



Oct. 10, 2015 — Fort Travis Seashore Park, Bolivar Peninsula 10am-4pm

“She was one of the most politically powerful women in the early 1800s, a time when women were supposed to give birth and do little else. That is the truly amazing thing about Jane Long”

MOTHER OF TEXAS

JANE LONG IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Most Texans know her name well. She is, after all, our “Mother.”

But amazingly little else is known about Jane Long, other than the obligatory paragraph in almost every Texas school history book.

We know she was left all alone with her daughter and another very young girl on Bolivar Peninsula, just across the bay from Galveston Island, during one of the coldest winters on record to that date.

We know she was pregnant and her husband, James Long, took off with most of his soldiers (the rest quickly deserted) to incite Texas settlers into declaring their freedom from Spain, then Mexico, and establishing the Republic of Texas.

We know she was threatened by the Karankawa Indians who, at that time, shared Galveston Island with the pirate Jean LaFitte.

Some say she used her red petticoat as a flag and uniforms left by the deserters to trick the Karanakawas into thinking her Bolivar compound was still occupied some by her husband’s soldiers — the inspiration for the now-famous Jane Long Petticoat Flag.

We know she was so in love with her husband, she agreed to being abandoned on Bolivar Peninsula, she fought off the Karankawa Indians, and she refused to leave for two years (even bearing a baby with no other adult around dur-

ing a horrendous winter) — all because she’d promised him she’d be there when he got back.

What most of us don’t know is that:

- Jane was the one who dined (sans husband) with the pirate Lafitte in an attempt entice him to finance Long’s obsession.
- Jane designed a flag featuring what she called “the lone star” for her husband to carry, perhaps the first Texas “lone star” flag. The “lone star” referred to her husband.
- To assist Stephen F. Austin, Jane entertained Mexican officials, representatives of Spain, at her Brazoria-area hotel.
- Jane organized a ball at her hotel when Stephen F. Austin was freed from a Mexican prison. At this ball, Austin gave his first speech calling for Texas Independence from Mexico, setting off the Texas Revolution.
- Jane saved the papers of Mirabeau B. Lamar (later the second President of the Republic of Texas) — including his original history of Texas.

She saved personal effects of other notable Texas fighters when she left Brazoria and fled back to Bolivar just ahead of the Mexican Army during the famous “Runaway Scape.” The papers Jane saved are an important part of the Texas historical records so valued today.

Jane was said to have been courted by many of the revo-