

asked if his hearing impairment was an inconvenience, he responded: "No, I sometimes think it is an advantage—I have learned to keep a sharp outlook and I am never disturbed by the whistling of a ball (bullet)—I don't hear the bark till I feel the bite."

In the Battle of San Jacinto, Smith suggested destroying the bridge over Vince's Bayou, cutting off both armies and forcing them to fight to the finish. Houston agreed, and Smith, with a small band, proceeded to wreck the bridge. The outnumbered Texans won the battle and captured the Mexican general. Texas was independent, and "Deaf" Smith became a folk hero. A county in the panhandle was named Deaf Smith County. National brands of peanutbutter, pancake, waffle and biscuit mix made from wheat grown in the county carry his name. Smith's picture appeared on the Republic of Texas five dollar bill.

Deaf Smith is buried in Richmond, Texas. The inscription on his monument reads: "So valiant and trustworthy was he that all titles sink into insignificance before the simple name of 'Deaf' Smith."

Denominational Schools

In 1837 two Sisters of St. Joseph from Lyon, France, arrived in New Orleans. There they were met by the Right Rev. John Timon. Following a brief stay they took the boat up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. A year later, after the sisters had mastered enough English, the first Catholic school for the deaf opened at the convent in Carondelet in the St. Louis area. This school was called the Mariae Consilia Deaf Mute Institution. This school went through a number of name changes and merged with St. Joseph's School for the Deaf around 1910. In 1840, the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross in Loretto, Kentucky began admitting deaf girls to their school. They were taught by a sister who had also been trained at a Catholic school for the deaf in France. This school was short-lived, however, and soon closed due to lack of funds and small attendance.

In 1859 the Sisters of St. Joseph opened the LeCouteux St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo.

Minnesota Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Circa 1893.

