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The Flag and Great Seal of Texas. Raphael Tuck & Sons. c. 1906. *TuckDB Postcards*.

TEXAS FLAG HISTORICAL MATERIAL FROM 1924

As part of The National Standard's effort to prompt a reconsideration of the extent of state patriotism between 1865-1936, this issue features historical material from the year 1924. Among other things, that year saw the election of Texas's first woman governor.

DISPLAY THE TEXAS FLAG

The Daughters of the Republic each year urge on Texans the display of the Texas flag on San Jacinto day. They wish to see the flag displayed not only on public buildings but on business houses and residences. And, surely, their desire is a laudable one. It should appeal especially to people of the State's capital city.

The Texas flag symbolizes a spirit and recalls a history of which every Texan, and, indeed, every American, ought to be proud. It is a banner that must command ever wider respect as the years roll by. In this centennial year of the coming of those pioneers who were destined, through their struggles and sacrifices, to add to our Union its greatest State, the suggestion of the Daughters of the Republic should carry particular force.

—*Austin Statesman* 6 (Apr. 20, 1924).

FLY THE TEXAS FLAG

This editorial is printed today by the *The Austin American* at the behest of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in their movement to have our flag, the Texas flag, waving in the breeze tomorrow—San Jacinto Day.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas also requested this newspaper to print an informative editorial upon the Texas flag and *The American*

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“THE TEXAS FLAG”: POEM FOR SAN JACINTO DAY

(Air: America)

Within the Alamo,
Through days of long ago,
A Texas band
Fought our dear state to free,
And now in history
Is told their bravery
Through every land.

How Travis stood so well,
And Bowie fighting feel,
While far on high;
Above the battle cloud
That wrapt them like a shroud,
A flag was waving proud
Toward the sky.

And those undaunted few
All loved its field of blue
And single star.
Who, in that deathly strife,
Gave up each noble life
While battle drum and fife
Were sounding far.

On San Jacinto's plain,
Men bore that flag again
To meet the foe.
And shouting vict'ry glad—
Remember Goliad,
That bloody deed so sad,
And Alamo.

O, fling the banner wide,
For all our nation's pride
Is centered there;
When sounds her battle cry
'Twill float in Freedom's sky
With single star on high
That sparkles fair.

On land and on the sea,
Sweet winds of liberty,
That flag unfurled;
Long may it wave,
O'er homes that heroes gave,
And with the Texans brave,
Defy the world.

Anna Marie Affleck

—*Houston Chronicle* 2 (Apr. 21, 1924).

HOUSTON: “OPTIMISTS UNFURL NEW TEXAS FLAG”

After Miriam A. Ferguson was elected as the first woman governor of Texas, Texas men responded in various ways. “Houston Optimists waxed facetious at their Wednesday's luncheon at the Rice and unfurled a new Texas flag with a broomstick for a staff and a petticoat for the banner. Rev. Frank J. Newland presented the ensign and told the members that was what they would have to have onto for the next two years. . . .”

—*Houston Chronicle* 5 (Nov. 6, 1924).

TEXAS FLAG RAISED IN HONOR OF MIRIAM

WATERLOO, Iowa, Aug. 27—The curiosity of motorists was aroused yesterday by an old flag of red, white and blue, flying from a pole in front of the residence of Mrs. Emily George, on the Waterloo-Cedar Falls road. It was recognized as the early “Lone Star” flag of Texas. Mrs. George raised it as a tribute to Mrs. Miriam Ferguson who received the Democratic nomination for governor of Texas, she explained.

—*San Antonio Light* 1 (Aug. 27, 1924).

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The inauguration of Miriam A. Ferguson, Hall of the House of Representatives. Unknown. 1925. *Hugh L. Brady Collection*

“THE STATE FLAG . . . IS TO BE ... REVERENTLY TREATED”

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is indebted to State Librarian, Elizabeth Howard West for the following article on the subject:

If one may trust indexes and codes, the state of Texas did not make, but inherited, its flag.

On March 3, 1836, the Convention in session at Washington[-on-the-Brazos] passed a resolution providing for a committee of five to devise and report to the convention “a suitable flag for the Republic of Texas.” The president appointed on this committee Messrs. Taylor, Scates, Zavalla [sic], Robertson, Barnet of Austin (San Felipe) and the president was on motion added.

Eight days later “The flag of Mr. Vazalla” [sic] was accepted; on the next day it was voted that the “Rainbow and star of five points above the western horizon; and the star of six points sinking below” be “added to the flag of Mr. Zavalla” [sic]; and that “the word ‘Texas’ be placed, one letter between each point of the star on the national flag.”

A law approved on Jan. 25, 1859, substitutes for this the present design—“a blue perpendicular strip of the width of one-third of the whole length of the flag, with a white star of five points in the center thereof, and two horizontal stripes of equal breadth, the upper stripe white, and lower red, of the length of two-thirds of the whole length of the flag.”

Lovers of the flag have called attention to the fact that it is often flow “in distress” or, in less technical phrase, upside down. This mistake can easily be avoided by observing the very simple and explicit language of the statute” “the upper strip white, and lower red.”

The blue stripe, or field upon which is the single white star, is always next to the flagstaff.

Another point in the use of the flag should be noted: namely, that the state law forbids the use of the state flag for commercial or advertising purposes, as also the abuse or mistreatment of it in any way. The state flag, in o[th]er words, is to be as reverently treated as is the flag of the Union.

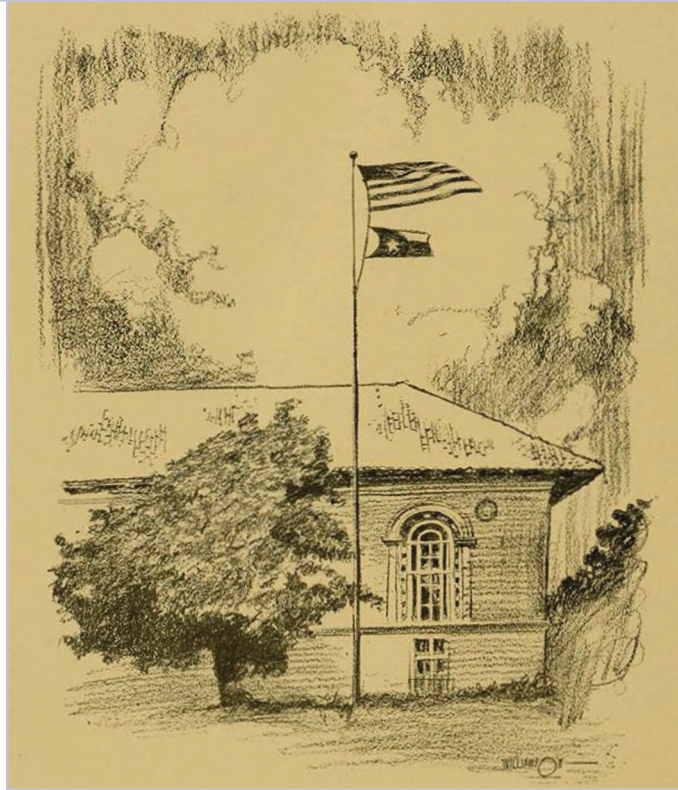
—*Austin American* 4 (Apr. 20, 1924).

TEXAS FLAG UNFURLED

When San Jacinto Day dawned yesterday it found both city and county officials asleep on the job. The cupolas of both the courthouse and city hall were conspicuous by the absence of the Texas flag. May. Richard F. Burges called it to the attention of the county, which did not own a Texas flag, but one as borrowed and run up. Then the city goy busy and unfurled the Lone Star banner.

—*El Paso Times* 8 (Apr. 22, 1924)

The Library of
The University of Texas
(now Battle Hall) (1924).
Cactus Yearbook, 1924



MORE TRIBUTE TO TEXAS FLAG URGED

“Texas people do not pay the tribute to their State flag that they should,” W.A. Alexander, 76, of Waco, said Friday between sessions of the Confederate Veterans’ reunion, which he is attending. “I want to see a Texas flag waving over the Alamo and over historical and public buildings in the State.

“I’d like to see the history of the flag of Texas, and the flag of the Nation, too, taught more in the schools that it is now,” the Waco veteran continued. “Plenty of folks don’t even know we have a State flag.”

Alexander hired a car, decorated it with the United States and Texas flags and was driven throughout the city Thursday. He said he wanted everybody to see the flag. Alexander came to Texas in 1852 from Caddo Parish, in Louisiana. . . .

—*Fort Worth Star-Telegram* 8 (Oct. 3, 1924).

HONOR TEXAS’ FLAG

Texans who love their State will agree with W.A. Anderson, Waco Confederate veteran, that the State flag of Texas should be shown more respect and that it should fly above the Alamo and above public buildings generally.

People coming to Texas from other States often express surprise that, in a Commonwealth where State pride and State sovereignty have been characteristics for generations so little is seen of the State ensign.

In staid Massachusetts, where Federalism had its birth, they think so much of the State flag that the law makes it mandatory that it fly over every State public building and park or playground, from sunrise to sunset, along with the National colors.

Why not a similar law for the Texas State flag? It recalls to us a wonderful history and many things that arouse State pride and patriotism.

—*Fort Worth Record* 18 (Oct. 25 1924).