

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

Cradle Committee

Minutes – October 22, 2015

Members Present: Linda Cooper, Chairman, Jimmie Bennett, Gwen Lejsal, Linda McBee, Dianne Reynolds, and Teddy St. Ama. Guests Present: District IX Representative Loretta McReynolds and District IV Representative Susan Aiken. Excused Members: Lila Peterson, Karen Robertson, and Joann Russell.

The meeting was called to order at 1 P.M. by Chairman Cooper at the Cradle after gathering for lunch at Shrimp & Stuff Restaurant earlier. Prayer was led by Jimmie Bennett; pledges to the flags were led by Teddy St Ama. Guests were introduced. The July minutes were approved as sent.

Business: Chairman Cooper reported the sprinkler system bid was nearly \$1000. However, the yardman, Mr. Williams, said he could probably fix it which he did. A motion was made by Jimmie Bennett and a second by Diane Reynolds to pay Mr. Williams \$200 plus parts. **Motion passed.** Linda Cooper mentioned to the visiting BOM members that they suggest to their chapters to send annual donations by April 1 in order to be mentioned at Convention as donors. Much discussion took place on the appraisal of the Ballinger silverware. Gwen was able to Google some information on her phone about the silver from an old article in the Galveston Daily News, Texas's oldest newspaper. Shaw Jewelers was once located on Tremont and Market in the 1880's. This would be where it was purchased as identifying marks on the silver indicate. Diane Reynolds has talked with Ray Simpson of Simpson Antiques in Houston. He was family friends with the Ballinger family and offered to give an appraisal on the silver as well as the contents of The Cradle free of charge. A convenient date will be confirmed to do so.

The student tour was cancelled for today as the Sidney Sherman Chapter was unable to participate this year with the SRT at the Edward G. Burnett program at Lakeview Cemetery. Three Cradle committee members did attend. They were Jimmie Bennett, Linda McBee, and Joanna Wilson who made presentations for the SRT. Cradle tours are scheduled by groups for January 14, 20, and April 14. Chairman Cooper invited the BOM to tour on Friday, October 23 from 12-3 prior to the District IX Meeting in La Porte on Saturday. Joanna will speak with her housekeeper about a thorough cleaning of The Cradle. The latest membership roster will be purchased for the chairman's use since some donors do not include return addresses.

Financials were reviewed. The committee thanks the following chapters who have donated since June 1: Aaron Estes \$100, Fort Brown \$225, Fort Settlement \$50, Gen. James Smith \$50, Hornsby \$100, James Butler Bonham \$20, Jane Wells Wood \$20, New Kentucky \$60, President Houston \$50, Robert Henry \$510, Sidney Sherman \$225, Stephen F. Austin \$20, Zuber-Hadley \$50. Individuals also sent donations totaling \$243. Linda thanked the guests for attending. She announced the next committee meetings will be held January 14 and April 14. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Joanna Wilson, Acting Secretary

