

# Dallas Texian

Volume 5, Issue 4

20 November 2009



## Your 2009 Officers

- Mic Barnette  
President
- Don Stevenson  
Vice President
- Jim Nyfeler  
Secretary
- David Temple  
Treasurer
- Gary Miller  
Historian
- Tim Gibson  
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Visit your chapter on the web for the latest event information:

[www.thomasrusk.org](http://www.thomasrusk.org)

Contact the chapter by mail:

4800 Pyramid Dr  
Plano, TX 75093-1915

RSVP for events to:

[JimNyfeler@verizon.net](mailto:JimNyfeler@verizon.net)

or by phone:

972-202-1133

Plan to attend our next chapter event.

We hope to see you there!

## December 10th Guest Speaker Duane Blair

### *James Stephen Bailey Collection of Texana*

Duane Blair has been a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas since 1991. He has served as the Fort Worth SRT chapter as Program Chairman, Vice-President, and President. He now serves as our North Central District Representative and was named the District Representative of the Year 2009.

His sixth generation grandmother was Martha Bonham, the cousin of James Butler Bonham of Alamo fame.



### James Stephen Bailey Collection- Republic of Texas Documents

James was a retired Lt. Col. of the US Marine Corps. His passion in life was to find and purchase as many authentic Republic of Texas Documents as he could find and afford. His knowledge of the Republic and these documents was incredible. Unfortunately, he died after suffering a stroke in his fifties. The Bullock Museum in Austin stated that his collection is the best private collection that they have seen. (Some of his documents have been shown at the Bullock Museum). The most valuable document he has is the Mexican Law of 1830 which really caused the Revolution. His copy is the only privately owned document. There are only two other known copies of this document, one in the Texas Archives and one at Yale University.

The 4th quarterly meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter # 8 for 2009 is **Thursday, 10 December 2009**, at Texas Land & Cattle, Richardson. 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](mailto:JimNyfeler@verizon.net) or phone at 972 202-1133**. All RSVP's are required by **7 December**.



Mic Barnette

## **CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Fellow SRT Compatriots:

It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve you this year as President of the Thomas Jefferson Rusk Chapter, Sons of the Republic of Texas. This is my final time to address you as your president, and I want to thank you all for your continued support of the Chapter.

Continued on page 2

## *Chapter President's Message — continued*

Our speaker in September was Lloyd Bockstruck, a nationally renowned historian and genealogist. Lloyd spoke on "The Aztec Club of 1847", an organization formed by officers of Zachary Taylor's forces that ventured into Mexico in 1847. Although technically after the statehood of Texas, the Mexican War sealed the status of Texas and contributed to the United States boundaries as we know them today.

Our own District Representative, Duane Blair is the featured speaker at our December meeting.

**Remember**, we will meet at Texas Land & Cattle in Richardson (see Map on Page 3). Duane has prepared an interesting talk on Texas history and memorabilia. So, please join us for an interesting evening!

As a result of feedback your officers have received from a variety of members, we have looked for a meeting location more convenient to members. 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 on US 75 Central Expressway at the corner of Spring Valley. Our first meeting at this fine facility will be in December.

Our national SRT recently sent out renewal notices for 2010 dues. 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](mailto: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 members, Louis Elwood Keizer, Jr. and James Ernest Powdrill, Jr.

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](mailto:BankerD@aol.com).

## SEPTEMBER MEETING REVIEW

The quarterly meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter #8, Sons of the Republic of Texas was held September 10.

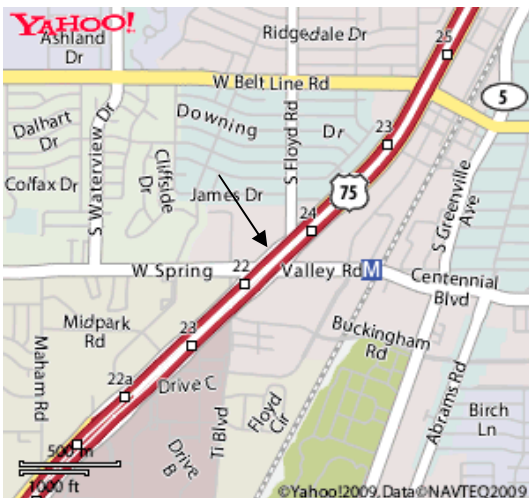
Our speaker for the evening was Lloyd Bockstruck, a nationally renowned historian and genealogist. Lloyd spoke on "The Aztec Club of 1847", an organization formed by officers of Zachary Taylor's forces that ventured into Mexico in 1847. Although technically after the statehood of Texas, the Mexican War sealed the status of Texas and contributed to the United States boundaries as we know them today.

The Aztec Club of 1847 was founded in Mexico City at the time the American Army occupied that capital during the Mexican War. Its original members numbered 160, many sons or grandsons of original members of the Society of the Cincinnati, a fraternal order founded by George Washington and senior officers at the conclusion of the American Revolution. As the Mexican War came to a conclusion, these young officers formed a military society as their forefathers had done.

The Aztec Club of 1847 continues today, and its membership is open to descendants of those 160 officers. The Aztec Club medal is one of only a few non government awarded medals allowed to be worn on an active duty uniform.



### MAP TO DECEMBER MEETING LOCATION



*Map to Texas Land & Cattle  
812 S. Central Expressway  
(N.W. Corner of Central Expwy and Spring Valley)  
Richardson, TX  
Meeting location for December 10*

## *Ancestral Records of Our Own Members*

### **Mabel Gilbert 1797-1870**

### **Ancestor of Sam Holman**

Mabel Gilbert, pioneer North Texas settler, farmer and businessman, was born 1797 in Dickson County, Tennessee. He was known as Captain Gilbert from his years as a Mississippi River steamboat captain. In the spring of 1837 he gave up a comfortable life in Tennessee with land and slaves inherited from his parents and moved with his wife to Fannin County, Texas. Gilbert's first home in Texas was located three miles south of the site of present-day Bonham.

Events in 1840 persuaded Gilbert to move his family to a remote and unsettled portion of Texas. Late that year he and about forty men accompanied Gen. Jonathan Bird on an expedition to construct a fort and settlement on the West Fork of the Trinity River, in what is now Tarrant County. The expedition managed to raise a log stockade, a blockhouse fort (Bird's Fort) and a few houses, collectively known as Birdville. Gilbert retained his property in Fannin County during the fall of 1841. He and his family remained in Birdville for six months before a legal dispute arose of the right of the community to exist on land granted to the Peters Colony. During the spring of 1842 Gilbert took his family by boat down the Trinity River to John Neely Bryan's newly established settlement. The Gilbert family became one of the earliest to settle in the community that was to become Dallas, and Charity Gilbert was the first Anglo-American woman to live there. Bryan constructed a log cabin for them at a site that became the foot of Main Street in Dallas, where they lived until 1844. Many historians credit Charity Gilbert for naming Dallas for their close friend, Commodore Alexander James Dallas.

For the last three years of his life Gilbert lived in Wichita County, where he owned 3,887 acres, some of which, after his death, became part of the Burkburnett oilfield. He died of pneumonia at the farm on March 1, 1870.

### **The Texas State Historical Association**

### **One Hundred and Fourteenth Annual Meeting**

### **March 4-6, 2010**

### **Dallas, Texas**



Make plans now to attend the Texas State Historical Association's 2010 Annual Meeting. The 114th annual meeting will be held March 4-6, 2010 at the [Marriott Quorum Hotel](#) in Dallas, Texas located at 14901 Dallas Parkway, just south of Beltline Rd. at Dallas North Tollway. [Directions and a map](#) are available.

Programs will be mailed to members in January 2010 with session details. The TSHA Program Committee, under the leadership of Chair Ken Hafertepe, has constructed an excellent meeting program with an incredible group of sessions on all aspects of Texas History.

Joint sessions with the [Texas Oral History Association](#), the [Texas Folklore Society](#), the [Society of Southwest Archivists](#), the [Texas Catholic History Society](#), the [Texas Baptist Historical Society](#), and the [Texas Supreme Court Historical Society](#) are planned. Also scheduled are the *Handbook of Texas* workshop, the *Quarterly* and publications workshops, and the busi-

ness meeting.

## ***NEW THOMAS J. RUSK CHAPTER MEMBERS***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Ancestor</b>
Louis Elwood Keizer, Jr.	Dallas, TX	William Keizer
James Ernest Powdrill, Jr.	Weston, TX	Thomas Jefferson Rusk

## ***MEMORIAL TO FALLEN MEMBERS***

James Scott Buchanan	Sherman, TX
John William Stell	Molalla, OR

## ***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**

## Events in Texas History October through December

**November 1528** -- [Cabeza de Vaca](#) shipwrecked on what is believed today to be Galveston Island. After trading in the region for some six years, he later explored the Texas interior on his way to Mexico.

**3 January 1823** -- [Stephen F. Austin](#) received a grant from the Mexican government and began colonization in the region of the Brazos River.

**2 October 1835** -- Texans 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 Texans stormed the presidio at Goliad and a small detachment of Mexican defenders.

**28 October 1835** -- [Jim Bowie](#), [James Fannin](#) and 90 Texans defeated 450 Mexicans at the Battle of Concepcion, near San Antonio.

**3 November 1835** -- The Consultation met to consider options for more autonomous rule for Texas. A document known as the [Organic Law](#) outlined the organization and functions of a new Provisional Government.

**8 November 1835** -- The [Grass Fight](#) near San Antonio was won by the Texans under [Jim Bowie](#) and [Ed Burleson](#). Instead of silver, however, the Texans gained a worthless bounty of grass.

**11 December 1835** -- Mexicans under Gen. Cos surrendered San Antonio to the Texans following the [Siege of Bexar](#). [Ben Milam](#) was killed during the extended siege.

**November 1839** -- The Texas Congress first met in Austin, the frontier site selected for the capital of the Republic.

**Fall 1842** -- Sam Houston authorized Alexander Somervell to lead a retaliatory raid into Mexico. The resulting [Somervell Expedition](#) dissolved, however, after briefly taking the border towns of Laredo and Guerro.

**20 December 1842** -- Some 300 members of the Somervell force set out to continue raids into Mexico. Ten days and 20 miles later, the ill-fated [Mier Expedition](#) surrendered at the Mexican town of Mier.

**29 December 1842** -- Under orders of Sam Houston, officials arrived in Austin to remove the records of the Republic of Texas to the city of Houston, touching off the bloodless [Archives War](#).

**29 December 1845** -- U. S. President [James Polk](#) followed through on a campaign platform promising to annex Texas, and signed legislation making Texas the 28th state of the United States.

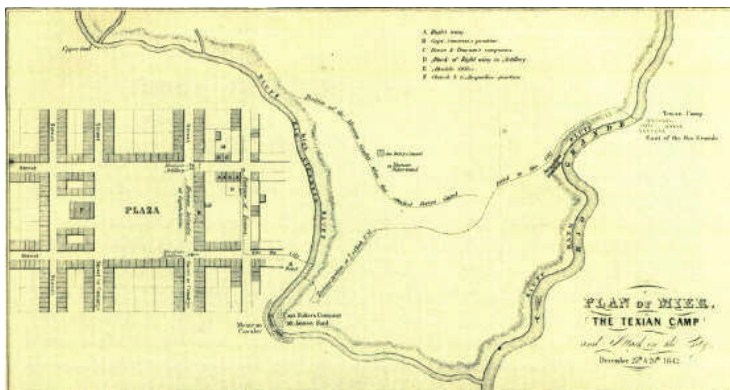
**25 November 1850** -- During its early years of statehood, Texas claimed territory about fifty percent larger than its present boundary, including parts of the present states of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming (see map). In a plan to settle boundary disputes and pay her public debt, Texas relinquished about one-third of her territory in the [Compromise of 1850](#), in exchange for \$10,000,000 from the United States.



Bowie



Fannin



Map of Ciudad Mier



## *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](mailto:JimNyfeler@verizon.net)***

### ***NOTICES FROM THE TEXIAN***

October 2009 Issue of The Texian is now available at:

[http://www.srttexas.org/Texian/2009/Texian-10\\_09.pdf](http://www.srttexas.org/Texian/2009/Texian-10_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](http://www.srttexas.org)

#### **December 4-5 Executive Meeting**

***Hampton Inn,***

***7006 N. Navarro Street, Victoria, TX, 77904:***

***(361) 573-9911***

Map: [www.hampton.com](http://www.hampton.com)

## *Announcements– continued*

### *SRT Calendar of Events*

#### *2009 Executive Board Meeting*

*December 4-5*

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

#### *2009 SRT Events*

*November 21*

*Tomball Parade*

#### *2010 Annual Meeting*

*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*

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

*Thursday, 11 March 2010– Steve Landregan, Archivist, Catholic Diocese of Dallas,  
**Catholic Texans***

*Thursday, 10 June 2010– Mic Barnette- **Free People of Color of Texas Prior to the Civil War***

*Thursday, 9 September 2010– Dick Brown, **The Texas Navy***

***Remember:** We meet at Texas Land & Cattle, Richardson- See Page 3 for Map*