



~ photo by Ray Benning ~

PAGE OUT OF HISTORY



During the Texas Revolution, a convention of American Texans meets at Washington-on-the-Brazos and declares the independence of Texas from Mexico. The delegates chose David Burnet as provisional president and confirmed Sam Houston as the commander in chief of all Texan forces. The Texans also adopted a constitution that protected the free practice of slavery, which had been prohibited by Mexican law. Meanwhile, in San Antonio, Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's siege of the Alamo continued, and the fort's 185 or so American defenders waited for the final Mexican assault.

In 1820, Moses Austin, a U.S. citizen, asked the Spanish government in Mexico for permission to settle in sparsely populated Texas. Land was granted, but Austin died soon thereafter, so his son, Stephen F. Austin, took over the project. In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain, and Austin negotiated a contract with the new Mexican government that allowed him to lead some 300 families to the Brazos River. Under the terms of the agreement, the settlers were to be Catholics, but Austin mainly brought Protestants from the southern United States. Other U.S. settlers arrived in succeeding years, and the Americans soon outnumbered the resident Mexicans. In 1826, a conflict between Mexican and American settlers led to the Fredonian Rebellion, and in 1830 the Mexican government took measures to stop the influx of Americans. In 1833, Austin, who sought statehood for Texas in the Mexican federation, was imprisoned after calling on settlers to declare it without the consent of the Mexican congress. He was released in 1835.

In 1834, Santa Anna, a soldier and politician, became dictator of Mexico and sought to crush rebellions in Texas and other areas. In October 1835, Anglo residents of Gonzales, 50 miles east of San Antonio, responded to Santa Anna's demand that they return a cannon loaned for defense against Indian attack by discharging it against the Mexican troops sent to reclaim it. The Mexicans were routed in what is regarded as the first battle

of the Texas Revolution. The American settlers set up a provisional state government, and a Texan army under Sam Houston won a series of minor battles in the fall of 1835.

In December, Texas volunteers commanded by Ben Milam drove Mexican troops out of San Antonio and settled in around the Alamo, a mission compound adapted to military purposes around 1800. In January 1836, Santa Anna concentrated a force of several thousand men south of the Rio Grande, and Sam Houston ordered the Alamo abandoned. Colonel James Bowie, who arrived at the Alamo on January 19, realized that the fort's captured cannons could not be removed before Santa Anna's arrival, so he remained entrenched with his men. By delaying Santa Anna's forces, he also reasoned, Houston would have more time to raise an army large enough to repulse the Mexicans. On February 2, Bowie and his 30 or so men were joined by a small cavalry company under Colonel William Travis, bringing the total number of Alamo defenders to about 140. One week later, the frontiersman Davy Crockett arrived in command of 14 Tennessee Mounted Volunteers.

On February 23, Santa Anna and some 3,000 Mexican troops besieged the Alamo, and the former mission was bombarded with cannon and rifle fire for 12 days. On February 24, in the chaos of the siege, Colonel Travis smuggled out a letter that read: "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World.... I shall never surrender or retreat.... Victory or Death!" On March 1, the last Texan reinforcements from nearby Gonzales broke through the enemy's lines and into the Alamo, bringing the total defenders to approximately 185. On March 2, Texas' revolutionary government formally declared its independence from Mexico.

In the early morning of March 6, Santa Anna ordered his troops to storm the Alamo. Travis' artillery decimated the first and then the second Mexican charge, but in just over an hour the Texans were overwhelmed, and the Alamo was taken. Santa Anna had ordered that no prisoners be taken, and all the Texan and American defenders were killed in brutal hand-to-hand fighting. The only survivors of the Alamo were a handful of civilians, mostly women and children. Several hundred of Santa Anna's men died during the siege and storming of the Alamo.

Six weeks later, a large Texan army under Sam Houston surprised Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto. Shouting "Remember the Alamo!" the Texans defeated the Mexicans and captured Santa Anna. The Mexican dictator was forced to recognize Texas' independence and withdrew his forces south of the Rio Grande.

Texas sought annexation by the United States, but both Mexico and antislavery forces in the United States opposed its admission into the Union. For nearly a decade, Texas existed as an independent republic, and Houston was Texas' first elected president. In 1845, Texas joined the Union as the 28th state, leading to the outbreak of the Mexican-American War.

The Great Outdoors

by Walter Scott

Outdoors Turkey Attack

A good horse, when needed, is invaluable. When running cattle on rough ground, it is impossible to get to the places where the cattle go using any type of motorized vehicle. If a person does not have a horse, the only other option is to walk, which is unacceptable. A person could walk around on foot until they dropped.

For several years, I used a big sorrel gelding for working and herding cattle. He was fool proof but was getting up in age. I decided to start a young horse as a spare, for when Diamond was no longer able to take the rigors of the work required. I raised a buckskin colt I thought would fill the job requirements. He had spent most of the first two years of his life running the same hills he would be herding cattle. The steep ditches and running creeks were no surprise to him when we started training. Started by being tied off to another trained horse, he never bucked or fought my control. After a few trips across the farm being restrained, he was ready to progress to following other horses on trail rides. In just a few months, he changed from a rowdy colt to a sound cattle horse.

One day I needed to round up a bunch of cows to ear tag

and vaccinate their calves. I parked the trunk and trailer near the north gate and started on my ride on a sunny and mild spring day. We had gone close to a mile before I spotted any cows. I did not really mind as we were having a pleasant ride. We made a swing around the herd and started pushing them in the general direction of the corral when one obstinate old cow decided to make a break for the timber. I spurred up my trusty steed to cut her off before she made it to the timber. The shortest distance put us directly in line with a small patch of low brush and rose bushes. As the young horse hurdled the obstacle, an unseen turkey flew out of the brush. The sudden commotion of a large turkey crashing from the bushes startled me but scared my poor horse half to death. When his four feet hit the ground, he decided to unload me and save himself. For a young horse, unexperienced at bucking, he did a remarkable job. I hung on for a short time before he piled me into the ground and left for the trailer as fast as he could go. With no large bones broken, I walked back to the truck where my horse was already loaded and waiting to leave.

Even though I had a long walk in the woods, I was not upset with the horse. He was

young and afraid. I was old, and the turkey had scared me. A few days later, we went back to do the job that was put off due to the turkey incident. Fifty yards away, a turkey went scurrying across the open pasture. When the colt saw it, he promptly spun toward the truck and started bucking. When he got me off his back, he ran back and hid in the trailer. I did not have as hard of a landing nor as long a walk this time, so I unloaded the horse, and we completed our job. The colt was a solid horse and a good worker. He would cross any ditch and hold a rope while I worked a calf. His only quirk was his fear of turkeys. Sometimes we would go for weeks without seeing a turkey and I would think we were home free. When I would least expect it, a turkey would pop up and I would be walking back to the truck and trailer. At least I did not have to go looking for my horse. He always loaded up and waited for me.

Over the winter, we did very little pasture work so there were no run ins with turkeys. By spring, I had almost forgot about his phobia and was hoping he had outgrown it. I was helping a neighbor round up his cattle one morning. We were about two miles from where we had parked when a turkey ran across

the open pasture more than a hundred yards away, going the opposite direction. The phobia returned. He started bucking like trained rodeo stock. Quickly thinking about how far I would have to walk, I decided to ride him out. He bucked for close to a minute before we both became exhausted. I stayed on top, and we were able to finish our job, but the extreme exercise left me so sore that by the next day, I could barely move. It could not have hurt worse to get piled into the ground and had walk two miles back to the truck.

Shortly after that incident, my not so trusty horse was sold to some people that did competition roping. The colt excelled at this. The turkeys could not attack him.

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A Matter of Perspective

by Karin L. Nauber

Have you ever noticed that when things go a bit wonky in the world that right away people's thoughts turn to the end of the world?

Maybe it's just me that thinks this way but I looked up a bunch of stuff today on predictions for the end of the world. With Russia invading Ukraine, many people wonder if this is the beginning of the end.

Well, if you are reading this article to find out the answer, will let you know right now that I do not have that answer. People have talked about the world coming to an end for as long as the idea of an end has been present.

My thought at the present time is that the world has already ended and we haven't figured it out yet!

The websites I perused had many theories and predictions and speculations but no real answers because no one really knows when the end will come.

If you read the Bible, you can see many of the signs of the end times that have been prophesied. But those do not give a date and time, either.

Humankind has long been a superstitious bunch. I am not saying the Bible is superstition, although some do believe that. What I am saying is that humans always read into everything. And as a superstitious lot, humans often get things wrong.

It is hard to argue with some predictions that have come to fruition but on the other hand, there are also some things that are just things that happen and we shouldn't see them as any more than the events or happenings that they are.

I'm not saying we shouldn't prepare ourselves and our families when threats seem imminent, I am just saying that not everything is an omen of doom.

More than preparing ourselves for earthly danger, I believe that we need to prepare our hearts for eternity. As a Christ-follower, I believe that means being ready to meet our creator God. Others have different opinions.

Although Russia doing what they are doing is disturbing, there are probably worse things going on in our own neighborhoods.

Again, I'm not saying that we shouldn't be concerned about the affairs of the world but when we forget about our neighbors I don't think we are doing the world any favors.

Lastly, I do not believe it pays to worry about tomorrow. That is not to say that we should not prepare as stated above. I only mean that worrying about the future instead of living today can make for a very sad and non-abundant life.

It's okay to have some worry about things but not to the point that it takes over your present.



My budget is a hot mess.

I haven't had a car payment in years, and of course now I do, which is basically eating into all of my fun money. So, it was time to sit down and reconfigure my bills and my budget.

I tend to list my bills on a piece of paper, to keep track of what needs to be paid, and when. This has been my go-to for years. Now that my budget is a bit tighter, I started scribbling out what bills to pay per week, as I am paid weekly. Let's just say it's tighter than I'd like.

Looking at ideas to shuffle things around, figure out how much I have left after bills, and other necessities like gas and groceries, was becoming too much to process. So I figured, there has to be an app for this. And of course there is.

I came across one with good ratings that does something I haven't seen before. It will negotiate some bills and try to get a lower rate! Sold.

For a few bucks a month, this app is sorting all my bills, spending habits, even my income. Sure I was nervous to put in my bank information but seeing how this is laid out was totally worth it. It even came across fees I didn't see in my bank statements.

It is currently "negotiating" my cell phone and internet bills, saying they have an 85 percent success rate. The catch is they will ask for a one time fee, a percentage of the first year savings. And you get to choose the percentage. So, naturally I went with the lowest, not knowing how this will turn out, of a whopping 30 percent. I'm down to try it. So what if I have to pay a one-time fee to save money in the long run? I see it like paying for Amazon Prime. It's cheaper to pay for the year subscription than it is monthly.

The spending graph is something else. It automatically categorizes many transactions from deposits, car payment, groceries and so much more. It's so nice to see it put in a perspective my brain can understand. It also came up with a pet category for paying a vet bill. It even put the bills' due dates on a calendar. There were a couple bills I had to manually add but this was a lot less work!

This app is amazing...except for the part where it figured out how broke I am. Sigh. Well, hopefully I will save some funds in the long run.

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