

Veterans Assist in Search for Battle of Medina Site



A participating veteran with American Veterans Archaeological Recovery's team performs testing on one of the suspected Battle of Medina sites (photo by AVAR)

The Battle of Medina occurred in 1813 – a turbulent time in American history when America was embroiled in the War of 1812, Mexico was fighting for its independence from Spain, and the Texas Revolution was still decades away. That year, however, a chain of events would alter the course of Texas history and set the stage for Texas' own independence years later.

That August around 1,400 Anglos, Tejanos, Indians, and former Royalists united in their ambition to end Spanish rule in the region. Calling themselves the Republican Army, they planned an ambush of approaching Spanish Royal Army forces along the Medina River, just south of San Antonio. Unfortunately, they were spotted by Spanish scouts the day before, and the trap was reversed by Spanish Royal General Joaquín de Arredondo in what became known as the Battle of Medina. The fighting was over in just four hours, and historians believe that less than 100 republicans escaped the bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil. Arredondo forbade the burial of the slain fighters, and nine years passed before their remains

were buried.

It is hard to believe that a battlefield as significant and large as Medina could be lost. Arredondo engaged his troops in a ruthless campaign of fear to quash the growing spirit of rebellion after the battle, stifling historic knowledge of the event. Two markers claim to be near the battlefield, but no definitive evidence has ever been found to confirm the locations, leading researchers to suspect that the battlefield was somewhere else.

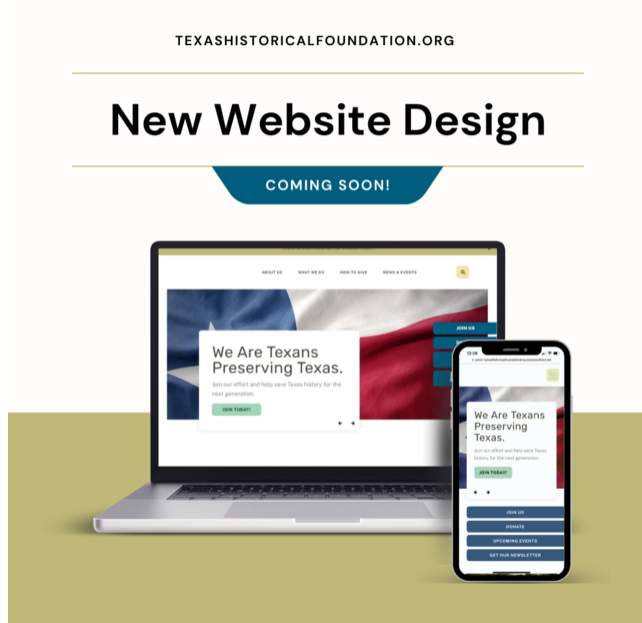
Finally in 2022, history podcaster Brandon Seale spearheaded an effort to find the lost battlefield once and for all and he partnered with American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) to search for the site. Find out what AVAR's team found and learn more about their impactful Rehabilitation Archaeology Program on our blog.

[READ MORE](#)

THF News

Technological Updates Coming to THF

Did you know that up to 60% of web traffic comes from mobile phones and tablets? THF Staff have been working hard on needed updates to THF's website to increase design compatibility with mobile devices and social media platforms, and to improve visitor experience. Work is also underway to implement the Neon customer resource database and to integrate the platform onto the website. Neon will streamline membership sign-ups, renewal processes, and donor transactions and make it easier for members to access their giving information. The changes will appear on the website over the next few weeks. Stay tuned!



TEXAS Preservation

North Central TX Regional Preservation Summit 2023



Postcard of Mineral Wells Welcome Sign, UNT Libraries, The Portal to Texas History

Preservation Texas will be holding the North Central Texas Regional Preservation Summit in Mineral Wells on May 11th at the recently renovated Crazy Water Hotel built in 1912 and reconstructed in 1927. Evan Thompson, Executive Director of Preservation Texas, states, "The Preservation Summit is a unique opportunity for us to bring together experts, advocates, and local stakeholders to discuss the challenges

and opportunities for historic preservation in the region. By building grassroots support for preservation, we can ensure that the stories and landmarks of North Central Texas continue to inspire and educate future generations."

The Summit aims to educate and empower local preservationists and attendees will hear from a range of experts in preservation, history, architecture, and planning. The program will feature informative sessions with topics including Mineral Wells history, the Bankhead Highway, Texas Tabernacles, Downtown Redevelopment, Tarrant County's Preservation Plan, Abilene's West Texas Utilities Company Power Plant, and more.

At the end of the Summit, the 2023 list of [Texas's Most Endangered Places](#) will be announced. The annual Most Endangered Places (MEP) list is a signature program of Preservation Texas which has spotlighted imperiled historic places across Texas since 2004. The MEP list is designed to draw statewide attention to Endangered Places so that local advocates can build momentum toward their protection. Preservation Texas also provides technical assistance and letters of support for sites that have been included on the list.

For more information on the summit or to register, go to [North Central Texas Preservation Summit — Preservation Texas](#). Tickets are \$40 for Preservation Texas members, \$50 for non-members, or \$60 for first-time members, which includes a complimentary one-year individual membership.

Texas HERITAGE


Burrell Cannon and His Flying Machine

Deep in East Texas in 1878, Baptist minister Burrell Cannon opened a sawmill in Camp County. He was also an inventor who held many patents. None of those creations compared, however, to his biblically inspired flying machine. That unique airship consisted of two pairs of bicycle wheels, rotating blades, an aluminum frame, a stretched canvas, and a four-cylinder engine—and it may or may not have taken flight before the Wright brother's legendary event at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in December 1903.



The Ezekiel Airship replica on display at the Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center and Museum in Pittsburg, Texas

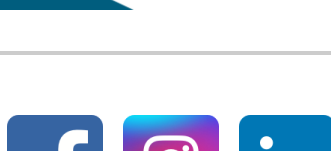
Learn more about this Texas character and his Ezekiel Flying Machine in the upcoming issue of [Texas HERITAGE magazine](#), sent to all Texas Historical Foundation members each quarter. [Become a member](#) today to receive your copy!



JUNE 01

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