

By: Kolkhorst

H.C.R. No. 202

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, When Stephen F. Austin began introducing colonists
2 into Texas in the early 1820s, many of the first settlers
3 established their homes in what is now Washington County; and

4 WHEREAS, The oldest community in the county,
5 Washington-on-the-Brazos, was laid out at the site of a popular
6 ferry crossing in 1833; by 1835 the settlement had become a supply
7 point for the surrounding population, as well as for emigrants
8 passing through on their way to the interior; and

9 WHEREAS, In March 1836, with Texas colonists in revolt
10 against the Mexican government, a convention of 59 delegates
11 gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos and proceeded to draft the
12 Texas Declaration of Independence and a constitution for the new
13 republic; the gathering also appointed Sam Houston as commander in
14 chief of the military forces of the republic and established an ad
15 interim government; later, from 1842 to 1845,
16 Washington-on-the-Brazos served as the capital of the new nation;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Washington County was created in 1836 and organized
19 the following year; situated on the Blackland Prairies, the region
20 attracted substantial immigration and developed quickly; included
21 in the flow of newcomers were Germans, Czechs, and Poles, who began
22 arriving in the mid-19th century; and

23 WHEREAS, In the 1840s and 1850s, the establishment of several
24 colleges, among them Baylor University and Soule University, a

1 precursor of Southwestern University, testified to the dynamic
2 nature of Washington County; today Blinn College, founded in 1883
3 in Brenham, the county seat, carries on the county's long tradition
4 of higher education; and

5 WHEREAS, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role
6 in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular
7 tourist destination; visitors can step into the past at museums in
8 Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence, in addition to
9 gaining an in-depth perspective on the period of the republic at the
10 Star of the Republic Museum, in Washington-on-the-Brazos State
11 Historical Park; and

12 WHEREAS, Proud of their rich heritage, the industrious
13 citizens of Washington County are committed to preserving the best
14 of their past and to honoring the role their county has played in
15 building the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby designate Washington County as the official Birthplace of
18 Texas.