Dick Dowling and the Battle of Sabine Pass

The View from Emancipation Park

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EMANCIPATION PARK

ACQUIRED 1918
EMANCIPATION PARK

Many Texas African American communities began to regularly commemorate "Juneteenth" soon after the June 19, 1865, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation at Galveston by Union General Gordon Granger. Members of Antioch Baptist Church and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church organized the Colored People of Harris County Festival Association to promote the annual Houston Juneteenth Celebration. It soon became apparent that a permanent location for the celebration was needed, and in 1872, the Association purchased this ten-acre site for Emancipation Park. The creation of the Park as a recreational and educational facility by the Organization and its successors so soon after Emancipation demonstrates the determination of African Americans in Houston to create an institution that they owned and operated.

The Park was the home of the first De-Ro-Loc No-Tsu-Oh ("Colored Houston" spelled backwards) Carnival in 1909. The Carnival was patterned after the No-Tsu-Oh Carnival, and included attractions such as a Wild West Show and a football game between Prairie View and Bishop Colleges. The Park was donated to the City of Houston in 1916, and when Houston Parks were officially segregated in 1922, Emancipation Park became the only public Park in Houston open to African Americans until 1940.

Through the years, the Park has been the site of parades, concerts, movies, classes for youth and adults, and community meetings. Juneteenth celebrations continue at Emancipation Park, which remains an important central gathering place for area African American residents.
MECHANICS' TOOLS,
Wood and Willow Ware, Copper,
Tin and Sheet Iron Ware, Cutlery,
Nails, Castings, Grind and Mill.
Stones, Paints and Oils, Tin, Sheet Iron and Zinc, Cooking and Parlor Stoves, Solar Lamps, Lift and Force Pumps, Hemp and Gum Packing.—Agent for
Hoe's, Diston's and Blakewell's Circular Saws.

EDWARD RIORDAN,
NEGRO AND REAL ESTATE BROKER,
Blount's Building, Main Street, Houston, Texas.
WILL give his personal attention to the sale and purchase of Negroes and Real Estate.
Having a large acquaintance with the interior of Texas, he invites the patronage of the public.
He has excellent accommodations for the board and lodging of Negroes intrusted to his care for sale.
He keeps always on hand Negroes for sale. [ap28y1

HOGAN'S HOTEL.
SITUATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MARKET SQUARE, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

HE subscriber announces to his friends, and the public generally, that he is now prepared, in his new Hotel, to accommodate all those who may favor him with their patronage.
“We hold as undeniable truths that the governments of the various States, and of the confederacy itself, were established exclusively by the white race, for themselves and their posterity; that the African race had no agency in their establishment; that they were rightfully held and regarded as an inferior and dependent race, and in that condition only could their existence in this country be rendered beneficial or tolerable.”

*From* Texas Declaration of Secession, 1861
“That in this free government all white men are and of right ought to be entitled to equal civil and political rights; that the servitude of the African race, as existing in these States, is mutually beneficial to both bond and free, and is abundantly authorized and justified by the experience of mankind, and the revealed will of the Almighty Creator ...”

*From* Texas Declaration of Secession, 1861
BATTLE
OF
SABINE PASS,
September 8, 1863.
From a Tracing by G. D. ELLIOT, Asst. Engr.
Department of the Gulf.

GUNBOATS.
A. — Granite City.
B. — Sachem.
C. — Triton.
D. — Clifton.

TRANSPORTS.
1. — Suffolk. Head Quarters.
2. — St. Charles.
3. — Lands.
4. — Exect.
5. — Laurel Hill.
6. — Thomas.

• • • Position at commencement of engagement, 3.30 P. M.
φ φ φ Position at close of engagement, 6.10 P. M.
Resolutions providing for the changing the names and redefinition of the avenues of certain streets in the City of Houston.

Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Houston:

Section 1. (Amended Dec. 23, 1891. See page 8 of this volume)

Section 2. (Amended Dec. 23, 1891. See page 8 of this volume)

Section 3. That the following changes are hereby made that names assigned to the named streets named must be so corrected as shown as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avenue</th>
<th>Old Name</th>
<th>New Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>Chicago St.</td>
<td>Alaska St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Johnson St.</td>
<td>Monroe St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Houston Ave.</td>
<td>Kansas Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Houston St.</td>
<td>Frazer Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane</td>
<td>Houston St.</td>
<td>Frazier Ave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2nd Ward:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avenue</th>
<th>Old Name</th>
<th>New Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st St.</td>
<td>Jackson St.</td>
<td>Jackson St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd St.</td>
<td>Kennedy</td>
<td>Kennedy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3rd Ward:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avenue</th>
<th>Old Name</th>
<th>New Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd St.</td>
<td>Michigan St.</td>
<td>Michigan St.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The above changes are made in honor of the names given to the streets.
MONUMENT IS NOW UNVEILED

Houston Pays Tribute to Memory of a Hero

VETERANS ASSEMBLY

Garlanded about the Monument Reading the Name of Dick Dowling—City

"That new 'Dowling' and 'Errol' were the names that were flung in at the starting line today. A dozen of them, in an effort to secure votes for adjournment, have indicated their desire to be considered the names of the latest men to be sworn in, and if the names are to be considered the names of the latest men to be sworn in, then every name in the city is in the running."

SABINE PASS

In memory of the heroic pilots of the SABINE PASS, a monument in honor of the men who lost their lives in this battle, was unveiled in a ceremony attended by the veterans and their families. The monument was dedicated to the memory of those who gave their lives for their country.

DAY OF THE GOOD SAINT

Wearing 'O' the Green Was Extremely Popular in Houston.

MYSTERY SROUDS

Early Life and Birthplace of Ireland's Famous Sable-Ash Soutaines in the Parade.

While the general public has been enjoying the celebration, little is known about the French Sable-Ash Soutaines in the parade. Little is known about the French Sable-Ash Soutaines in the parade. The identity of the French Sable-Ash Soutaines is still a mystery. The identity of the French Sable-Ash Soutaines is still a mystery.

BATTLE OF SABINE PASS

Portrayed the most impressive scene of the battle at the Sabine Pass. A monument was erected in honor of those who lost their lives in this battle.

MONUMENT TO DICK DOWLING

STATUE OF SABINE PASS ON TORONTO HOSPITAL MARKET SQUARE

The monument to Dick Dowling was unveiled in a ceremony attended by the veterans and their families. The monument was dedicated to the memory of this hero of the battle at the Sabine Pass.
Dick Dowling Statue Moved

The Houston Chronicle

ANCIENT STATUE OF DICK DOWLING MOVED TO PARK

After 34 years of watching politicians come and go from atop his pedestal in front of the City Hall, Dick Dowling, hero of Sabine Pass, was wrapped in a burlap overcoat Wednesday afternoon and carted over to his new home in Sam Houston Park.

A fleet of Yankee gunboats couldn't dislodge Lieutenant Dowling and his fighting band of 42 Irishmen, at the battle of Sabine Pass on September 8, 1863, but only a handful of workmen Wednesday carefully padded his monument, lifted it with a boom truck.

The statue of famed Dick Dowling, hero of Sabine Pass, was lifted from its pedestal Wednesday to be transported to a new site in Sam Houston Park. The statue for 34 years has stood in front of the City Hall. It was wrapped in burlap to protect it while being moved.

Most Sensational Lack Leads the Field

The statue, which is revered by all, was moved to make way for construction of a building that will house the old City Hall. The building will be converted into a bus station.

Bowen Motor Coach is the city government's new contractor and soon be moving in $1,750,000 City Hall.

The monument, which has been a landmark of Houston, was unveiled by Mayor Rick's Day, March 24.

Dowling and the Davy Crockett clone, Dick Dowling Cameron, called a 1776 Memorial Confederates veterans and other organizations of other organizations attend. Public subscriptions for the monument were begun in 1897.
Dick Dowling Honored Here

A group of approximately 50 members of the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy gathered at the Dick Dowling Monument on the edge of Sam Houston Park Saturday to dedicate the new site of the memorial on Dick Dowling Day. The monument to the hero of Sabine Pass was moved from in front of the old City Hall when the new City Hall was occupied in December.

Dick Dowling Service Held At Monument

Civil War Hero Praised at Services Dedicating New
DOWLING TRIBUTE

Memorial services commemorating the Battle of Sabine Pass were conducted at the Dick Dowling statue in Hermann Park Sunday by the Albert Sidney Johnston Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Dr. Heyl G. Tebo, commander, left, and Frank E. Trifico, adjutant, place a wreath at the foot of the statue. Dowling, a lieutenant, commanded a group of 47 Confederates who routed a Union force of 5000 and a fleet of 22 transports and four gunboats in the battle on Sept. 8, 1863. (Chronicle Photo)
MAJOR RICHARD WILLIAM (DICK) DOWLING, C.S.A.
(SOOTHED OCTOBER 23, 1837 - SEPTEMBER 29, 1867)

BORN IN 1837 NEAR TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY, IRELAND. RICHARD DOWLING EMIGRATED TO NEW ORLEANS IN 1849 DURING THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE. IN 1857 DICK MARRIED ELIZABETH ANNE ODOWM IN HOUSTON. BY 1860 HE HAD OWNED 3 BARS, INSTALLED HOUSTON’S FIRST GAS LIGHTING IN HIS HOME AND BUSINESS, AND WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF HOUSTON HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY NO. 1.

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, DICK WAS FIRST LIEUTENANT, COMPANY F, COOK’S REGIMENT, FIRST TEXAS HEAVY ARTILLERY. HE WAS IN COMMAND AT FORT GRIFFIN IN 1863. ON SEPTEMBER 8 HE HELD FAST WITH ONLY 6 CANNON AND 47 MEN INSIDE THE FORT DESPITE RUMORS OF A FEDERAL INVASION AND ORDERS TO RETREAT. TWENTY-SEVEN SHIPS CARRYING MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM B. FRANKLIN AND 5,000 UNION TROOPS SAILED INTO SABINE PASS. DOWLING AND “THE IRISH DAVY’S GUARDS” SHOT SO ACCURATELY THAT FRANKLIN’S FORCES SURRENDERED IN 45 MINUTES. THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS CALLED THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS “ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT ... ACHIEVEMENTS ... OF THIS WAR.”

DISCHARGED AS A MAJOR IN 1865, DICK REOPENED HIS MOST FAMOUS BAR, “THE BANK OF BACCHUS.” IN 1866 HE FORMED THE FIRST OIL COMPANY IN HOUSTON. BY 1867, HE OWNED MORE THAN 22 SQUARE BLOCKS OF DOWNTOWN HOUSTON AND VAST LANDS ACROSS TEXAS. DICK DOWLING DIED OF YELLOW FEVER AT AGE 30 AND IS BURIED IN HOUSTON’S ST. VINCENT’S CEMETERY.

DICK DOWLING MONUMENT, HOUSTON’S FIRST PUBLIC ART WORK. DEDICATED MARCH 17, 1937, ON MARKET SQUARE. MOVED TO HERMANN PARK, 1938 REDEDICATED MARCH 18, 1997 AFTER CONSERVATION.
EMANCIPATION PARK

MANY TEXAS AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES BEGAN TO REGULARLY CELEBRATE THE SEVENTEENTH SOON AFTER THE JUNE 19, 1865, READING OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AT GALVESTON. A UNION INTERESTED GROUP OF MEMBERS OF ANTI-OCH BAPTIST CHURCH AND TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZED THE COLORED FUNERAL PARADE OF HARRIS COUNTY, SOCIAL ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THE ANNUAL HISTORIC SEVENTEENTH CELEBRATION. IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT A PERMANENT LOCATION FOR THE CELEBRATION WAS NEEDED, AND IN 1874 THE ASSOCIATION PURCHASED THE TEN-ACRE SITE FOR EMANCIPATION PARK. THE MOVEMENT FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS SUCCESSORS SOON AFTER EMANCIPATION DEMONSTRATES THE DETERMINATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HOUSTON TO CREATE AN INSTITUTION THAT THEY OWNED AND OPERATED.


THROUGH THE YEARS, THE PARK HAS BEEN THE SITE OF PARADES, CONCERTS, MOVIES, GAMES, FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS, AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS: JUNIENETEEN CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE AT EMANCIPATION PARK, WHICH REMAINS AN IMPORTANT CENTRAL GATHERING PLACE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS.

RANDOLPH RICHARDS WILLIAM DOWLING, C.S.A.
BORN IN 1837 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, RICHARD DOWLING ENRICHED TO NEW ORLEANS IN 1863 DURING THE CIVIL WAR. DOWLING WAS A Privates, COMPANY E, 12TH TEXAS INFANTRY. AFTER HE RETIRED, DOWLING BECAME A NATIVE OF HOUSTON AND LIVED ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CITY. DOWLING'S FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN HIS FUTURE, AND BUSINESS, AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF HOUSTON HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY NO. 1.


Proclamation!

THE call for Slaves to work on Fortifications and other defensive works is hereby reduced to one-fourth of the male force in the counties specified in my proclamation of the 4th inst.

A reduction to this basis will be immediately made by discharging a portion of those already reported.

Slaveholders who have not responded, are required to forward at once their pro rata, otherwise they will be dealt with strictly according to military law.

J. BANKHEAD MAGRUDER,
Major General Commanding,

Jn27th Dist. of Texas, New Mexico & Arizona

Proclamation!

WHEREAS, the port of Sabine Pass, on coast of Texas, has ceased to be actually blockaded by the capture of the enemy's fleet near the same, I hereby issue this Proclamation, inviting friendly neutral nations to resume commercial intercourse with this port until an actual blockade has been re-established with the usual notice demanded by the law of nations.

J. BANKHEAD MAGRUDER,
Major Gen'l Commanding Dist. Texas,

Official: New Mexico and Arizona.

Geo. A. MAGRUDER, Aide-de-Camp.

Dissolution.
This slide contained a map of “Union Occupation” from Aaron Sheehan-Dean, *Concise Historical Atlas of the U. S. Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 78-79. It has been removed from this version of the slides for copyright reasons.
“At least 1,500 slaves are necessary at this moment to work on the fortifications on the coast. ... A mere inspection of the map should satisfy any holder of slave property that these defenses are absolutely necessary to its security.”

Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder
Houston, Tex., June 4, 1863

O.R. 26, part 2, p. 34
“The road to-day was alive with negroes, who are being ‘run’ into Texas out of Bank’s way. We must have met hundreds of them, and many families of planters, who were much to be pitied, especially the ladies.”

Diary of Arthur J. Fremantle
May 10, 1863, near Monroe, LA
“Late events in a neighboring sister State demonstrate plainly the objects of the enemy, which are ... to push their light-draught gunboats into every navigable bay and bayou of Louisiana and Texas, to liberate the negroes, [and] to lay waste the country ...”

Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder
Houston, Tex., June 4, 1863

O.R. 26, part 2, p. 34
Disabling and capture of the Federal gunboats "Sachem" and "Clifton," in the attack on Sabine Pass, Tex., September 8th, 1863.

One of the objects of this expedition was to take Sabine City; and on September 8th Generals Franklin and Weitzel proceeded to the pass, and prepared to enter and land their troops as soon as the enemy's outer works were silenced. The strength and the position of these were known, the pass having been in Federal hands in 1862, yet the only preparation for attack was to send the Clifton, an old Staten Island ferryboat, and the Sachem, an inferior propeller, to attack the batteries, putting on them about one hundred sharpshooters. The vessels advanced King, but without eliciting a reply till they were well in range, when the batteries opened. The Sachem was soon crippled and forced to strike, while a shell penetrated the boiler of the Clifton, causing an explosion that made her a perfect wreck. Many were killed in the action and by the explosion; some few escaped, but nearly all that survived were made prisoners.
And about twenty-two of the crew.

CASUALTIES ON BOARD STEAMER SACHEM.
The following is a list of the killed, wounded and missing on board the United States steamer Sachem, in the action at Sabine Pass, Texas, September 9, 1863.

KILLED.

John Fraser, Second Assistant Engineer.
John Monroe, Third Assistant Engineer.
John Williams, seaman.
Wm. Robinson, fireman.
Richard Turner, fireman.
Thomas Sullivan, fireman.
Thomas Ryan, fireman.
William Glenn, fireman.
Calvin Williams, coal heaver.
Anthony Compton, 161st New York.
Patrick Hart, 161st New York.
Adam H. Wilcox, 161st New York.
George Dodge, 161st New York.
James M. Snider, 161st New York.
Abraham Blakely, 161st New York.
Orville C. Boorom, 161st New York.
Mahlon W. Barber, 161st New York.
Abraham E. Borden, signal corps, 3d Massachusetts cav.
Andrew P. Cott, signal corps, 3d Massachusetts cavalry.
Three contrabands, name unknown.

WOUNDED.

John McDonough, landsman.
Thomas A. Sawyer, 161st New York.

MISSING.

Peter Lee, landsman.
George Houston, contraband.
Henry Brown, landsman.
Randal Smith, contraband.
The Clifton of a Planter's Byran Leach
BATTLE OF SABINE PASS, September 8, 1863.
From a Tracing by G. D. ELLIOT, Asst. Eng., Department of the Gulf.

GUNBOATS,
A.—Granite City.
B.—Sacred.
C.—Trinity.
D.—Clifton.

TRANSPORTS.
1.—Suffolk. Head Quarters.
2.—St. Charles.
3.—Landis.
4.—Ike.
5.—Laurel Hill.
6.—Thomas.
7.—Gen. Banks.

Position at commencement of engagement, 3.30 P. M.
Position at close of engagement, 6.30 P. M.

Texas Channel
Louisiana Channel
“Owing to the heavy planting interest in this section of country [around Velasco], and the precarious tenure by which negro property would be held in case of an invasion, the deepest anxiety prevails among the inhabitants ...”

Acting Brigadier-General P. N. Luckett
Houston, Tex., September 27, 1863

O.R. 26, part 2, p. 264
Dick Dowling
and the Battle of Sabine Pass
The View from Emancipation Park

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