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## Sidney Sherman Chapter #2

### Minutes

February 19, 2019

The Sidney Sherman Chapter #2, Sons of the Republic of Texas gathered at Kelley's Family Restaurant in Texas City before 6 PM. on February 19.

Steve Manis opened the meeting at 6:33 PM. Vice president Robyn Davis provided us with an invocation and led us in the pledges to the United States and Texas Flags.

**New Members:** Steve called James Hiroms to the podium and inducted him into the society. Then Steve called for Carol Mitchell, she was inducted as an honorary member of the chapter. Our president and his wife, Chaille, attend estate sales and during one they found a frame which they fitted with a photograph of Linda and Doug McBee, Doug being in his Confederates officer's uniform. Steve presented it to the couple. I think the photo was taken at the January ceremony that is held in the Episcopal Cemetery for remembrance of the Lea participation in the Battle of Galveston in 1863. Steve went around the room calling for guests. First, Mike Mitchell's wife, Carol was present. Doug McBee presented his wife Linda and a cousin Laura Shaffer.

**Chapter Members attending:** Thomas Aucoin, Richard Barnes, Dan Burnett, Robyn Davis, Robert Gindratt (Media), Albert Seguin Gonzalez, Charlie Gordy, James Hiroms, J.B. Kline, Scott Lea MD, Steven Manis, Billy Mayo (Treasurer), Doug McBee, Jr., Mike Mitchell, Rodney Mize, Ron Schoolcraft, Clark Wright (Secretary).

**Guests attending:** included Chaille Manis, Linda McBee, Carol Mitchell, Jennifer Kinard, Jennifer Parsley, Dianne McLean.

**Minutes** of recent meetings are all available online on the Chapter Web Site. The chapter **Treasurer** reported over 4000 dollars in the bank account.

**Recent Chapter Activities:** Steve discussed participation in the ceremony for Mirabeau B. Lamar in Richmond and the work that had been done to clean up the monument in November. After all Lamar was the founder of education in the republic of Texas. The chapter also had attendants at the parade that occurred February 13th in Texas City, Steve was pleased with the turnout for this activity.

**Upcoming activities:** In regard to activities that are coming up Steve reminded us of the get-together in Houston at the monument to Sam Houston in the park March 2nd, Steve was pretty sure that this would start at 10:30 AM and don't forget March 6th Dawn at the Alamo this is always a memorable occasion.

**Upcoming National Events:** We expect to have chapter participation in the celebration of Independence Day on March 2 in Houston. Steve encouraged all to attend the "Dawn at the Alamo" to be held in San Antonio March 6. The Annual Meeting of the Sons of the Republic

of Texas will be held March 15-17 in Beaumont with Saturday being the most important day to attend. Remember also the annual remembrance of Goliad on March 27.

Our April membership meeting will be the second Tuesday instead of the third for that month so that we do not conflict with the reenactment of San Jacinto. This year the organizers have moved the re-enactment to April 13th in order to avoid celebrations of Easter. There will also be in ceremony home Easter Sunday at San Jacinto. Steve indicated that this happens to be one of the most well intended dates at the battlefield that this is a tourist time.

**Speaker:** Our speaker for this meeting was **Jennifer Parsley** who is a graduate of Texas Technology University holding a Baccalaureate and Masters in Museum Science. She has worked as a public educator for various historical sites including the civil war era "**Fort Delaware**" and also at the Alamo. she currently works as the historical interpreter for the Stephen F Austin Munson Park in Angleton. Jennifer's talk gave us a presentation about "how colonists got married" or "didn't" in Austin's colony. The simple question do you want to get married got much more complicated when there were no Catholic priests and possibly Exes and angry fathers involved. Jennifer provided several stories to explain some of the idiosyncrasies of marriage in Early Texas one story involved a young woman Donna Isabella who at the age of 14 got romantically involved with a young man and ran off leaving their families. Both families were indignant and said they couldn't do that but nature took its course and eventually the two grew apart. Jennifer explained since there were no priests the record of marriages were recorded through bonds which on the surface were supposed a considerable amount of money. Jennifer could not find that money was ever exchanged or existed. Eventually this case, Donna Isabel ended up in court and had to be resolved from a civil viewpoint. Jennifer also provided some background about a Father Miguel Muldoon who was very active in Texas in 1831 and 1832 in that he appears to be the owner of record many of land grants being a participant in these marriage bonds. This Father Muldoon has disappeared from the records, so many of the property rights were in question. During discussion we learned about the geography of Mexico. In the early 1820s there was a General Teran which was the head guy in northern Mexico and Jennifer had to explain what northern Mexico was, extended from Coahila which she considered to be in central Mexico all the way to Montana, Colorado, and California. In the early 1820s Texas was a considered part of this territory. At 7:50 Steve called for the adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

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Prepared by Clark P. Wright, Secretary