

In part to aid in the recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Ike, an annual Jane Long Festival was started on the peninsula's incredibly picturesque point — with sweeping views of shore birds, Bolivar Lighthouse, the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston Bay, Galveston Island, fishing, shrimping and sailing boats and huge freighters...

lutionaries, including Travis, Austin, Ben Milam, Sam Houston and, particularly, Mirabeau B Lamar. But she never remarried, perhaps her love for James Long was too great.

Hopefully, the folks on Bolivar Peninsula are going to make Jane more of a household word. They are gearing up for 2015's 6th annual Jane Long Festival (second Saturday in October) and this time they have gone statewide in their campaign to put the "Mother of Texas" into a much bigger spotlight.

Already members of the Jane Long Society

- Have had Texas State Highway 87 — which runs the length of the Bolivar Peninsula from the Bolivar Ferry Landing to High Island — renamed the Jane Long Highway.
- Presented a portrait of Jane Long to the State Capital in Austin where it now hangs with other distinguished Texans.
- Helped institute a complete extensive improvements at historic Fort Travis, which now includes an historical Jane Long Pavilion — with its three distinctive flags — the U.S. Flag, the Texas State Flag and the famous Jane Long Red (petticoat) Flag — that (it's said) she used to trick the Karankawa Indians into thinking the fort was still armed with soldiers!

Margo Johnson and other Bolivar Jane Long supporters credit the late author A. Pat Daniels for helping to spark such active interest in this historic woman. The Doyle family is responsible for getting Hwy. 87 renamed. The Doyle Foundation donated generously to the Jane Long Society as have numerous other state departments and local organizations and individuals.

The Jane Long Memorial is very much a tribute to those who have worked so hard to rebuild Bolivar Peninsula after the devastation of Hurricane Ike.

Jane Long — all agree — was an inspiration in this effort. The Society's mission is to keep that spirit of survival alive and bring attention to Fort Travis which itself suffered severe Ike damage to the historic bunkers and other fortifications.

"Jane Long was a revolutionary, just like the famous male Texas heroes we learned about in school," explains Helen Mooty, of the Galveston County Historical Commission.

"She was one of the most politically powerful women in Texas 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."

Jane, a former debutante from Mississippi, was 22 when she arrived with her husband, General James Long, on Bolivar Peninsula. The first known actual fort on that site was an earthen levee

constructed by the Spanish explorer Frances Xavier Mina in 1816, only a few years before General Long and Jane arrived in his quest to free Texas from Spanish rule.

Jane's abandonment (as many today would see it) on Bolivar Peninsula was a experience almost impossible to imagine today.

The winter was said to have been so cold, the waters between Galveston and Bolivar froze over so solidly animals such as bears were able to walk across. It wasn't until Jane received reliable word that her husband had been killed in Mexico that Jane agreed to leave the peninsula.

After learning her husband had been captured, Jane agreed to leave Bolivar. From her home base in what is now Fort Bend County, Jane worked with, and organized meetings for, Texas revolutionaries Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar, and others.

At her boarding house, she wined and dined Mexican troops to gather enemy secrets. After Texas became a Republic, Jane moved to Richmond, where she ran a plantation and lived until 1880.

Jane — alone with only the two young girls to help — gave birth during that incredible stay on Bolivar Peninsula, certainly an amazing feat. But her strength and influence continued long afterwards, thrusting her into a noteworthy role in the whirlwind of forces that resulted in the birth of the "Lone Star State." She is, indeed, the "Mother of Texas."

As part of its recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Ike, the Bolivar Peninsula instituted an annual Jane Long Festival on the incredibly picturesque point of the peninsula — with sweeping views of the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston Bay, Galveston Island, and huge freighters heading to and from the Houston Ship Channel.

Always the second Saturday in October, the 2015 6th Annual Jane Long Festival will again attract a colorfully costumed crowd and include the now-traditional, ever expanding delightful play featuring Jane and the pirate Jean Lafitte.

A broad-spectrum lecture series accompanies the festival with statewide experts on Jane and referencing the many notable Texas Revolutionaries with whom Jane collaborated as the Lone Star State became a reality: Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar, and William Travis, to name just a few.

Details on the 2015 Jane Long Festival (Oct. 10 2015) and its historical lecture series, can be found on Society's website: janelongfestival.org.

