

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



May 2019

UPnext!
San Jacinto
DRT Luncheon
Thursday,
June 6, 2019
Reserve today!
Flyer Attached

UPnext: DRT Luncheon

The San Jacinto Chapter DRT June luncheon is just around the corner on June 6. Come, connect, and catch up. The May 30th deadline to make reservations is approaching, so please send in your check to reserve your spot. For details and payment info, please see the invitation in this newsletter.

May Recap: RECAP of Coyla Holmes presentation

Coyla Holmes, our District 6 rep was our May meeting speaker. She talked about the 2020 state convention plans, held in our district. Our chapter is helping out. We are brain storming now.



Sharolyn Wood
and Coyla Holmes



Hope Davis,
Margaret Standard,
Diana Stakowiak,
Coyla Holmes



Memorial table

Thelma Maresh Scholarships Five seniors received the Thelma Maresh scholarships on April 21st with a ceremony and reception at the Log House. Recipients are: Lily Arteaga, Derick Del Rio, Jenet Johnson, Victoria Pavey, and Emma Ward. Promising futures!



HELLO, MAY

From the President

Dear Daughters,
Another year for the San Jacinto Chapter has passed and again much was accomplished. The work on the Log House is a wonderful achievement and the upkeep and restoration on it will continue.

Unfortunately, the ITC fire at Deer Park forced the cancellation of the San Jacinto Day Ceremony, but the reception and awarding of the Maresh Scholarship winners held on April 21st at the Log House was very meaningful. Our scholarship recipients received much more attention than they would have had at the San Jacinto Monument. It was truly a lovely afternoon.

Don't forget our June Luncheon at the BraeBurn County Club; put it on your calendar for June 6th. A copy of the invitation is enclosed in this newsletter. Please send your check as soon as possible as the deadline for reservations is May 30th.

In closing, I'd like to thank the chapter for the honor of serving as President for the last 2 years. I have had a wonderful time and a busy time, but nothing would have been accomplished without the best Executive Board a President could ask for. The caliber and expertise of these ladies are truly a Godsend to the San Jacinto Chapter and I am deeply grateful for their help, guidance and support every day. Have a wonderful summer. I'll see you in the fall.

Laura-Hill Taylor,
President



San Jacinto Chapter Memorial Service

A touching memorial service was held at the May meeting to honor our members who passed away.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

Opal Rainey

Mary Ann Walker



Dorothy Knox Houghton



Opal Rainey



Mary Ann Walker

COUNTRY STORE

The Country Store Needs a New Chairperson

Sweet Luanne Zacek is stepping down as chair of the fabulous Country Store. We are in need of a chairperson and committee members for the Country Store. If you are interested in helping with The DRT Country Store in any way, please contact President elect Beth McCarty at bethmccarty48@gmail.com or Gwen Koch, 4th VP at jkoch11949@att.net.

We want to keep our Country Store in business and successful!

Calendar of Events, San Jacinto Chapter

2019

May 30 thru June 1	DRT Annual Convention Austin	
June 6	June Luncheon BraeBurn Country Club 8101 Bissonnet	11:30 am

Consolidate Your Dues and Log House Donation!

Please notice on the dues form that you can include a donation for our chapter and log house with your dues payment - one check. We appreciate your support.

Program Schedule, 2019

June 6
June Luncheon

Shop at Randall's, Tom Thumb, and Kroger to raise money for our chapter.

An easy way to contribute to San Jacinto Chapter DRT is by grocery shopping. Our chapter is linked to both Randall's Food Market/Tom Thumb and Kroger. These grocery stores will automatically send our chapter a percentage of all purchases made with our registered number. You are buying groceries anyway, so make sure San Jacinto Chapter DRT receives a little benefit. Also, you can have family and friends sign up with our numbers too.

Please link your **Randalls Good Neighbor** card to our **DRT #14013**. It's easy to do. Just ask the cashier or at the customer service desk. It would probably be a good idea for everyone to double check that their card is linked to this number - it may be a different number from when you originally signed up.

Kroger requires everyone with their **Kroger Community Rewards** program to reregister each summer. Also, they have recently upgraded their system and issued every organization a new account number. Please sign up for the card and link it to our **Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Pioneer Memorial Log House #RF149**. The Customer Service desk can help you.

Both of these programs are free to customers. You shop anyway, so please help San Jacinto Chapter DRT with your shopping. Thanks to everyone for participating!

— Gwen Koch



In Memoriam

Mary Ann Walker
October 14, 1932 - May 16, 2017



Mary Ann Walker, 84, of El Jardin, Texas, passed away on May 16, 2017. She was born in La Porte, Texas on Oct 14, 1932, to Mark and Lois Walker. Funeral services were held on May 19, 2017 at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home and Cemetery where she was also buried. She was a member of our chapter for 57 years! Her gravestone also shows she was a member of DAR.

Her ancestor was William Plunkett Harris, the brother of John Richardson Harris for whom Harris County was named. He was born in New York in 1797, and came to Texas in July, 1830. His brother John was granted a large tract of land (4428 acres) at Buffalo Bayou in 1824, and contracted the town plat of Harrisburg in 1826 where he established a trading post and grist mill. After the death of his brother, William operated much of the Harrisburg property. He owned 2 ships used in 1832 to eject the Mexican garrison during the Anahuac Disturbances. He served the Republic as Land Commissioner of Harrisburg County in 1838.

In addition he was a planter with a large estate at Red Bluff on Galveston Bay. Upon his death 12/8/1843 he was buried in the Harris-Beasley Cemetery at Red Bluff.

Below are memoirs shared on her death's website by friends and family.

Mary Ann was a beautiful lady inside and out. She had a unique regal way about her and would light a room. I have great memories of holidays and birthdays with Lois, Mary Ann and John. We had great 4th of July parties (sic) at her home as well. I am heartbroken. Love you and miss you so much.

— Kim Banks

I remember you as such a good soul. Full of happiness and very funny. Always enjoyed the July 4th parties at your home. Great relative and great friend.

— Jerry Perkins

You will never be forgotten. You had the most beautiful heart and kindness. I miss hearing your voice on my way to work or when I needed to talk to you. You were always there for us. I thank God for allowing me to have met you. He places the right people in your life. I am completely sure that you are enjoying being in the presence of the Lord. I miss you terribly.

— Rosario Azcorra

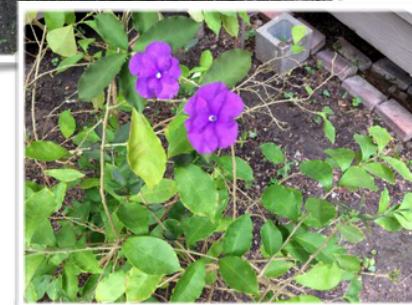
Please Note:

Mary Ann Walker's passed away in 2017. Two years have passed since her death. Above is her obituary, which was not posted at that time. So we are posting it in this issue. Never too late! Mary Ann was also memorialized at our May meeting memorial service.



Around the Log House

Photos: Sharolyn Woods



The WRITE STUFF:

Please bring #2 pencils to any meeting. We send them to our Texas History Teacher, Karen James, Landrum Middle School in Spring Branch. Karen never denies pencils to any of her students. It is an ongoing need.



BIG Texas Nature: **Big Bend** **National Park**



Photo: parkcitiespeople.com



Photo: REI co-op

Big Bend National Park, the first national park in Texas, comprises over 1,250 square miles in the Big Bend of the Rio Grande along more than 100 miles of the Texas-Chihuahua-Coahuila border southeast of El Paso. It has been described as a land of "killing heat and freezing cold; deadly drought and flash flood; arid lowland and moist mountain woodland; and a living river winding its way across the desert." The Rio Grande flows 107 miles on its southern boundary, through Santa Elena, Mariscal, and Boquillas canyons, the deepest gorges on the river. In 1978, the U.S. Congress designated a 191-mile section of the Rio Grande a Wild and Scenic River, 69 miles which lie on the park boundary. Big Bend is mostly arid alluvial plains, a representative of the Chihuahuan Desert. The Chisos Mountains, the southernmost range in the continental U.S., rise over 7,800 feet above sea level. They support relict forests of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Arizona cypress, quaking aspen, and bigtooth maple. The popular Basin, a topographic depression in the Chisos range, offers a cool respite from desert heat with panoramic vistas. Annual rain in the arid to semiarid climate ranges from 5 inches in the desert to 20 inches in the mountains. The National Park Service considers Big Bend "one of the outstanding geological laboratories and classrooms of the world." Visible geological processes are sedimentation, deformation, and volcanism. Recovered fossil forms of plants and animals include a bivalve 3' wide x 4' long, the skull of a chamosaurus (horned dinosaur), and the largest known pterosaur (flying dinosaur), all which make Big Bend a resource for paleontological research and preservation.

The topographical and climatic extremes provide habitats for flora and fauna, of over 1,000 plant species, 78 mammals, 56 reptiles, 10 amphibians, 35 fish, and 434 birds. Endangered species are peregrine falcon, black-capped vireo, Mexican long-nosed bat, and Big Bend gambusia (tiny fish found only in the in the park). Several U.S. species are found only in Big Bend: the Del Carmen white-tail deer, colima warbler, and Mexican drooping juniper. The Chisos agave lives nowhere else. In 1976, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization designated Big Bend a "Man and the Biosphere" international reserve, one of 28 in the United States Cooperative research and educational programs subsequently began with Mexico. The park contains archeological and historical sites representing more than 10,000 years of inhabitants, including Indian tribes; Spanish explorers and missionaries; and farming, ranching, mining, and military activities of the last two centuries. Nine National Register archeological and historic sites or districts document the Indian and Anglo-Mexican presence throughout the park. Educational exhibits in the visitor centers inform visitors. Recreational opportunities, including hiking, river rafting, horseback riding, birding, and back-country camping. Park Service staff schedules interpretive programs throughout the year.



Photo: visitbigbend.com



Photo: National Geographic

The legislative history of the park began in 1933, when the Texas legislature inaugurated Texas Canyons State Park on fifteen sections of land near Santa Elena, Mariscal, and Boquillas canyons on the Rio Grande in southern Brewster County. Later that year the name became Big Bend State Park and the Chisos Mountains were added to the park acreage. The National Park Service investigated the site in 1934 and recommended establishment of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp and a national park. Big Bend was regarded as "decidedly the outstanding scenic area of Texas." President Franklin D. Roosevelt took a personal interest in Big Bend because of a proposed companion park in Mexico. Congress passed enabling legislation in 1935, stipulating that acquisition of park acreage "shall be secured...only by public and private donations." By 1942 most of the land was purchased with a \$1.5 million appropriation from the Forty-seventh Texas Legislature. Although several thousand acres remained in private hands, the park opened to the public in 1944. In 1972 the Congress appropriated \$300,375 for the last 8,561.75 acres, finally placing the entire original park area of 708,118.40 acres in federal ownership. Subsequent additions have increased the park acreage to 801,163.02 acres, of which 776,693.22 acres are federal land.

In 1944 the park had a staff of five and received an appropriation of \$15,000. That first year only 1,409 people visited Big Bend. Visitors averaged over 230,000 annually from 1981 to 1990; in 1976, a record 456,201 visited. Appropriation exceeded \$2.5 million annually in the 1990s. The park has more than 100 full-time staff positions supplemented by temporary employees, interns, and volunteers. Development of the desert park evolved slowly over time. Mission 66, a decade-long project begun in the 1950s to upgrade a neglected national-park system from inadequate funding, pumped \$14 million into Big Bend for roads, bridges, trails, campsites, a lodge, restaurant, and cabins in the Chisos Basin. The NPS, however, has never advocated extensive improvements. The majority of the park acreage is managed as natural zones to "remain largely unaltered by human activity."

Article Source: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/gkb02>



*Please join us for the San Jacinto Chapter
Daughters of the Republic of Texas*



*June Luncheon
June 6, 2019 11:30 a.m.*

*Installation of 2019-2021 San Jacinto Chapter Officers
New Member Ceremony
Texas History Teacher Award*

*BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77074*

\$38 per person

*Hats off to DRT!
Spring / Summer Hats are encouraged!*



=====Clip and mail with your check=====

San Jacinto Chapter June Luncheon
June 6, 2019 11:30 a.m.
Reservations must be received by May 30th

Please print

Reservation for _____

My Guest(s) _____

Check for \$38 each payable to:
San Jacinto Chapter DRT

Mail to: Susan Stormer
1442 Baird Ave
Katy, TX 77493
713-553-6432



San Jacinto Chapter
Daughters of the Republic of Texas
2019-2020 DUES NOTICE



Please print

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip + 4 _____

Cell Phone _____ Phone _____

Life Member: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐ Married Spouse _____

Dues payment must be received by July 1 to be included in the 2019-2020 year book.
Dues received after July 1, 2019, will be delinquent; a \$25 fee is required by the state to be reinstated.

Checks will not be deposited until June 1

New Members after March 1 do not pay dues for this year.

If you are paying dues for more than one member, please fill out a dues notice form for each member. We need the updated information for the chapter database and yearbook.

Total Dues Owed (\$70).....\$ _____
(State \$45) (Chapter \$25)

Associate/Affiliate Member (\$15)..... \$ _____

Chapter Contribution..... \$ _____

In Memory of: \$ _____

In Honor of \$ _____

Log House Contribution..... \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed..... \$ _____

Make Check Payable to San Jacinto Chapter DRT and mail with this form to:

Roni Thelen, Treasurer

12014 Salt River Valley Ln

Humble, TX 77346

CHAPTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our chapter.

Current needs are listed below. Check those in which you may be interested.

- ☐ Hospitality ☐ Greeter/name tags ☐ Website ☐ Newsletters
☐ Assist with CRT programs & trips ☐ Music ☐ Photography