



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let me begin by wishing/hoping everyone is staying safe and healthy. Our world has changed, but we will adapt to those changes accordingly. The cancellation of several key events such as the annual SRT meeting and San Jacinto Day has left us wanting, but we must focus on what is in front of us, not behind. Stay tuned as we work hard to bring you together in the coming months for Texas history.

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The Honor Ring

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Signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence

Each year, the Texas Independence Day celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos is a pilgrimage many of us make as the weekend-long festival is filled with food, fun, and Texas history. In 2020, the weekend festival proceeded as usual, but at the end of the day on Sunday, one more event remained. The next day, Monday, was March 2, the actual Texas Independence Day, so The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) began what many hope will become a recurring tradition, the reenactment of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Special congratulations go to Mike Wilson, Lone Star District Representative, who coordinated the event, including the participation of local and state politicians, as well as the

Texas State Historian. Finding 59 SRT members to represent each of the signers may have proven more challenging than originally anticipated, but our organization



Five of the eight Chapter members who represented signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence!

came through. The Sam Houston Chapter rose to the occasion and contributed the third most number of participants, but had

the highest participation percentage per capita. Thank you to Rick Giuffr , Bobby Smith, Phil Whitley, Dennis Giuffr , Bart Dawson, Jim Muller, Larry Arnold, and Kameron Searle for representing us so well during this event. The above men represented the following signers: James G. Swisher, Samuel P. Carson, Asa Brigham, William Motley, James Collinsworth, William D. Lacy, Thomas Barnett, and Martin Parmer. As a participant in this event, one felt almost immersed in that scene in 1836 as those men signed a document they all knew could spell doom for them, as well as their families. Mark March 2 on your calendars next year as this event will always occur on March 2, regardless of which day of the week that may be.

COVID-19 Cancellations

While we may want to escape it or forget about it, the pandemic that has swept our world, our country, and our Texas is inescapable. As a result, the San Jacinto Day celebration was cancelled for the second year in a row and our annual SRT meeting in San Antonio was also cancelled.

Dennis Giuffr  will just have to wait a little longer to receive his knighthood! While these activities are important to us as an organization and Texas history caretakers, that importance falls away when faced with the reality of our world. To that end, please take care of yourselves, your

families, and friends during this crisis as we will weather the storm together. If anyone needs assistance of any kind during this time, please reach out to me or any of the Chapter's officers and we will help you however we can. God bless you, God bless Texas.



Participate to the extent of your capability and availability, but participate.

"The cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy and, while guided and controlled by virtue, the noblest attribute of man..."

President,
Republic of Texas,
Mirabeau B. Lamar

Join Us for these Upcoming Events

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc with several of our key events and activities, and may continue to do so for some time yet to come. As such, some of the noted events here may end up being cancelled or postponed, depending on what twists and turns our society takes in the coming weeks/months. The Katy ISD Folklife Festival was cancelled this year due to ongoing renovations of their existing facilities. Regardless, we will proceed as usual and take what

the good Lord gives us.

April 21, 2020: San Jacinto Day, La Porte, TX. CANCELLED

May 16, 2020: May Chapter Meeting, San Felipe de Austin, San Felipe, TX.

June 27, 2020: June Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX.

July 18, 2020: July Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX.

September 19, 2020: Texian Navy Day, TBD.

September 19, 2020: Texas Heroes Day, La Grange, TX.

October 10-11, 2020: City of Katy Rice Festival, Katy, TX.

November 14, 2020: Father of Texas Celebration, San Felipe de Austin, San Felipe, TX.

November 21, 2020: November Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX.

December 12, 2020: Chapter Holiday Gathering Dinner, Katy, TX.

Mirabeau B. Lamar Day

It was a beautiful day in late January, something that does not happen very often, so it afforded us the opportunity to have a wonderful ceremony to celebrate the life of the second President of the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar. Several of us had arrived a little early and were quickly enlisted to assist some of the Daughters in setting up their



Members of The Sons of the Republic of Texas in attendance at Lamar Day.

wreaths and such. Soon thereafter, Sir Knight Tom Green, KSJ arrived with his minivan full of flags and so we helped place a number of flags across the cemetery. Morton Cemetery in Richmond, Texas is one of the oldest cemeteries in our area and is also referred to as the Richmond Masonic Cemetery. Morton Cemetery is the final resting place of a number

Anson Jones, Remember Him?

The last President of the Republic of Texas is a bit of an enigmatic figure, typically overshadowed by his decorated and colorful predecessors. While there is more to this gentleman, history places him in a box as the man who took down the Republic of Texas flag and said "the Republic of Texas

is no more." President Jones is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston, Texas and for several years now, Sir Knight Tom Green, KSJ, along with several others, has spearheaded an annual commemorative ceremony at his gravesite. The date chosen for the ceremony is typically on or about Febru-

ary 19th of each year to coincide with the conclusion of the Republic of Texas' story in 1846. We need your help to grow this ceremony into something similar to the Mirabeau B. Lamar ceremony in Richmond each January. Mark it on your calendar for next year to attend this event!

Mirabeau B. Lamar Day, *Cont'd*

of prominent individuals in Texas History, as well as home to the first Masonic monument built west of the Mississippi River. The Gillespie Monument is directly across from Mirabeau B. Lamar's grave and was there during the Texas revolution. A Masonic Mexican Army Officer prevented his troops from destroying it. As the crowds began gathering, the Chairman of the Fort Bend County Historical Commission served as the emcee. The Richmond Mayor read a Proclamation who was then followed by the Mas-



District Representative Steve Manis and Lamar Chapter President Jess Stuart speaking to the crowd.

ter of Morton Lodge No. 72 who spoke about President Lamar's Masonic life. Lastly, The Sons of the Republic of Texas' Lamar Chapter President Jess Stuart spoke about the history of their Chapter and gave an overview of their meetings and activities. Following President Stuart, The Sons of the Republic of Texas' San Jacinto District Representative, Steve Manis, spoke about this event and how it had a small beginning, but had now grown into a larger, city wide event. We hope to see you at next year's event!

"It was a black mark against Dubois de Saligny in the French Foreign Ministry that hurt his career, but it did not alter the policy of France toward the young republic."
- *Handbook of Texas Online, Nancy N. Barker, 1969*

The Pig War with France

Pig War is the name given to the dispute between Alphonse Dubois de Saligny, French chargé d'affaires, and the Lamar administration that resulted in a temporary rupture of diplomatic relations between France and the Republic of Texas. It originated in 1841 in a private quarrel between the Frenchman and an Austin hotelkeeper, Richard Bullock, over a matter of marauding

pigs. Dubois de Saligny complained that the pigs, owned by Bullock, invaded the stables of his horses, ate their corn, and even penetrated to his very bedroom to devour his linen and chew his papers. After Bullock and de Saligny exchanged threats and blows, Dubois de Saligny promptly invoked the "Laws of Nations," claimed diplomatic immunity for himself and his servant,

and demanded the summary punishment of Bullock by the Texas government. de Saligny, acting without instructions from his own government, broke diplomatic relations and left the country in May 1841. The Houston administration, which succeeded that of Lamar, made "satisfactory explanations" to the French government and requested the return of Dubois de Saligny.

Katy ISD: Pursuit of Texas History

One of our most exciting events we participate in each year is the Katy ISD Folklife Festival. At January's Chapter meeting, we were fortunate enough to have the Director of the Folklife Festival, Mr. Paul Dunk join us as a guest speaker. Paul is also a prior Texas History teacher for Katy ISD, so he was excited to come speak to us. Paul gave us an update on the planned

renovations to the Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center, where the annual folklife festival is held. Unfortunately, those renovations caused the festival to be cancelled this year. The renovations will upgrade the existing facilities and create an improved learning experience for all of Katy ISD students. Putting his Texas History teacher hat on, Paul told us about

the Katy ISD Texas History curriculum and provided suggestions on how to reach out to/engage Katy ISD teachers and administrators to offer our services to schools. This is an area where we have great potential for growth and to pass on what we know to the next generations.



L to R: Chapter President Bart Dawson and Mr. Paul Dunk.



The Sam Houston Chapter #38

Katy, Texas

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**“Honoring your Ancestors,
remembering your past”**

The **PURPOSE** of the SRT shall be to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved the independence of Texas, set the young Republic upon its high course among the nations of the world, and finally secured its admission as a state of the United States of America.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas, Inc. (“SRT”) consists of members who are direct lineal descendants of those that settled the Republic of Texas prior to February 19, 1846, when Texas merged with the United States as the 28th state.

The Sam Houston Chapter was formed in 1987 in Katy, TX and holds regular meetings at Texas Tradition restaurant in Katy.

Dawn at The Alamo 2020

REMEMBER THE ALAMO.....We all grew up hearing that phrase. As your Chapter President, I'm ashamed to say I lived in San Antonio for 18 years and never attended this event. This past March 6, I corrected that error and attended the Dawn at The Alamo ceremony. Ben Warren IV has been faithful in representing our Chapter at this event the past several years as he lives in San Antonio, but I decided to step up and attend this year's event. The night before, I was fortunate enough to attend a group dinner coordinated by Ms. Eron Brimberry Tynes as there were many SRT compatriots at the dinner, so it was a fun time to fellowship, see old friends, and make new friends. Again, having lived in San Antonio, I never stayed at the historic Menger Hotel, but went all out this trip and did so! What a

grand hotel it was, the history..., Teddy Roosevelt bar..., but I did not see any ghosts! Once again this year, our Chapter sponsored a commemorative wreath to be placed in front of The Alamo. You can see the wreath immediately to the right of John Bevil in the picture below. The morning of March 6 came early as I was down-



L to R: Past Chapter President Ben Warren IV, John Bevil, and Chapter President Bart Dawson.

stairs at the Menger by 5:00 am. We carried our wreath to The Alamo and waited for the ceremony to begin. It was still dark when the ceremony began and that made it all that more solemn. As the ceremony proceeded, we were called upon to place our wreath and did so with reverence and humility. Reenactors firing their muskets, the darkness, and The Alamo, all brought it home for me as I imagined what likely transpired around me 184 years ago where I stood at that moment. It was a chilling thought, but I embraced it. Overall, as a first time attendee to this ceremony, it was a moving and awe-inspiring event, and one that I recommend as a must see for any Texan. The SRT was exceedingly well represented that day, which spoke well of our organization and our love for this Texas shrine.