

# THE CRADLE



## Newsletter

April 2026

## A Battle Cry and a Birthplace

Every April, as Bluebonnets blanket the Texas landscape in brilliant blue, we celebrate more than the beauty of spring. We honor the freedom that made this land worth loving. San Jacinto Day, April 21, marks the decisive 1836 battle where Texian forces charged with a cry that still stirs the heart: "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" Many historians credit Colonel Sidney Sherman, commanding the left wing of the Texian army, with leading that battle cry as his men opened the attack. Eighteen minutes later, Texas was free.

Sherman continued to serve the young republic as a soldier (rising to the rank of General) and statesman, eventually making his home in Galveston, where he was later laid to rest alongside David G. Burnet, the first President of the Republic of Texas. Decades passed, and like wildflowers left untended, the memory of both patriots began to fade, their graves neglected, their sacrifices in danger of being forgotten entirely.

But just as Bluebonnets return faithfully each spring, two women refused to let that memory die. In 1891, Betty Ballinger and her cousin Hally Bryan Perry — both proud descendants of General Sidney Sherman — met in the law library of Betty's father, prominent Galveston attorney William Pitt Ballinger. Moved by concern over the neglected grave sites of Sherman and Burnet, they conceived an organization devoted to preserving Texas history and honoring its heroes.

That modest law library on the Ballinger estate is now known as the Cradle, the birthplace of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and our first chapter was fittingly named the Sidney Sherman Chapter.

Today, the Bluebonnets blooming around the Cradle each April are more than a beautiful sight — they are a symbol of renewal and remembrance. Just as these wildflowers return year after year to color the Texas landscape, the DRT continues its mission: preserving sacred ground, honoring Texas heroes, and keeping the flame of history burning bright for generations to come.



The Cradle, Birthplace of DRT

## *Support the Cradle: Wear Your Texas Pride*

Spring is the perfect time to show your love for Texas history, and help preserve it. The Cradle offers a beautiful collection of Bluebonnet-themed items, with proceeds going directly toward the upkeep of our beloved birthplace.

Our popular large Bluebonnet pin remains a cherished favorite, and this season we are thrilled to introduce two stunning new additions: **a delicate Bluebonnet necklace and matching Bluebonnet earrings** – perfect for wearing to chapter meetings, DRT events, or anywhere Texas pride calls.



Also available is a signed print of *Lila's Bluebonnets*, a treasure by Gwen Lejsal, District IX Rep, whose artistry captures the timeless beauty of our Texas spring and our beloved Cradle.

All items will be available for purchase at the Annual DRT Convention in Fort Worth this May – look for the Cradle table and stop by to see these treasures in person.

Can't make it to Convention? Contact Denise Jones, Cradle Chairman, to purchase items online and have them delivered right to your door.

Every purchase helps keep the Cradle standing for generations to come.

# You're Invited!

Come visit  
The Cradle

This charming bit  
of history is  
perfect for group  
tours, Chapter  
meetings, and  
special events.

Book your visit or  
event today by  
calling  
Denise Jones,  
Cradle Chairman,  
at 817-253-1743.