

# Star of Texas News

NOV 2021



Nineteen ladies gathered in Houston at Mrs. Andrew Brisco's home to organize a new society specifically to keep alive the ideals and heroism of pioneer Texans. *Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library, Jounior League Collection MSS248-2139*

## Founders Day - Nov 6

In 1891, Betty Eve Ballinger and Hally Ballinger Bryan's patriotic feelings stimulated them to undertake an ambitious project to organize a statewide society to honor Texas heroes such as their ancestors.

Miss Betty Ballinger was the granddaughter of William H. Jack, a San Jacinto Veteran and prominent statesman of the Republic. Her cousin, Miss Hally Bryan, was the daughter of Honorable Guy M. Bryan, a veteran and president of The Texas Veteran Assoc. at the time. The two women noticed the dwindling membership of The Texas Veteran Association and decided something must be done to preserve the sacred memories of Texas History.

With the support of Mrs. Anson Jones and Mrs. W P Ballinger, they traveled to a conference held in the home of Mrs. Andrew Briscoe, a widow of a San Jacinto patriot. At this conference Miss Ballinger and Miss Bryan endorsed the idea and approved the organization of a body of women who were direct descendants of the men who established the Republic.

A group of 19 women from Galveston, Brazoria Co, and Houston, were assembled on Nov. 6, 1891. They consisted of Mesdames

Anson Jones, Andrew Briscoe, P.W. Gray, M. Looscan, M.G. Howe, J.M.O. Menard, W.E. Kendall, C.H. Hume, J.J. McKeever, W.R. Robertson, W.P. Ballinger, R.G. Ashe, Ernest Vasmer, and the Misses Betty Ballinger, Hally Bryan, Willie G. Ashe, Mary A. Bryan, Billie Fenn and Emily Perry.

Mrs. Anson Jones was elected president and the rest of the officers and executive committee drew up a constitution and bylaws for the organization that was to be called "Daughters of the Lone Star Republic".

In April 1892, five months and two organized chapters later, the first annual meeting was held on the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto during the reunion of the Texas Veterans Association in Lampasas. One of the actions taken at the state meeting was to change the name of the organization to "The Daughters of the Republic of Texas". *The*

*Daughters - A Dozen Decades of DRT, pgs 26, - 29; 1892 Constitution & Bylaws, Daughter of the Republic of Tx*

## Upcoming Events

### Siege of Bexar Luncheon

Wednesday  
Dec. 08, 2021  
11:30 - 1:30

#### Ticketed Event

[Click to BUY TICKETS](#)

or  
visit

Alamo Mission Chapter's  
website

## New Members

Alamo Mission Chapter would like to welcome our new members

### 2021 - 2022 New Members

Vivienne Casanova Duke Zamora  
Misty Rose Ftaiti Lopez  
Rachel Irene Ftaiti  
Linda Perales Stewart  
Adelina Bustillos Garcia  
Norma Jean Cadena Wilke  
Elizabeth Ann Wilke  
Lisa Trammel Deaven

Assoc:  
Lucille Hooker  
Barbara Zars

### 2020- 2021 New Members

Barbara Ann Flaig Garrett  
Emily Catherine Garrett  
Annette Louise Green Hoelscher  
Caroline Allyson Basse  
Christian "Sloane" Basse  
Angelica Martinez Vela  
Christina Hollan  
Angela Price Rubin  
Mary Yvette Crumbliss  
Olivia Gennarelli  
Amber Nicole Bormann  
Cynthia Bureson Reed-Sikorski  
Alexi Lauren Kupczynski  
Jordan Cecile Kupczynski  
Caroline Paige White  
Kathryn Durham White  
Marlene Carter Lawson

# DISTRICT VII Meeting - Laredo



Front L to R: Phoebe Rogers, Carla Miller, Monica Ashley, Cynthia Wilder, and Marth Fleitas  
Back L to R: Ronnie Retzlaff, Mary Jane Blanco, Maxine Nilsen, Genie Basse, Ginny Kerr, Karen McClosky

**District VII** was hosted by Villa de San Augustin de Laredo Chapter at the La Posado Hotel in historic downtown Laredo. They welcomed everyone with open arms, treating us like family.

During the visit, we learned their rich history shared with us through the enjoyment of guest speakers and were entertained by Martin High School's Mariachi Band.

The guest speakers, Margarita Araiza, Executive Director of the Webb County Heritage Foundation, and Wanda Garner Cash, author of *Pancho Villa's Saddle at the Cadillac Bar*, both shared many interesting facts about the rich history of Laredo.

Margarita Araiza shared how Laredo is very unique among Texas cities because they have seven, as opposed to six, flags flown over their territory. The seventh flag represents the Republic of the Rio Grande, which lasted a brief 10 months from January 7th - November 6th, 1840. States' rights representatives, called Federalists, from the northern Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and Nueva León held a constitutional convention in Laredo to oppose the Centralist government in Mexico City. As a result, Laredo became

the capitol of the Republic of the Rio Grande, but its new leaders were subsequently captured and executed by the Centralists. The former headquarters of the short-lived republic is known today as the Republic of the Rio Grande Museum, which proudly displays the seven flags that have flown over Laredo. The museum is located adjacent to La Posado Hotel.

While at La Posado for dinner, Wanda Garner Cash shared from her book, *Pancho Villa's Saddle at the Cadillac Bar*, about the 2000 year flood Laredo experience in 1954 which caused the Rio Grande River to crest at 61.35 ft. This brought the water 15ft above the international bridge, washing it away and devastating Laredo and Nueva Laredo as 100 blocks in both cities were under water and ruined.

With the founding of Laredo, the many faces of the La Posado Hotel which was once the Laredo High School (1886- 1916), to the flood of 1954, there is a lot of history to see and experience in Laredo. - Monica

sources: Webb County Heritage Foundation; *Pancho Villa's Saddle at the Cadillac*, by Wanda Garner Cash





# Daughters Reading to Remember

Our book club was formed with the idea of meeting 3 to 4 times a year to provide an additional activity for our members and a chance to learn more about Texas History. The book club meets during the week in the evening with the idea of connecting members who are unable to attend the meetings held during the day. This book club gives those members the opportunity to participate in the chapter while getting to know fellow chapter members.

This book club is young and seemed to be placed on hold right after its inception due to Covid. The books we have read to date are *The Gates of the Alamo: Stephen Harrigan*, *Stein House: Myra Hargrave McIlvain*, *Roses: Leila Mecham*, *The News of the World: Paulette Jiles*, and *The Spirit of Gonzales: Betsy Wagner*.

This year we have met twice and there are two more dates and books scheduled this fiscal year.

February 3, 2022 - *Dauntless Spirit, The Journeys of Elizabeth Kellogg, a Forgotten Indian Captive*

May 12, 2022 -

We would love to have you at the next book club, remember to register on our website at [www.alamomissionchapter.com](http://www.alamomissionchapter.com)



## Grandmother of the Year

Cindy Bormann, Alamo Mission Chapter's 3rd vice president presents Ronnie Retzloff with CRT's Grandmother of the Year Award.

Congratulations Ronnie and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Children's of the Republic of Texas, Alamo Mission Chapter is very thankful and proud of you.



Front L to R: Carla Miller, Jacqueline Blackman, Eileen Sommer, Tracy McCollough, Cindy Borman  
Back: L to R: Laura English, Cindy Reed - Sikorski, Karen McClowsky, Monica Ashley, Denette Krawczynski, Kay Day, Angela Rubin

## Texas Independence Day

Please join us on March 2, 2022 at 12:30 at the Alamo to celebrate Texas Independence Day. This day commemorates the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington on the Brazos on March 2, 1836. *Don't forget to wear red!*

## Alamo Heroes Day

Please join us on March 6, 2022 at 2pm in front of the Cenetaph to celebrate Alamo Heroes Day. This day honors the patriots who died at the Alamo hosted by Alamo Mission Chapter. *Don't forget to wear red!*





## 2022 Meetings & Guest Speakers

General Meeting  
January 11, 2022  
James Bernson  
Topic: Filibusters in Texas History

General Meeting  
February 08, 2022  
Vicki Rose aka Easy Jackson  
Topic: Inspiration for Writing Texas Stories

General Meeting  
March 08, 2022  
Col. Alan Huffines  
Topic: Blood of Noble Men

General Meeting  
April 12, 2022  
Essay Contest Winners

General Meeting  
May 10, 2022  
Annual Memorial Service

## 2022 Convention

The 131st Annual DRT Convention is set for May 19 - 21st in Austin, Tx.  
This is one you will want to attend as this could be your opportunity to see the new headquarters during convention.

**2022 Convention Hotel**  
**Double Tree by Hilton**  
**6505 IH-35 North**  
**Austin Tx 78752**

[Hotel Reservations](#)



## Republic of Texas History Center Update

Moving right along, the Daughter's new headquarters is currently roughing in the electrical conduits, air ducts, and plumbing as they continue to complete the framing and dry in.

While the subcontractors are diligently working, the project manager for Barlett Cocke has been finalizing all the interior selections for the building so we can continue to have a smooth transition into each phase of construction.

Behind the scenes the RTHC committee is still fundraising to offset the cost of the building with the help of underwriters, grants and member donations.

Whether it is donating towards the interior furnishings, sponsoring one of the new state of the art museum exhibits, or underwriting our audio visual equipment, there are several areas still needing financial assistance. If you would like more information on how you can help please contact Monica Ashley with the RTHC Committee at [ashkraw@gvtc.com](mailto:ashkraw@gvtc.com)

