

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Dec. 14-18, 2009

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Paper money bills usually have the pictures of presidents. For example, the portrait of George Washington is on the \$1 dollar bill. The portrait of Thomas Jefferson is on the \$2 dollar bill. The portrait of Alexander Hamilton is on the \$10 dollar bill.

Which famous Deaf American's portrait has appeared on a \$5 dollar bill?

- a. Laurent Clerc
- b. Erastus Smith
- c. Frederick Schreiber
- d. Alice Cogswell

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: "b" Erastus "Deaf" Smith - "Was a hero of the Texas War of Independence. He was called by General Sam Houston to become a spy. Because he was a skilled lipreader, he discovered the Mexicans' plan to cross the bridge and attack the Texans. The Texas Army decided to destroy the bridge to make it impossible to cross and trap the Mexican Army. Texans honor Deaf Smith as a hero. If he were not there, the Texas Army probably wouldn't have won the Battle of San Jacinto and Texas would not have gained independence from Mexico. Deaf Smith's portrait appeared on the \$5 dollar bill of The Republic of Texas."

(Cited at: <http://www.deafis.org/history/nuggets/answers/ans-05.html>)

See Deaf Smith's portrait on the \$5 dollar bill of The Republic of Texas.

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/texas/pictures/republic-texas-five-dollars.jpg>

Read more about Erastus Smith here:

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/texas/erastus-deaf-smith.htm>