



COUNTY of GALVESTON

Galveston County Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dick Dowling Ceremony, March 11, 2012

Houston, Texas (March 11, 2012) – The 42nd Ceremonial Cleaning of the Dick Dowling Statue at Hermann Park will take place on Sunday, March 11 at 1:00 pm. The Larry Miggins family, a Houston family of Irish descent, has taken the responsibility of cleaning the monument for Irish Confederate hero Dick Dowling since 1963. The cleaning became a ceremonial event with a speaker, refreshments, and historical demonstrations in 1970. This year's speaker Helen D. Mooty, Director of the Galveston County Museum, will be appearing in the guise of Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long, the famous "Mother of Texas." Mooty will speak on the topic of "Four Feisty Women of Texas" whose moxie and courage were significant in Texas history.

The monument for Dick Dowling was unveiled on St. Patrick's Day in 1905 as Houston's first public monument. It is now at Hermann Park in the middle of a triangle near the intersection of Hermann Park Loop, Holcombe, and North MacGregor. It is an eight foot statue of Italian marble on a twenty foot high granite base. Richard (Dick) Dowling was born in County Galway, Ireland, in 1837 and his family came to America because of the Great Famine. Although his business and civic accomplishments are

impressive, Dowling is remembered today primarily for his role in leading a group of unruly Irish dockworkers to one of the greatest upsets in military history at the Civil War Battle of Sabine Pass. The monument was placed originally at City Hall on Market Square in downtown Houston, and in 1958 was relocated to its present site.

Mooty will be appearing in costume portraying Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long, a woman who first came to Texas in 1819. Long grew cotton to make uniforms for the Confederacy and vowed to use nothing that had been grown or made in the North. Jane Long is famous as the "Mother of Texas" when she lived alone on Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County during the icy winter of 1821-1822.

“The Galveston County Museum supports Jane Long's role in Texas history through the Jane Long Festival every October in Bolivar, and in other Texas re-enactment events such as Austin Town in Brazoria County,” said Mooty. Past speakers for the Dick Dowling ceremony have included congressmen, federal judges, historians, authors, and scholars. On March 17, Mooty will also appear at the Greening of the Bayou and the Houston St. Patrick's Day parade as Jane Long.

The ceremony will take place at the southeast edge of Hermann Park near the intersection of Hermann Park Loop, Holcombe, and North MacGregor. There will be a color guard from the Galveston John Hood brigade to salute Dowling, and a historically accurate Officers' Quarters camp set up with exhibits of Civil War paraphernalia. The event is free and the public is welcome. For more information call Larry Joe Miggins at (832) 347-8117.