



# Tales of Texas Newsletter



April 2026

This issue of Tales of Texas is about the Battle of San Jacinto and its inspirations from Scottish/American History. The photo (taken by author) above is a diorama located at the Bryan Museum in Galveston. It's the best depiction of the battle in this format that I have ever seen.

Comments? Please email me at:  
[DarylLott.Texas@gmail.com](mailto:DarylLott.Texas@gmail.com)

## Where Did the Battle of San Jacinto Come From?

Sometimes the most powerful weapon in war is not a musket or cannon, but an idea—one passed quietly from one generation of soldiers to the next. A remarkable thread of battlefield strategy may connect three famous victories separated by nearly a century: the Battle of Prestonpans, the Battle of Cowpens, and the Battle of San Jacinto.

At Prestonpans in 1745, Jacobite forces led by Charles Edward Stuart faced a British government army commanded by Sir John Cope. The Jacobite army consisted largely of Highland clansmen rather than trained regulars. Yet their leaders understood the power of surprise and speed. During the night before the battle, Jacobite scouts discovered a hidden route across marshy ground that allowed their forces to approach the British line from an unexpected direction. At dawn, the Highland charge exploded across the field. The sudden assault shattered the British army in minutes and delivered one of the most dramatic victories of the Jacobite rising.



# Tales of Texas

Thirty-six years later, a similar principle appeared on an American battlefield. During the Revolutionary War, American General Daniel Morgan faced the aggressive British commander Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens, South Carolina. (This is the battle portrayed in fictional film *The Patriot*, starring Mel Gibson.) Morgan anticipated Tarleton's impatience and designed a plan to exploit it. He arranged his army in three lines: skirmishers in front, militia instructed to fire two volleys before withdrawing, and experienced Continental soldiers waiting behind them.

When Tarleton's troops advanced, believing the Americans were retreating, they rushed forward in pursuit. Instead, they ran directly into Morgan's prepared line. At the decisive moment, American troops counterattacked, while cavalry under William Washington struck the British flank. Tarleton's force collapsed in one of the most decisive American victories of the war.

The lessons of Cowpens did not disappear with the Revolution. Among those who spoke of Revolutionary War tactics was Samuel Houston, a Virginia veteran under Morgan. His son, Sam Houston, grew up hearing stories of the war and his Scottish ancestors. The strategies that started in Scotland and carried over to South Carolina had defeated British regulars.

Decades later those lessons resurfaced during the Texas Revolution. On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston's army struck Antonio López de Santa Anna near the marshy plains outside present-day Houston. Waiting until the Mexican army was vulnerable and disorganized, Houston launched a sudden afternoon attack. In just eighteen minutes, Texian forces shattered Santa Anna's army and secured independence for Texas.

Each battle unfolded under different circumstances, yet the underlying principle remained strikingly similar: draw the enemy forward, disrupt his expectations, and strike suddenly with overwhelming force. All battles used the terrain to the attackers' advantage. From the Highland charge at Prestonpans to Morgan's layered defense at Cowpens and Houston's lightning assault at San Jacinto, a thread of military wisdom traveled quietly across generations of Scots and Scotch-Irish soldiers.

Sometimes history's greatest victories begin with an idea carried in memory long before it appears again on the battlefield.



## Battle of Prestonpans



# Tales of Texas



General Houston

We must remember that for many “First Texans”, Texas was the end of the line of what had been a great Scottish, Scotch-Irish, and British Isles emigration. Most of these people sailed across the sea and landed in the Carolinas and Virginia. Some of them simply kept moving westward and pioneered Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Georgia. When Stephen F Austin’s colony opened, many answered the call. A land grant from Austin was more than 4400 acres. Talk about “Texas Fever”!

During the time of the American Revolution, the dreaded King of England, who had already whipped the Scots, became the source of their problems once again. This time, they took their lessons learned and created another new country, and sixty years later, a second country.

In my new novel *Isobel’s Song*, I place fictional characters inside these very days. The protagonist is a young woman. This in and of itself is unusual because the story is not a romance, Hallmark movie formula, or “chick lit.”

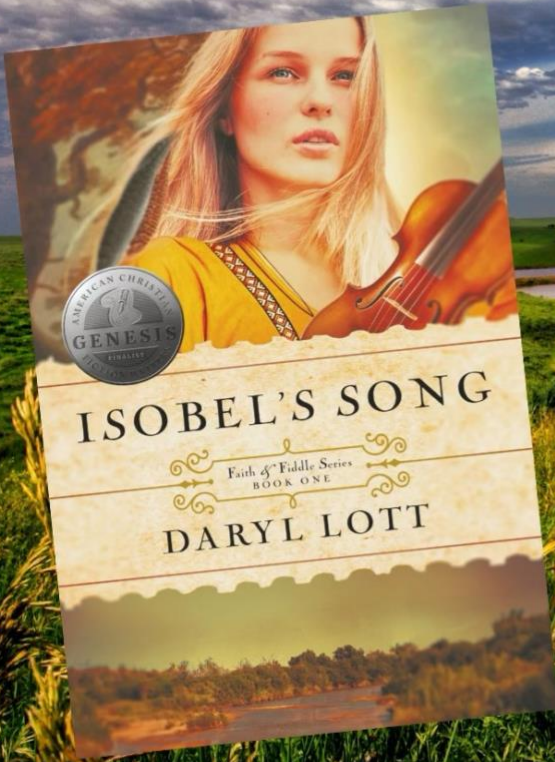
The story springs from my own family’s history as well as yours. Our female ancestors were not who we think they were. They were much stronger. They did not adhere to tropes and modern-day stereotypes. They didn’t have time for such nonsense. They were too busy trying to survive. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Most of the characters are actual historical figures, including the females of the era.

Another thing about so many of our ancestors is that they relied on their Christian or Jewish faith to guide them through the hazards of life.

The novel launches in March due to the importance of the month to Texas history. It is available in printed book form and audiobook (Amazon & Audible). The Kindle e-book also launches on March 31. We are not trying to sell a book so much as we are trying to get a message out that our ancestors sacrificed much to leave Texas to us. Regardless of our race or gender, we can be proud of Texas, the First Texans, and all those who came to Texas thinking about the future.

The illustration following is from *Isobel’s Song* and includes the link to the Amazon listing.



Isobel's Song  
Faith & Fiddle Series  
Book #1

#HistoricalChristianFiction #ACFWGenesisFinalist2026