

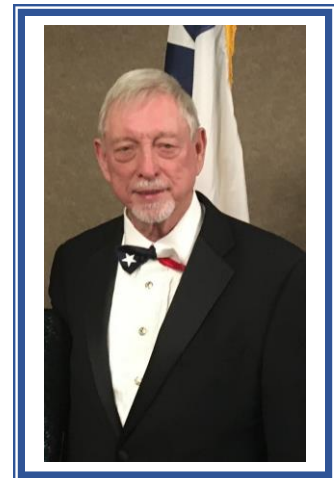


## The Sherman Sentinel

DECEMBER  
2023

SIDNEY SHERMAN CHAPTER, NO. 2 – GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

**Siege of Bexar** - Near San Antonio, as the winter of 1835 approached and because of limited supplies, Major General, Texas Volunteers, Edward Burleson considered withdrawing to Goliad at the beginning of December. Information on Mexican defenses from Texans who were allowed to leave San Antonio led to new attack plans. But fears that the Mexican army had learned of the assault brought a near breakup of the Texan army. When a Mexican officer surrendered with news of declining Mexican morale, Benjamin R. Milam and William Gordon Cooke gathered more than 300 volunteers to attack the town, while Burleson and another 400 men scouted, protected the camp and supplies, and forced General Cos to keep his 570 men divided between the town and the Alamo.



James C. Neill distracted the Mexican forces with artillery fire on the Alamo before dawn on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Ben Milam (*“Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio”*) and Francis W. Johnson led two divisions in a surprise attack that seized the Veramendi and Garza houses north of the plaza in San Antonio. Mexican cannon and musket fire kept the Texans from advancing farther during the day and silenced one of their cannons.

That night and the next day the Texans destroyed some buildings close to them and dug trenches to connect the houses they occupied. On the seventh the Texans captured another nearby house, but Milam died from a sharpshooter's bullet. Johnson then directed another night attack that seized the Navarro house. On **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, Colonel Ugartechea returned with over 600 reinforcements, but only 170 were experienced soldiers. Burleson sent 100 men into town to join the Texan force that captured the buildings of Zambrano Row in hand-to-hand fighting. General Cos ordered his cavalry to threaten the Texan camp, but they found it well defended. That night Cooke with two companies seized the priest's house on the main plaza, but they seemed cut off from the Texas army.

When Cos sought to concentrate his troops at the Alamo, four companies of his cavalry rode away rather than continue the struggle. Cos then asked for surrender terms on the morning of **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Burleson accepted the surrender of most Mexican equipment and weapons, but allowed Cos and his men to retire southward because neither army had supplies to sustain a large group of prisoners.

Texas casualties numbered thirty to thirty-five, while Mexican losses, primarily in the Morelos Infantry Battalion, which defended San Antonio, totaled about 150; the difference reflected the greater accuracy of the Texans' rifles. Most of the Texas volunteers went home after the battle, but Texas troops remained in town, which, with Cos's withdrawal, left San Antonio and all of Texas under the Texans' control. So as the Christmas of 1835 drew near, the people of Texas felt at peace and a sense of security.

As 2023 winds down and we are now caught up in the “Christmas Rush”, please take a little time this season to reflect on our Pioneer Ancestors and how Christmas was celebrated in the 1830’s. What were some of our Pioneer Ancestors’ Christmas traditions? Perhaps they strung popcorn or cranberries, made wassail, used fresh greenery and pinecones as decorations, and read the Christmas Story from the book of Luke in front of the fireplace with only light from candles or oil lamps. Many of you have Christmas family traditions like these that are passed on from generation to generation. We so deeply share the bonds of being descended from these men and women. It is the tie that binds us all together and makes this time of year at Christmas so extra special.

This Christmas season has been a busy one as we held our own Christmas Party hosted by Jim Nonus. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the party and enjoy a little Christmas cheer and camaraderie This is our third year and it has now become a tradition. Thank you, Jim, for all your efforts and generosity.

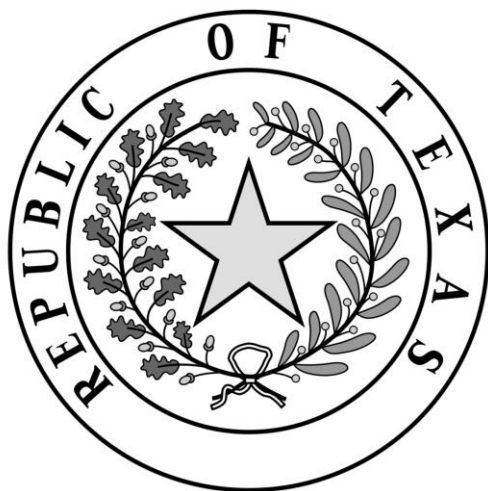
To quote Albert Seguin Gonzales, the “icing on the cake” was winning first place in the Individual Entry category in the Texas City Christmas Parade. I am so deeply appreciative to the “Parade Crew” for their work on the float. Special thanks to Larry and George Armstrong for the float and lighted decorations and to Robert Schnuriger for pulling the trailer. Special Recognition to Steve Manis (The Grinch) and his beautifully lighted sleigh. The Parade Crew – Robert Gindratt, Steve Nicol, Mike Mitchell, J. B. Kline, and Albert Seguin Gonzales.

At this time of year I feel a special bond with my Pioneer Ancestors and believe that by honoring many of their Christmas traditions, we will forever

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

*God Bless Texas*

*Carl V. Hill,  
President*



### **Elsewhere in the newsletter**

November Meeting	Page 3
Third Annual Christmas Party	Page 4, 5 & 6
Keeping Texas History Alive Texas City Christmas Parade	Pages 7 & 8
‘Tis the Season to be Jolly	Page 9
Dues are Due	Page 10
Alamo Update	Page 10
Upcoming Event January Meeting	Page 11
Lamar Day	
Annual Calendar of Events	Page 12
Officers	Page 13

# Sidney Sherman Chapter November Meeting

Flem Rogers gave a wonderful presentation on Antique Period Weapons. He specializes in arms development of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. During his talk he focused on weapons used during the time of the Texas Revolution.

One of the weapons he presented was a rifle that had been used during the Battle of San Jacinto. In addition, he talked about various weapons also used during battles – muskets, rifles, swords, pistols and the Bowie Knife.

During the meeting it was decided that the Chapter would have a float in the Texas City Christmas Parade which will be held on December 7.

President Hill presented the slate of new officers:

President – Carl Hill

First Vice President – Robert Schnuriger

Second Vice President – Robert Gindratt

Treasurer - Tim Rainey

Secretary – Clark Wright

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate and it passed unanimously.

President Hill reminded everyone about the upcoming Christmas Party to be held December 12, 2023 at Antiques Pavilion and hosted by Jim Nonus. The party will be from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

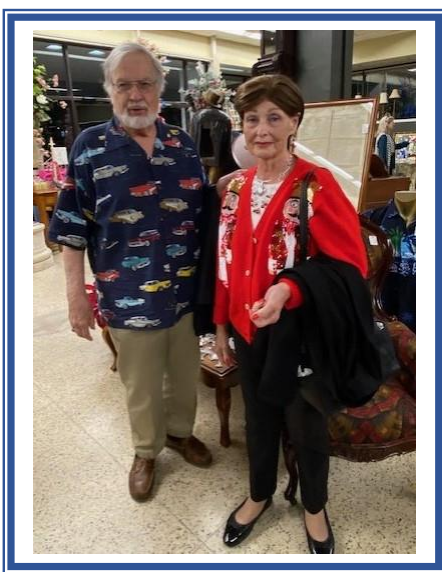




# Third Annual Christmas Party

Champagne and shrimp were the highlight of the recent Christmas party hosted by Jim Nonus and the Sidney Sherman Chapter, SRT at the Antiques Pavilion. It was a wonderful gathering with other historical groups in attendance - members from the Lafitte Society, the Texas Navy, friends from the J.P. Bryan Museum and Sidney Sherman and San Jacinto Chapter, DRT members.

**Left picture** - Carl Hill, President, Sidney Sherman Chapter, No 2 presented to Jim Nonus a Certificate of Appreciation and a Poinsettia plant for his efforts in hosting the Third Annual Christmas Party for the Chapter, which has now become a tradition. Thanks again to Jim for all his generosity and support.



Carl Hill cutting the Christmas cake

Clark and Cora Wright

**Top picture**  
Vickie and Steve Nicol, Steve Manis and Robert Schnuriger



**Left picture**  
Ron and Kim Schoolcraft

**Above**  
John Lucas, Jeff Corbin, Vickie Nicol, Robert Schnuriger, J. B. Kline and Tim Rainey



Billy Mayo, Eron Tynes & Carl Hill



Beth Fisher & J. B. Kline



Jim Nonus



Carla & Robert Peoples



Mike & Oliver Carnes



Christie Erickson & J. B. Kline



Mollie Rainey & Beth Fisher



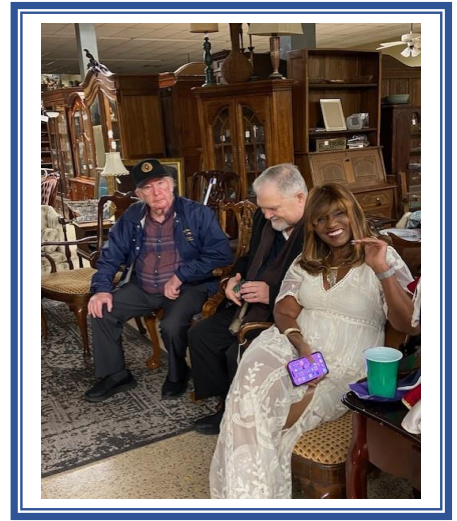
Marsha & Larry Armstrong, Mike Mitchell & Tim Rainey



J. B. Kline, Ron Schoolcraft and Albert Seguin



Robyn Davis



Robert Gindratt, J. B. Kline & Christie Erickson



George, Larry & Marsha Armstrong



Eron Tynes, Tim Rainey & Carl Hill

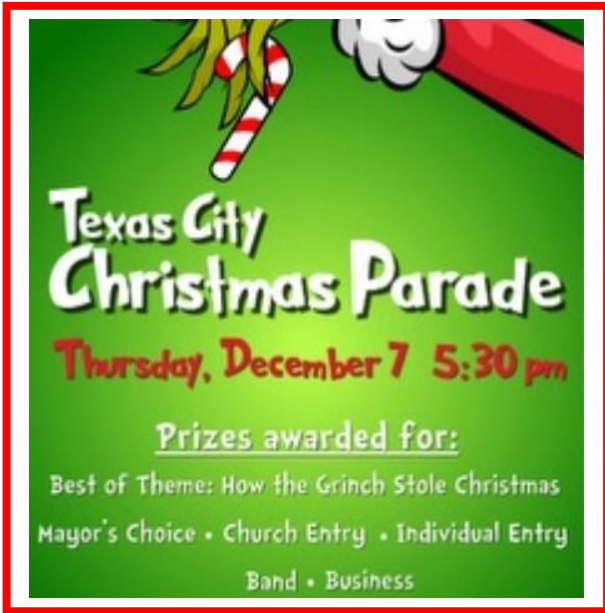


Ron Schoolcraft, Mike Mitchell & Steve Nicol



Jim Bevill, John Lucas, Robert Schnuriger, J. B. Kline, Robyn Davis, Carl Hill, Larry Armstrong, George and Larry Armstrong, Steve Manis, Billy Mayo, Mike Mitchell, Ron Schoolcraft, Steve Nicol, Tim Raney, Albert Seguin and Robert Gindratt

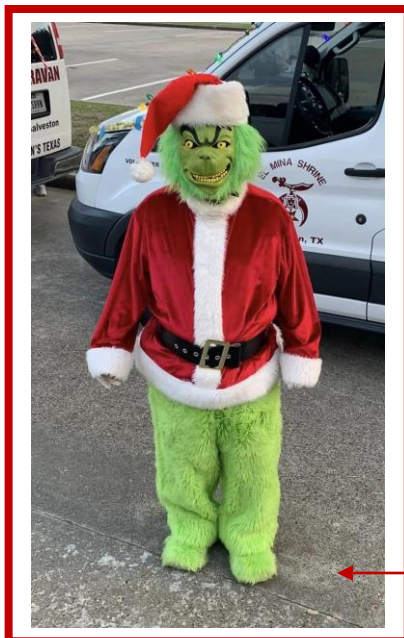
# Keeping Texas History Alive



Standing 2<sup>nd</sup> row – J. B. Kline, Carl Hill, Steve Nicol and George Armstrong. Front Row - Steve Manis, Larry Armstrong, Robert Gindratt, Albert Seguin and Robert Schnuriger.



Left picture - George Armstrong, Mike Mitchell and Larry Armstrong. Note the Grinch's lighted sleigh behind the float.



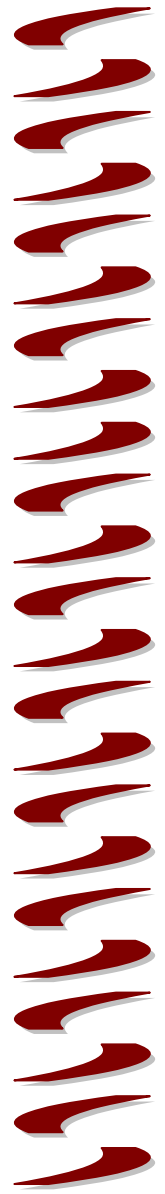
The Grinch. Above – J. B. Kline, Carl Hill, Steve Nicol, Robert Gindratt and Albert Seguin.

# Sidney Sherman Chapter No. 2

# WINS

# Individual Entry Texas City Christmas Parade

We are proud to announce that our Chapter took first place in the Individual Entry at the Texas City Christmas Parade. We also won \$300.00 prize money. Special thanks to Steve Manis for being Mr. Grinch. And also thanks to Robert Schnuriger for providing the truck and Larry and George Armstrong for the trailer and the lighted decorations. Special recognition also goes to the "Parade Crew" – J.B. Kline, Carl Hill, Steve Nicol, Robert Gindratt, Albert Seguin Gonzales and Mike Mitchell.



*Texas City Christmas Parade Winners*

*Best of theme: How the Grinch Stole Christmas (\$500)*

*Radar Welding Services*

*Mayor's Pick (\$400)*

*Resonate Church*

*Religious Theme (\$300)*

*Church of Nazarene*

*Individual Entry (\$300)*

*Sidney Sherman Chapter, The Sons of the Republic of Texas*

*Business (\$300)*

*Kim's Performing Arts*

*Band (\$300)*

*Marching Thunder*



# Tis' the Season to be Jolly



### Left Picture

Steve Nicol at Dickens on the Strand with two lovely Victorian ladies.



### Right picture

Trisha and Randy Pollard, Carl Hill and Eron Tynes at the San Jacinto Chapter, DRT Christmas Open House held at the Pioneer Memorial Log House.



### Left picture

Christmas at the Alamo  
Eron Tynes & Carl Hill

### Right Picture

Eron Tynes & Carl Hill viewing David Crockett's final letter written in Tennessee before his legendary journey to Texas.



## Sidney Sherman Chapter, DRT Christmas Luncheon Galveston Country Club

Eron Tynes, Honorary Member, Sidney Sherman Chapter, No. 2, SRT and fellow San Jacinto Chapter member, Gwen Kunz with Sidney Sherman Chapter members, Dianne Reynolds, President; Joanna Wilson, Past President; Marcy Hanson, Chaplain; Linda Cooper, Past President and Martha Loisey.

# Dues are Due

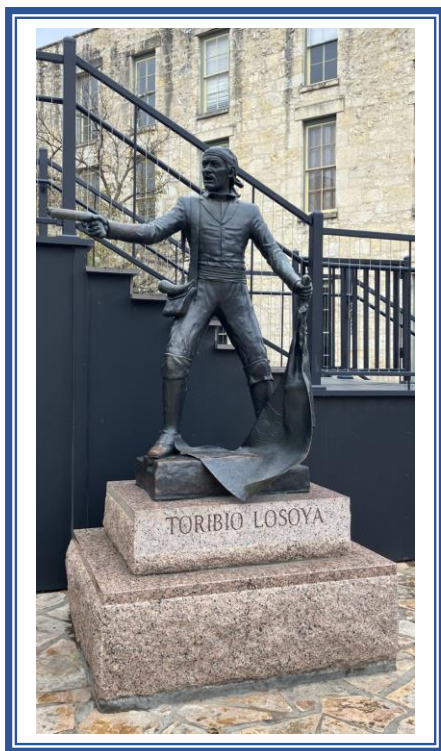


**Dues are Due!** SRT membership renewal notices have been mailed to all members. Please get your dues submitted prior to the end of the year, **December 31, 2023** to avoid delinquency. If you have not received your renewal notice, please contact Janet Knox at SRT Headquarters as soon as possible. To contact Janet by email, go to the SRT Website, then Contacts and click on the email link.

Please note that the Chapter receives its portion of your dues from the National Office. However we will not receive any portion of the dues if they are paid after December 31<sup>st</sup>.

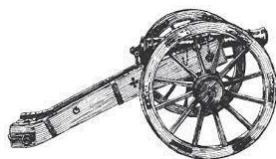


# Alamo Updates



**Toribio Losoya**  
Siege of Bexar and  
Alamo Defender

Redoubt being  
constructed  
near the South  
Barracks



Excavations  
also near the  
South Barracks



# Upcoming Events

## January 16th Chapter Meeting

Justice Ken Wise sits on the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston. He traces his ancestry back to the Republic of Texas in 1836. Born and raised in Houston, he attended Texas A&M University where he competed on the intercollegiate rodeo team. He attended law school at the University of Houston and practiced law for eight years before taking the bench as judge of the 152nd and 334th District Courts.

Justice Wise has studied Texas history since his youth and has a tremendous passion for the stories and values that built Texas. He enjoys reading and writing about Texas history and has published scholarly articles in several different journals. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Historical Foundation. He is also a trustee of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society. Justice Wise started his podcast, "Wise About Texas," to preserve and promote Texas history.

# January 2024



**Justice Wise will present  
"Indian Raiders tried in  
Civilian Courts" &  
TSHA Update**



# Fly Your Texas Flag

## LAMAR DAY

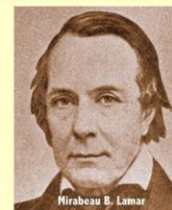
JANUARY 26, 2024

JOIN US IN HONORING MIRABEAU B. LAMAR, SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLAR AND STATESMAN, AND EARLY RESIDENT OF RICHMOND AND FT BEND COUNTY.

A GRAVESIDE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 10:30AM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH, AT MORTON CEMETERY IN RICHMOND.

COME SHOW YOUR TEXAS PRIDE IN ONE OF OUR OWN,

MIRABEAU B. LAMAR.



# ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2023 & 2024

<b>DECEMBER 9, 2023</b>	<b>SEIGE OF BEXAR</b>
<b>December 12, 2023</b>	<b>Third Annual Christmas Party</b> Antiques Pavilion, Galveston Hosted by Jim Nonus
<b>January 16, 2024</b>	Chapter Meeting Speaker - Judge Ken Wise “Indian Raiders tried in Civilian Courts” & TSHA Update
<b>JANUARY 26, 2024</b>	<b>MIRABEAU B. LAMAR DAY</b> <b>Father of Texas Education</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 19, 2024</b>	<b>TEXAS STATEHOOD DAY</b>
<b>February 20, 2024</b>	Chapter Meeting Speaker – Dave Dyer “The Road to San Jacinto”
<b>MARCH 2, 2024</b>	<b>TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
<b>MARCH 6, 2024</b>	<b>ALAMO HEROES DAY</b>



# Texas Patriot Corner

### *Texas Patriot Corner*

Please honor your Texas ancestor by submitting an article. Articles need to be submitted by the first of each month in Word to be included in that month’s newsletter. Please feel free to include a picture of your ancestors. Pictures need to be sent as JPG’s. Please note minor corrections for grammar and punctuation may occur.

# *Sidney Sherman Chapter Executive Committee*

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

Secretary: Clark Wright  
cpwright2@verizon.net

First Vice President: Gene Wueste  
cegw@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](http://www.srttexas.org)**



**Sidney Sherman  
Chapter, No. 2**

**[www.ss2srt.org](http://www.ss2srt.org)**

## **Office Manager - Janet Knox**

Phone: 979 245-6644  
FAX: (979) 244-3819  
OR Regular Mail  
1717 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Easygoal1@hotmail.com)



*God Bless  
Texas*