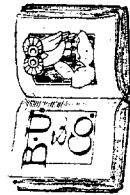


TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
Austin, Texas

*The*  
**Romantic Flags**  
*of Texas*

by  
MAMIE WYNNE COX

*Foreword by*  
MAJOR JOHN W. THOMASON, JR.  
*U. S. Marine*

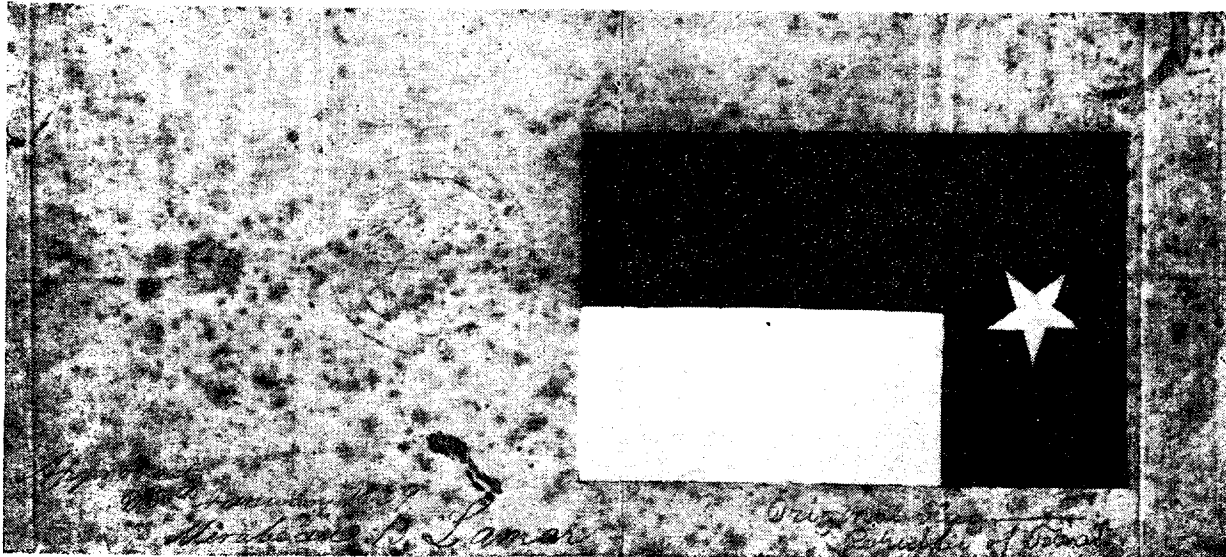


BANKS UPSHAW AND COMPANY  
DALLAS

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REPRODUCED FROM THE  
HOLDINGS OF THE  
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

Original Design of the Lone Star Flag of The Republic of Texas. Designed by Dr. Chas. B. Stewart.  
Approved by President Lamar on January 25, 1839.



It was most natural when the ladies of Zanesville, Ohio, learned that the Muskingum County Volunteers had decided to come to the aid of Texas, their impulse was to provide a stand for colors for the Company. So in late Summer of 1836, in the puissant hands of the Muskingum County Volunteers was brought to Texas the Captain Burroughs' Flag made by a group of young women of Zanesville, Ohio.

Through the kindness of Mrs. George Butler of Hope-  
well, Ohio, the author was given access to her scrapbook containing the story as it was printed in the *Zanesville Gazette* in 1836.

#### "TEXIAN EMIGRANTS

"The Company of Texian emigrants raised at this place by Colonel George H. Burroughs, together with Captain Colerick's Company, embarked for Texas on Monday last, amidst the cheers of hundreds collected upon the adjacent shores to witness their departure.

"On Saturday last, the Company under the command of Captain Burroughs was presented by the ladies of Zanesville with a splendid flag, handsomely finished, and bearing the motto: 'The Hero of San Jacinto.'

"The Company marched out to receive the flag, which was presented in the presence of the assembled multitude, by Miss Mary Love who, at the same time, delivered the following neat and appropriate address:

"Sirs: In the name and in behalf of the ladies of Zanesville, we present you the standard we hold as an evidence of our respect personally, and as a pledge of our unchanging devotion to that truly glorious cause, in whose defense you have so nobly determined to embark.

"If prosperity attend you, let the deeds of San Jacinto's blood-stained field cheer you onward.

#### CHAPTER XVIII

### CAPTAIN BURROUGHS' FLAG OF THE MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO VOLUNTEERS

LET IT BE repeated that even after the Battle of San Jacinto invasion of Texas by Mexico was constantly threatened, and in the United States so great was the interest in and sympathy for the young Republic that troops continued to be raised and come to her aid.

Among them may be mentioned Captain Morgan's Company of Philadelphia, and the companies of Captains George H. Burroughs and Colerick, both of Ohio, all three of whom reached Matagorda Bay in September, 1836, and at once reported to General Felix Huston then in command of the Texan Army. The Mexicans had again commenced to make strong demonstrations on the Rio Grande, but, owing to the increased strength of the Texan Army they desisted for a time in their encroachments. The daring manhood of Ohio thus threw itself into the midst of preserving, for Texas, the territory that had been won from Mexico.

Their activities are recorded in history; their deeds of valor are recorded in Texas annals; so it is from another angle this story views them, from another point of view which touches them with tenderer, deeper meaning, the part played in their lives by the women who loved them—the mothers, wives, sisters, sweethearts.

"If adverse clouds o'ershadow your path, let the deathless fame of Freedom's Martyrs instil into your minds a determination that you will never lower this Banner until you have achieved for Texas her liberty, or for yourselves a glorious grave.

"Above all, (and we present it as our united requests,) we ask you to let no deed of yours cast a shadow upon the reputation of him whose honored name your Standard bears—

"THE HERO OF SAN JACINTO,"

"The inscription it bears is worthy of you; may you prove worthy of it.

"Receive it, soldiers, in the spirit in which it is given."

"To which Captain Burroughs replied with much feeling:

"Madam:—In accepting this Standard at your hands, I feel it difficult to express the feelings which predominate in my own heart, as well as those of the Company, whose organ I am.

"We receive it as one of the repeated proofs of the chivalry of the American ladies—that spirit which shone so brightly in the dark and trying hours of the Revolution.

"To the ladies of Zanesville, for this token of patriotism, we can only return our sincere and heartfelt thanks; permit me to assure them that this Banner shall never be unfurled in a bad cause, and never relinquished in a good one, unless it be in the agonies of death.

"We are about to bid adieu to our native country, and assist a brave, but unfortunate people—people speaking our own language—blood of our own blood.

"Perhaps some of you now present may have near

and dear relatives there, that are at this moment imploring our aid, and who are lavishing their blood to regain their sacred and inalienable rights,—rights which they derived from the God of nature, but which have been wrested from them by a blood-thirsty usurper.

"It is a glorious cause! And we believe we go with the warmest wishes and purest prayers of the American people.

"When for the first time the folds of this Banner shall float upon the plains of Texas, the recollections of this day as well as of the justness of the cause in which we battle, shall nerve us on to deeds of noble daring.

"These sentiments will animate us in the hour of trial, and sustain us in the van of the conflict.

"And if it be our lot to fall, the folds of this sacred banner, as it waves triumphantly, shall be the last object of earth on which to rest the dying eye.

"Then turning to the Company, he said, 'Soldiers! will you receive this Banner, and pledge yourselves to defend it?'

(A low bow marked their assent. Then, turning again to the young lady who presented the Banner he said:)

"Madam:—Allow me once more to assure you that the ladies of Zanesville shall never have cause to blush for the conduct of their Texian Emigrants. So long as I have nerve sufficient in my arm to wield a sword, this splendid Banner, emblem of hope to the world, shall never go into the hands of the enemies of Texas.'

"The emigrants then turned to their camp, and the citizens dispersed; but no doubt the feelings of that hour will be remembered by the former when far away

from the hills of Old Muskingum. The pledge then given may nerve their arm in battle, and cheer their way on the weary march. May success attend them."

In Mrs. Butler's scrapbook was also found an account of the Captain Burroughs' Flag presentation as told by one of the young ladies who helped to make the flag and who took part in the presentation ceremonies. The account is copied from the *Zanesville Weekly Courier* of Saturday, May 23, 1891. In this way the author feels that firsthand information is of deeper interest and more valuable than to re-write it. The young lady was Miss Sarah E. Fawcett and she says:

"In Zanesville there was a young and enterprising firm of Messers Patrick and Burroughs. I knew both of them very well. When a Mr. Thurston came there from the South to raise recruits for the Texan Army, it created much excitement and the community being largely Southern, their sympathy was with the Texans. Captain George H. Burroughs enlisted in the cause and soon raised a large company to join General Houston (*sic*) to fight the Mexicans and for Texan liberty. We girls thought so much of Captain Burroughs and his bravery in leaving a nice home and business and pleasant associations to engage in the defense of liberty at the risk of his life, we resolved to present him and his command with a flag. We passed around a subscription paper and soon raised about fifty dollars.

"We bought the material and made a very handsome one. It was of heavy deep blue silk, about three yards in length and proportionally wide, trimmed with heavy yellow or golden silk fringe. A spread eagle painted in gilt with a ribbon in gilt, also suspended from its beak bearing a motto: 'The Hero of San Jacinto.'

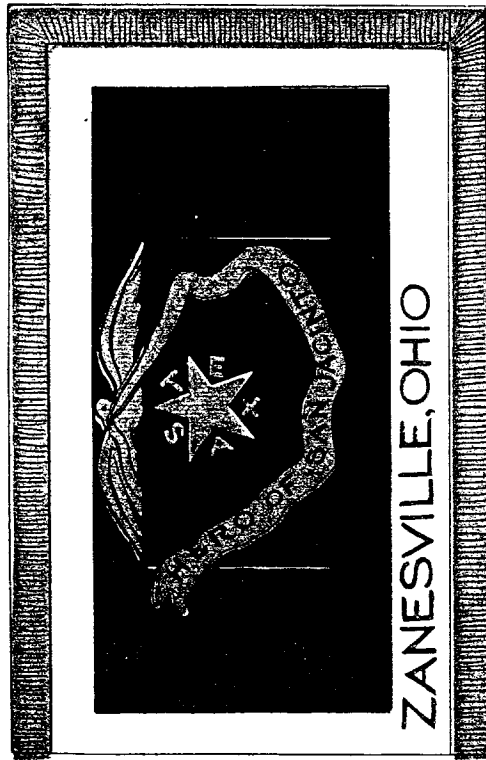
"The flag staff was of black walnut with brass mountings, topped out with a tomahawk, with the inscription, 'To Captain Burroughs and his Braves,' and who from (the ladies of course), I had the honor of helping to hold up one corner of it the day the flag was presented. The flag was made at my aged grandmother's home on Third Street. She was a dear old lady and everyone, gentlemen and ladies, loved Grandmother Thompson. She always had a genial smile and a cordial welcome for everyone. There were a dozen of us girls that every afternoon for a week met in Grandmother's front room, and worked on the flag until finished, the gentlemen too, often joined us to give advice and to help us, particularly with the painting and staff, which they managed entirely. I recall the names of some of the girls engaged in the presentation.

"First I will say that we all dressed in white, with wreaths of flowers on our heads, and gathered at the residence of Colonel James Raguett, on Fifth Street. The presentation was made from his door steps, and Miss Mary Love made a beautiful and appropriate speech.

"The street was crowded with people from Main to Market when Captain Burroughs marched up with his brave Company and halted in front, amid the cheering of the crowd. Miss Love then with her companions to assist her stood upon the doorsteps and presented it. Captain Burroughs replied with a very excellent speech, saying that the beautiful flag presented to him should never be dishonored, but if he was spared to return he would bring it back covered with glory. He did bring it back and it looked too, as though it had been through many a hard battle. As I remember, some of the girls who stood on the steps with Miss Mary Love were, Belinda Thompson,

Elizabeth Love, Sarah E. Fawcett, Eliza Galligher, and some others and I think Mrs. Raguet, as she always was ready to help in any emergency.

"I distinctly remembered I wondered when I saw all that sea of faces turned up to us, when we presented our beautiful flag to their view and the cheers that followed, whether Miss Love could be brave enough to make her speech, but she did and very distinctly and effectively as everyone gave her great praise. She married a few years after and I was her bridesmaid, the ceremony being performed in McConnelsville."



*Burroughs' Flag of Muskingum County, Ohio*

The old Thompson home is still standing on North Third Street, next door to the Eagles Club House. The author hopes Texas may place a tablet on that building where the Captain Burroughs' Flag of the Muskingum County, Ohio, Volunteers was made by a bevy of Zanesville young ladies. Today there is also in Zanesville a Miss

Mary Love, kinswoman of "Our" Mary Love who gave the flag from the Zanesville, Ohio, ladies into the hands of Captain George H. Burroughs.

As to the eventual fate of the Burroughs' Flag my research has brought to light tradition or facts, as you will, from three different sources. None of them have been sufficiently corroborated for the author to state which is fact.

Clippings in Mrs. Butler's scrapbook from *Zanesville Daily Courier* of December 29, 1874, reprinted from the *Daily Statesman* of Austin, Texas, furnish the following account of the Burroughs Flag:

"A son of Captain Burroughs has placed us in possession of an interesting relic of those days. It consists of a Flag presented to his Company on the eve of their departure from Ohio by the ladies of Zanesville. It is badly worn by age; except where the paint was put upon it the material is quite well preserved. The field is of light blue silk, with a border of white silk and fringe. In the center upon a dark blue ground is a golden Texas star, with the usual letters between the five points. Above stands the American bird of liberty in shaded gilt holding a streamer, gracefully encircling the star, upon which is inscribed, 'Hero of San Jacinto.' In the lower staff corner of the flag is printed 'Zanesville, Ohio.' The flagstaff is gone but the figure head remains. It is of solid brass, the device a battle axe and spear combined. Upon one side of the point is engraved, "To the Texan Volunteers of Muskingum County, Ohio," and on the other is, 'From the Ladies of Zanesville, September, 1836'.

"Captain Burroughs, and Thompson, the First Lieutenant, both resigned their commissions in about four months after they came to Texas, and Anthony

Deffenbaugh, the Second Lieutenant, remained in command until the Company was disbanded early in the summer of 1837. Mr. Deffenbaugh took the flag back to Ohio, in August of that year, and gave it to Captain Burroughs, in whose family the relic remained up to this time.

"Mr. Deffenbaugh returned to Texas, and is now well known in this city (Austin). His profession is that of a printer. He has been engaged in various newspaper enterprises, which of course have kept him poor. He merchandised a number of years in San Antonio, and took up his residence in Austin some six years since. He was one of the original proprietors of the *Statesman* and worked zealously with the writer and others in building it up and giving it stability. Mr. Deffenbaugh is now fifty-eight years old, and during and since the sale of his proprietorship in the *Statesman* has been one of the most constant workers in the composing room of the office. He seems still as active and energetic as when, a youth of nineteen, he took his sword in hand to struggle for liberty in the land we all love so much."

The author lost no time in writing the Managing Editor of the *Austin American*, successor to the *Austin Statesman*. That newspaper could only say the vicissitudes of the Austin newspapers, editorially, politically, and financially had been so many and varied there was no record of any kind relative to the ownership or possession of Captain Burroughs' Flag or of the flag's ever having been in their office.

In 1919 the Daughters of the Republic of Texas met in Austin, April 22 and 23. In the printed *Annual* the following record is found:

"Four months after their arrival in Texas, Bur-

roughs and Thompson resigned their commission, leaving Deffenbaugh in command until 1837.

"In August, 1837, Deffenbaugh gave the flag back to Burroughs; he returned it to Deffenbaugh. It remained in the Deffenbaugh family until the presentation today to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Museum.

"Mrs. Churchill presented the Burroughs Flag from Ohio, the history was given by Mrs. Urwitz; on the morning of the second day of the Convention it was presented by Mrs. Margaret Churchill of Burnet, at Austin, April 22-23, 1919.

"Mrs. C. B. Stone (of Galveston) and Mrs. Fisher (Austin) received the flag from Mrs. Churchill, the body standing."

Mesdames Stone, Fisher and Urwitz have all passed away, and letters to Mrs. Churchill at Burnet are returned to the writer without notation by the postmaster. Inquiries among the members of the organization have not brought out any information. A call at the Museum of the Daughters of the Republic in Austin resulted in disappointment as no record was found of any kind concerning the flag that was recorded in the *D. R. T. Annual* as having been presented to the Museum by Mrs. Churchill in 1919.

A third tradition, which seems equally convincing, comes in a letter written February, 1904, to Mayor W. B. Deacon of Zanesville, Ohio, from Ella A. Taylor of Detroit, Michigan, in which is found:

"In 1836 there was a man living in your city who organized a company of volunteers to battle for Texas independence. This company went to Texas under command of Captain George H. Burroughs

and served that state until it obtained its freedom from Mexico.

"At that time the ladies of Zanesville presented to Captain Burroughs a flag with a brass head piece in the shape of a helmet, upon one side of which is lettered "From the ladies of Zanesville, September, 1836." Upon the other side, "To the Texan Volunteers of Muskingum County, Ohio."

"Afterwards Captain Burroughs returned and shortly removed to South Bend, Indiana. When the Mexican War broke out, he served as Colonel commanding a regiment. After that War he returned and located in Belleville, in this County, where he died some twelve years ago. A son, Samuel W. Burroughs of Detroit, survives him. Samuel as a boy served in the late War between the States and at the close he was honorably discharged before he was nineteen years old.

"Having finished his education, he took up the study of law and today is one of Michigan's best trial lawyers. He has been prosecuting attorney here in Detroit. He is also a finished orator and has spoken on important occasions in Toledo, Ypsilanti, Pontiac and other places in Michigan, and in other States.

"It occurred to me that if you could get Judge Samuel Burroughs for an address for next Memorial Day or July 4th and have him bring with him the Flag and helmet of his deceased Father, it would be an event to the people of your city long to be remembered. I am well acquainted with him and have often heard him speak of Zanesville, and know it would please him to come back there and tell about his Father's Flag presented by the ladies of Zanesville in 1836."

Judge Howard C. Baldwin, President of the Bar Association of Detroit, Michigan, interested himself at my re-

quest, in an endeavor to find Judge Samuel Burroughs or his descendants. Judge Baldwin learned that Judge Samuel Burroughs, who then would have been eighty-nine years old, had passed away some years previously, and efforts to find members of his family have been without results.

By this time it is hardly possible that any of the silk of the flag can be in existence, though the ornate brass spear head may be. The inscription on the brass would identify it without question if it can be found.

In as much as the Captain Burroughs' Flag of the Muskingum County Volunteers who came from Zanesville, Ohio, to Texas in 1836, cannot be found it is well that descriptions of it have been corroborated and found authentic and convincing and it therefore can be preserved in pictures and the written word.