



Napoleonic Historical Society
Annual Conference
The Driskill Hotel,
Austin, Texas, USA
November 10 – 12, 2023





Schedule of Events

Friday November 10 Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Room: The Jim Hogg Parlor

Friday November 10 Buffet Dinner

Time: 6:00 pm Cocktails 7:00 pm Dinner

Room: The Victorian Room

Opening Remarks: A Texas Welcome, Betje Klier

Speaker: Michael Leggiere, University of North Texas

Title: Napoleon, Rousseau, and Fichte: The Continental System as the Closed Commercial State

Saturday November 11 Conference Talks

Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Room: Citadel Room

Time	Speaker	Topic
9:30 am – 9:45 am	J. David Markham	Opening Remarks
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Tim Kirkpatrick	The Piper's Day
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Jeanne Ruderman	Entre Deux Femmes
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 11:05 am	Remembrance / Veterans Day Observance Reading of <i>In Flanders Fields</i>	
11:05 am – 11:35 am	Betje Klier	Two significant French Women Plus the American Empress: The Roles of Montesson, Genlis, and Carlota in Napoleonic and Texas History
11:35 am – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own	
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Kevin Rodriguez	Napoleon of the West? Analyzing Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's Claim to One of History's Greatest Names
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eusebio Gomez	Napoleon and French Spies in Revolutionary America
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break	
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Edna Markham	A View from the Saddle 2: Napoleonic Hacks and Mashups using Google Earth
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Alexander Mikaberidze and Michael Leggiere	Round Table Discussion: The Making of a Marshal: A Comparative Analysis of Blücher and Kutuzov





Saturday November 11

Gala Dinner

Time: 6:00 pm Cocktails

7:00 pm Dinner

Room: The Victorian Room

Speaker: Alexander Mikaberidze, Louisiana State University in Shreveport

Title: The Mamluk Odyssey: Imperialism, Nationalism and Identity in the Age of Napoleon

Sunday November 12

Optional Walking Tour (Free)

Time: 1:00 pm (2 – 3 hour duration)

Location: Meet in hotel lobby for the start of the tour.

Tour Guide: Angelina Eberley

Description: Discover Congress Avenue to converse with Angelina Eberley as she lights a cannon to call Austinites to battle with Houstonites who want to steal the Republic's archives and move the capital to Houston in 1842. See the archaeological site of the old capitol, guarded by the Governor's Mansion. Stroll the grounds of the current capitol, whose dome was designed by Napoleon LeBrun. Admire the life-size sculptures of Austin and Houston by Elisabeth Ney. Pass by the historic Lutheran Church to visit the Bullock Museum which houses the historic ship of LaSalle and regales visitors with Texas lore.

Paper Abstracts

Michael Leggiere: Napoleon, Rousseau, and Fichte: The Continental System as the Closed Commercial State

This presentation will demonstrate that Napoleon's Continental System was more than a strategy to defeat Great Britain. Instead, its roots could be traced as far back as the sixteenth century as part of an intellectual trend that sought a response to the fabulous wealth flowing into Portugal and Spain from the New World. This manifested itself in the concept of the "Gallican Mines," a euphemism for France's great agricultural wealth. Writers claimed that France had all it needed to support itself and therefore did not need to engage in international trade, which led only to war. Instead, France could function as a closed commercial state. In his *Considerations on the Government of Poland* and on its Planned Reformation, which Napoleon read, Rousseau discusses the need for a closed commercial state. Then, in 1800, Fichte published a work titled *The Closed Commercial State*, which provided the framework that some of Napoleon's closest advisors viewed as necessary for France. Therefore, Napoleon's Continental System was not as a means

to an end, but the end goal itself. Continental hegemony and defeating Britain served as the means to the end, which would be the creation of a *Großraumwirtschaft* (greater economic sphere), such as Napoleon's own Confederation of the Rhine, Imperial Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere, the Soviet Empire of the Cold War, and Vladimir Putin's Eurasian Union. A *Großraumwirtschaft* exceeds the state's national borders for the purpose of economic exploitation rather than economic integration.

Alexander Mikaberidze: The Mamluk Odyssey: Imperialism, Nationalism and Identity in the Age of Napoleon

Prof. Mikaberidze's talk will explore one of the defining feature of Napoleonic pageantry – the famed Mamluks of the Imperial Guard, whose symbolic function overshadows their military efficacy. Their presence in the French army (and society) points to a complex phenomenon of societal perceptions of them as fashionable trophies of conquest, symbols of romantic Orientalism, and showpieces the scope of the Napoleonic empire. The talk will retrace the lives and careers of some





mamluks, who embody the transformation of Napoleon's failed Egyptian campaign into a glorious victory that, in turn, formed a crucial lever in the imperial propaganda machine. As years passed, the original Mamelukes - whose individual stories are full of heroism, sacrifice, disappointment, and struggle to be accepted in their adopted homeland - increasingly turned into an imaginary category, a vestige of an archaic institution that was outwardly characterized by Oriental appearance, but in reality, served as a model for the power relations within empire and the modernizing impulses of Napoleonic imperialism.

Tim Kirkpatrick: The Piper's Day

A lecture concert on the history of the bagpipes, the British Army and the Scottish regiments at Waterloo. Bagpipe tunes from the Napoleonic period, follow a day in the life of a piper, from reveille, on the march, on the battlefield and the end of the duty day. And a discussion the role of the Sottish regiments during the battle of Waterloo.

Jeanne Ruderman: Entre Deux Femmes

The Bonapartes had always disliked Josephine. Pauline, Napoleon's favorite sister, helped to hasten her brother's impending divorce by distracting him with one of her ladies-in-waiting, Christine de Mathis. During the winter months that began with his separation from Josephine and ended with his promise of marriage to Marie Louise, Napoleon wrote secret letters to Pauline about his affair with Christine. The letters reveal Napoleon's state of mind during that emotionally turbulent period.

Betje Klier: Two significant French Women Plus the American Empress: The Roles of Montesson, Genlis, and Carlota in Napoleonic and Texas History

Madame de Montesson and her niece Madame de Genlis were influential women on whom Napoleon relied for example and information. Though rivals before and after the Revolution, both were mistresses to the Orléans dukes. Both were related to Indian agent Athanase de Mezières, who oversaw the Bourbon-Orléans' rivalry transferred to

Louisiana and Texas where Imperial veterans later took refuge. Genlis's pupil Louis-Philippe assisted the Republic of Texas, but Napoleon III destroyed American relationships in his attempt to found an Empire in Mexico.

Kevin Rodriguez: Napoleon of the West? Analyzing Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's Claim to One of History's Greatest Names?

In the history of America's Manifest Destiny, of the many characters that appeared to play their historical part, one stands above all the others in terms of the feelings aroused by his name. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. On both sides of the United States' southern border the man is vilified and derided as a poor excuse for a general, a bloodthirsty tyrant, and an egomaniac obsessed with Napoleon. He even went so far as to give himself the title of "Napoleon of the West." Does he have a claim to the name or is he another yet another in a long line of pretenders? This paper intends to shed light on that very question and if possible, deliver a balanced portrait of Mexico's Man of Destiny.

Eusebio Gomez: Napoleon and French Spies in Revolutionary America

America was for Spain what India was for Britain, a huge reserve of riches. Gold, silver, spices, silk, jewelry, it all arrived every year into Spain carried onboard its famous galleons. This wealth helped fuel the rebellion against Napoleon's domination of Spain in 1808 and therefore became a subject of interest for Bonaparte. There is historical evidence that the Emperor tried to send spies to those faraway lands to try to destabilize Spanish rule and he tried to introduce his agents through the United States. We will look at the historical evidence and analyze the circumstances that make this a very real possibility.

Edna Markham: A View from the Saddle 2: Napoleonic Hacks and Mashups using Google Earth

This talk is a continuation of my talk from 2022 in which I demonstrate how Google Earth can be used to illustrate geographic information. I will show several animations of the built-in tools in Google Earth to show relationships and movements.

