

BGES Proudly Presents: Lone Star Legacy: Texas in Conflict 1835-2013

February 8-17, 2013 from Houston, Texas with historian Neil Mangum

Texas has a history unique within the United States and which has been singularly influential in what the country has become. It is at once a story of heroism, conflict and soaring ambition. It is a legacy to be lived and proudly shared with all who will listen and learn. This program will demonstrate to its participants what it means to be an American. This is a tour that will not disappoint.

February 8th Arrive at Drury Inn and Suites Houston Hobby Airport and at leisure.

February 9th: Meet your travel colleagues for breakfast and pick up your name tag, reading books and maps. We depart at 8:30 AM for the site of the September 1863 Civil War battle of Sabine Pass. Here a small force of Confederates blocked Federal gunboats attempting to enter the Sabine River. We then head to San Jacinto the decisive battle of the Texas War of Independence—here Sam Houston defeated Mexican General Santa Anna ensuring the freedom of Texas. While there we will also tour one of the last Dreadnought battleships of the World War I period—the USS Texas. The day will finish with a visit to Galveston where we will discuss the January 1863 Confederate victory and visit General Magruder’s gravesite before discussing the great hurricane of 1900. We will return to our Houston hotel.

February 10th; Today we will change base to Corpus Christi and follow some of the overlooked but significant sites of the Texas War of Independence—here we will visit Goliad and the Fannin Battlefield at Coletto where Colonel James Fannin’s expedition to relieve the Alamo was frustrated and he with his men were executed. We will pay our respects to them at their gravesite in Refugio. Following a Texas BBQ lunch (included), we will discuss General Zachary Taylor’s occupation of the Texas coast at Corpus Christi—a precursor to the Mexican American War. We overnight at the Best Western in Port Aransas.

February 11th; Today’s theme is the Mexican American War and we will visit Fort Polk and the Port Isabel Museum before visiting the lovely beach at South Padre Island for a fried chicken and boiled shrimp lunch on the beach (included). We will then head to Brownsville where we will see the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. Our last stop will be Fort Brown on the Rio Grande. We will overnight at the Holiday Inn in Brownsville.

February 12th; BGES takes you places you would never otherwise be able to go and today we start by visiting the Palmito Ranch battlefield—site of the last battle of the Civil War—ironically a Confederate victory. We will depart the area moving along the Rio Grande where we will visit Rancho Carracitos—a Mexican War site made famous by the Lincoln “Spot Resolution.” We will peek into frontier American life visiting Ringgold Barracks where Robert E. Lee’s Second Cavalry lodging still exists and Fort McIntosh where the new Republic of Texas set a frontier boundary along the Rio Grande River. En route to San Antonio we will visit the short lived Republic of the Rio Grande—a derivative spin off of the Lone Star Republic. This evening we will see the IMAX presentation of “The Price of Freedom—a realistic presentation of the siege of the Alamo. We will spend the next four nights in San Antonio at the Drury Inn Airport.

February 13th: San Antonio is integral to the history of Texas and the United States and remains so today. Our focus this day is on the Texas War of Independence. We will interpret operations in and around the town emphasizing the Mexican campaign against the Alamo, while including Mission San Jose, the battle at Mission Concepcion and the battle of Bexar. When we

are done perhaps you'll amble over to the Menger Hotel where men like Robert E. Lee stayed and Teddy Roosevelt recruited the "Rough Riders." Indeed the historic cigar bar is still open. **February 14th**; Texas has produced many great names in American history but none greater than Lyndon Baines Johnson. This man held the top jobs in government and as our 36th president was the architect of much of America's Civil Rights legislation. We will visit his Ranch and later in Houston will visit the space center named for him. After Johnson, we will visit the World War II Museum of the Pacific featuring the leadership and campaigns of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. The day will close at historic Fort Scott—another of our frontier fortifications. Perhaps tonight you'll walk along the famous San Antonio Riverwalk and enjoy an authentic Mexican dinner.

February 15th; Our final day in the San Antonio area starts with the legendary Indian Warrior, Geronimo at Fort Sam Houston. Then we will examine briefly the sad history of the Comanches and the 1840 battle of Plum Creek. Being near the state capital of Austin, we will go to the cemetery to see the impressive grave of General Albert Sydney Johnston—killed at Shiloh in 1862, he was one of the great men of the Republic of Texas. The day ends with a visit to the Blind Asylum and a discussion of George Armstrong Custer and his involvement with Civil War Reconstruction in Texas; along with a visit to the very impressive Bob Bullock History Museum in Austin. We will enjoy a farewell dinner in San Antonio.

February 16th; It is hard to believe but today is our last day. As we depart San Antonio, we will go to Seguin to visit the grave of one of the Republic of Texas' most important figures: Juan Seguin. To reinforce the unique nature of Texas' birth, we will visit Gonzales and a splendid museum to the War for Texas Independence. We will then see the birthplace of Texas at Washington on the Brazos. The day closes as we return to Houston and discuss Texas as a part of John Kennedy's New Frontier—the tip of that vision was America's Space Program—we will visit NASA's Johnson Space Center. Mission Control was the heart of the great Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space explorations and the landing on the moon. We will return to the Drury Inn from where we started and say out good byes. Today is the NBA All-Star game in Houston and your modestly priced hotel rate with tax will top \$150 for Saturday night—if able you might want to get out of town. The Saturday night lodging is not included in your registration fee.

What is included? Your registration includes 8 full days with Neil Mangum, an internationally famed scholar/historian with exclusive access to many sites—some on privately owned land, two tour escorts, Recommended reading list, two lunches**, a farewell dinner, transportation as determined by registration numbers, 8 nights superior or better lodging, breakfasts (where included with the hotel room), heavy snacks and complimentary "Happy Hour" at Drury Inn Hotels, complimentary snacks, sodas and bottled water, a reading book with maps, all admissions, an IMAX ticket for "The Price of Freedom" Airport transfers to and from hotel in Houston will be arranged and are not included; however, depending upon the contingent and arrival plans, BGES will attempt to arrange group transportation to and from the hotel at little to no additional expense.

****Meals on this trip are a la carte** to comply with some people's requests to hold down the total cost of the registration. I am told many people will eat only two meals a day or may get a pizza at night and would prefer to save the \$150-\$200 per person charge a trip of this length

would normally command. This worked out fine for Custer last year—but for BGES regulars this is a change of procedure.

About the Faculty:

Neil Mangum: is one of the nation's foremost Indian Wars authorities and is a lifelong student of George Armstrong Custer. Neil served his career in the National Park Service where his postings included a tour as the Superintendent of the Little Big Horn National Battlefield. He was a key player in significant changes that made the site more inclusive and healing. His engaging manner has opened many doors to heritage tourists and made him one of the most respected historians in the country. He has also led tours of the Great Sioux Indian War, The Apache Wars, The Central Plains Indian War, the Buffalo Red River War and many other western themes. He is the author of the definitive work, **The Battle of the Rosebud: Prelude to the Little Big Horn**. Neil retired from the NPS in 2003 and now lives in Payson, Arizona.

Meeting Site and Hotel: This program starts and ends at the Drury Inn and Suites, 7902 Mosley Road, Houston, TX 77061 (1-713-941-4300). Your registration fee includes two nights lodging here on February 8th and 9th. It also includes six nights lodging on the road (February 10th through the 16th.) We will make all your reservations and pay your room and tax. Incidentals at the hotel will be billed as you incur them. The hotel will pay for your taxi to and from Houston Hobby Airport only.

Airport and Transportation Arrangements: The servicing airport is Houston Hobby (HOU). AirTran, Southwest, American Airlines, JetBlue and Delta all service or have connections that serve Hobby Airport. If you fly into the larger airport George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) the distance between the airport and hotel is about 30 miles and it will take you about 45 minutes to get to the hotel. A taxi is about \$75 one way. We recommend SuperShuttle if you cannot fly into HOU. If you drive to the event, we will make arrangements for you to leave your car at the hotel until we return.

Recommended Reading: All books are on line at Amazon and elsewhere. BGES will not stock these books.

Stephen L. Hardin and Gary Zaboly; **Texian Illiad, A Military History of the Texas Revolution**

K. Jack Bauer and Robert Johannsen: **The Mexican War, 1846-1848**

Martin Duggard: **The Training Ground, Grant, Lee, Sherman and Davis in the Mexican War 1846-1848**

Brayton Harris: **Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Ocean Theater**

Doris Kearns Goodwin: **Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream**

Philip Tucker: **The Final Fury (Battle of Palmito Ranch)**

Thomas M. Settles: **John Bankhead Magruder, A Military Reappraisal**

Henry Dethloff: **Suddenly Tomorrow Came, A History of the Johnson Space Center**

Geronimo and SM Barrett: **My Life**

John Edward Weems: **Dream of Empire, A History of the Republic of Texas 1836-1846**

James DeShields: **Border Wars of Texas**

2013 BGES Registration Form

Lone Star Legacy: Texas in Conflict 1835-2013

Feb 9-16, 2013

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Registration \$2300 _____ Additional Family Member or friend sharing room \$1700

_____ Deposit only—per person \$500 Net Due on or before February 8th, 2013

_____ Current BGES member* \$2100 _____ Additional Family Member or friend sharing room \$1700

*This rate also applies to current members of the Museum of the Confederacy and members of the South Carolina Historical Society

_____ Full time Teacher or student, confirmation may be required, \$2000 single or \$1700 per person double

_____ I am not a member of the BGES send me membership information

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Make checks payable to BGES and mail to PO Box 1176,
Chatham, VA 24531-1176 or call 434-250-9921 fax 434-432-0596

You may also register and make payments on line using PayPal.

Charge my Discover Mastercard VISA American Express \$ _____

_____ Exp: _____

Vin Code: _____ Signature: _____