



SAN JACINTO PATRIOT

Dedicated to the memory of those who fought at the Battle of San Jacinto

January 2010

Publisher – San Jacinto Chapter No. 1 of The Sons of the Republic of Texas

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Held the First Thursday of Every Month at Noon

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, January 7, 2010** at the **Post Oak Grill**, 1415 South Post Oak Lane, Houston, Texas at Noon. Many attendees arrive by 11:30; be there by 11:45 a.m. to ensure you get a good parking spot and a seat. The cost of lunch is **\$22.00**, payable at the door by cash or check. Parking is free in the garage - enter restaurant from the rear door in the garage.

About This Month's Guest Speaker:

Our Guest Speaker for the January 2010 luncheon meeting will be internationally-recognized watercolor artist Hunter George.

A Virginia transplant to the state of Texas, Mr. George studied art, design and photography at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. Mr. George has been honored with numerous graphic design awards from the Art Directors' Clubs of New York, Los Angeles, Denver, Tulsa and Houston; Communication Arts Magazine; Print Magazine; Ad Week Magazine; The Printing Industries of America, and the Dallas/Fort Worth Society of Communication Arts. He is a past president of the Art Directors' Club of Houston, and has served on the Texas State Board of the American Institute of Graphic Artists.

Mr. George has always hungered to capture the natural, as well as historical, renditions in watercolor. He would like to help preserve a cultural history that is quickly fading from our midst. His love of old buildings and landscapes dominate his portfolio, called "Reflections of the Past." He is a Signature member of the Watercolor Art Society -Houston, with his work being featured in three International Exhibitions. His award winning works have been represented throughout the state of Texas by gallery's in Houston, Galveston, Rockport, San Antonio, Kerrville, Salado, Crawford, Bellville, and Wimberley. His works are showcased in Texas Highways Magazine and The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

San Jacinto Chapter No. 1 held its Chapter Christmas Party & USS Texas Fund-raiser on the evening of Thursday, December 17, 2009, at the home of Sherry & Lewis Chandler in Bellaire. A large crowd of SRT members, spouses & friends attended the holiday open house and enjoyed good food, drink and Texian fellowship.. Thanks to everyone's generosity at the door, the USS Texas Sailor of the Year Awards are funded again for 2010. Special thanks are due to the Chandlers, for hosting such a great, no-holds barred party.

SRT's Annual Meeting and associated awards ceremonies will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Tyler, Texas, on Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 9, 10, and 11, 2010. Please mark these dates on your calendar; the agenda and the registration forms for the meetings, meals and events will be published in the near future on the SRT website www.srttexas.org. Holiday Inn Select is located at 5701 South Broadway Avenue, Tyler, Texas 75703, Tel: (903) 561-5800. For those spending the night either before and/or after the meeting, the SRT room rate at the hotel is \$92.00 per night, and the cutoff date for room reservations is March 9th.

There's still time remaining for high school students to submit entries for the SRT Texas History Essay Contest. Entries must be post-marked on or before January 31, 2010. See www.srttexas.org for further details.

The October 2009 issue of *The Texian* newsletter can now be viewed online at www.srttexas.org.

Those in possession of photos, news clippings, or other materials suitable for inclusion in this year's Chapter Archive Book (a/k/a the "scrapbook") are encouraged to get in touch with Chapter President Clay Fisher (clay@LCFisher.com) as soon as possible. Assembly of the archive book will commence in January, for submittal at the 2010 SRT Annual Meeting in April.

Chapter #1's Elizabeth Powell Tavern marker repair project is now underway. Replacement bronze parts have been ordered from the Texas Historical Commission, and local support has been identified. In fact, the landowner of the site - Mr. Jack Wendt - has reported that his crews have already lifted the marker and cemented it onto a new base! Watch for updates as we work toward repair and re-dedication of this important 1936 historical marker located in Fort Bend County.

December Days in Texas History:

1835, December 5: Texans assault Mexican garrison at Béxar On this day in 1835, the Texas revolutionary army began its assault on the Mexican garrison at San Antonio de Béxar. Ben Milam and William Gordon Cooke gathered more than 300 volunteers to attack the town in two columns, while Edward Burluson and another 400 men forced Mexican general Martín Perfecto de Cos to keep his 570 men divided between the town and the Alamo. The battle ended with the surrender of the Mexican army on December 9.

1835, December 20: Garrison at Goliad declares independence On this day in 1835, Goliad citizens and South Texas colonists met in the Presidio la Bahia chapel to sign a document known as the Goliad Declaration of Independence, written by Ira Ingram and the first such declaration for Texas, and afterwards hoisted the first flag of independence, designed by Capt. Philip Dimmitt, above the walls. The document had ninety-one signatures.

1835, December 27: Texas Masons hold first meeting On this day in 1835, Holland Lodge No. 36, the first Masonic lodge in Texas, met at Brazoria.

1836, December 27: Stephen F. Austin dies On this day in 1836, Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas", died at the home of George B. McKinstry, near Columbia, Texas. Austin's last words, according to the recollection of Moses Austin Bryan, who was with him at the time of his death, were: "The independence of Texas is recognized! Don't you see it in the papers? Doctor Archer told me so!". He was forty-three years of age.

1838, Christmas Day: First Communion service for Texas Episcopalians On this day in 1838, Caleb Smith Ives, an Episcopal priest, celebrated the Holy Eucharist in Matagorda, Texas, which is believed to be the first time it had been celebrated in Texas according to the Episcopal rite.

1839, December 22: First Texas-German church services held in Houston On this day in 1839, in Houston, Louis Ervendberg held the first recorded church services for Texas Germans.

1841, December 13: Moore leads sortie of Texas Navy On this day in 1841, a flotilla of the Texas Navy under the command of Edwin Ward Moore left Galveston to support the province of Yucatán in its rebellion against Mexico. During the cruise the fleet captured the Mexican merchant vessel *Progreso* on February 6 and the *Doric*, the *Dolorita* (or *Doritas*), and the *Dos Amigos* in April.

1842, December 19: Somervell expedition disbands On this day in 1842, the Somervell expedition disbanded. The Somervell expedition was a punitive expedition against Mexico in retaliation for three predatory raids made by Mexican armies upon Texas in 1842: Antonio Canales Rosillo's descent upon Lipantitlán and the captures of San Antonio by Rafael Vásquez and Adrián Woll. On October 3 President Sam Houston ordered Alexander Somervell to organize the militia and volunteers and invade Mexico. Numbering approximately 700 men, the expedition left San Antonio on November 25 and captured Laredo on December 8. Joseph L.

Bennett and 185 men returned home on December 10. Somervell, with a little over 500 men, forced the capitulation of Guerrero, but on December 19, recognizing the failure of his expedition and fearing disaster, ordered his men to disband and return home by way of Gonzales. The Texans were so disappointed with the order to disband that only 189 men and officers obeyed; some 308 men under five captains and commanded by William S. Fisher continued to Mexico on the Mier expedition.

1845, December 29: U.S. Congress approves annexation of Texas On this day in 1845, the United States Congress voted to annex Texas.

1852, December 24: The railroad comes to Texas On this day in 1852, the first railroad locomotive in Texas was placed in service by the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway. It was named for Gen. Sidney Sherman, one of the owners of the railroad.

1859, December 28: Oldest Jewish house of worship in Texas chartered On this day in 1859, Congregation Beth Israel, the oldest Jewish house of worship in Texas, was chartered as the Hebrew Congregation of the City of Houston.

Most facts courtesy of Texas State Historical Association's "Texas Day-by-Day".

Visit our chapter website for more information –
<http://www.sanjacintosrt.org>

If anyone has any information or news to include in the *San Jacinto Patriot* or on the web page, please contact:

San Jacinto Patriot Editor – **L. Clay Fisher** (clay@LCFisher.com)
San Jacinto Chapter Webmaster – **Dodd Eastham** (deastham@velaw.com)

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or would like to update your e-mail address, please contact **L. Clay Fisher** (clay@LCFisher.com)