

# News Release for the 204th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina

## August 19, 2017

Everyone is invited to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony and symposium commemorating the Battle of Medina, “the bloodiest battle in Texas history”. The Battle of Medina occurred on August 18, 1813 between the Royal Spanish Army and the Republican Army of the North. Between 800 and 1,300 Americans, Tejanos, Native Americans and Spanish soldiers died in this battle.

Beginning at **10:00 a.m.** on Saturday, August 19, 2017, a commemorative ceremony will be held under the large oak trees on Old Applewhite Road, near where it intersects with Bruce Road. A Color Guard will present flags from the countries involved. Members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will re-dedicate a plague to honor those American Patriots of the American Revolution who died in the battle, and descendants of Peter Sides, American Patriot will honor his service. Wreaths will be laid by the DAR, DRT, Daughters of the War of 1812. Other organizations expected to participate are the SRT, SAR and the Mayflower Society.

At 1 p.m. a seminar discussing the Battle of Medina will be held at the ATASCOSA COUNTY LEMING ANNEX (old Leming School). Opening remarks will be given by Lila Rakoczy, Ph. D., Program Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission and Robert H. Thonhoff, former President of the Texas State Historical Association, author and former Karnes County Judge.

SPEAKERS at the symposium include:

Jo Anne Gonzales Murphy, MS-Psych, ABD(PHD)

Al McGraw, Archaeologist, TxDot Environmental Affairs Division (retired)

Jose “Joe” Lopez, author, founder of Tejano Learning Center, LLC.

Dr. Ana Caroline Castillo Crimm, Professor Emeritus, Sam Houston State University

Dr. Amy Porter, Associate Prof. of History, Texas A&M San Antonio

Dan Arellano, President, Battle of Medina Society

James Bernsen, MA History, Southwest Texas State University

Brian Stauffer, Spanish Translator, Texas General Land Office

\*\*\*Historical re-enactors, Eric Morrell and Mike Reynolds, along with others will set up a historically accurate 1813 camp.

\*\*\*Exhibitors will be present selling books, maps, postcards, and other Texas history memorabilia.

Including: Order of Grenaderos y Damas de Galvez, Canary Islands Descendants Association, Jesse Villareal and more.

FOOD will be provided by LEMING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT for a nominal fee, for those who would like to eat before the seminar. Drinks and snacks will be provided by ATASCOSA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION throughout the event at no charge.

Signs will be placed to direct you from Highway 281 onto the Old Pleasanton Road, about 10 miles north of Pleasanton, or for further directions, contact Barbara Westbrook, [bwestbrook@2fastmail.com](mailto:bwestbrook@2fastmail.com) or 830 570-3289.

Sponsored by:

- ATASCOSA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
- THE TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WILLIAM HIGHTOWER CHAPTER
- MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The following hotels have offered special rates for the event mention “Battle of Medina” or Atascosa County Historical Commission when making your reservation:

Hampton Inn, 2057 W. Oaklawn, Pleasanton, 830 569-3001 **\$85/night** for August 18 & 19

Holiday Inn Express, 350 Medical Dr, Jourdanton, 830 769-3323 **\$89/night** for August 18 & 19

Sunbridge Inn & Suites, 388 Medical Dr, Jourdanton, 830 769-3323 **\$59.95/night** for August 18 & 19