

Fannin State Historic Battleground

Texas Historical Commission, Fannin, Texas

Project Details

Scope: Exhibit & Wayside Program
550 sf/6 waysides on removable bases
Budget: \$ 168,000

Project Team

Development: Edward Malouf, Carol Lieb
Exhibit Design: Edward Malouf
Graphic Design: Edward Malouf, Shaai Sattar, Alex Tirer
Writing: Stephanie Shorrow
Image Development: Carol Lieb
Fabrication: Custom Creations

We commemorated an important battle of the war for Texas independence through tactile exhibits, an interactive LED battle map, and an 18 foot graphic mural that incorporated the cause and points of view of both sides of this pivotal conflict. Included in the program was the story of the community that single-handedly commemorated this location 50 years before the State officially recognized the site.




LEST WE FORGET


Fannin residents keep the memory of the battle alive

The Battle of Coletto Creek was a harsh loss for the Texans. Although it did not inspire movies and books as the Alamo defeat did, it helped rally the Texian forces a few weeks later at the battle of San Jacinto. The Coletto Creek battle was marked by missteps by Colonel Fannin and resulted in the surrender and execution of his troops, but local residents refused to let the memory of the battle fade into history.

The entrenchments hastily dug by Fannin's men eventually eroded and disappeared, but a battle survivor, William L. Hunter, returned to the location of the surrender and piled rocks to mark the spot. In 1894, landowner Sol Parks placed a distinctive iron press screw, taken from a nearby cotton gin, at the earlier rock pile. The next landowner, Hugh B. Hanley, had such reverence for the site that he would never cultivate it or allow cattle on it. The gin screw was the only historical marker at the site for decades, and is still a distinctive feature of the site.



Woman reading monument, 1900s



Map of Coletto Creek Battle
The approximate location of the gin screw in relation to the actual battle based on archeological evidence.

The Residents of Fannin Remember
In 1913, Hugh Hanley deeded to the state 10 acres of his land where the Texans under Commander Fannin made their last stand. Pictured here are the members of the survey party shortly after the agreement. Mr. Hanley has his hand on the gin screw, while Ross Hanley sits atop it.

