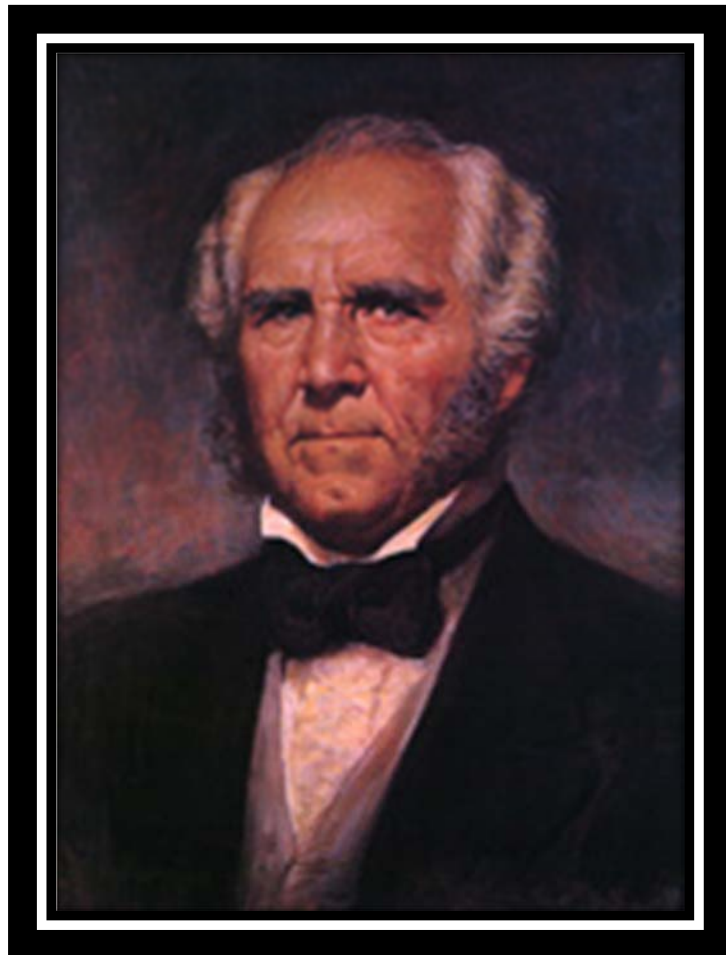




New Member Welcome Packet

Sam Houston Chapter #38



Katy, Texas



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APPENDICES

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1.0 Chapter President's Welcome Message

Welcome to The Sons of the Republic of Texas, more especially, the Sam Houston Chapter #38. The successful petition of your application for membership recognizes your ancestor's service rendered to the Republic of Texas. Yours is a splendid heritage and you have every right to be proud of it. It is our joint responsibility as members to strive to instill in the hearts and minds of people everywhere a full appreciation of the noble ideals and the personal sacrifices of those courageous ancestors of ours who helped carve this wonderful land out of the wilderness.

Our mission, and now your mission, is to:

1. Encourage research and publication of historical records and documents prior to and during the Republic of Texas.
2. Foster the preservation of historic sites, documents, and artifacts, prior to February 19, 1846.
3. Participate in community activities, which remind the public of its Republic of Texas heritage.
4. Organize, promote, publicize and commemorate the observance of the following historical dates of the Republic of Texas:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Texas Independence Day | March 2 |
| • Fall of the Alamo | March 6 |
| • Goliad Massacre | March 27 (Palm Sunday - 1836) |
| • San Jacinto Day | April 21 |
| • Texas Ranger Day | August 5 |
| • Texian Navy Day | 3rd Saturday in September |
| • Battle of Gonzales | October 2 |
| • Stephen F. Austin's Birthday | November 3 |

The Sam Houston Chapter may establish its own goals to better serve its members and local community; therefore, you will want to become familiar with the goals presently set for the Chapter. Specific Chapter-level goals will vary from year-to-year and by President-to-President, as well as being dependent upon the local environment. As such, you have a role in helping the Chapter achieve its goals, which will enable the Chapter to continue serving a positive and lasting role in the Katy area.

The Chapter has provided you with this New Member Welcome Packet to assist you in navigating this new world of opportunities with respect to Texas History, as opportunities abound. As a member of the Sam Houston Chapter, we realize and acknowledge that each of us have busy lives and varying priorities; therefore, we encourage every member to participate to the extent of your capability and availability but participate. Participation can mean different things to different people, so we offer some ideas for your consideration below:

1. Attend regularly scheduled Chapter meetings
2. Participate in, provide general support for, or provide setup/tear down support to external Chapter activities and events
3. Help other eligible family members join The Sons of the Republic of Texas
4. Volunteer to be a Chapter Officer
5. Identify potential guest speakers for Chapter meetings
6. Volunteer to help other Chapter Officers with recurring administrative duties (i.e., meeting minutes)

7. Write an article for inclusion in the Chapter's newsletter, *The Honor Ring*, or for possible inclusion in The Sons of the Republic of Texas' newsletter, *The Texian*
8. Offer to assist older members get to and from meetings, activities, or events
9. Attend the annual and/or quarterly meetings of The Sons of the Republic of Texas
10. Take photos at meetings, activities, and events
11. Paying your dues on time
12. Promote both the Chapter's website and Facebook page to the public
13. Volunteer to speak about Texas History at a local school
14. Make a monetary donation to the Chapter or The Sons of the Republic of Texas
15. Make phone calls or send emails to existing members to check in on them
16. Make phone calls or send emails to prospective members encouraging them to join
17. Assist prospective members with filling out their applications for membership

As you can see above, there are a great many ways in which an individual can participate, and we hope that you will. The Sam Houston Chapter was formed in 1987 in Katy, Texas and has been an active Chapter ever since. We actively participate in local activities, support Katy Independent School District sponsored events, and support the San Felipe de Austin Museum in San Felipe, Texas. In addition, we cooperate with other area Chapters of The Sons of the Republic of Texas by participating in their activities or events, as available. Unless you are a Life Member, your annual dues are \$40.00. A portion of those monies come back to the Chapter, but only if they are paid prior to January 1. This is very important to our Chapter as this funding helps us to do the things we do; therefore, I encourage you to pay your dues as soon as you receive your annual dues notice.

Within this Welcome New Member Packet, you will find a treasure trove of information about The Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Sam Houston Chapter, and other like-minded organizations that all strive to promote Texas History. In conclusion, I extend my cordial welcome to another compatriot and encourage you to join this organization in fellowship and service to Texas.



J. Bart Dawson

President

Sam Houston Chapter #38

2.0 Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings typically begin at 11:30 am and last until 2:00 pm on a Saturday. These meetings are when the Chapter conducts its formal business, which are annotated in the Meeting Minutes. Many times, a guest speaker was previously selected and will attend the meeting and present to the attending members a topic on Texas History or a related topic. Typically, our Chapter meetings occur on the third Saturday of the month; however, due to holidays and specific Texas History events, this schedule may be adjusted accordingly. A payment of \$20.00 is expected from attending individuals to cover their meal as the Chapter makes all payments to the restaurant. Dress attire for our meetings is casual.

2.1 Chapter Meeting Agenda

A typical agenda for each Chapter meeting is shown below.

1. The meeting is called to order
 - a. The Chapter President or First Vice President calls the meeting into order
2. Invocation (Chapter Chaplain)
3. United States Pledge of Allegiance
4. Texas Pledge of Allegiance
5. Welcome to New Members
6. Introduction of Visitors and Guests
7. Attending Membership's Ancestor Roll Call (*limit of 5 minutes*)
 - a. Each attending member provides a brief overview of/story about their qualifying ancestor
8. Chapter Business
 - a. Reading of the preceding Meeting's Minutes
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Other Officer/Committee Reports or Announcements
 - d. Old Business
 - e. New Business
9. Lunch
10. Guest Speaker (*as available*)
 - a. The guest speaker presents a topic to the attending membership
11. Membership Fellowship Time
12. Benediction (Chapter Chaplain)
13. Meeting is Adjourned

2.2 Chapter Meeting Location

The Sam Houston Chapter meets at Texas Tradition restaurant in old town Katy located at 5321 Highway Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494. The phone number for Texas Tradition is (281) 391-6113. Texas Tradition is a small, family-owned and operated restaurant and has been in Katy since 2002. The restaurant serves traditional comfort food, but is best known for their award-winning chicken fried steak. After you walk in the front door, look to your left as there is a side meeting room on the east side of the restaurant and that is where we conduct our meetings.



Photo 1. The entrance to Texas Tradition restaurant at 5321 Highway Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494.



Photo 2. Sam Houston Chapter members gathered in front of Texas Tradition for a group picture during a Chapter meeting in 2018.

3.0 Chapter Activities

3.1 Schedule

Chapter members are presented with several opportunities to participate in meetings, events, and activities both at the Chapter level and National level. Key events or activities either sponsored by the Sam Houston Chapter or where the Chapter typically has a supporting or participating role includes:

Table 3-1. Chapter Events, Activities, and Meetings	
Event/Activity/Meeting	Month
Chapter Meeting	January
Lamar Day (Ft. Bend County)	January
Chapter Meeting	February
Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade (parade float)	February
Anson Jones Ceremony	February
Mirabeau B. Lamar Flag Ceremony	March
Texas Independence Day	March
Dawn at The Alamo	March
Annual Meeting – National SRT	March
Katy ISD Folklife Festival	April
San Jacinto Day	April
Chapter's Annual Volunteer Day at the San Felipe de Austin Museum and Chapter Meeting	May
Quarterly Meeting – National SRT	May
Chapter Meeting	June
Chapter Meeting	July
Texian Navy Day	September
Texas Heroes Day	September
City of Katy Rice Festival	October
Quarterly Meeting – National SRT	October
<i>Father of Texas Celebration</i> at San Felipe de Austin	November
Chapter Meeting	November
Quarterly Meeting - National	December
Presidio La Bahia Award Ceremony	December
Holiday Gathering Dinner	December

3.2 Participation in Activities

Whereas the listing of events, meetings, and activities in Table 3-1 is not all inclusive for The Sons of the Republic of Texas, it is representative for the Sam Houston Chapter. The indicated month in Table 3-1 wherein an event may occur is subject to change. Additionally, one-off activities, such as gravestone marker refurbishments or Texas Historical Marker dedications may also involve the Chapter. Our Chapter maintains a *Community Involvement Plan* that assists us in determining the best use of our time and resources to most effectively benefit the membership and local Katy community. Other Chapters or “sister” organizations participate in other events where the distance traveled, and/or the impact does not benefit our Chapter or the local Katy area; however, your participation in such events should not be limited simply because our Chapter is not participating. We encourage you to participate in any Texas History and/or The Sons of the Republic of Texas sponsored or supported event that you choose.

4.0 Communications and Social Media Outlets

The Sam Houston Chapter maintains an array of methods by which it communicates with its members, as does the National organization. We encourage you to subscribe, like, or follow these outlets as they have the most current information available.

4.1 Chapter Newsletter

The Sam Houston Chapter issues a quarterly newsletter called *The Honor Ring*. Within this newsletter, you will find a summary of events and activities from the just finished quarter, as well as a listing of upcoming events, and other relevant information including interesting Texas History factoids. The newsletter is available via our Chapter's website. In addition, The Sons of the Republic of Texas National office also issues a newsletter each quarter, *The Texian*, and this newsletter is available via the National organization's website as well as our Chapter website.

4.2 Chapter Website

The Sam Houston Chapter maintains a website located at <http://www.srt-samhouston.com> where a calendar, announcements, the latest meeting minutes, Chapter officers, newsletters, and other relevant information is posted at. We encourage you to check this website often as updates and other announcements are readily available. The Chapter's officers are listed by name/title and pictured.

4.3 National Organization's Website

The Sons of the Republic of Texas National organization maintains a website at <http://www.srttexas.org> where you may electronically pay your annual dues, purchase items, find historical information about the organization, the membership application and guides, as well as a host of other information pertaining to the organization and Texas History.

4.4 Chapter Facebook Page

The Sam Houston Chapter maintains a Facebook page, @SamHoustonChapter, where we post pictures, updates, links, and members can comment or post their own items or experiences. This social media outlet affords an excellent opportunity for the public to view what we are doing and learn more about our organization. We encourage members to like or follow this page to receive immediate updates about the Chapter. Our social media policy prohibits inappropriate postings, pictures, or language, and the use of any of these may result in being removed or banned from the page.

4.5 Email Communications

The use of email communications to the Chapter's membership is the primary method used to communicate information; therefore, it is imperative that you ensure the Chapter has your current contact information. Contact the Chapter President or any other Officer, as well as the national organization's Office Manager, to update your contact information accordingly.

5.0 Types of Memberships and Honors

A male, who is a direct lineal descendant of a resident of the Republic of Texas prior to February 19, 1846, is eligible for membership upon submission of the appropriate SRT membership application, payment of the required fee and approval of the Historian General, Secretary General and President General. All initial and/or processing fees are non-refundable. Several types of memberships are available to qualifying individuals within The Sons of the Republic of Texas. In addition, The Sons of the Republic of Texas may decide to bestow specific honors upon qualifying individuals; however, these honors are subject to Executive Committee votes. **We strongly encourage members to pursue relevant memberships for their sons, grandsons, etc. as this keeps your personal family lineage moving forward and exposes them to the Chapter/organization as a possible future full member.** A brief description of each type of membership, as well as honor, is provided below.

5.1 Junior Member

Junior members who are under the age of 18 pay no annual dues and may not vote or hold office. At age 18, they are automatically upgraded to regular membership. Applicants for junior membership pay a, one-time, non-refundable processing fee of \$30.

5.2 Regular Member

Dues for regular members are \$40 a year. Applicants for regular membership pay a non-refundable processing fee of \$50. Their dues are waived for the current year.

5.2.1 Dual Chapter Affiliation

A member may hold multiple Chapter memberships but will have only one “primary” or “home” Chapter. The request to be made a dual Chapter member will be made to the SRT’s Office Manager and will require the payment of \$6.00 for each additional Chapter you are requested to be affiliated with. A dual Chapter member cannot vote or hold elective office, except in his “primary” or “home” Chapter; however, a dual Chapter member may serve on a committee within the affiliated Chapter.

5.3 Life Member

Life membership, which exempts members from payment of annual dues, is open to a member of any age for a fee based on their age. Junior members shall become Life Members upon payment of \$1,000.00. Regular members between the ages of 18 and 40 years shall become Life Members upon payment of \$750.00. Regular members over the age of 40 years shall become Life Members upon payment of \$600.00. New Applicants for life membership pay this fee in addition to a processing fee of \$50.

5.4 Senior Member

A Regular Member, who has reached the age of seventy (70) years, who is current with his dues, and has been a Member for ten (10) years, may apply in writing to the Office Manager for Senior membership. The Executive Committee, at their sole discretion is hereby authorized and empowered to grant the Senior membership. Senior Members are not required to pay annual dues.

5.5 Honorary Member

Honorary membership, at the National level, is granted to a maximum of three people a year by vote of the general membership. Honorary members, who cannot be eligible by reason of lineal descent, are chosen for having rendered outstanding service to Texas by furthering the aims and goals of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

Each Chapter may also elect honorary members at their level; however, this designation does not grant the individual honorary membership status at the National Level. Honorary members cannot hold elected office in a Chapter.

5.6 Posthumous Member

Application for posthumous membership may be made on behalf of any deceased person who would otherwise be eligible for membership, so long as his death occurred after the founding of the SRT (March 30,1922). The \$100 fee includes processing and a bronze grave marker.

5.7 Knight of the Order of San Jacinto

The highest honor bestowed by The Sons of the Republic of Texas is election of a member to knighthood in the Order of San Jacinto. This elite honorary organization was established in 1843 by General Sam Houston, leader of the victorious Texans at the Battle of San Jacinto. The honor is accorded to those who have rendered outstanding service to Texas, in keeping with the mission, purpose and goals of The Sons of the Republic of Texas. Only three members may be elected to the order in any one year.

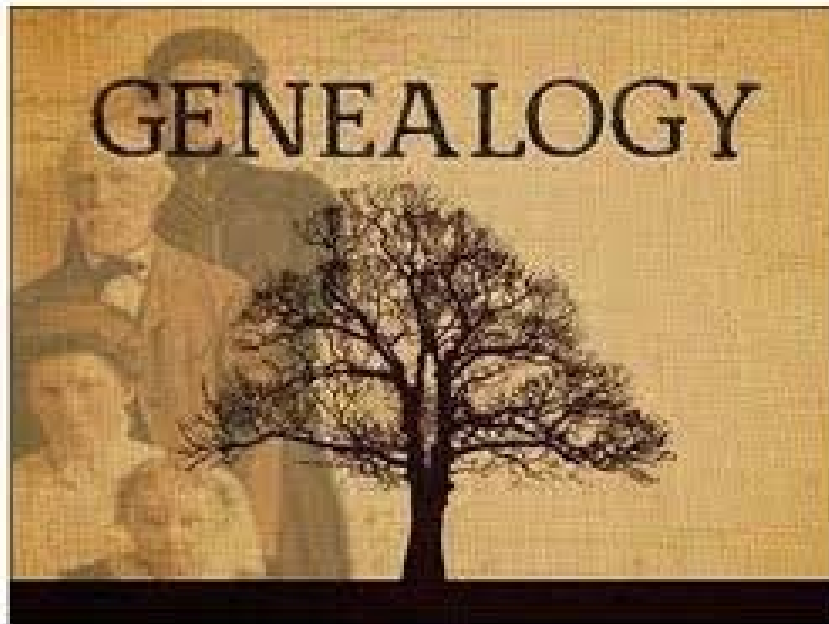
To be eligible for Knighthood in the Order of San Jacinto, a person must be an active member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas, either by lineal descent or as an honorary member. In addition, he must have performed outstanding service to the State of Texas, made a sacrifice beyond the call of duty on her behalf, or by his talents and efforts, contributed to the proud heritage of Texas.

6.0 Honoring Your Ancestors, Remembering Your Past

As a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas, you got here not on your own behalf, but rather the behalf of your qualifying ancestor. Knowing, documenting, and sharing your proud heritage and genealogy with others is of critical importance. By sharing this information, you make it available to others who may also have ties to that ancestor and were unaware of it, you make it available for your descendants and family members, and you make it available for Texas. Much of the suggested Biography information is readily available within your submitted application.

6.1 Featured Ancestor Description

As such, we encourage and request each member to complete the *Featured Ancestor Biography* in **Appendix A**. You may provide as many or as few details as you choose, but this is intended to allow the Chapter to highlight a member's qualifying ancestor each quarter on our website. Complete and return the Ancestor Biography to the Chapter President as soon as possible.



6.2 Genealogy Resources

While not all-inclusive, the below list is intended to provide you with a basis for conducting your genealogical research.

- County Clerk Office in a respective County Courthouse
- [East Texas Research Center](#) – Stephen F. Austin State University
- The Texas General Land Office – [Land Grant Database](#)
- Online Genealogy platforms (e.g., Geni, Family Search, Ancestry.com, etc.)
- [Texas Archival Resources Online \(TARO\) database](#)
- [Texas Family History Centers](#) & Latter-Day Saints Family History Centers
- [Online Republic of Texas Military Records](#)
- [The Sons of the Republic of Texas Database for Citizens of the Republic](#)

7.0 Organizational Structure for The Sons of the Republic of Texas

The Sons of the Republic of Texas is organized as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization meaning Section 501(c)(3) is the portion of the US Internal Revenue Code that allows for federal tax exemption of nonprofit organizations, specifically those that are considered public charities, private foundations or private operating foundations. The Sons of the Republic of Texas' operating structure is organized in the following manner:

8.1 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the ruling body of The Sons of the Republic of Texas and votes on all proposals and motions to conduct the business of the organization. Individuals serve a two-year term on the Executive Committee and it is comprised of the following individuals:

- President General
- First Vice President General
- Second Vice President General
- Secretary General
- Treasurer General
- Historian General
- Chaplain General
- Executive Committeeman 1
- Executive Committeeman 2

8.1 District Representative

Individual Districts were established to allow for "area" governance and support and comprises multiple Chapters throughout Texas and the United States. A District Representative is appointed by the Executive Committee. The Sam Houston Chapter resides within the San Jacinto District. Other Districts include the following:

- Post Oak District
- North Central District
- Heart of Texas District
- Frontier District
- Lone Star District
- Brazos Valley District
- Gulf Coast District
- San Jacinto District

8.1 Chapter

A total of 59 individual Chapters exists within The Sons of the Republic of Texas organization; however, several of these Chapters are inactive. The Sam Houston Chapter is designated as Chapter number 38. Each Chapter is governed by a Chapter President who is elected to office by the Chapter membership for a two-year term.

8.1 Knight Commander

The Knights of the Order of San Jacinto are led by a duly elected Knight Commander. This individual serves a two-year term and is responsible for coordinating and executing all activities involving the Knights. The Knight Commander must be a Knight of the Order of San Jacinto.

8.1 Chapter President

The President typically will serve an elected term of two years and may have duly elected Officers to support the Chapter. The President has the authority to call meetings, appoint committees, either standing or special, and conduct Chapter business according to parliamentary rules. An annual report must be compiled and submitted to the Office Manager prior to January 31st of the following year.

Officers, which may be duly elected and installed by the President include, but are not limited to the following:

- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Historian
- Chaplain

8.0 Sam Houston Chapter Officers

As previously noted in Section 1.0, the Sam Houston Chapter was formed in 1987 as an off-shoot of the San Jacinto Chapter #1 to better serve the west side of Houston and the overall Katy area. Katy looked a lot different in 1987 than it does now! As of 2021, the Chapter has had seventeen (17) Chapter Presidents and a supporting officer makeup that has varied over the years. Currently, the officer breakdown for the Chapter is shown below as is a brief biography of the individual officers.

8.1 J. Bart Dawson, Chapter President



My wife, two daughters, and I relocated from San Antonio to Katy in 2012, but I grew up in Henderson in East Texas. In 2015, I joined The Sons of the Republic of Texas and became the Vice President of this Chapter in 2017. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1995 and work for Shell Chemical LP. My qualifying ancestor was Henderson Birdwell who came from TN to TX via the Trammel Trace in 1840, received a 3rd Class Republic of Texas land grant, and settled in Rusk County. From July to August 1841, Henderson Birdwell served as a Private in Captain Burton's Mounted Rifleman Company under command of General James Smith. Texas History is a passion of mine!

8.2 Jim Muller, First Vice President



Native Houstonian, born in St. Joseph hospital. Married in 1982 and moved to Katy in 1984. Joined the volunteer fire department so soon as I arrived in Katy. Served as Fire Captain, Rescue Instructor, EMT and Dive Recovery Team Leader. Retired after 15 years of service with the City of Katy. Senior Telecommunications Architect for Granite Telecommunications with over 35 years of experience in the industry. My qualifying ancestor was Joel Duncan Rains who came from TN to TX in 1834, fought at the Siege of Bexar, Goliad under Ward and the Kickapoo Indian Wars as a Texas Ranger. He received 320 acres in Bastrop County for Bexar and 620 acres in Shelby County for Goliad.

8.3 Rick Giuffré, Second Vice President



A native of Houston, I received my BA in 1977 and Master's in Accounting in 1978, both from Rice University. My professional career spanned accounting, finance, and real estate. My son, Nicholas, 23, and daughter, Camille, 21, are both proud Texans. Nicholas Ory is my qualifying ancestor. Born 1705 in the Duchy of Lorraine in the Holy Roman Empire, he migrated to Pennsylvania, then to Maryland. In 1769, with his family and others, he set sail for Louisiana, but arrived instead in Spanish Texas at the Presidio La Bahia. I have been an SRT Life Member since 1995.

8.3 Phil Whitley, Treasurer



I was in the USAF from 1966-1970 after which I obtained my AA at South Texas junior college. I worked for a local law firm for 13 years and the railroad industry for the next 21 years. I retired from AMTRAK in 2010. I joined the SRT in 1999 and became the Treasurer for the Sam Houston Chapter in 2012. My qualifying ancestor was William M. Whitley who arrived in Texas in 1835 from Illinois and settled in what became Walker County. William's father received a land grant from Mr. Verlien in Nacogdoches.

8.3 Bobby R. Smith, Chaplain



After joining The Sons of the Republic of Texas in 1992, I served as President of this Chapter twice. I am a Texas Aggie, Class of 1958, and a retired mechanical engineer. Working with a previous Chapter President, I helped create and sustain the Chapter's annual *USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year Award*. My qualifying ancestor, Andrew Jackson Smith, immigrated to Texas from North Carolina in 1836. He brought his wife and two young children at that time. Shortly after reaching Texas, he passed away.

8.4 Dennis Giuffré, Historian



I became a member of the Sam Houston Chapter in 1993, and have served as an officer, including two terms as chapter president. I also serve on the Lamar Tomb Flag Placement program, the Education Committee, and the Presidio la Bahia Awards Committee. I was born in Houston and raised in West University Place. I hold a BSChE degree from The University of Texas, a MS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Colorado, and a MS degree in Economics from the Arizona State University. I have worked in the energy and chemical processing industries, and as a consulting engineer and economist. My wife, Mary, and I have six children; and our three sons are life members of the SRT.

8.5 Ben F. Warren IV, Immediate Past President



I currently live in San Antonio, TX with my wife, Candace (Candy). I was raised in Pasadena, TX. My qualifying ancestor was James Washington Winters who came to Texas in 1834 and fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. My father was involved in the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) for many years and was Knighted as a member of the Knights of the Order of San Jacinto. I joined the SRT in 2013 and hope to keep the history of the Republic of Texas alive!

9.0 Miscellaneous

Other organization and groups exist to promote Texas History and The Sons of the Republic of Texas frequently interacts and/or directly engages with these organizations; however, these groups are nonaffiliated and separate entities from The Sons of the Republic of Texas. The below listing is not all inclusive.

- The Daughter of the Republic of Texas
<http://www.drinfo.org/>
- Texas Navy Association
<https://texasnavy.org/>
- Alamo Defenders' Descendants Association
<http://alamodescendants.org/>
- San Jacinto Descendants
<http://www.sanjacintodescendants.org/>
- The Texas Ranger Association Foundation
<https://www.thetexasrangers.org/>
- The Texas Army
<http://www.texasarmy.org/army>

9.1 Chapter-level Awards

The Sam Houston Chapter may issue several different awards, certificates, and medals to members, qualifying individuals, and individuals external to the organization. Examples include:

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Annual *Bobby R. Smith USS San Jacinto* Enlisted Sailor of the Year Award
- Eagle Scout Certificate
- Veteran's Medal
- Chapter President's Outstanding Service Award

Take note of the above *USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year Award* as the Sam Houston Chapter has given an award to a deserving enlisted sailor onboard the *USS San Jacinto* CG-56 since the late 1980s. This award includes a certificate as well as a monetary award. In 2019, this award was renamed the Bobby R. Smith USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year Award to honor our past-President Bobby R. Smith.

9.2 National-level Awards

The Sons of the Republic of Texas gives several annual awards at the National level ranging from book awards to teaching awards. Most notable of these awards is the Summerfield G. Roberts Award to an author of a creative writing piece on the Republic of Texas as well as the annual High School Essay Contest open to all high school seniors. A monetary award is included with each award. A list of the National-level awards includes:

- Summerfield G. Roberts Award
- Texas History Teacher of the Year Award
- Three-legged Willie Award
- Presidio La Bahia Award
- High School Essay Contest

9.3 Document Control

This New Member Welcome Packet will be reviewed and updated every two years when new Chapter Officers are elected and installed; however, an internal review or critical updates may be accomplished

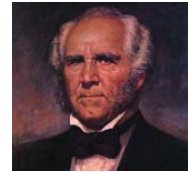
on an earlier basis, as necessary and with the approval of the Chapter President. As a new document is published, the version number will be increased by one.

Appendix A
Featured Ancestor Biography



Featured Ancestor

Sam Houston Chapter
Katy, Texas



Ancestor's Name:	
Descendant's Name: <i>(Chapter member)</i>	
Ancestor's Arrival in Texas <i>(Year)</i>:	
Ancestor Lived <i>here</i> in Texas:	
Overview of the Ancestor	