

Sons of the American Revolution Commemorate the 209th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina

The Battle of Medina is known as “the Bloodiest Battle on Texas soil”. To understand what happened, we know Spain owned Texas as well as all of Mexico in 1812 but did little to settle the land. The inhabitants in 1812 were native American Indians, people from other Mexican states and the United States. The settlers were not happy with the oppression of the Spanish control, and they were encouraged by the recent revolution in Louisiana, so they planned their own revolution. Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara and Augustus Magee, encouraged by the US, organized an expedition to take Texas from Spain. They came into Texas on August 7, 1812, and captured Nacogdoches, Trinidad de Salcedo, La Bahia, and San Antonio, where a Declaration of Independence for Texas, under the Republic of Mexico, was proclaimed on April 6, 1813. This, however, was short lived. The Spanish commandant general, organized an army of 1,830 men and marched from Laredo towards San Antonio to quell this rebellion. The Republican Army (Texas Army) consisted of about 1,400 men made up of Anglos, Tejanos, Indians, and former royalists. The Battle of Medina ensued on August 18, 1813. Most of the Republican Army was killed by the Spanish Army and their remains were left on the battlefield for several years. Finally in 1822, the remains of those in this battle were placed in a mass grave.

Members of the Freedom, San Antonio, Peter Sides, and William Hightower Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution, commemorated the 209th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina sponsored by the Atascosa County and Medina County Historical Commissions, with a Color Guard, invocation and a musket volley for those that gave their lives for striving for the Independence of Texas from Spain. David Hamaker, a member of the SAR Freedom Chapter performed an SAR Patriot Ceremony Grave marker Re-dedication for his 6th great-grandfather, Peter Sides, who is the only known and proven soldier of the American Revolution, in the Battle of Medina. Other groups that gave re-dedications were the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons and Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sons and Daughters of the War of 1812, and representatives of the Mescalero Apache Native Americans. We need to remember and thank those that fought for our liberties and freedoms that we have today!

