the-line. Suddenly Pasley was struck by an 18-pounder ball, the round shattering his leg. Two sailors picked up the badly wounded admiral, one of them expressing regret at the loss of his leg, whereupon Pasley said 'Thank you: but never mind my leg, take care of my flag'.

A radical amputation saved Pasley's life, even as the battle was won. For his performance, Pasley was created a baronet, granted various decorations, awarded £1,500 in prize, and promoted to Rear Admiral of the Red. Although he never went to sea again, he remained on active duty until 1801, holding various administrative commands. Pasley retired as an Admiral of the White, the highest normal rank in the service. A friend to the much younger Horatio Nelson, Pasley outlived the latter by three years, dying in 1808.

Good Housekeeping

During the final years of peace in the late-1930s, Britain required the import of some 60 million tons of food, raw materials, and finished goods per year to survive. However, through extraordinary conservation, maximum exploitation of domestic resources, careful management, and stringent rationing, by 1944 this had been reduced to only 27 million tons, despite the demands of a global war.

Whites Only!

On 6 September 1950, Sergeant 1st Class John Raymond Rice of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, US Army, was killed in action in South Korea. John Rice was a resident of Sioux City, Iowa, and his wife Evelyn, having requested return of her husband's remains from Korea, made arrangements for his burial in Memorial Park Cemetery, Sioux City.



All went well until the cemetery administrators noticed that many of the mourners were American Indians! The outraged officials then discovered that although Mrs Rice was Caucasian, her late husband, who had died for his country, was a 'Native American' and the officials immediately stopped the funeral and denied Sergeant Rice interment in the city's 'whites only' cemetery. The resulting uproar gave Sioux City a reputation for bigotry and prejudice that it took decades to live down.

As for Sergeant Rice, when news of the incident reached the ears of President Harry S Truman, he personally intervened and arranged for a burial plot in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. Sergeant 1st Class John Raymond Rice, US Army, was eventually laid to rest with full military honours in Arlington Cemetery; his grave is located between the graves of General of the Army John J. Pershing and General Walton H. Walker.

Membership renewals are now due