



The Sons of the Republic of Texas



The Sherman Sentinel

APRIL
2023

SIDNEY SHERMAN CHAPTER NO. 2 – GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was early April, 1836 – **The Alamo had fallen, Goliad had fallen.** The Texian Army had also been defeated at other battles, San Patricio, Agua Dolce Creek and Refugio. Over 800 men had given their lives in the struggle for liberty and independence. Since the massacre at Goliad on a Palm Sunday, March 27th, where 350 men, after surrendering, were taken out and shot, the Texian Army continued its retreat east.

The people also fled east in what became known as the **Runaway Scrape** towards the Sabine River and the safety of Louisiana. Homes and towns were burned. It was a cold, wet, muddy spring and the rivers were swollen. Thousands of people with their wagons, cattle, and oxen waited several days to cross the San Jacinto River at the Lynchburg Ferry crossing.



As we reflect back 187 years ago the men rushed to join General Sam Houston's Army or worked to provide supplies to the Army. Crossing the Brazos was treacherous as the rivers were so full. General Houston then marched the Texian Army to the site of present-day Hempstead, where two cannons awaited them. The two cannons were donated by the people of Cincinnati and would become known as the "Twin Sisters.", the only artillery he would have at San Jacinto.

Arriving at Groce's Ferry on March 31st, Houston made great efforts to bring discipline to his army. This was an army of warriors, but never soldiers. Most of the men in the Texian Army were volunteers, raw recruits, stockmen and adventurers. They were unused to discipline and not used to taking orders from officers. The men charged that Houston was running away when he should be standing and fighting.

During the nearly two weeks that they were encamped at Groce's plantation, T. R. Fehnrebach, author noted the lack of formal training. At Groce's, Houston worked desperately to bring some order and discipline to the motley crew of 1400 which made up his army. With the exception of Houston and a few officers, none had ever fought in formal warfare; They knew nothing of taking orders from commanding officers, of forming columns, of fighting in line.

President Burnet sends Houston a note, while he was still at Groce's ferry:

Sir: The enemy are laughing you to scorn. You must fight them. You must retreat no further. The country expects you to fight. The salvation of the country depends upon you doing so.

And on April 14th, Thomas Rusk, Secretary of War, visits Houston at Groce's Plantation. He, too, said it was time to stop the retreat and begin to fight. General Houston, who was more concerned with training and drilling his army said *"I consulted none---held no councils of war. If I err, the blame is mine."*

On April 16, as the army proceeded eastward they came to the "fork" in the road and made the turn south towards the plains of San Jacinto. This timeline of those days in April is so familiar to all of us as we track General Houston's Army on the road to San Jacinto. Our ancestors who sacrificed and gave so much of themselves for Texas Independence are all truly Texas Heroes. As always, we will be present at the San Jacinto Battleground on April 21, 2023, to commemorate the **most significant Battle of the Western Hemisphere.**

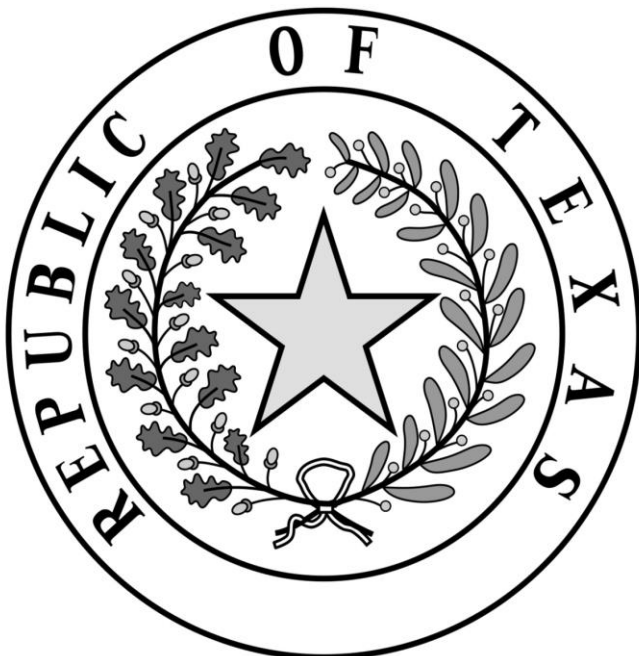
I look forward to seeing many of you as we work together this San Jacinto Day to honor our ancestors as we follow our mission to

perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the Independence of Texas.



*Carl V. Hill,
President*

*Victory at San Jacinto
A New Republic is Born*



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MARCH MEETING



Ed Cotham - "Battle of the Bay"

Ed Cotham, Honorary Admiral, Texan Navy was our featured speaker. He discussed the "Battle of the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston", the title of his book. He has also written several books and several news articles about the American Civil War.

At the onset, the populous of Galveston chose Sidney Sherman to lead the defense of the island. Union forces took the island and fortified T-heads of several piers even removing planks to prevent being attacked. The Confederates wanted Galveston back in their own hands and sent General John Bankhead Magruder from Virginia to retake the island.

Ed described the assault in interesting terms, resulting with the retaking Galveston in a pincer of bombardment from the streets of the town and a naval attack using two "Cotton clad" vessels which had been fitted in Harrisburg. Sherman's son, Lieutenant Sidney A. Sherman fell beside his gun (one of the Twin Sisters) during the battle on January 1, 1863. The Confederacy held Galveston until the conclusion of the War itself and the famous "Juneteenth" declaration in 1865.



Sidney Sherman Chapter Meeting April 18, 2023

Our April chapter meeting is one you don't want to miss. Sir Randy Pollard, KSJ, President General of the Sons of The Republic of Texas (pictured right) will be one of our featured speakers. He will be speaking to the Chapter on the State of the National SRT along with an update of the recent SRT Convention. He will also open the floor for questions from the membership. Randy has been a blessing for the movement of the Organization trying to develop membership growth and participation.



Our other speaker is Chester Barnes, (pictured right). He is an Admiral, Texian Navy, Charles E. Hawkins Squadron, Stephen F. Austin Chapter, SRT and a San Jacinto Descendant. Chester recently was the Commander USS Texas Echelon on August 31, 2022. Chester will give an update on the current status of the Battleship Texas and its ongoing restoration and preservation. The Sidney Sherman Chapter has donated money over the past year to the Battleship Texas Foundation to support the ongoing repairs.



**In the Houston Ship Channel,
Galveston Bay**



**Entering the Galveston Channel
from Bolivar Roads**

*San Jacinto Weekend will soon be here.
Please join us as we celebrate the 187th
Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto.*



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
OFFICIAL SAN JACINTO DAY CEREMONY
COMMEMORATING THE
187th ANNIVERSARY OF THE

Battle of San Jacinto

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023, AT 2:00 PM
SAN JACINTO MONUMENT

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

CAROLINE CRIMM, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Sam Houston State University

SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS COLOR GUARD
DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
DRT/SRT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
SAN JACINTO BATTLE REPORT
RECOGNITION OF SAN JACINTO DESCENDANTS
ROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
LAYING OF THE WREATH
TEXAS ARMY SALUTE ★ ROLLING THUNDER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
SANJACINTODAY1836@GMAIL.COM

San Jacinto

Friday, April 21, 2023



Come join us at the San Jacinto Battleground as we celebrate the most significant battle in the history of the Western Hemisphere. Friday, April 21, will be the 187th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto. The **official ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m.** (See invitation on preceding page). I will be leading the SRT Color Guard during the ceremony.

In addition, on Friday, the Battleground will be sponsoring School Day from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and I will be demonstrating a Texian Army Soldier. My table will be next to a Texas Flag display of approximately 15 Flags including the Six Flags, Flags of the Revolution and Flags of the Republic. If you would like to join me, as we promote Texas history to our schoolchildren, **please email me at easygoal1@hotmail.com.**



Saturday, April 22, 2023

The Sidney Sherman Chapter will be there sponsoring a booth on **Saturday, April 22** (Festival & Family Day). The Battle re-enactment will also be held this day. Robyn Davis, our district representative has reserved booth space for the four SRT chapters in our district, San Jacinto, Deaf Smith, Mirabeau B. Lamar and Sidney Sherman, to be in the same location.


We are looking for volunteers to join us at any time on Saturday. We will be setting up beginning at 9:00 a.m. and then the Festival Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. If you plan to volunteer, **please email me (easygoal1@hotmail.com)**. We will send out additional information as the date draws nearer. Thanks again to all of you who have volunteered.



Presented by the Texas State Historical Association and the San Jacinto Battleground Association. The annual Battle of San Jacinto Symposium is the preeminent conference on the Texas Revolution era. The objective is to promote public awareness and scholarship on the Mexican National era in Texas (1821-1835), the Texas Revolution (1835-1836), the Battle of San Jacinto (1836) and the Republic of Texas (1836-1845). These pivotal years mark the transition from Spanish and Mexican sovereignty to an independent Texas and annexation to the United States.


This year's symposium will be held at San Jacinto College, Anderson-Ball Building at 8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena. Please go to www.sanjacintosymposium.com for more information and registration.

PRESENTERS




DR. KENNETH W. HOWELL
 Professor and History Department Head
 Blinn College, Social Sciences Division

Mirabeau B. Lamar's Grandiose Vision of a Texas Empire



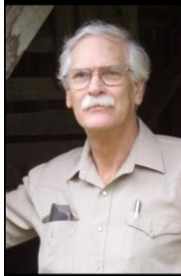
DR. JOSEPH G. "CHIP" DAWSON III
 Professor Emeritus of History, Texas A&M University

Innocents Abroad: Seeking U.S. Recognition of the Republic of Texas



DR. KENNETH R. STEVENS
 Professor of History, Texas Christian University

The Army and the Texas Republic



DR. JAMES C. KEARNEY
 Assistant Professor of Instruction, University of Texas

The German contribution to the Republic of Texas

SRT Convention

The 101st SRT Convention was held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, March 17-19. A Highlight of the Convention was a private tour of the Ralston Family Collection Center at the Alamo which had just opened in early March. During the Awards Banquet, Steve Manis and Carl Hill received awards from Randy Pollard, President for their outstanding contributions to the SRT.



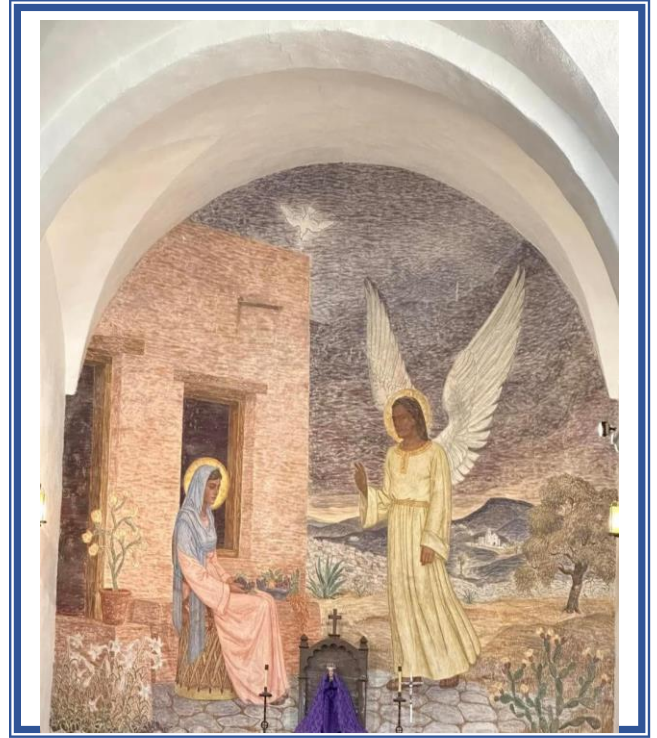
At the Awards Banquet – Robyn and Destiny Davis (left picture) and Eron Tynes, Robyn Davis and Steve Manis (right picture)



Sidney Sherman Chapter members



Robert Schruniger and Steve Manis at La Bahia during Goliad weekend. Cindy Schruniger took this picture inside the chapel behind the Altar with the Angel of Goliad.



Robert Schruniger and Steve Manis at San Felipe de Austin for "Fires on the Brazos Weekend".



Carl Hill, Billy Mayo and Hugh Ferguson at the STATE SAR Convention, The Woodlands.

Galveston County Fair and Rodeo Parade

Despite threatening rain, 11 Sidney Sherman Chapter members participated in the parade. Robert Schnuriger provided his truck and trailer with his son Cody as the driver. The theme was "Barnyard Fun", and our float was decorated with hay bales, our banner, and flags.



First Row

Robert Schnuriger,
Steve Manis, Steve
Nicol, J. B. Kline,
Cody Schnuriger,
Carl Hill and Robert
Gindratt.

Second Row

Albert Seguin,
Larry Armstrong
and George
Armstrong.



Below - Decorating the Float





Above - Robert Gindratt, Albert Seguin and J. B. Kline.



First Row
Robert Gindratt, Carl Hill, J. B. Kline and Steve Nicol.
Second Row
George Armstrong, Larry Armstrong and Albert Seguin.



ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2023

April 18, 2023 Chapter Meeting Speaker – **Randy Pollard**
 President General, SRT
Chester Barnes
 Commander, USS Texas Echelon

APRIL 21, 2023 SAN JACINTO DAY
Commemorative Ceremony - 2:00 p.m.

April 22, 2023 San Jacinto Festival – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

April 29, 2023 San Jacinto Symposium at San Jacinto College
www.sanjacintosymposium.com

MAY 14, 2023 TREATY OF VELASCO

May 16, 2023 Chapter Meeting Speaker – Carolina Castillo Crimm, Phd.

June 20, 2023 Chapter Meeting Speaker – Mike Bailey, Curator
 Brazoria County Historical Museum

July 22, 2023 Chapter Meeting Speaker – Paul N. Spellman, Phd.
 Texas History Professor
 Wharton Junior College

August 15, 2023 Chapter Meeting Speaker – Amy Rogers, Executive Director
 San Jacinto Battleground
 State Historic Site

September 19, 2023 Chapter Meeting Speaker - Justice Ken Wise
 14th Court of Appeals

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 TEXIAN NAVY DAY
San Jacinto Battleground

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 TEXAS HEROES DAY

ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Continued

OCTOBER 2, 2023

GONZALES DAY

October 17, 2023

Chapter Meeting Speaker – Charles Herbert
Author
“On the Run”

October 17, 2023

Burnet-Sherman Marker Ceremony

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN’S BIRTHDAY

November 21, 2023

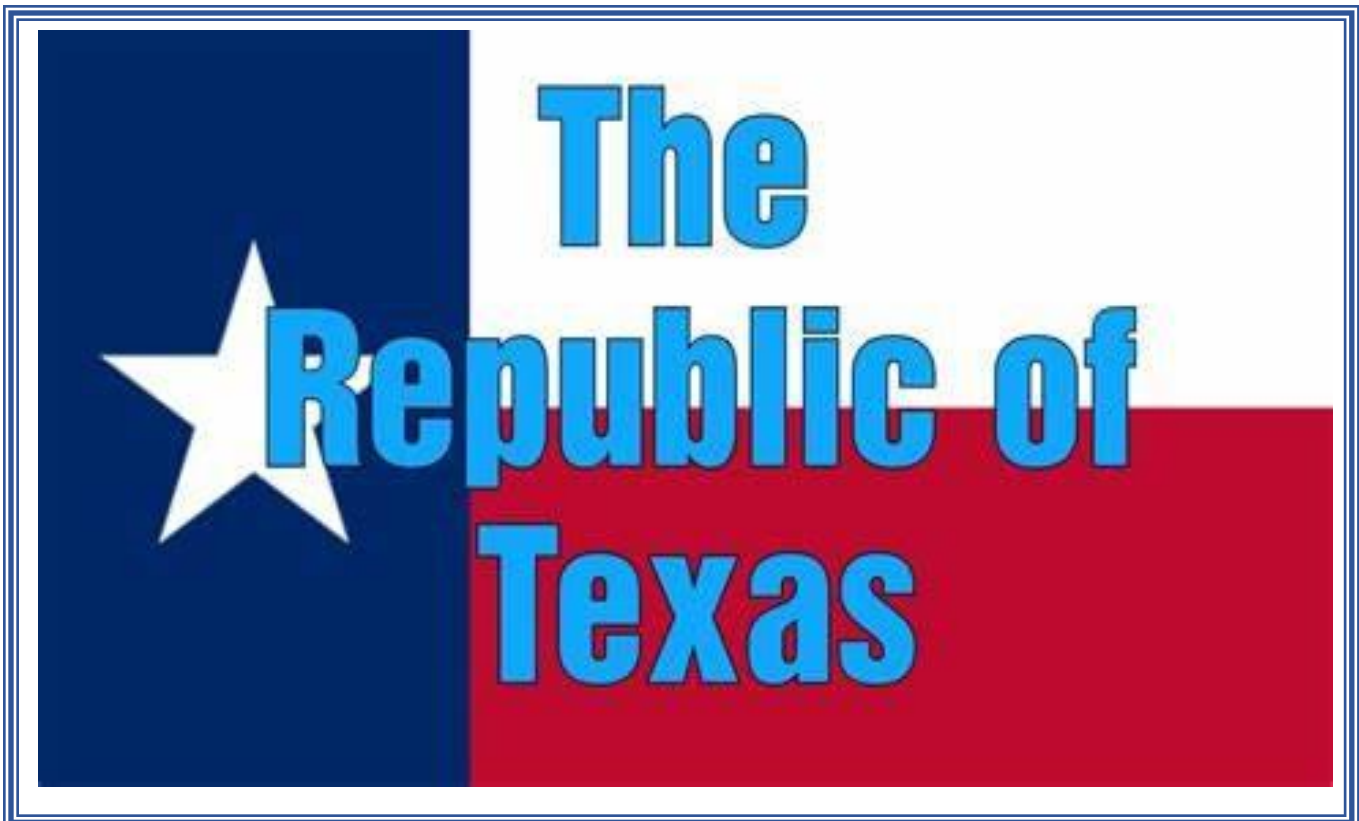
Chapter Meeting Speaker - TBD

DECEMBER 9, 2023

SEIGE OF BEXAR

December 12, 2023

Third Annual Christmas Party - TBD



Sidney Sherman Chapter Executive Committee

President: Carl V. Hill, Jr.
easygoal1@hotmail.com

Secretary: Clark Wright
cpwright2@verizon.net

First Vice President: Gene Wueste
cegwa@aol.com

Registrar: Steve Nicol
stevenicol48@yahoo.com

Second Vice President: Robert Gindratt
rgindratt@comcast.net

Sergeant-at-Arms: Larry Armstrong
8325948259@vzwpix.com

Treasurer: Billy Mayo
bcmayo1@comcast.net

Chaplain: Robert Schnuriger
rschnuriger@gmail.com



Past President: Ron Schoolcraft
rettcpdcaptrws@aol.com



Sons of the Republic of
Texas – National Office

www.srttexas.org



Sidney Sherman
Chapter, No. 2

www.ss2srt.org

Office Manager - Janet Knox

Phone: 979 245-6644
FAX: (979) 244-3819
OR Regular Mail
1717 8th Street
Bay City, Texas 77414

To contact Janet by email, go to the SRT Website,
then Contacts and click on the email link.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit newsletter articles
by the **First of each month** to
Carl Hill, President

Easygoal1@hotmail.com



*God Bless
Texas*