Texas, One and Indivisible

There’s a certain mystique about Texas perhaps due to its storied history of men and women fighting for rights and freedom – some dying so that others might live free and its origins as an independent nation. Bolstering the allure of Texas are guardians of its treasured past – an organization of women that exists to preserve, protect and promote Texas history.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas – more than anyone – have dedicated themselves to perpetuating “the memory and spirit of the people who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas,” while also working to preserve the records, narratives and artifacts of the settlement of Texas, its revolution against a dictator and its days as an independent republic. While perhaps best known now for their relentless efforts to save and preserve the Alamo and their ensuing 110 year management of “The Shrine of Texas Liberty,” the Daughters have meant that and so much more to Texas.

Daughters, granddaughters and wives of members of the Texas Veteran Association – comprised of those who fought in the War for Texas Independence or served in the ensuing Republic years, founded the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1891. From their earliest days, the Daughters were recognized and admired for their efforts including one of their initial successes that led to the preservation and historical marking of the San Jacinto Battlefield.

Members of the Texas Veteran Association maintained a fierce loyalty to Texas. In those days, one abhorrent possibility – that of Texas dividing into as many as four additional states as written into the annexation agreement with the United States – prompted the Daughter’s first motto: “Texas, One and Indivisible.” As the Texas Veteran Association dissolved at its 34th annual reunion in 1907 with just six living members in attendance, the torch was passed to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to continue the cause. A resolution adopted by the veterans at that last reunion stated: “we are unalterably opposed to any division or diminution of our beloved State of Texas, and desire that it shall be ever one and indissoluble. For its preservation as such, we rely upon The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, who will survive us, and we hope will live as an organization to the end of time.”

In present days, with the division of Texas less a possibility, the Daughters continue their service to Texas in other ways. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, still housed for now on the Alamo Grounds, provides an invaluable resource for researchers and those interested in early Texas history. For 80 years the Daughters have amassed tens of thousands of documents, paintings, artifacts and other items related to the Alamo, San Antonio and the state’s early history.
We know first-hand of the Daughters commitment to Texas and their efforts to preserve its history because our family has entrusted to them historical items from our Republic of Texas ancestors. We’re proud to know that our donations are part of a collection the Daughters will be preserving for generations to come.

For 110 years the Daughters managed The Alamo at no cost to the state taxpayers and with no charge for admission for its visitors. As the State of Texas steps up to assume management of The Alamo, it is time to say thank you to the Daughters not just for taking care of The Alamo but also for their ongoing commitment to preserving and perpetuating the history of Texas, One and Indivisible.

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Mrs. George lives in San Antonio and is an author and historian and donated her family’s historical papers to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Mr. Miller is a descendent of the Morgan Merrick family that donated a 19th century journal to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.