



From the President

The Holiday Season has begun! And thankfully the weather has cooled down. It is a wonderful time to spend with family, friends and sharing our traditions. Halloween decorations are down for another year, and Thanksgiving turkeys are out. It won't be long until Christmas takes over our home, and the Pioneer Memorial Log House.



If you missed the Chili Cook off Road to Independence, you missed a great time. Enjoy the photographs.

Being a descendant of one of Stephen F. Austin's original land grant recipients, makes his birthday earlier this month special as well as the founding of DRT and our chapter.

Put the Holiday Open House, Sunday December 3 on your calendar. You are welcome to bring your family and friends to see the log house decorated for an old-fashioned Christmas, visit and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and enjoy homemade goodies.

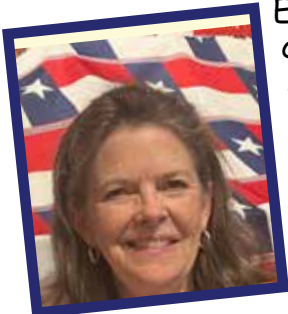
Also, make your reservation for the "Kick up Your Heels" Luncheon and New Member Installation on Thursday, December 7 at the log house. Lupe Tortilla's is catering a delicious Texas style fajita lunch. Reservations are due in late November.

We have another young member with a new baby girl, Abby Mae Switzer, applying to our CRT. Her mother, Jennifer belongs to our chapter and Abby's grandfather is SRT President General Randy Pollard.

Keep longtime member Charlotte Taylor in your prayers, as she has been placed on the heart transplant list.

Our Education Committee is working to get the word out for the DRT 4th and 7th Grade Essay Contest. Please look at the information later in this newsletter. This can be a wonderful project to work on with your children or grandchildren during the holidays. Remember we want to continue Teaching Texas to the young and old.

I would love to see our parking lot full of Native Texan License Plates. Tell your family about it - they would make a great birthday or Christmas gift.



Enjoy the newsletter created by Susan Schaffer, and come see us soon!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Gwen Sorsby Koch

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The San Jacinto Dispatch

Calendar November 18th – December 9th



NOVEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	X	16	17	X
18	19	20	X	21	22	23
24	25	X	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

- November 16** Chapter Workday 9:30 am
- November 18** Pioneer Memorial Log House Open House 1-3pm
- November 23** Happy Thanksgiving
- November 30** Decorate Pioneer Memorial Log House for the Holidays 1 p.m.



DECEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
X	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	X	X	15	X
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

- December 3** Christmas Open House 2-4 p.m.
- December 6** Set up for Christmas Luncheon – set the tables
- December 7** Holiday Luncheon & New Member Installation 11:30 a.m.
- December 9** Siege of Bexar Day, 1835 (Texas Honor Day)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
SAN JACINTO CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
DECEMBER 7, 2023

11:30 AM
PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE
1510 CAMBRIDGE STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

\$50.00 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 28, 2023

REGISTER AND/OR PAY [ONLINE](#)

OR

===== PRINT AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK =====

RESERVATION FOR _____

MY GUEST _____

CHECK FOR \$50 EACH PAYABLE TO: SAN JACINTO CHAPTER DRT
MAIL TO: CARLA BROWN (TREASURER.SJCDRT@GMAIL.COM)
5220 WESLEYAN C103, HOUSTON, TX 77005-1079



HELP TO MAKE A NEEDY CHILD'S CHRISTMAS
BRIGHTER BY BRINGING AN UNWRAPPED GIFT!
NO TIME TO SHOP - PURCHASE A BOOK
FROM OUR COUNTRY STORE!



The San Jacinto Dispatch

SJC Charitable Toy Drive

Our chapter is collecting unwrapped gifts for children in CPS care, “Be a Resource” (B.E.A.R.) Houston. If you would like to donate a gift for the chapter’s project, bring it to the log house on November 30, December 3, 6, 7; or contact Carla Brown or Sharolyn Wood to make other arrangements.



Gift Suggestions

Infants:

Nursery Toys, Teething Toys, Ride-On Toys, Sit-To-Stand Walkers, Activity Mats, Soft Building Blocks

Toddlers:

Toy Trucks/Cars, Action Figures/Dolls, Costume/Dress Up Items, Building Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Play Food/Dishes, Interactive Learning Toys (VTech)

Children (up to 12 years old):

Action Figures/Dolls, Tween Make-Up Sets, Arts and Crafts Kits, Science/Discovery Kits, Puzzles, Legos, Remote Control Cars/Helicopters

Children (13+):

Tablets, Bluetooth Headphones, Digital/Instant Camera (with refills), Make-Up Sets, Nail Polish, Bath & Body Sets, Jewelry Items (both genders), Cologne/Perfume Sets, Purses/Wallets

General Toys:

Bikes*, Scooters, Sports Equipment (all types), Board Games, Handheld Gaming Device, Tablets

*Bikes = please ensure they are **not** assembled and are still in the box.

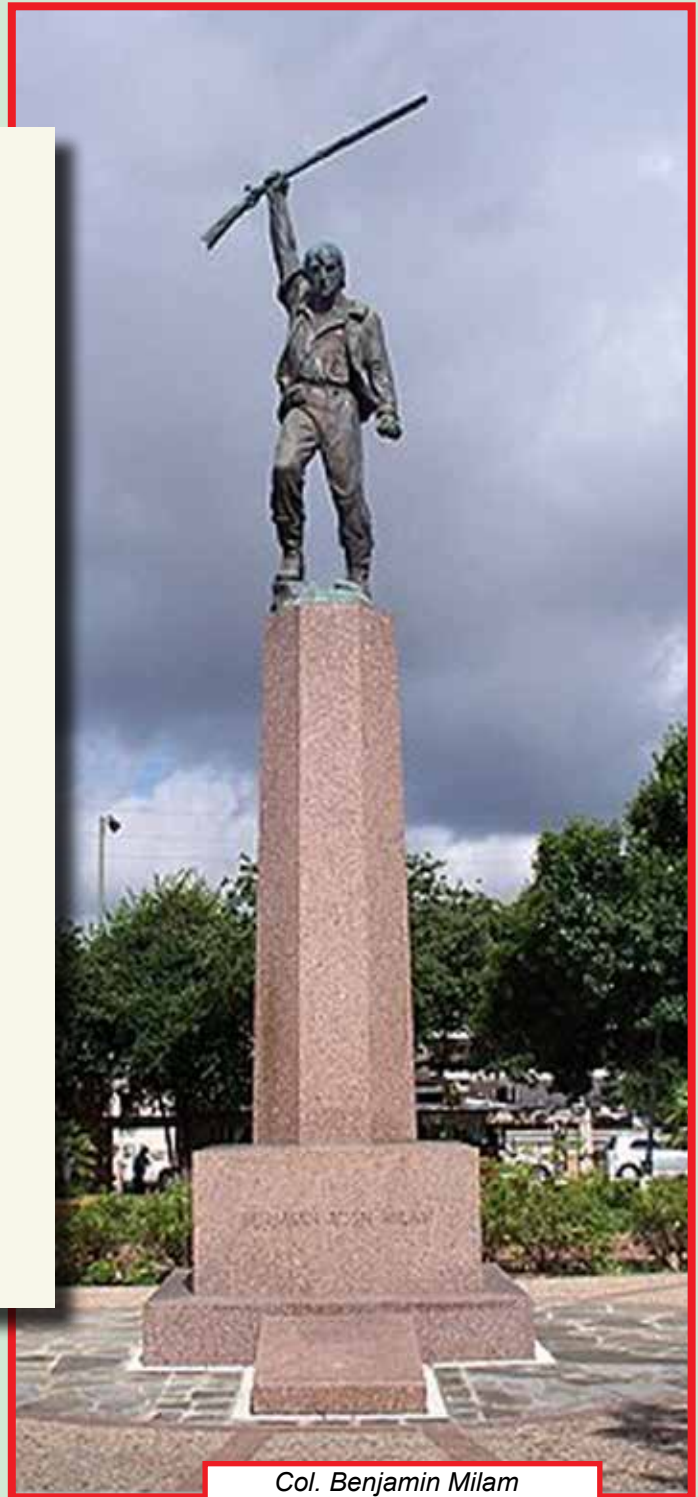




The Siege of Bexar Day

The Siege of Bexar began in October 1835 and ended with the surrender of Mexican General Cos on December 9, 1835.

- This was the only victory of the Revolution until the Battle of San Jacinto.
- When Texian troops were about to go into winter quarter, Colonel Ben Milam drew a line in the dirt and challenged them by saying, "Who will follow old Ben Milam into San Antonio?"
- 300 men, under the leadership of Ben Milam and Francis Johnson, entered San Antonio before dawn on December 5.
- The conflict was fought house to house. Milam was killed by a sniper. General Cos surrendered on December 9. This is how the Texians got the Alamo.



*Col. Benjamin Milam
Milam Park, San Antonio Texas*



District VI Workshop

The District VI Workshop in Huntsville was informative. The host Chapter was President Houston, Huntsville and held at the Walker Education Center. It was announced that due to health reasons, Coyla Holmes District VI Representative, was resigning immediately and Patti Johnson, the alternate, was taking Coyla's place. In the District VI Representative election, Patti was elected as official District VI Representative and will take over the elected office at May's Convention in Lubbock.



Each chapter president in District VI had 3 minutes to update attendees on the activities of their chapters. The San Jacinto Chapter was represented by Gwen Koch, Gwen Kunz, Miki Norton and Tish Wolter. Tish also spoke on CRT activities. And our Honorary Member, Caroline Crimm was the keynote speaker.

Friday's activities included a tour of Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Library complex and a wine reception at the Historical home of Catherine Massey.

The Country Store is finished traveling until the spring.

Gwen Koch, President San Jacinto Chapter DRT





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Special Quilt Raffle for the Log House

Last Chance!!!

Quilt Raffle to Benefit the Pioneer Memorial Log House

1 ticket for \$10
3 tickets for \$25.

A beautifully designed **Texas Our Texas** quilt featuring all things Texas is being raffled this year. This artful quilt can be used as a wall hanging, bed coverlet or throw!

San Jacinto DRT member, Debra Grigsby, adapted the design to include the San Jacinto Monument, Bluebonnets, Indian Paintbrush, the Alamo, Mockingbird, Spindletop, boots and more!!!

Debra's craftsmanship and attention to detail AND quality make this a one-of-a-kind treasure. The quilt measures 52" x 64" and is definitely a labor of love for Texas!

Proceeds of this raffle will benefit our Pioneer Memorial Log House. Tickets will be for sale at San Jacinto Chapter meetings and activities and DRT District Workshops this summer and fall. The drawing for this quilt will be December 7, 2023 at our chapter's Christmas Luncheon. The Winner need not be present to win.



Raffle to Raise Funds for our Pioneer Memorial Log House Restoration

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:
Gwen Koch at 713-826-9061 or sjcdrtpres@gmail.com.



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Road to Independence Chili Cook Off

The Road to Independence Chili Cook Off

The Road to Independence Chili Cook Off sponsored by San Jacinto Chapter DRT, The Sons of the Republic of Texas, and Children of the Republic of Texas was a great time! Look at all of the Texas fun!!!





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Road to Independence Chili Cook Off (cont'd)





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Road to Independence Chili Cook Off (cont'd)





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Flag Retirement





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Tidbits



Diana Stachowiak with auction table purchase.

We wish to thank everyone for their contributions in making the Silent Auction a great success.



Coyla Holmes & Family with their vintage picture of Marine Landing.



Preservation

The Chapter Historic Preservation Committee, Log House Committee and its Curatorial Committee are responsible for the care of the log house, grounds, Brooks Cottage, and our chapter's displays and artifacts. Recently Gwen Kunz and Sharolyn Wood enhanced the Alamo cases with museum quality display bases to better show our artifacts. And for safety reasons, slip tape has been added to all exterior steps and ramps.

If you should see a need or have a question about how we care for our treasures, please contact Sharolyn Wood, 5th Vice President, Pioneer Memorial Log House. And don't forget, we are always in need of Docents and volunteers.





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Tidbits (cont'd)

The San Jacinto CRT had a great time at the Road to Independence Chili Cook-off, with several members, prospectives, and guests in attendance! Our CRT participated in the flag retirement ceremony, and we were excited to take home the prize for "Best Bison Chili". The CRT Yearbook is now available online at crttexas.com. Be sure to take a look and start thinking about how your kids and grandkids can participate in the Officers' General projects. We'll have both individual and group entries. Our next event will be the Holiday Open House, December 3rd, at the Pioneer Memorial Log House. Hope to see you there!

Tish Wolter, SJC CRT Sponsor



San Jacinto Fall Fandango

San Jacinto Chapter had a genealogy table at the recent Fandango held at the San Jacinto Battleground.



November Hostesses left to right: Nancy Stokes, Gayla Sonderegger (made the beautifully decorated cupcakes), Jaimie Moran, Stacie Osborn, Sharolyn Wood, and Diane Stool created the centerpiece.



The San Jacinto Dispatch

SJC's November Chapter Meeting

Our November program was in honor of DRT Founders Day. What a wonderful treat was in store for all of us who attended! Our very own members, Sally Whittington and Debra Grigsby presented stories filled with the roots of DRT and San Jacinto Chapter.

Debra showed a video, she created with her husband, that showed us our Chapter's inception and the human side of these ladies. The video was titled, "Our Beginning". It was an inspiring introduction to San Jacinto Chapter's start.

Sally shared her family's story in early Texas with "The Texas Star". This story wove a Texas tapestry that brought these pioneers to life. To not only know who they were, but what they did, to create our great State of Texas.

Thank you ladies for sharing your stories with us!

Jamie Moran



Sally Whittington who spoke of her ancestors and the 5 points of the "Texas Star"; Jaimie Moran 2nd VP, Programs and Debra Grigsby showing her "Beginnings" of San Jacinto Chapter video.



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Show Us Your Colors

SHOW US YOUR COLORS!!!



Our Own Pioneer Memorial Log House in Houston, Texas

The Pioneer Memorial Log House, constructed in 1936, was built as a Chapter home and as a hospitality house for the many visitors expected to visit Houston for the Texas Centennial.

Rededicated in March of 1996, the Log House continues to serve as the home of the San Jacinto Chapter of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas. the Log House functions as a Texas Pioneer Museum with tours given by docents and brings special exhibits to the school children and citizens of Houston.

We want to encourage everyone to proudly display the Texas flag.

Send us a picture of your home with the Texas flag on display
and your home may be the next to appear in our newsletter!

All interested may send their photographs to: sjcdrtpres@gmail.com

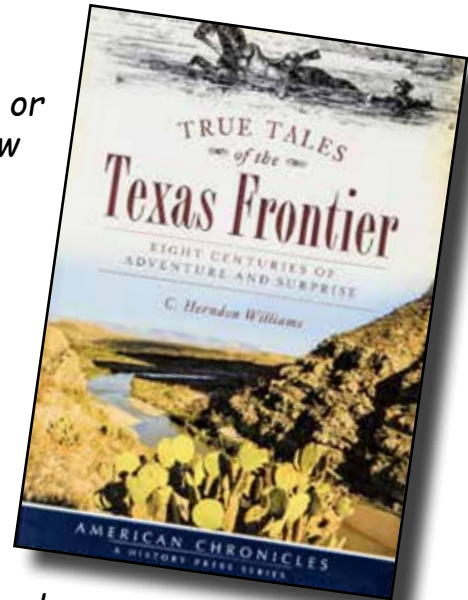


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Book Corner

Our Country Store has several copies of *True Tales of the Texas Frontier, Eight Centuries of Adventure and Surprise* by C. Herndon Williams. This book is filled with a massive amount of historical information in only 120 pages! Part I is all about Prehistoric Texas; each chapter is only two or three pages long, so it's easy to read. Did you know that 10,000 years ago, the shore of the Gulf of Mexico was forty miles farther out than it is now or that mammoths roamed all over Texas?

Part II of the book covers the Spanish Colonial Period, Part III: Mexican Texas, Part IV: The Republic of Texas, and Part V: The State of Texas. There are fascinating tales in all five parts, but since our focus is The Republic, here is a story which is still a mystery today.



Delegates were elected to the first Texas Independence Convention on February 1, 1836 and met in Washington-on-the-Brazos during a blue norther on March 1, 1836. The letter from Colonel William Barret Travis had just arrived telling of the Siege of the Alamo, so they worked fast. George Childress and his committee presented a draft of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2nd and, after a rousing recommendation by Sam Houston, it was accepted that day. Several clerks worked all night making six identical copies of the final draft and the 52 delegates present signed all six copies on March 3rd. Immediately, five copies were sent by express riders to: San Antonio, Goliad, Brazoria, San Felipe, and Nacogdoches and one copy remained at Washington-on-the-Brazos. After the express riders had left, seven more delegates arrived at the Convention and were allowed to sign the one copy there, thus giving the Declaration 59 signers.

We know that one copy reached San Felipe because Gail Borden, Jr. received it and made 200 copies in handbill form. No record of the receipt of the other four copies exists. Then the copy with 59 signers went missing and was finally found in Washington D.C. in 1896! Today the only copy left is the one signed by all 59 delegates along with 5 copies of the handbill printed in San Felipe. Where are the other five original copies?

Beth Garrett McCarty



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Christmas Shopping at the Country Store

The Country Store has many items to help fill your holiday shopping lists. All prices include tax. Here are a few items:

T-Shirts



Wear Your Texas Flag!!!

- Texas T-shirts
- Texas Flag Windbreakers
- Texas Flag Cuff Links
- Texas Flag BBQ Aprons
- Texas Flag Baby Bibs
- Texas Flag Luggage Tags





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Historic Preservation Committee Field Trip

Historic Preservation Committee Takes Field Trip University of Houston Women's Archives

On Thursday, Sept. 7, HPC members visited UH Special Collections Archives located in the MD Anderson Library on the UH campus. We were given a tour by Vince Lee, Archivist for the Women's Archive & Research Collection. This special archive collects the papers of individual women who've made history in Houston and the papers of Houston area women's organizations and makes them available for research.

You can learn more at:

<https://libraries.uh.edu/locations/special-collections/shuart/>

Some historical insights to ponder:

- San Jacinto Chapter, DRT is the oldest women's organization in Houston.*
- DRT is the oldest patriotic women's organization in Texas.*

If you would like to join the committee on their next adventure in the spring, contact Gwen Kunz, Historian.



Vince Lee showing us *Closed Shelving*



Inside Open Library



Eron Tynes, Gwen Koch, Gwen Kunz, Vince Lee



Files for Houston Heights Women's Club



The San Jacinto Dispatch

How You Can Help

Double Your Donation (at no cost to you)

Ladies, does your employer have a matching gift program? You can double your donation to our Chapter or the *Friends of the Log House* through Employer's Matching Gifts. And retirees can often do the same through their previous Employer's Matching Gifts. Help our chapter and the loghouse increase our donations through this free program. Please contact Carla Brown, Treasurer at treasurer.sjcdrt@gmail.com for assistance in setting up your matching gift.

Did You Know???

Kroger and Randall's both offer a 1% Rebate to us for all money you spend on groceries. Simply sign up to link your account to us; here's how:

Kroger:

Go to HOgrogerCommunityRewards@kroger.com. Our account is DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE, Account number is RF149. Ask them in the email to link your Kroger Rewards Account to us. You will need to provide your Kroger Rewards number *OR* go to the courtesy counter and ask them to help you. Kroger has a number of affiliate stores including City Market, Dillon's, King Super and Fry's (grocery).

Randall's:

Set up a Randalls for U account through the smart phone app or the website at www.randalls.com. Then, send an email to GoodNeighbor@Randalls.com and ask them to link your account to the non-profit by providing the organization's Good Neighbor number in your message, along with the phone number used to set up your Randalls for U account. (This is the same phone number you use at the register when shopping.) Our Good Neighbor account number is 14197. Affiliates include Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's, Acme, Tom Thumb, United Supermarkets, Pavilions, Star Market, Haggen, Carrs, Kings Food Markets, and Balducci's Food Lovers Market. Be sure to ask the courtesy booth if you need other help.

If you are aware of other stores that offer rebates to non-profits please let me know so that we can apply. My email is dgrig1@comcast.net.

Thanks,
Debra Grigsby, 4th VP Ways and Means





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



Essay Contest for 4th and 7th Grade Texas History Students

Sponsored by:
The San Jacinto Chapter
The Daughters of the Republic of Texas



Essay Contest Rules

The most important aspect of the essay should be historical accuracy.
The essay should be original, interesting and well organized.
Spelling, punctuation, grammar and neatness are considered in judging.

Attach and Submit essays online by February 1, 2024 to: DRTSJCEssay@gmail.com

Or mail to: *The DRT Pioneer Log House, attn Patti Randolph
1510 Cambridge, Houston, 77030-1732*

Be sure to include your name, your history teacher's name, grade, and school, or contact info.

Fourth Grade Essay Contest topic:

Collin McKinney

- Write an essay about Collin McKinney, the oldest signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.
- The essay should cover his life and contributions he made to Texas.
- Typed essays are to be double-spaced, using "Times New Roman" font, size 12.
- The essay can be no less than 1½ pages.
- Hand written essays are to be on ruled, 8½" by 11" paper.
- Fourth grade essay word count should be between 500 and 525 words
- Four references need to be listed – no more than two (2) may be internet references.

Seventh Grade Essay Contest topic:

The Canary Islanders and Their Impact on the Republic of Texas

- Cover the challenges they faced as they settled San Antonio.
- Typed essays are to be double-spaced using "Times New Roman" font, size 12.
- The essay can be no less than 2 ½ pages.
- Four references need to be listed – no more than two (2) may be internet references.

Awards

The winners will be honored with \$100 by the San Jacinto DRT Chapter at an award reception at the DRT Pioneer Memorial Log House on May 5, 2024. The winning essays are then submitted to the district level for a chance to win \$50 and, at the state level, \$500 each will go to the winning Fourth and Seventh grade essays.



Be sure to visit the San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield, one of the original purposes of our chapter to “acquire and mark the Battlegrounds of San Jacinto where our Republic was Born”. There is always something to see and learn when you are there.

New Lobby Exhibit Alert! San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield Association

The latest lobby exhibition titled Preserving the Battleground features ribbons, documents, booklets, and artifacts previously owned by members of either the Daughters of the Republic of Texas or the Texas Veteran Association. We invite you to visit the museum and delve into the stories of the organizations that played a pivotal role in safeguarding the battleground for the enjoyment of generations to come.



Texian Campaignware Bowl

The Daughters of the Republic (DRT) is a historical organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of the state of Texas. Founded in 1891, this group is composed of descendants of early Texas and revolutionary historical figures. They are focused on the conservation of historic sites, artifacts, and the promotion of Texas history. The DRT and the San Jacinto Veteran Association played a major role in the preservation and development of the San Jacinto Battleground by securing the site and ensuring the significance of the site as a historical landmark in Texas.

The current lobby exhibition explores how the two organizations worked together to preserve the battlefield. Among the artifacts on display is a blue-on-white Texian campaign dinnerware. The central scene of the bowl shows two mounted officers and an injured horse. Stop by the museum and check out the lobby exhibition.

*This artifact was a donation on behalf of the Daughters of the Republic:
San Jacinto Chapter to the San Jacinto Museum.*

This page reprinted from San Jacinto Monthly – November 2023