

Battle of San Jacinto

As you roll through Texas, imagine traveling back to the mid-1800s to join the fight for Texas independence. Even if you aren't from Texas, you can join the fight, as many volunteers from other states helped the Texas army. You're traveling through the area following your leader, Sam Houston, not exactly sure where you're going, but knowing that Santa Anna and the vast numbers of the Mexican army are quickly catching up. You're trying to get away to keep what happened at the Alamo and at Goliad from happening to you. Eventually, Santa Anna would catch up, and the Battle of San Jacinto would happen. By ensuring Texas' independence, the Battle of San Jacinto is directly responsible for shaping the history of the state as we know it.

The Battle of San Jacinto lasted approximately twenty minutes, but shaped the future of Texas and the United States. A surprise attack on April 21, 1836, led by General Sam Houston, completely caught the Mexican army off-guard. The aftermath showed several hundred Mexicans dead, wounded, or captured, while Texan casualties were minimal. General Santa Anna managed to escape but was later captured and agreed to withdraw Mexican troops from Texas.

The winning of this battle shaped the United States as we know it. The later Mexican-American War ended with the United States getting approximately a million square miles of territory, and fulfilling the dreams of manifest destiny.

Currently, the San Jacinto Battlefield is a state historic site and is also home to the San Jacinto Monument, which is the tallest memorial column in the world at 570 feet, approximately fifteen feet taller than the Washington Monument. The site was purchased by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1900, the same group who currently owns the Alamo. Also residing at

the battlefield are the "Twin Sisters", replicas of the two cannons which helped ensure the Texan's victory.

As you travel through the rest of the great state of Texas, think back to how different it might be had the brave men at the Battle of San Jacinto not been victorious. What would have changed? The Battle of San Jacinto shaped the United States as we know it today.

Source(s):

"Battle of San Jacinto." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. 22 Apr. 2009. Web. 02 Oct. 2009.
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Author(s):

Written by Tallon Reddout, Undergraduate Student in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, as part of a National Park Service Trails and Rails project funded by Amtrak, 2009.