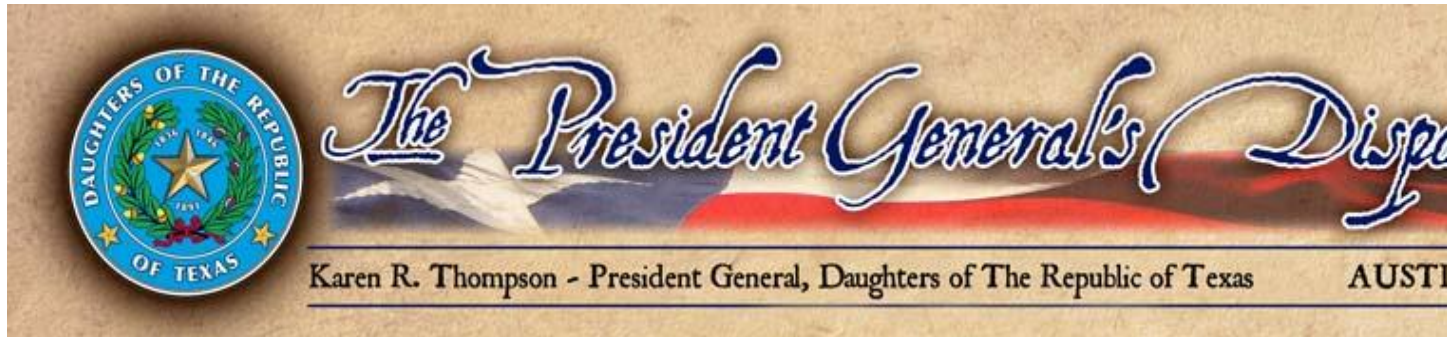


## President General's Dispatch – September 2011



### Vol. 1, No. 2 – September 2011

After Texas gained independence at the Battle of San Jacinto the next item was the establishment of a constitutional government. In France, James Pickney Henderson dealt with officials of King Louis Philippe and arranged a treaty by which France recognized the independence of Texas and admitted her commerce on a most favored nation basis. The treaty was signed on September 25, 1839, and Dubois de Saligny was appointed chargé d'affaires to the republic.

Dubois left Paris for New Orleans to arrange for the building of an embassy in the newly selected capital, Austin, which had dirt streets, loose livestock and log cabins. Dubois purchased milled loblolly pine in Bastrop and had it hauled to Austin to construct the first lumber building in town. That was the winter of 1840-41. This is the only foreign embassy built in the United States outside of Washington DC.

The French Legation was purchased by Dr. Joseph W. Robertson in 1848 and it would remain in the Robertson family for over a century until 1948 when it was sold to the State of Texas and put into the custody of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The building was added to the HABS, Historic American Building Survey in 1934. DRT completed total restoration and open the French Legation Museum on April 5, 1956.

DRT has maintained and operated the FLM for 55 years and now it is time for preservation and stabilization of the 171-year-old structure. One of Texas leading architectural firms, Volz & Associates did the master plan and will oversee the detail work, which will conclude five years of planning and fundraising on the part of the French Legation Committee. Work should start in November and be finished before spring weddings.

Mark September 14, 2011 on your calendar as the date of the "Political Ties Party and Auction" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the FLM, 802 San Marcos Street, Austin. For your \$25 ticket you will have an evening of fun and fundraising including a light supper, champagne, political paraphernalia auction and a chance to enter a raffle for a weeklong stay in Villefranche Sur Mer, France. Tickets on the website below.

The French Legation Museum is indeed a jewel in the crown of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. On the web at: [www.frenchlegationmuseum.org](http://www.frenchlegationmuseum.org). For information call the FLM at 512-472-8180.

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As the country pauses to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001, a Tenth Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony will take place at the Alamo under the sponsorship of the City of San Antonio, Chamber of Commerce and the U. S. Army North. The program will begin at 7:30 a.m., and although seating is reserved, the public and DRT are invited to attend as we honor those who lost their life in this national tragedy.

I will attend and as always be staying at the nearby Emily Morgan Hotel, which is a sponsor of the 175th Anniversary of the fall of the Alamo and Texas Independence. The Emily Morgan is the official hotel of the Alamo and when you mention you are a DRT member you get special half-price rates. Hotel manager Chris Johnson works hard to greet DRT members and make your stay special. Come to the Alamo, remember it is open, free admission, every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day and take advantage of the half-price rates for DRT.

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I selected Communication as my project and one of the first items under this endeavor was to simplify the DRT Members Only website. We removed personal information, established business email addresses (remember DRT Incorporated in a nonprofit business) and did away with the user name and password. It is easy to go to [www.drinfo.org/members](http://www.drinfo.org/members) and you will find the complete Bylaws & Manual of Procedure (MOP) all 250 pages, Daughter's Reflections, announcements, District Workshop information and registration forms, education up-dates, all the regular DRT & CRT forms, publications, chapter sales, much, much more. Our DRT public website remains [www.drinfo.org](http://www.drinfo.org).

You don't have to wait for workshops or convention to purchase chapter items. Click "Chapter" and that brings up "Chapter Sales" and get out your checkbook! For instance you will find the beautiful chapter pin of the Austin's Ranging Company DRT Chapter, with a pin that honors the men Stephen F. Austin referred to in 1823 as men "ranging" his colonies to protect the settlers, and in addition this pin honors all Texas Rangers who have served since 1823. Our DRT pins more often than not have several purposes and of course part of our mission is to protect the correct history of Texas!

Stephen F. Austin created his "ranging company" by naming three captains William H. Arrington, Isaac Burton, and John J. Tumlinson. DRT has members that are descendants of all three of those men who put their lives on the line for protection of the colonist families, who were especially venerable to Indian attack.

Robert M. Williamson was elected major under Captain Tumlinson's sixty mounted men who went to the edge of Austin's area east of the Colorado River and built a "block house fort." Williamson went on to fight in the Battle of San Jacinto, attorney elected Senator, serve on the Texas Supreme Court, and have Williamson County named in his honor. I live about three miles from the site of that early fort, which by the way was destroyed by Indians when those men left to join General Sam Houston at San Jacinto.

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Ladies, remember that our 2012 State Convention in Austin is Bylaws Year. We only make changes every two years and 2012 will be especially important because we will be entering into an agreement with the State of Texas, specifically the General Land Office (GLO) for the operation of the Alamo. To submit change request, the required form is available at [www.drinfo.org/members](http://www.drinfo.org/members).

But we have deadlines and the deadline for submitting bylaw amendments for adoption at the 2012 Convention is November 15, 2011. Those request must be received by the Bylaws Committee Chairman Doris Johnston and as she says "in my hands." Through her many years of DRT membership, Doris has served as Bylaw Committee Chairman twice before and we are lucky to have her serve again. Members can submit two changes, but chapters are not limited. Committees cannot submit any. E-mail Doris at: [bylawschair@drinfo.org](mailto:bylawschair@drinfo.org).

And speaking of the GLO/DRT contract, we are meeting weekly to hammer out the agreement. We have a lot of work to do in the next four months.

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The DRT "Vision for the 21 Century" committee wants everyone to know that we are down to the wire on donations to purchase the property next to the French Legation to build a Republic of Texas History Complex. This complex will of course include DRT headquarters, but it is much more. For details see [www.drinfo.org/members](http://www.drinfo.org/members). The Vision will soon have its own website.

This committee will be presenting a complete overview of the entire Vision project, as it stands, to the Board of Management on September 8th at DRT State Headquarters. If you have questions please e-mail Vision Chairman Nancy Shurtleff at: [nshurtleff@austin.rr.com](mailto:nshurtleff@austin.rr.com).

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In 2005 the Texas Legislature created the Texian Navy Day to be the third Saturday in September and DRT added it to our list of Honor Days. This gives us the opportunity to recognize the achievements of the Navy of the Republic of Texas. This year the Sons of the Republic of Texas will celebrate this renown holiday on September 17, 2011, 11 a.m. at the Battleship Texas, 3523 independence Parkway South, La Porte, TX.

DRT, Frances Cooke Van Zandt Chapter member Diane Dyess is a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Navy Association and her husband Jack is the Squadron Commander of the Chester Nimitz Squadron. You can e-mail Diane at: [dabransom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dabransom@sbcglobal.net) to learn more about the Texas Navy Association. For an interesting book on the Texian Navy read Lone Star Navy by Jonathan W. Jordan. This year's Texian Navy Day event will honor Commodore Edwin Ward Moore (1810-1865) who attended the Alexandria Academy 1825, U.S. Navy midshipman 1835, Commander of the Texas Navy 1839-1943. Moore County Texas, county seat Dumas, established in 1876, was named in his honor.

I did not find any DRT members who listed his important citizen, sailor, and Navy Commander as their ancestor. If you have this line, please do a supplemental or if you know of anyone that can join under this line have them contact our Registrar General Marjorie Burnett at: [registrar@drinfo.org](mailto:registrar@drinfo.org).

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A new chapter of the Children of the Republic of Texas (CRT), the Bethany Brewer Chapter was chartered in Llano on August 27, 2011. This chapter was organized by Arlene Garey, president of the Llano Pioneers DRT chapter with help from CRT Registrar Nelle Still. The new Bethany Brewer Chapter president is Molly Franziska Gay Schwertner and vice-president is Neil Anthony Mund.

I am so pleased that the Children of the Republic of Texas President General, Miss Lauren Williamson of Houston, has selected the Gaines-Oliphint House as her project. No fluff for this young lady, this is serious historical preservation. The Gaines-Oliphint House is the oldest standing, two-story, double-pen, and hand hewn log structure in Texas, thought to have been built in 1818. This property is owned by the James Frederick Gomer DRT Chapter of Hemphill, Sabine County.



L- R CRT President General Lauren Williamson, DRT President General Karen R. Thompson, CRT Past President General Melody Townsend

Lauren's project is to support the fundraising efforts for a new roof which DRT and CRT are determined to be historically correct, which means very costly. At the DRT District Workshops, CRT is selling raffle tickets for a large, 23" wide, piece of metal art containing the Republic of Texas seal. For more information about purchasing your tickets, e-mail Lauren at: [crtpresident@aol.com](mailto:crtpresident@aol.com).

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The Alamo Shrine roof is almost complete and most of the scaffolding has been removed. The roof was painted with leak preventing Hydro-Stop and it was so green it looked like a golf course. Engineering work is still underway but repairs might be completed by the end of September.



The Alamo "1802"

Pam Rosser, Alamo Conservator, has uncovered many new discoveries in the Shrine of Texas Liberty including the dates 1802 (near the window above the front entrance door) and 1835 in what is called the Nave, and several initials. A solid stenciled ornate boarder above the door in the Sacristy is beautiful and

identified as being from the Spanish Colonial period. Pam has secured people from Trinity University to take pictures with an x-ray camera and they will be conducting testing.

The Education Department, with Dr. Bruce Winders, Alamo Curator/Historian, has started Battlefield Tours, in small, private groups to give visitors more understanding of how and when the battle actually occurred. Many people think all the battle took place inside the 4.2-acre complex and do not realize the locations throughout the downtown area where specific events were known to occur. The City of San Antonio is very excited about this Battlefield Tour as it gives a greater involvement of Alamo Plaza. People can purchase the \$15 ticket at the Audio Tour booth.

**A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION:** The Alamo IMAX Theatre Rivercenter invites all members of DRT and their guest (especially kids and grandchildren) to be admitted free to any screening of the movie ALAMO...The Price of Freedom. This offer will end on November 6, 2011, the 120th anniversary of the founding of DRT and is thanking DRT for all its work. This movie has been seen by millions in the almost three decades it has been shown.

To help celebrate the 120th anniversary of DRT, the Alamo IMAX Theatre Rivercenter invites DRT and their guest to a reception the evening of Thursday, September 29, 6:30 p.m. for heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks, followed by a screening of the ALAMO...The Price of Freedom, the 45 minute award winning docudrama depicts the thirteen day siege and fall of the Alamo.

Also mark your calendar for Sunday, November 6th at 2 p.m. That will be the "DRT 120th Anniversary Birthday Celebration" at Alamo Hall, complete with Birthday Cake!

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The 2011 District Workshops are going great! We had successful workshops in Livingston, Brownwood, and Beaumont. Check [www.drinfo.org/members](http://www.drinfo.org/members) for the dates, and registration forms for the remaining seven.

I'm going to end each newsletter by answering a question I have been asked.

Is the DRT Forum official? The answer is NO. The DRT Forum has nothing to do with **THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS** or DRT. In fact, I don't even know who it is, and if someone refuses to give their name how can you believe them? It could be a man who just wants to cause trouble. For example, recently "the Forum" said Mary Carmack signed the contract for the cul-de-sac property at the Alamo, which is a lie, I have a copy of that September 2010 contract and it is signed by Patti Atkins and Jerry Patterson.

So ladies, don't be misled by people that are not officers, and maybe not even members of DRT.

Please e-mail your questions or comments to: [presidentgeneral@drinfo.org](mailto:presidentgeneral@drinfo.org) or call me at 512-923-0010.