

Dallas Texian

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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!

March 12th Guest Speaker Carol Taylor Presents “Mercer’s Colony”

President Sam Houston entered into the last Republic of Texas empresario colony contract with Charles Fenton Mercer on January 28, 1844, just a few hours after he vetoed an act to cease colonial land grants. Only days earlier had the Republic of Texas Congress voted to halt the colonial contracts as they were unfair to the old veterans with bounty land grants, those holding land certificates and those with other scrip certificates. Thus set the stage for bitter political fighting among Texas politicians. Ironically, Charles Fenton Mercer and his connections with British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston and the very wealthy and influential British abolitionists set in motion an urgency on the part of Southern politicians and Northern anti-slavery supporters to annex the Republic of Texas before Great Britain became more involved with the young republic on the southwestern border of the United States. The bitter acrimony within Texas would cause continual legal problems for landowners within the colony boundaries for years to come.



Carol Taylor is a sixth generation of Texans. She has degrees from Midwestern State University and Texas A&M University-Commerce. Her thesis on the Mercer Colony won the Eugene Hollon Scholarship Award. She has been the recipient of the Ottis Lock Award for Best Educator and the Ottis Lock Research Grant from the East Texas Historical Association. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the East Texas Historical Journal. At the present she is finishing the Mercer Colony manuscript, and working on two histories of Greenville, one for the general public and one for academia. Mrs. Taylor is manager of the Northeast Texas History and Genealogy Center at the W. Walworth Harrison Public Library in Greenville.

The 1st quarterly meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter # 8 for 2009 is **Thursday, 12 March 2009**, at **Margaux’s Restaurant**, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd at Irving Blvd. 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 **9 March**.



Mic Barnette

CHAPTER PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow SRT Compatriots:

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

I am humbled to be serving behind those who have served the chapter so well before me. I am also proud to be serving with a wonderfully enthusiastic group of dedicated

Continued on page 2

Chapter President's Message — continued

officers, who, like yourself, share the ideals and aspirations of our Republic of Texas ancestors who came to Texas in her formative years.

I would like to encourage all our members and potential members to partake in our meetings. Come, enjoy and learn from our illustrious speakers, meet your officers and fellow SRT members and their spouses and endeavor to socialize and become fully involved in our organization.

One of the first tasks your officers have embarked upon has been a discussion with the managers of Margaux's to streamline our business meeting, dinner and guest lecture time so we may depart from our meetings at an earlier time. It may be a trial and error process to see what works best but we anticipate a successful outcome.

The next thing your officers are doing is a cost saving maneuver. Our National SRT newsletter is currently found only online unless a member wishes to pay a surcharge to receive it through the United States Postal Service. In our chapter's case we paid out \$600 more in 2008 than we collected. In that train of thought, your officers have voted to publish our chapter newsletter online. We find most of our members are already online and can receive the newsletter more expeditiously than in the current mode. In addition, the newsletter can be expanded so it can deliver more information about our chapter, about National SRT matters and anything else that might be of interest to our members. For those who are not online with email or the Internet we will contact them and discuss with them how we can best serve them.

A feature begun on our website is a page posting the names of the ancestors of our chapter members. When a visitor to the webpage sees a name of interest he clicks on the hyperlinked ancestor's name and is taken to the chapter member submitted biography. The biography is intended to assist and encourage potential SRT members in discovering information on an ancestor as well as a pathway to contact the SRT member, their cousin. Each member of our chapter is urged to compose a biography for each accepted SRT ancestor and submit them as a Word document to our webmaster, Dick Brown at dick@carlfranklinhomes.com.

Your officers are interested in serving our members and improving the manner in which we do so.

Members with suggestions or comments are asked to contact myself or any of our officers.

God Bless America and Texas!

TJR Officer Profile — Gary Miller, Historian

Gary Miller is currently serving as Historian of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and has been a member since 2007. Gary is currently employed as a Finance Director with Idearc Media. Gary was born in Dallas and raised in Richardson. He graduated from J.J. Pearce High School and the University of North Texas. His degree is in Accounting and he is a Certified Public Accountant.

Gary is a seventh generation Texan with roots that date back to Stephen F. Austin's Old 300.

Sylvanus Castleman was one of the earliest settlers and came to Texas from Missouri in 1821, receiving his land grant along the Colorado River in Fayette County. Zadock Woods joined the Austin Colony after a failed lead-mining venture with partner Moses Austin. Zadock was active in the Texas revolution and died at the Dawson Massacre in September 1842 on his 69th birthday.

Gary's Great Grandfather Jacob A. Miller came to Texas in 1839 from Washington County Tennessee. Jacob's grandfather had immigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania and it is believed that Jacob came to Texas to settle among the German speaking Texans. Jake Miller originally settled near Victoria and served in Captain John T. Price's Ranger Company up through the Mexican war in 1846. In 1846 he returned to the area in present day De Witt County and was one of the four men appointed as Trustee of the land for the new county seat in Clinton. Jacob was active in the community and served as the Sheriff of De Witt county on two separate occasions.



Gary Miller

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 Quarterly 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>

DECEASED PAST PRESIDENTS OF SRT

Our national Sons of the Republic of Texas organization seeks to update their files and honor with SRT markers the graves of those past SRT Presidents General for whom no marker has been placed. The full list of past Presidents General may be found on the SRT website at <http://srttexas.org/texians.html> .

Past Presidents General whose graves have not been marked and for whom a cemetery name is needed are: Harry Seeligson, John Spellman, Charles R. Tips, Joseph Wearden, Harry Pennington, James Shaw, O.H. Carlisle, Robert R. Ritchie, Abe San Miguel.

Past Presidents General whose graves have been marked and for whom a cemetery name is needed are: Payne Lee Bush, Joe Fisher, Frank Guittard, Talmadge Main, H. Sellers Rogers.

Anyone with information on any of these Past Presidents General are asked to contact our national SRT office at srttexas@srttexas.org .

SRT ANNUAL MEETING IN BOERNE- MARCH 20-22

Each year in March our national and local SRT chapter officers and members come together at an annual conference. This year the conference will be held 20-22 March at La Tapatio Springs Resort in Boerne, near San Antonio.

Please visit the SRT website at <http://srttexas.org/annual2009.html?cc=&subject=Annual%202009> for more information, schedule of events and to register.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY- MARCH 2

The Thomas Rusk Chapter, SRT will celebrate Texas Independence Day at its meeting on March 12. If you want to view the document, here is a link to the Texas Declaration of Independence on Lonestar Junction.

<http://www.lsjunction.com/docs/tdoi.htm>

NEWLY ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2009

At the December meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter, new officers were elected for 2009. Those officers are: Mic Barnette, President; Don Stevenson, Vice President; Jim Nyfeler, Secretary; David Temple, Treasurer; Gary Miller, Historian; and Tim Gibson, Chaplain. An officers' meeting was held in February to discuss programs for the 2009 year and ways to make the meetings more interesting and relevant (see Chapter President's Message elsewhere in the newsletter).



L to R: 2008 President David Dibrell with 2009 Officers; Mic Barnette, President; Don Stevenson, Vice President; Jim Nyfeler, Secretary; David Temple, Treasurer; Gary Miller, Historian; Tim Gibson, Chaplain



L to R: 2009 President Mic Barnette presenting Past President Certificate to 2008 President, David Dibrell

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.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN TEXAS REPUBLIC HISTORY-

January– May

February 1, 1845 - Baylor University is founded

February 2, 1848 – The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, ending the War with Mexico and specifying the location of the international boundary.

February 19, 1846 – Although Texas officially became a state on Dec. 29, 1845, the formal transfer of government does not take place until this date.

March 1, 1845 - US Congress passes a "Joint Resolution for Annexing Texas to the United States."

March 1845 - The first of many large groups of Germans arrive in Central Texas, settling at New Braunfels.

March 2, 1836 - Texas Declaration of Independence is adopted at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

March 6, 1836- 3-day siege of the Alamo by Mexican troops led by Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna ends on this day with a battle in which all remaining defenders are killed.

March 10, 1836 - Sam Houston abandons Gonzales and retreats eastward to avoid the advancing Mexican army. Panicky settlers in the area flee as well in an exodus called the Runaway Scrape.

March 19, 1840 - Comanches, led by a dozen chiefs, meet with officials of Texas government to negotiate a peace treaty. Believing the Comanches to have reneged on a promise to release all white prisoners, the Texans take the chiefs prisoner. During the Council House fight that follows, 35 Comanches are killed, as are seven Texans. Texas Rangers and a volunteer army defeat the Comanches on Aug 11.

March 27, 1836- About 350 Texan prisoners, including their commander James Fannin, are executed at Goliad by order of Santa Anna. An estimated 30 Texans escape.



James Fannin



La Bahia, Goliad

April 21, 1836 - In a battle lasting 18 minutes, Texan troops led by Sam Houston defeat the Mexican army commanded by Santa Anna at San Jacinto.

May 8, 1846 – The Battle of Palo Alto near Brownsville is the first major battle of the two-year Mexican War. Its conclusion solidifies Texas sovereignty.

May 14, 1836 - Santa Anna and Texas' provisional president David Burnet sign two Treaties of Velasco ending the Texas Revolution.



Santa Anna Surrender

TJR 2009-2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Thursday, 12 March 2009 - Carol Taylor, "Mercer's Colony"

Thursday, 11 June 2009

Thursday, 10 Sept 2009

Thursday, 10 Dec 2009

Thursday, 11 March 2010