

# 2018 Palmer Reunion

## April 20 thru 22, 2018

Booming cannons, cracking musket fire, thundering hooves and desperate battle cries resound across the San Jacinto Battleground as hundreds of history reenactors recreate the events leading up to Texas winning its independence at the decisive Battle of San Jacinto.

All this and more this year at the Palmer Reunion. We have names and addresses of over 270 families that are direct decedents of Martin Palmer. We hope to see you all there on the battlefield.

This dramatic battle reenactment is the centerpiece of the admission-free San Jacinto Day Festival, held on the grounds surrounding the San Jacinto Monument. Sponsored by the San Jacinto Museum of History, Texas Parks & Wildlife and the San Jacinto Volunteers, the festival is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games and fun set amidst living history.

Presented by the San Jacinto Volunteers and other living history organizations from across the state, the reenactment dramatizes the decisive battle where General Sam Houston led his Texian soldiers to victory over the Mexican Army eventually leading to almost one million square miles of Mexican territory becoming a part of the United States. The reenactors dramatically interpret the Runaway Scrape, the cannon duel and the final battle between the two forces. Best of all, the reenactors are all very accessible and knowledgeable, happy to share their knowledge of the Texas War of Independence and frontier life.

Most of you have been to Washington on the Brazos where Martin Palmer help draft and sign the Declaration of Independence of Texas. Now come see where we actually won that independence.

In the coming updates will be discussing more details about the Palmer Reunion as they come available.

Preliminary plans include:

A meet and greet Friday night (April 20) before the reenactment at the Candlewood Suites, located at 1300 East Blvd, Deer Park Texas.

Please bring any history of the family and any artifacts you would like to share.

Spending the day Saturday (April 21) at the reenactment, enjoying the San Jacinto Monument and Battleship Texas both located at the park.

Gathering for a Reunion Dinner Saturday night. We have keynote speaker Jack Edmondson speaking on the battle of the San Jacinto. Jack plays General Sam Houston in the reenactment and is an acclaimed Texas Historian. The Restaurant is the Monument Inn located just a mile down the road from the site of the battle of San Jacinto.

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## **VICTORY AT SAN JACINTO**

### **A Dark Time for the Rebellion**

In March of 1836, things were not going well for Sam Houston's Texas revolutionaries. Having declared independence from the official Mexican government, they were now running from the Mexican army — and running out of time.

Houston's men, their families uprooted and futures uncertain, were ready to fight. On April 17th, their retreat led them to a fork in the road. One road led to Louisiana and possible refuge in the United States. The other led to Harrisburg and the edge of the coast. The Texian army took the road to Harrisburg without objections from Houston.

The next day, Houston reached White Oak Bayou, where he learned that Santa Anna's forces had just crossed the nearby bridge over Vince's Bayou. On the 19th, Houston crossed Buffalo Bayou between Sims' and Vince's Bayous just outside of Harrisburg. Marching down the bayou, they captured one of Santa Anna's supply boats.

Just miles away from Houston's men, Santa Anna's forces now numbered around 1,200. The Texans numbered 900. On April 20th, Sidney Sherman gave the Mexican army a quick jab with a small skirmish that quickly fizzled out. Both sides then camped for the night.

On the morning of April 21st, General Houston held a council of war. The majority of his officers voted to await Santa Anna's attack in order to leverage their position. He let each man in the council plead his case. Then, he made a decision, which he kept to himself until that afternoon: they would attack.

### **Eighteen Minutes that Changed the World**

Around 4:30 p.m., the Mexican soldiers awoke from their afternoon siestas to the smell of gunpowder and cries of vengeance. Flushed with victory from the siege of the Alamo, Santa Anna had failed to post sentries to monitor the Texians' activities.

Eighteen minutes was all it took for the Texians to take control of the Mexican camp.

Over 600 Mexican soldiers were killed while more than 700 were allowed to surrender. Only nine Texians were killed or mortally wounded. Sam Houston had two horses shot out from under him and was himself shot in the ankle. Santa Anna was found the next day hiding in the grass dressed as a common foot soldier.

# Palmer Reunion 2018

The Palmer Reunion 2018 is being hosted by Reggie Nalley, 7<sup>th</sup> generation descendent, Arlene Presley, Gene and Patti Hennigan also a 7th generation descendent.

## Hotel

Candlewood Suites

1300 East Blvd

Deer Park, Texas 77536

We have a block of rooms available for your stay. Please call and reserve your room in advance. Mention your with the Palmer Reunion.

We also have the conference room reserved for our meet and greet here.

## Banquet

Monument Inn

4406 Independence Parkway South

La Porte, Texas 77571

See attached menu and prices.