

LONESTAR RANGER

GUIDEBOOK



TEXAS



INSTILLING GOOD CITIZENSHIP

LONESTAR RANGER

★ GUIDEBOOK ★

PROVIDED BY



FORMER TEXAS RANGERS FOUNDATION
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WWW.TRHC.ORG

LONE STAR RANGER PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Today's Texas Rangers are elite criminal investigators who bring cutting-edge law enforcement tools and techniques to bear in the fight against crime in modern Texas. Their ranks are filled with some of the most highly trained and experienced lawmen in the state, and they are respected globally for their professionalism and expertise.

At the same time, the Texas Rangers are steeped in a two-hundred-year tradition of defending Texas against threats from both inside and out. As those threats evolved over time, so has the role and organization of the Texas Rangers. And we believe that the most successful Rangers throughout that history have acted in accordance with a set of ideals that have helped to make Texas an enduring and successful society.

The Texas Rangers Heritage Center is proud to offer Youth the opportunity to learn about Texas Ranger history, and the principles upon which we believe it has been built, through the LoneStar Ranger program of the LoneStar Ranger Academy. The Academy is dedicated to instilling moral values, virtuous actions and personal responsibility in our Youth by introducing them to the "Five Character Traits" of a Texas Ranger, as exemplified through related historical anecdotes and digital video presentations.

The goal? Better Citizens of the state of Texas, our Nation and our World.



INTRODUCTION TO THE LONESTAR RANGER GUIDEBOOK

Whether as an independent course of study, or as part of the LoneStar Ranger Scouting program or youth group, the LoneStar Ranger Guidebook is an essential tool in this process. The Guidebook imparts the definitions of the core character traits considered vital to the education of proud and productive citizens of modern Texas.

The Guidebook also provides a series of chronological anecdotes from the history of the Texas Rangers which, in our estimation, best exemplify application of the character traits at hand. LoneStar Ranger candidates are encouraged to learn the character traits and then attempt to recognize actions and behaviors that are representative of those traits (or not).

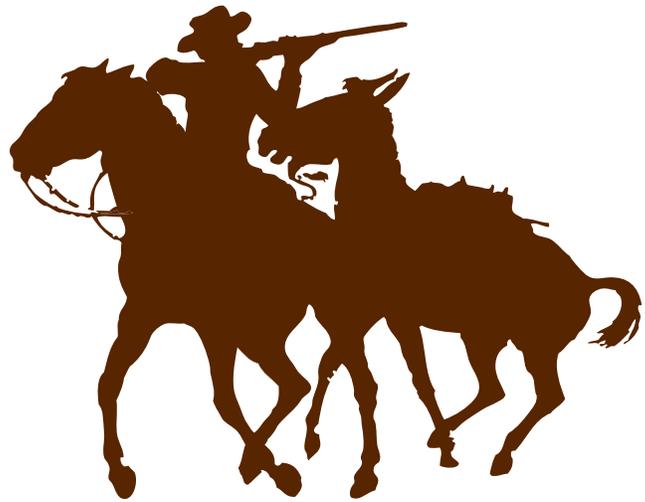
All those who complete the program satisfactorily will receive a wall certificate suitable for framing and a unique LoneStar Ranger badge. They will also receive free admission for themselves and a guest to the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg. Additionally, those pursuing the program in cooperation with their respective Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop will be eligible for a unique LoneStar Ranger “Character Award” patch, in accordance with the regulations of the particular scouting organization.

Adult sponsors/troop leaders who assist LoneStar Ranger candidates through this program are vital. This program is recommended to be implemented at the discretion of the sponsor in the most beneficial manner for each candidate. Sponsors are asked to oversee the completion of the assignments in this Guidebook and submit the LoneStar Ranger application for their candidate(s). It is up to the sponsor to determine when a candidate has completed the assignments and achieved mastery of the material.

So, if you’re prepared to make the commitment to become an official LoneStar Ranger, by learning about both the past and about how you can become a leading citizen of Texas, then begin your LoneStar Ranger Guidebook assignments today.

Texas Rangers Heritage Center - LoneStar Ranger Academy staff members are available to answer questions as needed to aid in the completion of these assignments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Phone Toll Free: (888) 766-4055.

Thank you for your commitment to the LoneStar Ranger Program.



★ **GUIDEBOOK ASSIGNMENTS** ★

The LoneStar Ranger application has seven assignments. In this Guidebook you will find pages that can be used for documenting and/or completing each of the assignments required to submit an application. The adult sponsor must review each assignment as it is completed. The sponsor will submit the LoneStar Ranger application once all assignments have been completed and reviewed.

ASSIGNMENT #1: THE FIVE CHARACTER TRAITS OF A MODEL TEXAS RANGER

See page 5. Read each of the Character Traits' definitions.

ASSIGNMENT #2: OBSERVATIONS/EXPERIENCES OF THE FIVE CHARACTER TRAITS

See pages 7-9. Write a paragraph for each character trait describing at least one example from your own observations/experiences that embody each characteristic.

ASSIGNMENT #3: INTERVIEW OF A ROLE MODEL

See pages 11-13. Interview someone that you consider a role model and write about their perspective on each of these traits. You may also discuss any actions that you recognize as running counter to one or more of the listed character traits. List your subject's name and the date of your interview and record their perspective for each of the traits.

ASSIGNMENT #4: TEXAS RANGER HISTORY

See pages 15-31. Read each of the anecdotes on Texas Ranger history, watch each of the nine videos, and then review one or more of the recommended outside sources. You can use additional Handbook of Texas articles not listed herein, or other additional sources as long as they are pre-approved by TRHC education programs staff.

ASSIGNMENT #5: TEXAS RANGER HISTORY NOTES

See pages 33-42. Re-read and re-watch each source, while taking notes on elements from the various historical accounts that you recognize as examples of one or more of the character traits. You may also discuss any actions that you recognize as running counter to one or more of the listed character traits.

ASSIGNMENT #6: CHARACTER TRAIT ESSAYS

See page 43-52. Write at least a one-page essay on each character trait, using examples from the various sources provided, to exemplify and discuss each trait. One page is merely the minimum requirement, but feel free to write as much as you deem necessary to address each topic.

ASSIGNMENT #7: LONESTAR RANGER APPLICATION

See page 53-55. Complete the application page and submit via traditional mail or complete the application online at www.trhc.org/Academy/LoneStarRangerProgram.



★ **ASSIGNMENT ONE** ★

THE FIVE CHARACTER TRAITS OF A MODEL TEXAS RANGER

Read each of the following definitions of the Character Traits of a Texas Ranger.

★ **CHARACTER TRAITS OF A TEXAS RANGER** ★

★
COURAGE

“Courage is being scared to death, and saddling up anyway.” - John Wayne

Courage does not mean that you should never be afraid. Fear is part of being human.
Courage is doing what you have to do even when you are really scared.

★
DETERMINATION

“Where there’s a will, there’s a way.” - Old English Proverb

“No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that’s in the right and keeps on a comin’”
- Captain William J. ‘Bill’ McDonald, Texas Rangers

Determination is deciding that you are going to do the right thing,
and then doing it no matter what gets in your way.

★
DEDICATION

“Dedication is not what others expect of you, it is what you can give to others.” - Unknown

Dedication is being devoted, or giving time, effort, or yourself, to something,
even in the face of adversity or inconvenience.

★
RESPECT

“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.” - Donald Laird

Respect means that you understand that, despite any superficial differences, other
people are just like you, and that you should always think about how your actions may make
someone else feel, and how you would feel if they acted toward you in the same way.

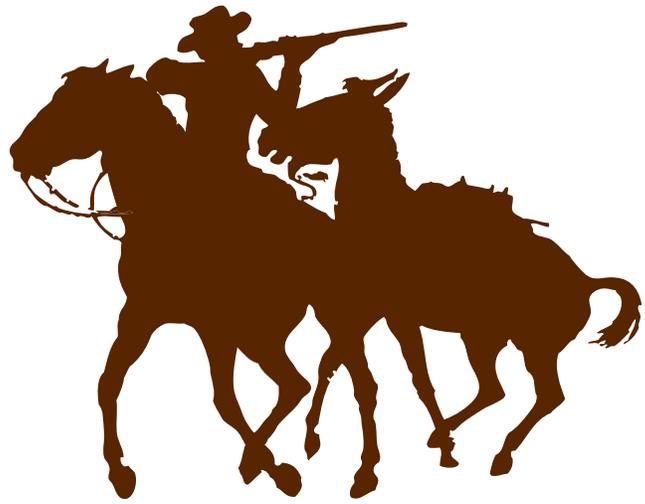
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INTEGRITY

“Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching.” - Jim Stovall

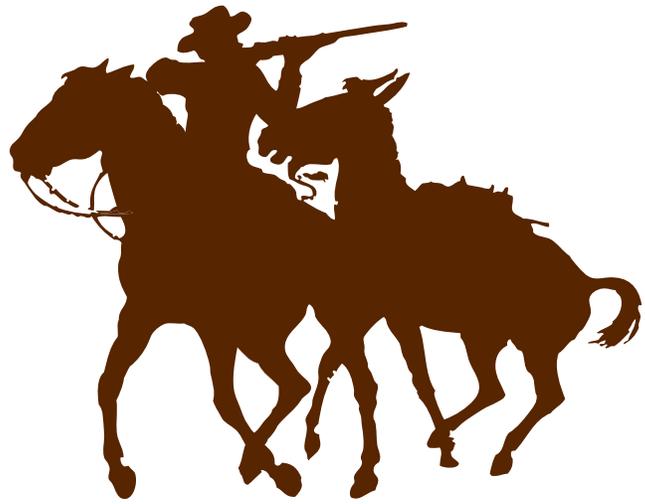
Integrity means doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do, not because you might get a
reward for doing it, or in trouble if you don’t. It also means doing what you said you would do because you
said you would do it. It means that people can believe in you, because you always keep your word.

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★ ASSIGNMENT FOUR ★

TEXAS RANGER HISTORY: PART ONE

Read the following information and watch the video: *Birth of the Rangers* at <http://www.trhc.org/view-lesson-videos.html>. Once completed, then review one or more of the Bibliography/Recommended Reading resources listed below to complete this assignment.

Rangers and the Compañías Volantes of Spanish and Mexican Texas

In 1822, a group of volunteers from Stephen F. Austin's Anglo-American "Old 300" were enlisted to defend his colony in Mexican Texas from Indian raids on his settlers' homes and farms. Austin called these volunteers "Rangers," and according to tradition, they are considered the very first "Texas Rangers." But in the 1690s, one hundred and forty years before Austin and his "Old 300" settlers came to Texas, Spanish authorities created the Compañías Volantes, a mounted force sent out to defend their frontier settlements from Indian raids.

Compañías Volantes means "flying companies," so called because these mounted soldiers were always ready to move quickly in response to Indian raiding parties, pursuing them throughout the frontier and striking them on their own ground. Each soldier in the company was required to have a rifle, two pistols, a saddle, a blanket, spurs, a hat, and several horses. When the Anglo ranging companies were formed later, they were instructed in these methods and skills, including horsemanship, mounted military tactics, tracking, and other skills, by Mexican authorities and their Tejano neighbors.

El Álamo de Parras, formally known as La Segunda Compañía Volante de San Carlos de Parras, was a company of 100 mounted lancers formed in 1784, when Texas was still part of New Spain. They came from the Mexican village of San José y Santiago del Álamo de Parras, in a region known for its grapevines (parras) and cottonwood trees (los alamos). In 1803, 241 Álamo de Parras soldiers reported for permanent military duty at the former Mission San Antonio de Valero, in what is now the city of San Antonio, Texas. Their job was to leave the security of the mission settlement behind and ride into the despoblado, risking capture, torture, scalping, and death to battle hostile Comanche Indians.



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The unit's name was informally shortened to El Álamo de Parras, and then to El Álamo. After Mexico achieved its independence from Spain in 1821, the flying company based out of the Alamo remained an important part of the frontier forces of the Mexican Republic, though it was by then a local mounted militia unit. Through this proud association with El Álamo de Parras, the former Mission San Antonio de Valero eventually came to be known as "The Alamo." Many of the Tejano men who served in the Mexican colonial era flying companies went on to serve as Texas Rangers and Ranger captains during the Republic and early statehood eras.

Since the Texas Rangers were officially formed in 1836, hundreds of Tejanos (if not more) have served with pride in that organization. Those men (and now, women) risked their lives protecting our state, first from Indian raids, then from frontier outlaws, and today from virtually every variety of criminal. The Tejano legacy of service in the Texas Rangers is a proud and important part of the story of Texas.



Through its proud association with El Álamo de Parras, the former Mission San Antonio de Valero eventually came to be known as "The Alamo."

Bibliography/Recommended Reading

Select the resource(s) you reviewed:

- _____ The Handbook of Texas Online - "Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras"; Stephen F. Austin; Old Three Hundred; Kuykendall, Robert H.
- _____ *Lone Star Justice: The First Century of the Texas Rangers*, by Robert M. Utley
- _____ "Efficient in the Cause," by Stephen L. Hardin, *Tejano Journey*, Gerald de Poyo, ed.
- _____ *The Texas Rangers: Wearing the Cinco Peso, 1821-1900*, by Mike Cox

Assignment Completed By: _____ Date: _____

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★ ASSIGNMENT FOUR ★

TEXAS RANGER HISTORY: PART TWO

Read the following information and watch the video: *Rangers of the Republic* at <http://www.trhc.org/view-lesson-videos.html>. Once completed, then review one or more of the Bibliography/Recommended Reading resources listed below to complete this assignment.

Captain Jack Hays: How Traditions Combined to Build a Legend

He came to be known as “Captain Jack,” but his full name was John Coffee Hays. This small, quiet, and dignified young man and his fellow Rangers regularly risked their lives to protect the Republic of Texas frontier, and it was under his command that Texas Rangers first gained their enduring fame. Trained as a land surveyor in his home state of Tennessee, Hays came to Texas in 1838 to seek his fortune. It was a time when the fledgling Republic had far more public land than money in its coffers with which to pay its debts, so surveyors were in great demand, especially those not afraid to venture into the vast and undocumented frontier.

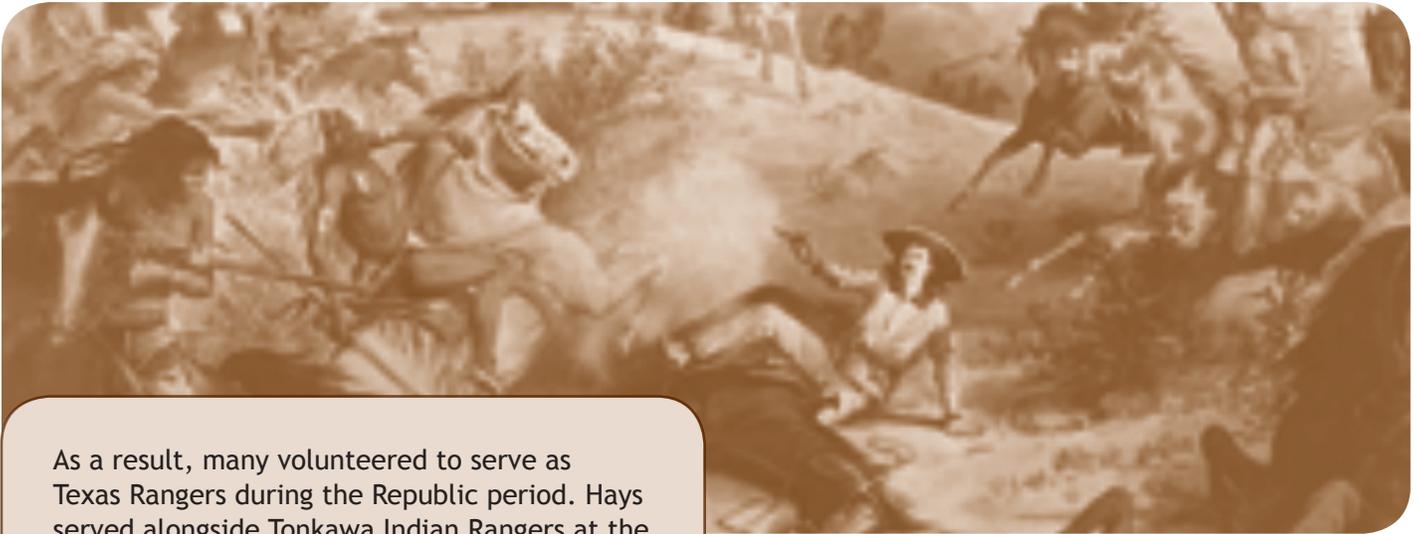
Hays had no military experience when he arrived in Texas, so at the recommendation of family friends and president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, he moved to San Antonio and joined the ranging companies there by mid-1839. Hays learned the specialized skills and techniques of mounted frontier warfare in Texas from Ranger Captain José María Gonzales, and the many other Tejanos with whom he served for the first two years.

Increasing immigration—primarily from the United States—drove the settlers deeper into lands that were part of Comancheria, the region claimed and controlled by powerful Comanche warriors. Leading survey expeditions into this region, Hays saw first-hand how Comanche raiding parties frightened Texas settlers by stealing horses and other livestock, and often killing or kidnapping their victims.

Before the arrival of Anglo settlers, the powerful Comanche had driven most other Indians, including the Lipan Apaches and Tonkawas, out of their own original lands in Texas. This led to resentment among many members of those tribes against the “Lords of the Southern Plains.”



“Captain Jack,” but his full name was John Coffee Hays. It was under his command that Texas Rangers first gained their enduring fame.



As a result, many volunteered to serve as Texas Rangers during the Republic period. Hays served alongside Tonkawa Indian Rangers at the Battle of Plum Creek in 1840, as well as with both them and Apaches in subsequent years, further expanding his base of mounted frontier combat knowledge and skills.

Hays received a promotion to captain and his first command in 1841, leading twelve men in defending the Texas frontier while still just twenty-nine years old. As a Ranger Captain, he trained his men in the tactics and skills learned from the Tejanos and Indian Rangers, and aggressively defended the Texas frontier from Comanche incursions.

Hays and the Texas Rangers rose to fame in the wake of the “Battle of Walker Creek” where, for the first time in history, firearms capable of multiple shots without reloading each time were used in active combat. Hays combined his knowledge of mounted warfare with modern technology to overwhelm a much larger force, thereby turning the tide of power on the frontier.

While it would take another three and a half decades to completely subdue the Comanche and other Southern Plains tribes, Hays’ success at Walker Creek was a turning point after which the Comanches’ previously unrivaled dominance of the Southern Plains was finally broken. “Captain Jack” and his men provided the “defining moment” in which the Texas Rangers rose from obscurity and into legend.

While Hays became famous for his bravery and

The Texas Rangers rose to fame in the wake of the “Battle of Walker Creek” where, for the first time in history, firearms capable of multiple shots without reloading each time were used in active combat.



| Colt Paterson Revolver

leadership on the battlefield, not as many people are aware of his progressive attitude towards his neighbors. When Mirabeau B. Lamar became president of the Republic of Texas, his policy was to rid Texas of all Indians—even the Tonkawas and Lipan Apaches, who had long ago signed peace treaties and become allies with Texas. But Jack Hays and other Texans chose to judge Tejano and Indian individuals by their merit, not their skin color or different cultures, and to respect them for how they conducted themselves both in combat and in interpersonal interactions.

During his career, Hays served with (and was known to praise) numerous Tejanos and Indians. Two Indian chiefs in particular became his friends and allies, fighting alongside him against the deadly Comanche warriors. Tonkawa Chief Placido (whose name meant “Can’t Kill Him”) spoke of Hays with great admiration, noting years later, “Captain Jack heap brave.” Lipan Apache Chief

Flacco and Hays saved each others’ lives several times, and Flacco called Hays “Bravo-Too-Much,” because of the way he rushed into seemingly unwinnable fights, only to come out unscathed and victorious against all odds. Hays’s fellow Texas Ranger commanders included Antonio Perez and Salvador Flores, both of whom had served in Mexican-Texas and early Republic militia “flying companies” under Juan Seguin. All of these men regularly risked their lives in defense of Texas.

Texas Rangers of the Republic era were volunteers, meaning they were free to choose whether and who to serve under. This meant that captains who did not lead by example would fail to successfully recruit others to serve under them. Famous early Texas pioneer, Mary Maverick, said of Jack Hays, “Hays displayed such rare military skills and daring, that very soon by consent of all, he was looked upon as the leader and his orders were obeyed and he himself loved by all.”



Tonkawa Chief Placido (whose name meant “Can’t Kill Him”) spoke of Hays with great admiration.

Bibliography/Recommended Reading

Select the resource(s) you reviewed:

- ___ The Handbook of Texas Online - “Hays, John Coffee”; “Flacco”; “Placido”; “Walker’s Creek, Battle of”
- ___ *Lone Star Justice: The First Century of the Texas Rangers*, by Robert M. Utley
- ___ *Savage Frontier: Rangers, Riflemen, and Indian Wars in Texas*, Volume II, III, & IV, by Stephen Moore

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★ ASSIGNMENT FOUR ★

TEXAS RANGER HISTORY: PART THREE

Read the following information and watch the video: *Frontier Lawmen* at <http://www.trhc.org/view-lesson-videos.html>. Once completed, then review one or more of the Bibliography/Recommended Reading resources listed below to complete this assignment.



The Frontier Battalion: From Indian Fighters to Frontier Lawmen

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, a period of terrible lawlessness existed in Texas. In order to bring law and order to the state, the Texas Legislature set aside \$75,000 in 1874 to organize two groups of Texas Rangers. One of these groups was the Frontier Battalion, a force of 450 rangers divided into six companies (A-F) of seventy-five men each. The companies were originally designed to protect Texas against Indian raids, but they were also given some limited law enforcement authority.

Throughout the nineteenth century, rangers were mostly young, unmarried men who wore no special uniforms or badges and furnished their own horses, saddles, and six-shooters. Although the Frontier Battalion Rangers were assigned to camps along the Texas frontier, they lived mostly outdoors on horseback, patrolling the frontier in search of Indian raiding parties and, increasingly,

fugitives from the law. Unlike the earliest “rangers,” volunteer citizen soldiers who left their homes to fight as needed then returned to their homes when the battle was over, members of the permanently institutionalized “Frontier Battalion” served terms of up to four years, and often volunteered for much longer.

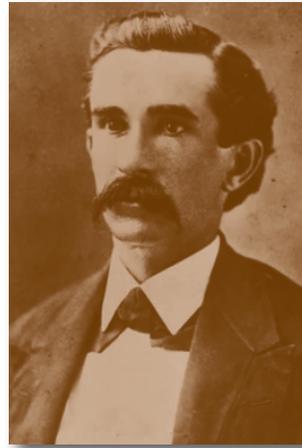
The man chosen to command this new incarnation of the Texas Rangers was former Confederate officer John B. Jones. Like his Ranger predecessor, Captain Jack Hays, Jones was a relatively small yet distinguished-looking fellow who led by example rather than fiat. During its first year and a half of existence, Jones and his rangers of the Frontier Battalion fought with the Comanches and other Indians twenty-one times, risking their lives on a regular basis to defend the Texas frontier and often against overwhelming odds. In 1875, however, the culmination of the “Red River War” between the United States Army and a number of Southern Plains tribes resulted in the tribes’ permanent

removal from Texas. Jones' Frontier Battalion soon found itself engaged in tracking down fugitives from justice in the vast expanses of Texas' frontier, as well as mediating and investigating various deadly feuds and other conflicts in an effort to quell violence among Texan citizens. In doing so, Jones led the Texas Rangers' transition from volunteer militia Indian fighters into the leading lawmen of the Old West.

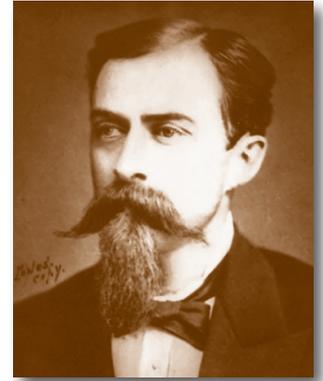
One of Jones' most successful protégés was Captain John B. Armstrong, whose successful, decades-long career made him one of the "Four Great Captains" of the Frontier battalion era. Armstrong had many accomplishments and was involved in the capture or killing of numerous notable outlaws during his lengthy career, but his greatest claim to fame was leading the effort to track down and capture the most notorious outlaw of the Old West, John Wesley Hardin. Having killed his first victim at the tender age of fifteen, Hardin's reputation as a cold-blooded killer swiftly reached mythic proportions. The actual total number of his victims is a matter of much debate, though the verifiable ones are more than enough to justify his reputation as the deadliest outlaw of the Old West.

Once he murdered a deputy sheriff, Hardin sealed his fate as "the most wanted man in Texas." He swore never to surrender to law enforcement and decided to hide out in Florida and Alabama, which is where John R. "Jack" Duncan, an undercover Ranger assigned to root him out, finally found him. Armstrong, Duncan, and the local Florida sheriff and some of his men cornered Hardin and his gang on a train in Pensacola.

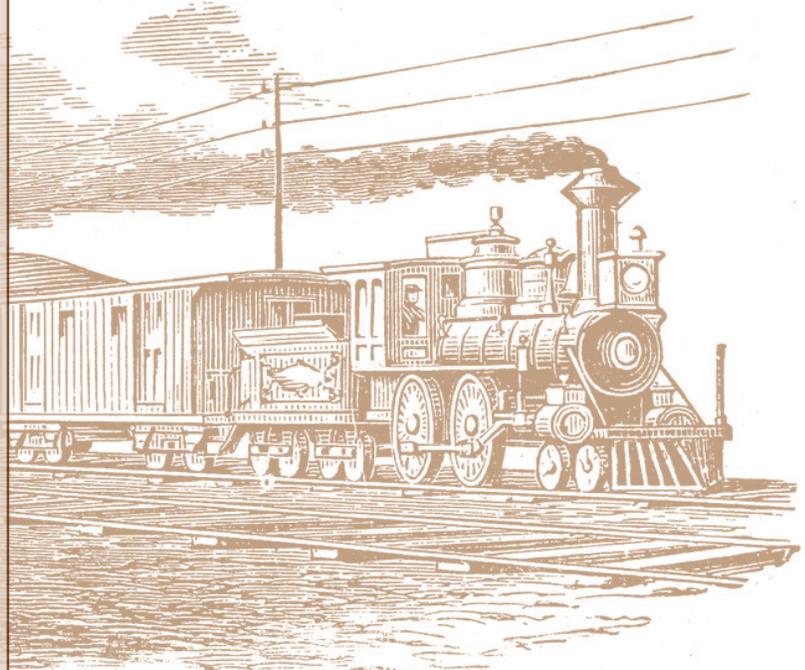
Armstrong approached Hardin head-on from the front of the train car, and Hardin recognized the Texas Ranger instantly because of the Colt .45 revolver that he and many of his colleagues were well-known for carrying. Fortunately for Armstrong and his posse, Hardin's gun got stuck in his suspenders as he attempted his notorious quick draw, giving the Ranger just enough time to knock the infamous cop-killer out with the butt of his revolver, instead of having to kill



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Given Hardin's reputation for wanton violence and his vow to never surrender, no one at the time would likely have questioned Armstrong if he had killed Hardin instead of arresting him. But Armstrong chose instead to uphold Hardin's right to due process under the law and allow the legal system to work. Hardin was convicted of one murder and sentenced to twenty-five years in prison, but through political scheming he was eventually pardoned and released. Though he publicly professed to be a reformed man, he soon fell back into his old patterns of violence and was ultimately gunned down by a fellow gunslinger turned lawman, John Selman.

The Texas Rangers had found a new purpose after the close of the frontier in the late nineteenth century, under the leadership of men such as Major Jones and Captain Armstrong, as well as many others. They successfully transformed from frontier Indian fighters into frontier lawmen, thereby setting the organization on a new trajectory as they entered into the twentieth century.

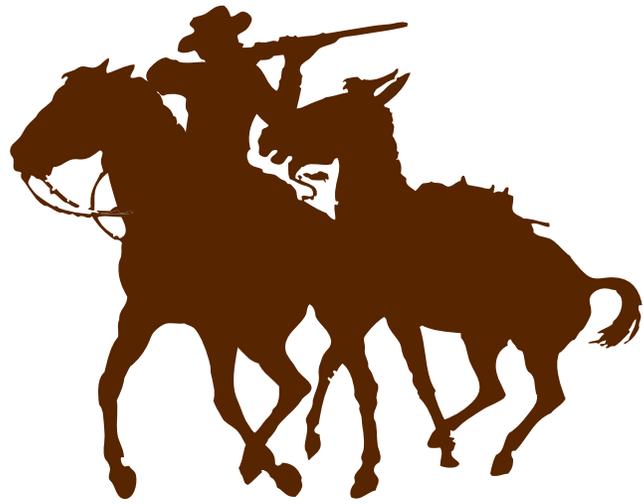
Bibliography/Recommended Reading

Select the resource(s) you reviewed:

- ___ [The Handbook of Texas Online](#) - "Frontier Battalion"; "Jones, John B."; "Armstrong, John Barclay"; "Hardin, John Wesley"
- ___ *Lone Star Justice: The First Century of the Texas Rangers*, by Robert M. Utley
- ___ *Texas Ranger John B. Jones and the Frontier Battalion*, by Rick Miller
- ___ *John B. Armstrong: Texas Ranger and Pioneer Ranchman*, by Chuck Parsons

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★ ASSIGNMENT FOUR ★

TEXAS RANGER HISTORY: PART FOUR

Read the following information and watch the video: *Crime Fighters in a New Age* at <http://www.trhc.org/view-lesson-videos.html>. Once completed, then review one or more of the Bibliography/Recommended Reading resources listed below to complete this assignment.

The Ranger Force and Captain Francis Augustus “Frank” Hamer

By the turn of the twentieth century, the Texas Rangers functioned almost exclusively as lawmen because there was no longer any need to defend a frontier that had long since closed. In 1901, the Frontier Battalion was abolished, partly due to questions over whether the act that had created it actually provided all Rangers with law enforcement authority. The Texas Rangers were immediately reconstituted into the “Ranger Force,” which, though it was still under the auspices of the Adjutant General’s Department, was given clear-cut law enforcement authority in the new act. The Texas Rangers therefore entered a new age as lawmen in an increasingly urbanized society, in which organized crime was a growing concern for law officers across the country. There is no other more famous lawman from that era than Francis Augustus “Frank” Hamer.

Frank Hamer was renowned for his immense physical stature and his fighting skills, with and without firearms, and he was shot numerous times in the course of his duties. Hamer was also known as a man of few words and of swift and decisive action. While his career was not without controversy, he established a reputation for defending law and order, particularly on behalf of those who could not defend themselves. He understood that law and order was essential to achieving and maintaining a peaceful society, and on more than one occasion, he defended that belief against politically powerful and publicly popular efforts to the contrary.

Hamer served as a Texas Ranger for over three decades at the beginning of the twentieth century, during which he rose through the ranks to eventually serve as the Senior Captain/Chief of the Texas Rangers. Much like his nineteenth century counterparts, the legendary Ranger Captain “Jack” C. Hays of the Republic era and John B. Jones of the Frontier Battalion, Hamer was one of the most



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famous and influential Texas Ranger commanders of his own time. Also like Hays and Jones, Hamer led the Rangers during a period of transitional evolution, a process that has been key to both their fame and institutional endurance over the past two centuries. Frank and his contemporary fellow commanders transformed the Rangers from frontier lawmen into early-modern criminal investigators.

In particular, there are two events that stand out as examples of Hamer's willingness to defend marginalized citizens' rights to due process under the law. The first was in 1928, when Hamer took on what was then one of the most powerful organizations in the state, the Texas Bankers' Association, for creating what he labeled a "perfect ...murder machine." Frank had discovered that as a consequence of TBA's offer of "\$5,000.00 for Dead Bank

Robbers and Not One Cent for Live Ones," nefarious characters willing to profit from the misfortunes of innocent people had lured unsuspecting victims to their deaths. Frank privately presented evidence of these atrocities to the TBA and asked them to withdraw or modify the offer, which they refused to do. Despite his standard policy of avoiding the media, Hamer issued a press release that resulted in so much public backlash against the TBA that they finally modified their offer as he had originally requested.

The second was in 1930. In the peak of the Jim Crow era, Hamer and several other Rangers took on an assignment that few men then would have dared. They went to Sherman, Texas, to defend the due process rights of a black man named George Hughes—accused of assaulting a white woman—against a mob of thousands inflamed by

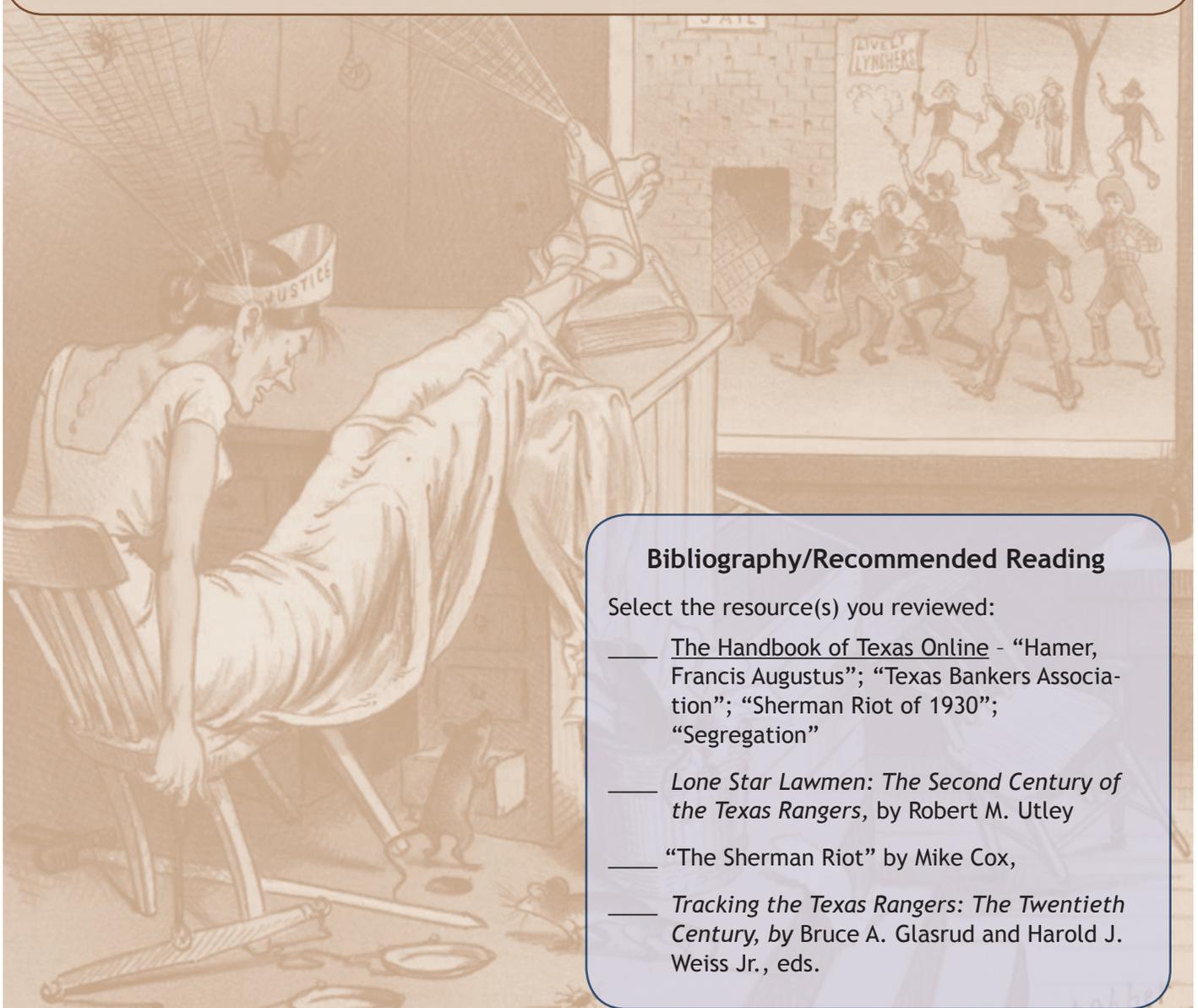


Hamer was sent to Sherman, Texas to defend the due process rights of a black man named George Hughes—accused of assaulting a white woman. Unfortunately, the mob succeeded in the end only by burning down their own courthouse and fighting off dozens of National Guardsmen to get to their target, then brutally killing him.

racial animosity and false rumors. Led by local instigators determined to deny Hughes his right to a trial, the mob was repelled by Hamer and his men when attempting to storm the courthouse and take their victim by force. Unfortunately, the mob succeeded in the end only by burning down their own courthouse and fighting off dozens of National Guardsmen to get to their target, then brutally killing him. Hamer's dismay and disgust at what he witnessed in Sherman that day never left him.

True to his principles, Hamer retired from the

Texas Rangers in 1932, when a regime he knew to be corrupt was reelected to the Governor's office. He died July 10, 1955, in Austin, Texas, and was buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Based in no small part on the increasing politicization of the Texas Rangers by certain state officials, Hamer and his contemporaries—as well as many Texas politicians who also held the rule of law in high regard—recognized that the existing state law enforcement system was untenable and would again need to evolve in order to serve and maintain the respect of modern Texans.



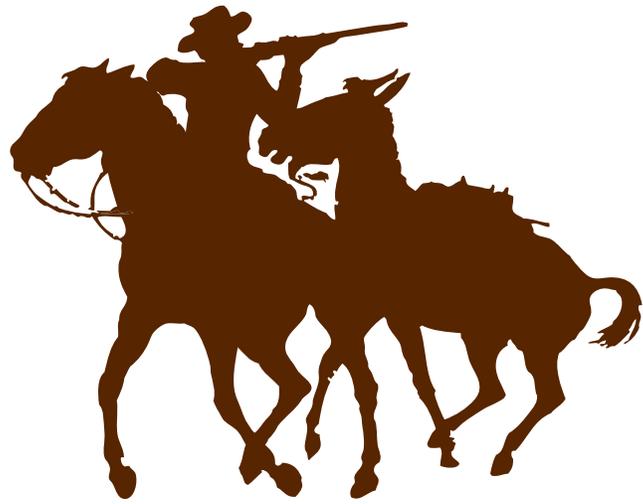
Bibliography/Recommended Reading

Select the resource(s) you reviewed:

- The Handbook of Texas Online - "Hamer, Francis Augustus"; "Texas Bankers Association"; "Sherman Riot of 1930"; "Segregation"
- Lone Star Lawmen: The Second Century of the Texas Rangers*, by Robert M. Utley
- "The Sherman Riot" by Mike Cox,
- Tracking the Texas Rangers: The Twentieth Century*, by Bruce A. Glasrud and Harold J. Weiss Jr., eds.

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★ ASSIGNMENT FOUR ★

TEXAS RANGER HISTORY: PART FIVE

Read the following information and watch the videos: *Elite Criminal Investigators*, *Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Techniques*, *Forensic Art Investigation Techniques* and *Interviewing Suspects and Witnesses* at <http://www.trhc.org/view-lesson-videos.html>. Once completed, then review one or more of the Bibliography/Recommended Reading resources listed below to complete this assignment.

Modern DPS Rangers, Post -1935

The year 1935 turned out to be a watershed in the history of the Texas Rangers, the point of their final transformation from frontier defenders and “six-shooter lawmen” into the modern criminal investigators of today. The Rangers were removed from the Adjutant General’s Department, the home of their paramilitary traditions, and combined with the state highway patrol to form a new state law enforcement agency known as the Texas Department of Public Safety.

While some at the time predicted that the move signaled the historic organization’s demise, the Texas Rangers not only survived, they thrived in their new role as the elite state investigative arm of state law enforcement. Even as the transition was taking place, Texas Rangers under reformer Governor James V. Allred quickly demonstrated their willingness to uphold the rule of law on behalf of even the most vulnerable members of society at that time.

San Augustine was a rural farming community like many others of that time in Texas, filled with a majority of law-abiding citizens. But by the late 1920s, a small group of local criminals (led by certain members of two area families, the McClanahans and the Burlesons), began to take advantage of the most disenfranchised members of the community. While various acts of violence among white San Augustinians garnered the most press attention at the time and the most historical attention from later generations, the gang’s core illicit activities were primarily robbing, stealing from, and extorting the local black citizens, who had few, if any, rights or protections against white offenders under Jim Crow era laws. The gang also engaged in counterfeiting, hijacking, and even racketeering in order to control the local bootlegging industry.

African-American San Augustinians lived in perpetual fear during the period of “the troubles,” and the only ones they could turn to—until the arrival of the Allred



Colonel Homer Garrison Jr. became director of the Department of Public Safety and chief of the Texas Rangers in 1938.

Texas Ranger
Capt.
Manuel T.
“Lone Wolf”
Gonzallus.





Rangers—were their white landlords, who were typically just as afraid of the McClanahan-Burleson gang. The gang exerted such unchecked power that they even had the audacity to assault a United States Secret Service agent, and run him out of town, all in plain view of the local public. The gang also committed a number of murders in broad daylight, in or near the town square. By the early 1930s, the gang had reached the apex of its power.

The gang's activities had gained the cover of government authority upon the issuance of Special Ranger commissions to some of the gang's leading members by Gov. Miriam W. "Ma" Ferguson, wife and stand-in for impeached former Gov. James E. "Pa" Ferguson. The Fergusons were notorious for their use and abuse of "Regular Ranger" and "Special Ranger" commissions for political purposes. "Special Ranger" commissions, like those for "Regular Rangers" of the time, came with law enforcement authority, including the right to carry a gun and make arrests.

However, Ferguson's "Special Rangers" lacked effective oversight, as such state commissions had originally been intended exclusively for persons with law enforcement experience who were engaged in related employment, such as cattle association, railroad, and oil company investigators. But the Fergusons granted Special Ranger commissions to bankers, barbers, accountants, and even convicted criminals. Long-time Ranger Capt.

Manuel T. "Lone Wolf" Gonzallus once quipped that the Fergusons "had to pardon their Rangers before they appointed them," an apparent reference to the fact that the Fergusons were equally notorious for selling pardons to criminals who supported their campaigns.

Fortunately for San Augustine, one of their local sons was elevated into a position of prominence within the new gubernatorial administration that took office in January 1935. San Augustinian Edward A. Clark, Governor Allred's personal secretary and later his Secretary of State, wasted no time in taking advantage of his access to the new chief executive of Texas and promptly arranged for four Rangers to travel to San Augustine just days after Allred's inauguration. Shortly thereafter, Allred petitioned the 44th state legislature to pass legislation creating the new Department of Public Safety as a means to professionalize the Texas Rangers and all of state law enforcement.

Governor Allred's Rangers, including Capt. James W. McCormick, Dan Hines, and Leo Bishop, immediately made their presence known in town by decommissioning and disarming the Ferguson's Rangers, and confronting the alleged instigators in a show of force meant to encourage all those associated with "the troubles" of the past few years to get out of town. The Allred Rangers reassured victims and witnesses that it was now safe to come forward. Once the oppressive element was under control, citizens came out in droves to file charges



and serve as witnesses to crimes that they had previously been too afraid to report.

The Rangers also sought out those too afraid to come forward without more direct assurances of their safety, particularly black citizens. Several individuals testified that it was, in fact, the Allred Rangers who had sought them out and brought their cases to court, and at a time when blacks were often not even allowed to testify against whites at all. By the end of 1935, approximately forty members of the gang had been convicted on hundreds of charges, including serious felonies like theft, robbery, extortion, and murder. The success of the new DPS Rangers in San Augustine was

specifically heralded as a “High Spot” in Texas Ranger history, and was trumpeted as evidence of the triumph of Governor Allred’s renovation of state law enforcement policies and practices.

Since then, the Texas Rangers’ reputation as an elite investigative arm of state government has continued to flourish, not only throughout Texas, but nationally and internationally, as well. Their ranks are filled with some of the most highly trained and experienced modern crime fighters, who employ the latest tools and techniques in their pursuit of some of the most notorious criminals in Texas today.

Miriam W. “Ma” Ferguson and James E. “Pa” Ferguson. These Texas Governors were notorious for their use and abuse of ranger commissions for political purposes.



Bibliography/Recommended Reading

Select the resource(s) you reviewed:

- ___ The Handbook of Texas Online - “Texas Rangers”; “Allred, James Burr V”; “Texas Department of Public Safety”
- ___ *Lone Star Lawmen: The Second Century of the Texas Rangers*, by Robert M. Utley

Assignment Completed By: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Initials: _____



★ ASSIGNMENT SEVEN ★

LONESTAR RANGER APPLICATION

The LoneStar Ranger application must be submitted by the sponsor for all candidates who have completed the Guidebook assignments satisfactorily. If mailing, please print and fill out this application form. Please mail to: Texas Rangers Heritage Center, P.O. Box 3195, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624. If you would like to submit applications for your candidate(s) online, then please visit: [www: www.trhc.org/Academy/LoneStarRangerProgram](http://www.trhc.org/Academy/LoneStarRangerProgram). You will be contacted by the LoneStar Ranger Academy office once your application is submitted. Thank you for participating in this program.

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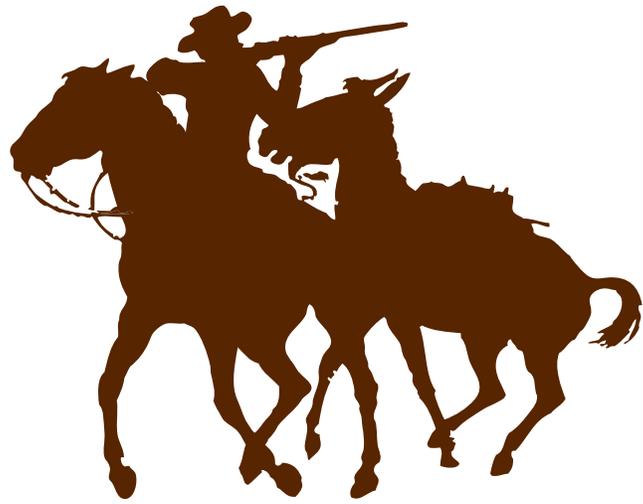
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