

Handmade Replicas



FLAG OF THE TEXAS NAVY



THE GONZALES FLAG

The flags were clearly important to the Texans, since they designed and made them in spite of the lack of supplies and time, and in the face of many crucial situations. It is interesting too that most of the flags were painted rather than sewn, created when quick political or military action was needed. Like many flags of the period, most Texas ones were inscribed only on one side. The supply shortages created some interesting improvisations. One flag was made from the wedding dress of Green DeWitt's daughter. Another is rumored to have included part of a Harrisburg lady's red petticoat. Some were painted on the plain white store-bought cotton fabric that was occasionally available on the frontier.

In most instances, there are no remains of the original flags after the Texan's stunning victory at San Jacinto. Evidently the Gonzales flag was destroyed on the way to capture the Alamo in the autumn of 1835. Like the cannon which it depicted, it became cumbersome on the march and was left behind. No record can be found of an Alamo flag having survived those years, even though the design was popular throughout Texas and it seems that several were made by various individuals. Like the ships themselves, none of the Texas Navy flags were saved.

The original San Jacinto flag was saved from careless destruction by the wife of Sidney Sherman, one of the heroes of the battle, and she took it from frontier Texas to the comparative civilization of Frankfort, Kentucky. After the turn of the century the heirs of Colonel and Mrs. Sherman donated the flag to the State of Texas, and it now hangs behind the Speaker's Chair in the State Capitol in Austin.

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Draw or make your own flag that represents something important to you.

WORD MATCH

Draw a line to match the synonyms below.

Crucial

Unwieldy

Petticoat

Important

Cumbersome

Interpreted

Depicted

Underwear