

Richard,

I found the article you had been reading on the Albany News, and I have to say, it doesn't have as much information about the 'why' of the monument as I had expected there to be! I guess maybe just a small town paper thing - by that point, the 'why' was probably just assumed to be common knowledge.

I did find another article about the monument, though. It's in the Albany News, but is a reprint of an article written for the Atlanta Journal. It has some good background information and quotes from Harry Holder. You can find it here: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph413717/m1/2/zoom/?q=georgia&resolution=3&lat=5320.5&lon=2912>

I also found a printed copy of the writing on the monument plaques. I thought maybe you might be interested in having that on the site, as well, so I've typed them up for you here:

Plaque 1: In Honor of the Georgia Battalion

Plaque 2: Georgia was the only state in the Union to supply arms from its state arsenal when her sons came to Texas to join the fight for freedom. The Georgia Battalion of 5 companies of volunteers came as a group to Texas and joined the command of Col. James Fannin, Jr.

Plaque 3: Fannin's army of 500 men was surrounded in open country by a superior force of Mexican cavalry. Rather than attempt to fight their way out, abandoning the wounded, Fannin surrendered unconditionally to General Jose de Urrea but understood that he and his men would be treated as prisoners of war and finally released. They gave up their arms and returned as prisoners to Goliad.

Plaque 4: Santa Anna ordered them executed. On Palm Sunday, believing they were being repatriated, the prisoners were marched from the mission at Goliad to the open plain and were shot. Some had been hidden by concerned Mexican families and a few who might be useful to Mexico were spared. Among these was Dr. Jack Shackelford, for whom this county was named.

Plaque 5: The State of Georgia sent a claim in 1855 to the State of Texas for \$3,000 to pay for the guns sent from the Georgia armory; the Texas legislature agreed to pay the claim. Georgia then in 1857 waived the right to payment in favor of the building of a monument to the men of the Georgia Battalion. Texas again agreed, but for one reason or another it was never done.

Plaque 6: Our town was named by one of its founders for his hometown of Albany, Georgia and our county for Dr. Shackelford who was spared at Goliad, and since we in Albany, Texas are among the benefactors of sacrifices made in behalf of Texas, we offer this Memorial as partial payment of the debt we owe the State of Georgia. We shall remain with a great debt unpaid to Georgia for sons sent which we cannot send back. They are now a part of the Soil and Soul of Texas!

If there is anything I can do or find for you, please let me know!

Regards,
Molly

--

Molly Sauder
Archivist/Librarian
Robert E. Nail, Jr. Archives
Old Jail Art Center
201 S. 2nd St
Albany, TX 76430

msauder@theojac.org
325.762.2269