



The Daughters of the Republic of Texas

CHAPTER - , TEXAS

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Contact:

DRT Celebrates 121 Years of Preserving Texas History

November 6 will mark the founding of the oldest women's patriotic organization in Texas, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). On November 6, 1891, a group of sixteen women formalized a vision to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.

During their 121-year history, the Daughters have inspired Texas patriotism, encouraged and participated in the preservation of Texas history, promoted statewide celebrations of important dates in Texas history, and placed memorial markers at historic sites. Today, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas organization includes more than 7,000 members in 107 chapters whose efforts include a variety of education, preservation, and research projects.

The DRT promotes the teaching of Texas history and awards scholarships. The organization honors both students and teachers through Art Contests, Essay Contests, Children's Camps at the Museums, and K-12 Resources at the DRT Library. "Keeping Texas history alive for present and future Texas descendants is at the heart of what we do," says President General Karen Thompson.

Most notable among the preservation efforts of the DRT are The Alamo in San Antonio and the The French Legation in Austin. When the Alamo was destined for destruction in 1901, women of the organization raised awareness of the plight of the shrine, as well as the money to purchase the property. In 1905, the title was transferred to the State of Texas, and for 106 years, the DRT served as Custodians of the Alamo. Since 2011, the DRT has continued to manage and operate the Alamo under a contract with the General Land Office. Today, the Alamo receives more visitors than any other museum in Texas. The French Legation, the only foreign embassy ever built in America outside of Washington DC., was restored and opened as a museum by the DRT in 1956. The structure, which dates to 1840, is now used in sharing the rich cultural history of Texas with the public.

The Republic of Texas Museum in Austin houses and preserves a large collection of Republic era items. Many were donated to DRT starting in 1891, including a chair belonging to Mexican General Santa Anna, and Mrs. Albert Sidney Johnston's wildflower drawings from the 1850s.

Historical research into the earliest records of Texas is encouraged by the organization. The DRT Library was established to advance the understanding of the unique history of Texas and of those who experienced it. The Library is located in the Alamo Complex in San Antonio and houses a significant collection of books, manuscripts, archival collections dating from 1519, photography, fine art, periodicals, maps, and newspapers. The Library is open to all researchers.

(Space for chapters to insert a paragraph about their special projects.)

Founders Day is one of twelve Texas Honor Days designated by The Daughters of the Republic of Texas. For more information about the DRT, please visit the website drtinfo.org