

Dallas Texian

Volume 5, Issue 3

20 August 2009



Your 2009 Officers

- Mic Barnette
President
- Don Stevenson
Vice President
- Jim Nyfeler
Secretary
- David Temple
Treasurer
- Gary Miller
Historian
- Tim Gibson
Chaplain

Visit your chapter on the web for the latest event information:

www.thomasrusk.org

Contact the chapter by mail:

4800 Pyramid Dr
Plano, TX 75093-1915

RSVP for events to:

JimNyfeler@verizon.net

or by phone:

972-202-1133

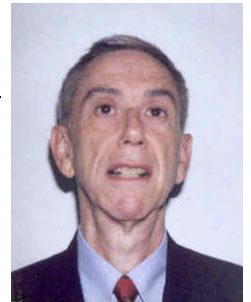
Plan to attend our next chapter event.

We hope to see you there!

September 10th Guest Speaker Lloyd Bockstruck

“A Topic That Will Interest and Inspire All”

Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, the son of Harry Earl Bockstruck and Olive Elsie Blakenship, was born at Vandalia, Illinois. He graduated cum laude with an B.A. in Biology and History from [Greenville College](#) in 1967. Mr. Bockstruck received an M.A. in Modern European History from [Southern Illinois University](#) in 1969, and M.S. in Library Science from the [University of Illinois at Urbana](#) in 1973. He received a certificate from the [Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University](#), in June 1973.



Mr. Bockstruck was a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of History, Southern Illinois University, 1967-69. He served as a secondary teacher and librarian at Mombasa Baptist High School in Mombasa, Kenya, 1969-71, and a Graduate Assistant in the School of Library Science at the University of Illinois, 1971-73. From 1974 to 1991 he served as an instructor in the School of Continuing Education, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. He is the senior ranking faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University, having joined in 1974. He has been on the faculty of the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America, University of Illinois at Springfield, since 1994. He authored the genealogical column, "Family Tree," in the *Dallas Morning News*, Dallas, Texas, from 1991 to 2007. He joined the Dallas Public Library in 1973 and retired this year.

The 3rd quarterly meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter # 8 for 2009 is **Thursday, 10 September 2009**, at our *regular location*, [Margaux's](#), 119 Turtle Creek. SEE MAP ON PAGE 3. The Cash bar opens at 6:30pm with dinner at 7:00pm. The cost is **\$25** per person, pay by cash or check at the door. Dress is business casual. **RSVP by e-mail to JimNyfeler@verizon.net or phone at 972 202-1133.** All RSVP's are required by **7 September**.



Mic Barnette

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow SRT Compatriots:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I, again, greet you as President of the Thomas Jefferson Rusk Chapter, Sons of the Republic of Texas.

Those of you who were unable to attend our last meeting missed a wonderful program and fabulous Texas Italian feast. Due to scheduling problems with Margaux's we met

Continued on page 2

Chapter President's Message — continued

at Buca di Beppo and were served family style with more delicious pasta than we could eat. Sherri Knight, our speaker, entertained us by recanting the difficulties and adventures experienced by Nineteenth Century fiddler Tom P. Varnell as he eluded the legal authorities of Central Texas. Honorary SRT member and internationally known genealogical guru, Lloyd Bockstruck, will be the featured speaker at our September meeting which will be held in our regular location, Margaux's. I have heard Lloyd speak numerous times over the years. Each time I hear him he says something I did not know before. So, join us and see what you can learn you did not know before!

Speaking of meetings and where they are held, your officers have gotten feedback from a variety of members. While most members who attend meetings are happy with the facility and food at Margaux's many were dissatisfied with the distance they traveled and the physical area where it is located. Several members who normally do not attend offered much the same reason for not attending. When we looked at the zip codes of the people who normally attend the meetings we found an overwhelming number of them live in the central and northern areas of the city. Only two were south of downtown.

Secretary Jim Nyfeler canvassed the city looking for an acceptable location inside or near LBJ/635 that could hold our numbers, had an enclosed meeting area separate from the main restaurant and quality food at a reasonable rate. I am happy to report he found a restaurant we hope will be our home for years to come. The Texas Land and Cattle Company is located in Richardson on US 75 Central Expressway at the corner of Spring Creek. Our first meeting at this fine facility will be in December.

Our national SRT will be sending renewal notices for 2010 dues probably in late October. It is important for each member to remit your payment as quickly as possible as our chapter gets a rebate on dues paid by a certain date. That money is returned to our treasury for the benefit of our chapter and helps our bottom line.

Be sure to send a biography of each of your Republic of Texas ancestors to our webmaster, Dick Brown. The biographies Dick posts show your love, honor and appreciation to those ancestors who paved the way for our blessed way of life and the fantastic state and country in which we live. In addition they also bring historians, genealogists, prospective members and others "just interested" to our website to read about our ancestors. Dick may be contacted at dick@carlfranklinhomes.com.

Please remember, your officers are interested in serving our chapter members and improving the manner in which we do so. Members with news, suggestions or comments are asked to contact myself or any of our officers.

In closing I would like to welcome to our chapter new member, Patrick Michael Sifuentes Benavides.

God Bless America! And God Bless Texas!

SUPPLEMENTAL ANCESTOR CONTEST

Our national SRT has implemented a Supplemental Ancestor Contest running 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2009. An award acknowledging the member with the most supplemental applications submitted during the contest period will be presented by the President General at the Annual Meeting in March 2010.

When one joins SRT they join on one initial qualifying ancestor. However, one may submit what is termed a supplemental application for each additional eligible ancestor who was a resident of the Republic of Texas whether they be man, woman or child. The criteria for a supplemental, as with one's initial ancestor, is that the ancestor must have been a resident of the Republic of Texas prior to the raising of the American flag in Austin on February 19, 1846.

For more information on the contest or to submit a supplemental application contact our chapter Historian David Temple at BankerD@aol.com.

JUNE MEETING REVIEW

Our June meeting was a break from the ordinary.....real Tex-Italian food and atmosphere!

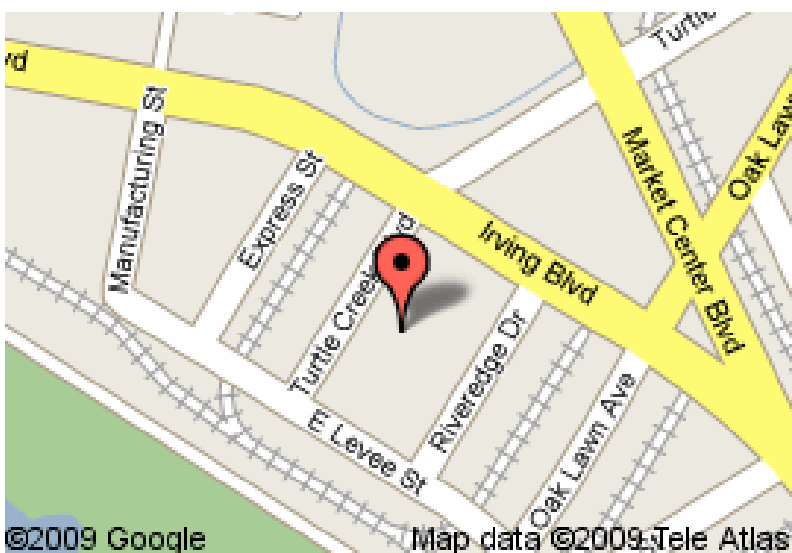
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Those of you who were unable to attend our last meeting missed a wonderful program and fabulous Texas Italian feast. Due to scheduling problems with Margaux's we met at Buca di Beppo and were served family style with more delicious pasta than we could eat.

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MAP TO SEPTEMBER MEETING LOCATION



*Map to Margaux's
119 Turtle Creek
Meeting location for September 10*

Ancestral Records of Our Own Members
Jerusha Corzine 1822-1849
Ancestor of Mic Barnette

Jerusha Corzine, daughter of Abel Corzine was born about 1800 in Cabarraus County, North Carolina. She married John W. Crunk in Williamson County, North Carolina in 1821 where all her children were born.

Among Jerusha's siblings was Judge Shelby Corzine who came to Texas in 1835 from Alabama and settled in San Augustine. Prior to his untimely death in 1839 he served as a senator in the First Republic of Texas Legislature, as a committee member helping to write the First Texas Constitution and was elected Judge of the First Judicial District which encompassed the San Augustine District. As Judge, he granted his friend, Sam Houston, his controversial divorce from Eliza Allen of Tennessee.

About 1840 John and Jerusha Corzine Crunk moved their young family to Harrison County where Jerusha died in 1849. In an unusual legal maneuver John asked the court to grant him a life estate in his wife's probate. This maneuver is thought to have paved the way for inheritance of Jerusha's estate to fall to his children by her rather than be shared by his children from his first wife who had already inherited from their mother's family.

One of John's sons from his first marriage, Nicholas Scales Crunk, arrived in Texas in time to fight in the Battle of San Jacinto and was a life long resident of Texas.

John died in Harrison County, Texas sometime in January or February 1851.

Index to Texas History

A few of the Events in the period July– November

- 8 August 1812** ***About 130 men strong, the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition crossed the Sabine from Louisiana in a rebel movement against Spanish rule in Texas***
- 11 August 1840** ***The Battle of Plum Creek, near present day Lockhart, ended the boldest and most penetrating Comanche challenge to the Texas Republic.***
- 11 September 1842** ***San Antonio was again captured, this time by 1400 Mexican troops under Adrian Woll. Again the Mexican retreated, but this time with prisoners.***
- 2 October 1835** ***Texians repulsed a detachment of Mexican cavalry at the Battle of Gonzales. The revolution began.***
- 9 October 1835** ***The Goliad Campaign of 1835 ended when George Collingsworth, Ben Milam and forty-nine other Texians stormed the presidio at Goliad.***
- Fall 1842** ***Sam Houston authorized Alexander Somervell to lead a retaliatory raid into Mexico. The expedition dissolved, but some of the force continued and the ill-fated Mier Expedition surrendered at the Mexican town of Mier.***
- 8 November 1835** ***The Grass Fight near San Antonio was won by the Texians. Instead of silver, they gained a worthless bounty of grass.***

NEW THOMAS J. RUSK CHAPTER MEMBERS

Name	Hometown	Ancestor
Patrick Michael Sifuentes Benavides	Dallas	Tomas Galen

MEMORIAL TO FALLEN MEMBERS

None this quarter of which we are aware.

SOUTHWESTERN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

In July 1897, the Texas State Historical Commission began publication of a quarterly magazine devoted to Texas History. Each issue contains four or five articles, along with reviews of books concerning Texas history. It's highly readable topics furnish historians and genealogists with some of the best sources available, written by everyone from university professors to contemporary journalists, from personal letters describing events and everyday living in Texas, from it's earliest days to the present. It's not only the finest research source, but the articles are mostly, very readable for the layman, professional researcher, or the casual reader. Many libraries contain complete, ongoing, collections of this work, along with an index of subject, author and title of the articles over the years. The Texas State Historical Association, publisher of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, and now the publishers of the Texas Almanac has relocated to the University of North Texas. This valuable historical resource is now in our own back yard. I encourage everyone to make use of it.

Tables of contents of some previous issues are now available online at:

<http://www.tshaonline.org/publications/journals/shq/toc/index.html>

BOOK SHARING- REMINDER

Last year, a book-sharing activity was initiated , and this activity is encouraged. Members are encouraged to bring a book or two to share. Take one home with you to read, bring it back at a future meeting and we will have an active "lending library" develop.

Please bring your extra copies of Texas history or lore to share. Perhaps you will find one yourself, to take home and enjoy

SRT to Honor Commander of the Texas Navy– September 19 (From THE TEXIAN, July 2009)

Saturday, September 19, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) will honor the second commander of the Texas Navy, Commodore Henry Livingston Thompson, at the historic Founders Memorial Cemetery, in Houston, as part of the SRT's official observance of Texian Navy Day. The Texas Navy Association will also participate by laying a wreath to honor Thompson and the entire Republic of Texas Navy. At the time the Texian went to press, the SRT Texas Navy Committee had no announcement regarding the keynote speaker, but this year's ceremony promises to be special since it has been two years in the making.

Commodore Thompson was named commander of the Texas Navy in the days after the victory at San Jacinto. The climate and vast terrain of South Texas may have given the young republic some sense of security from another invasion by the Mexican army, but in the Gulf, the Mexican Navy continually blockaded Texas' ports. It was in this climate that Commodore Thompson devised an audacious plan to project force outside Texas' territorial waters and raid Mexican ports to force the Mexican Navy to defend Mexico rather than allowing it to blockade Texas' ports. At the time, this plan was highly controversial, but now historians agree this put the world on notice that the Texas Navy was a potent force despite having its tiny fleet.

The landfall of Hurricane Ike in Galveston on September 13, 2008 caused the postponement of last year's observance of Texian Navy Day, and it interrupted the SRT's new tradition of celebrating Texian Navy Day established by act of the Texas Legislature as the third Saturday of September.

It is fitting that the SRT renew its observance of Texian Navy Day on the heels of a hurricane since the fleet commanded by Commodore Thompson was ultimately destroyed by one of the most destructive hurricanes in his-tory. Just as the second Texas Navy was established

on the heels of a hurricane, the SRT proudly will renew its tradition on the heels of a modern day hurricane.

ABOUT FOUNDERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Designated as an historic cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission in 2007, Founders Memorial Cemetery is a long-forgotten jewel of a cemetery in the shadows of the skyscrapers of downtown Houston. The cemetery is the final resting place of one of the founders of the City of Houston, John Kirby Allen, 31 veterans of the Battle of San Jacinto, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and many other early leaders of the Republic of Texas. Most of the burials occurred in the 1800's, although a few are dated in the twentieth century, the most recent being 1949. The cemetery was badly neglected for many years. As a result, many of those reportedly interred no longer have grave markers. In 1936, when the city took back control of the cemetery, the State of Texas erected individual monuments commemorating the service of 26 of those individuals.



Founders Memorial

Cemetery is located at 1217 West Dallas Street in Houston at the intersection of Valentine Street. The cemetery is located in the

middle of the historic "Freedman's Town." Due to very narrow streets in the neighborhood, there is very limited parking. The City of Houston is giving the SRT a permit to allow parking on West Dallas Street in what is normally a no parking zone; however, people are encouraged to car-pool where possible. Further parking instructions and other details about the Texas Navy and this year's celebration of Texian Navy Day may be found on the SRT website (<http://www.srttexas.org>).

You will not want to miss this momentous tribute to Commodore Thompson and the entire Republic of Texas Navy. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For additional information, contact SRT Texas Navy Committee Chairman David Hanover (dhanover@suddenlink.net).

Announcements

SRT ESSAY CONTEST ON TEXAS HISTORY

As the 2009-10 school year is upon us, it is time for us to look to the emphasis place on Texas history in our schools. The Sons of the Republic of Texas sponsors an essay contest each year. This is a program which we should advertise in our local schools.

Graduating seniors in any high school may enter. History, government and English students are particularly encouraged to participate.

The authors of the three best essays submitted will be the winners if the essays so warrant. They will be recognized and the prizes presented by The Sons of the Republic of Texas at the annual 2010 San Jacinto Celebration in Houston. The prizes will be scholarships to the college of each winner's choice or will be given to the student directly if he or she does not intend to attend a college or university.

The uniqueness of Texas and Texans is recognized around the world. The purpose of this Texas History Essay Contest is to encourage students to explore the pioneer spirit of Texans on the early-day frontier, their methods of accomplishing their goals under very difficult circumstances, and the results of their efforts that we can see today.

The 2009-10 topic is: "The Battle of Coleto and the Goliad Massacre".

The rules are clearly defined on the application, which may be downloaded from the SRT website, <http://www.srttexas.org>

Criteria to be used by judges in selecting the winners will be depth of research in Texas history, originality of thought and expression, and organization. The final judge will be Dr. Joe Ericson of Nacogdoches, noted author.

Entries must be postmarked on or before January 31, 2010.

Does the Chapter Have Your Current Email Address?

No?- Send a note to the Secretary: jimnyfeler@verizon.net

NOTICES FROM THE TEXIAN

July 2009 Issue of The Texian is now available at:

http://www.srttexas.org/Texian/2009/Texian-07_09.pdf

Remember: The dues for all members who are active duty personnel are WAIVED. Notify SRT office by email, postal service or telephone.

Members can now update their information online and make donations. Go to www.srttexas.org

September 11-12 Quarterly Meeting

Sleep Inn & Suites, 2136 Water Street

Gonzales, TX (830) 672-1888

Cut off date: September 1, 2009 SRT Rates: \$78 + Tax

Map: www.sleepinn.com

Announcements– continued

SRT Calendar of Events

2009 Executive Board Meetings

September 11-12

Sleep Inn & Suites, 2136 Water Street, Gonzales, TX (830) 672-1888:

Rate \$78 + tax: Cutoff date: September 1, 2009

December 4-5

Hampton Inn, 7006 N. Navarro Street, Victoria, TX, 77904: (361) 573-9911

2009 SRT Events

March 27

Goliad Massacre

April 21

San Jacinto Day

September 19

Texian Navy Day

September 19

Monument Hill Remembrance Ceremony

October 2

The Battle of Gonzales

November 3

Stephen F. Austin's Birthday

November 21

Tomball Parade

2010 Annual Meetings

April 9-11, 2010

Holiday Inn Select, 5071 South Broadway Ave, Tyler, TX 75703:

(903) 561-5800: Rate \$92: Cutoff Date– March 9, 2010

TJR 2009-2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting dates and speakers for Thomas J. Rusk Chapter 8 are as follows:

Thursday, 10 Sept 2009- Lloyd Bockstruck, *always an interesting topic*

Reminder– We meet back at Margaux's 119 Turtle Creek in September

Thursday, 10 Dec 2009- Duane Blair, *James Stephen Bailey Collection of Texana*

Thursday, 11 March 2010- To Be Determined

Thursday, 10 June 2010– To Be Determined

Please see Page 3 for map to Margaux's