

KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY SHOW™
MEDIA RELEASE

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Kalamazoo Living History Show™ Scheduled for March 16-17, 2013

Theme of 38th Annual Kalamazoo Living History Show™ Announced

“I Shall Never Surrender or Retreat” William Travis

The Alamo: “Victory or Death!”

About the Theme

In the early 19th century, Texas was a thinly settled Spanish province north of the Rio Grande. Americans looking for a fresh start were attracted to these large expanses of unoccupied land, and in 1823 newly independent Mexico officially opened Texas to settlement by foreigners. Over the next several years, Texas became home to a diverse population that included Americans, now called “Texians,” Irish and other immigrants, and the original Hispanic citizens known as “Tejanos.”

While the new settlements began to prosper, political unrest in Mexico led to tension between the citizens of Texas and the frequently changing Mexican governments. Disputes in Mexico over centralized government versus states’ rights eventually led to civil war. General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, elected president as an advocate of states’ rights, overturned the Mexican Constitution and established himself as a military dictator. In Texas, popular sentiment ranged from opposing Santa Anna but remaining loyal to Mexico, to declaring independence. Despite their political differences, the Texan forces succeeded in driving the Mexican army out of Texas in the fall of 1835. By early 1836, Santa Anna had crushed his opposition in Mexico, and was ready to turn his attention to Texas. He prepared an Army of Operations of several thousand men to subdue the rebellious state.

A small garrison of less than 200 held the town of San Antonio de Bexar, the former Spanish capitol of Texas. Nearby stood an old Spanish mission that had been converted to a military garrison. It was called the Alamo. *Here, at the Alamo, they would await the revenge of Santa Anna.*

Join us for the 2013 Kalamazoo Living History Show, as our knowledgeable presenters bring to life the men whose battle cry was “Victory or Death!” and the Texians’ iconic fight against insurmountable odds.

Scheduled speakers include **Gary Foreman** of Native Sun Productions, **William Sheets**, and **Terry Todish**.

Program times will be announced several weeks before the show!

***POP! GOES THE ALAMO: THE ALAMO AND POPULAR CULTURE* (Terry Todish)**

Terry Todish has been a reenactor/living history interpreter for almost 40 years. He is the co-author of The Alamo Sourcebook, which has been used extensively as a supplementary text in many Texas middle and high schools. It was also used as a resource for the 2004 film THE ALAMO, according to the film's production designer, Michael Corenblith. Todish has participated in reenactments and living history programs at the Alamo since 1990, and is a member of 'The Alamo Society,' an international organization of historians, researchers, educators, historical interpreters, and artists. He also authored the feature article "'So, you Wanna Be An Alamo Extra?'" for the 2004 Alamo film fan website. Todish will be doing a presentation entitled "POP! Goes the Alamo: The Alamo and Popular Culture," looking at how our understanding of the Alamo has been influenced by popular culture, and how culture has been influenced by the Alamo story.

***AN ALAMO WORTH REMEMBERING* (Gary Foreman)**

Gary L. Foreman and his multi-media company, Native Sun Productions, have been known for many award-winning films and documentaries on various television networks for many years. In 1994 he served as both field producer and historical consultant for a new television series on the American Revolution that was the beginning of the History Channel. Along with those successes, Foreman has also been known for his bold and aggressive proposal because of a near tragic accident that took place in Alamo Plaza in 1982. Gary's momentary brush with mortality initiated his vision to transform the entire Alamo area in downtown San Antonio. Today he is considered one of the most vocal and visible high profile proponents of Alamo preservation. His remarkable presentation focuses as much on the future as it does with the Alamo's storied past, and the universal responsibility we all share with preserving our iconic sites.

***LION OF THE WEST: The David Crockett You Never Knew* (Gary Foreman)**

Many of us know 'Davy' Crockett through the pop culture of the 1950s. However, within the last two decades, important information regarding the historic David Crockett has now shed valuable light on the real man more than ever before. Award-winning producer/director Gary L. Foreman, a long recognized national authority on Crockett and his era, has contributed to the updated perception of the legendary hero through his various professional works. This includes his History Channel production *Boone & Crockett: The Hunter Heroes*, an on-going relationship with the states of Tennessee and Texas for preserving and promoting Crockett's history, and various educational programs. Last year he and his wife, Carolyn Raine-Foreman, signed a special agreement with the State of Tennessee to create *The Crockett Heritage Trail*®, a special designated route that will eventually stretch from the Appalachians to the Alamo. Come and learn about the David Crockett you never knew.

***BEING DAVY CROCKETT* (William Sheets)**

Chances are if you were born in the 1950's you already know who Davy Crockett is. And for many of you, thanks to Fess Parker, he became one of the primary reasons for your interest in history. William Sheets of Indianapolis, IN is one of those examples of how a young child can be smitten by a man wearing a coonskin cap and carrying a longrifle. For most of his adult life he has taken every opportunity to immerse himself in everything "Crockett". Being involved in living history for many years, he made his first visit to the Alamo in 1986 where fate introduced him to new friends and Crockett enthusiasts, including film director Gary L. Foreman. This friendship would later lead to his involvement in motion pictures and television documentaries. Since 1997, William has portrayed numerous key roles such as frontiersman, soldier, civilian, militia officer, Alamo defender, and even Davy Crockett's theatrical alter-ego, Nimrod Wildfire, in *Boone & Crockett: The Hunter Heroes* on the History Channel. His enthusiasm for living history and the unique characters he has portrayed make for lively storytelling, that's not to be missed.