



## From the President

Dear Members,

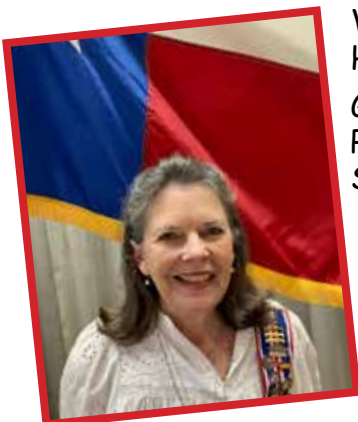
San Jacinto Chapter has begun its busy season! First Chapter meeting, regular monthly Open Houses and workdays, grounds work recovering from Hurricane Beryl and the 2 storms last spring, District VI Workshop in Kingwood, the chili cookoff, November 7 meeting; and preparing for the Thelma Burnett Maresh Medallion Ceremony, Holiday Luncheon and Christmas Open House! While just listing all of these activities is exhausting, each of them should make our chapter members proud. Our committees and volunteers are the sole of our chapter. If you haven't signed up to help with any of these activities, it isn't too late. And we have many plans in 2025 that can use volunteers too.

The Road to Independence Chili Cookoff celebrating Stephen F. Austin's birthday was great. The weather was "touch & go" that morning, but the rain held off. Sharolyn Wood's work to get our grounds ready - tree/limb/stump removal; dirt, sod and mulch to fill holes where trees used to be; watering with a hose and sprinkler (our sprinkler system was broken due to the storm knocking down trees) to keep our new sod alive - aided restoration and useability of the grounds for the event, our meetings and rentals. Having a joint event with the Sons of the Republic of Texas and Children of the Republic of Texas was so much fun! The committee and other volunteers worked tirelessly to attend to all the details. Thank you especially to Eron Tynes for chairing this event. Chili, Friends, Texian Army!!!

We need you to help us get ready for the holiday season. If you have some time to volunteer at the log house on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday during the first week of December, come at 10 am, we will have a fun project which will help you and us get in the holiday spirit.

Don't forget to make your reservation for our Holiday luncheon, the deadline is November 25. Bring your children and grandchildren in their holiday outfits to our Christmas Open House Sunday, December 8 to take their photo with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. We will also be installing our new CRT officers that day. Family and friends are welcome.

Wishing you a  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
Gwen Sorsby Koch  
President  
San Jacinto Chapter



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# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Calendar



### November

- November 16 Pioneer Memorial Log House Open House 1-3 pm
- November 17 Thelma Maresh Memorial Medallion Ceremony 2 pm at Forest Park Lawndale, Houston
- November 21 Chapter Workday 9:30 am

### December

- December 3 Decorate the Log House for the Holidays 10 am
- December 4 Set up tables for Holiday Luncheon 10 am
- December 5 Holiday Luncheon and New Member Installation 11:30 am
- December 8 Christmas Open House 2-4 pm
- December 9 Siege of Bexar Day, 1835 (Texas Honor Day)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
SAN JACINTO CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

DECEMBER 5, 2024

11:30AM

PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE  
1510 CAMBRIDGE STREET  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

\$50 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

REGISTER AND/OR PAY [ONLINE](#)



OR

\*\*\*\*\*PRINT AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK\*\*\*\*\*

RESERVATION FOR \_\_\_\_\_

MY GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK FOR \$50 EACH PAYABLE TO: SAN JACINTO CHAPTER DRT

MAIL TO CARLA BROWN ([TREASURER@SJCDRT.ORG](mailto:TREASURER@SJCDRT.ORG))

5220 WESTLAYAN C103, HOUSTON, TX 77005-1079

**HELP MAKE A NEEDY CHILD'S CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER BY BRINGING AN UNWRAPPED GIFT!  
NO TIME TO SHOP- PURCHASE A BOOK FROM OUR COUNTRY STORE!**



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Road to Independence – Chili Cook-off

### The Road to Independence Chili Cook Off

The Road to Independence Chili Cook Off sponsored by San Jacinto Chapter DRT, The Sons of the Republic of Texas, and Children of the Republic of Texas was a great time! Look at all of the Texas fun!!!





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Road to Independence – Texas Flag Retirement

### The Texas Flag Retirement Ceremony

We had a great CRT turnout for the Road to Independence chili cook-off! Members participated in the flag retirement ceremony, planted bluebonnet seeds, and won "Best Texas Rodeo Chili"! National Board Members Lorien Wolter and Anthony Klementich sold raffle tickets benefitting the National CRT scholarship fund and CRT workshops. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets! We will be selling them again at our Holiday Luncheon and Holiday Open House. The winner will be drawn at the CRT Convention in June and will receive a basket of TX goodies. You do not have to be present to win. Does your CRT member want to be active between our events? Check out the CRT Project Book at [www.crttexas.com](http://www.crttexas.com). Each National officer has a project. For example, members can support the Corresponding Secretary's project by drawing a picture of a Texas landscape (ages 9 and under) or drawing a picture of an important person or event during the Republic of TX era (ages 10+). There are activities for all ages! Thank you all for supporting our CRT!





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Road to Independence – Silent Auction

### The Road to Independence – Silent Auction

*Thank you for all the wonderful contributions  
and time spent to make this such a success!!!*





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## November 7th SJC Meeting

*Thank you for all those  
who attended our  
November 7th! meeting.*



*Refreshments  
from the  
meeting.*





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## DRT Ancestor Ornaments

### DRT Ancestors on Republic Wooden Ornaments San Jacinto Chapter

*Since this is a \$10 gift  
for the Country Store,  
I want to encourage members  
to buy the ornament and place  
it on our tree.*



#### Ancestors currently represented on our tree each year:

Ancestor	Member
<b>A</b>	
Claiborne Akers/Acres	Diana Stachowiak
John Adams	Amanda Cowan
<b>B</b>	
George Baker	Colette Herzog
Job M. Baker	Liz Leifeste
John F. Beal	Cindie Gruetzmacher
Mary Ann Cullins Beal	Cindie Gruetzmacher
A.G.A. Beazley	Barbara Short
Morgan Berry	Phyllis Vaughan
John L.D. Blackburn	Sally Whittington
Mary Eliza Brooks	Marje Harris
Jesse Burdett	Christina Munn
	Mary Munn
	April Townsend
	Ashleigh Townsend
Aaron Burleson	Luanne Zacek
James Burleson	Luanne Zacek
Minerva Seaton Burleson	Luanne Zacek
Micajah Byrd	Gwen Koch
<b>C</b>	
Mariano Cabrera	Vanessa Flores
Major Hugh Hudson	Becky Breazeale
Calvert	Carla Brown
	Stephie Prout
Robert Wooding Chappell	Gina Bouchard
James Cooper	Coyla Holmes
	(District VI Rep 2022-2024)
Thomas Cox	Sally Whittington
Daniel L. Cullins	Cindie Gruetzmacher
Esther Amanda Sherrill	Cindie Gruetzmacher Cullins
L. C. Cunningham	Liz Leifeste
Leander Calvin	Liz Leifeste Cunningham
<b>D</b>	
John White Davis	Marje Harris
George J. Duncan	Laura-Hill Taylor
Delina Dunman	Tamara Phillips
Joseph Dunman	Tamara Phillips

Ancestor	Member
<b>E</b>	
Sophie Ernst	Madeleine Kae Davis
	Margaret Hope Davis
	Kae Theilen
<b>F</b>	
Orcenath Fisher	Diane Martin
Samuel Rhodes Fisher	Beth Fisher
Lawrence Frank	Kathy Vossler
<b>G</b>	
Seymore Garey	Anita Cooper
<b>H</b>	
Charles Hampton	Carolyn Lightfoot
Mary Belle Smith Harris	Marje Harris
John Hassell	Betty Petty
	Sharolyn Wood
Diana Frances Haynie	Kay Martin
Rev. John Haynie	Kay Martin
Henry Hensley	Amanda Sopchak
	Amy Sopchak
	Julie St. Martin
	Margaret Standard
Martha Mariah Hodge	Carolyn Lightfoot
Abner Houston	Mary Ann Tallichet
Sarah Burleson Howard	Tish Wolter
Malinda Beal Logan Hurst	Cindie Gruetzmacher
<b>I</b>	
John Ivy	Carolyn Ivy Shimek
<b>J</b>	
Elisha Davis Jackson	Sue Montgomery
<b>K</b>	
John Rhodes King	Dorwayne Hinde
<b>L</b>	
Samuel Valcient LaMothe	Amanda Garrett
	Beth Garrett McCarty
Issac Lee	Patti Randolph
	Heidi Slay





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## DRT Ancestors (cont'd)

Ancestor	Member
<b>M</b>	
John F. Martin	Carolyn Gilbert
Ralph McGee	Len Hicks
Joseph S. Middleton	Allison Moody Ball
Nathaniel S. Middleton	Michael Tipton Ball
Col. James Morgan	Lisa H. Braly
Mary Ann Myers	Kelsey Raegan Ball
<b>N</b>	
<b>O</b>	
Thomas Osborn	Anita Walls
<b>P</b>	
John McCoy Patton	Carolyn Lightfoot
Susannah Elizabeth	Carolyn Lightfoot Patton
Alejo E. Perez	Martha Haydel
<b>Q</b>	
<b>R</b>	
Elizabeth Rice	Anita Cooper
Elizabeth Wilson Rice	Anita Cooper
Oliver Rice	Anita Cooper
Thomas Rice	Anita Cooper

Ancestor	Member
<b>S</b>	
Captain John Smith	Luanne Zacek
John Smith (La Grange)	Luanne Zacek
Jennie Davis Buchanan	Marje Harris Smith
Elba Byrd Allen Sorsby	Gwen Sorsby Koch
W. A. Sorsby	Gwen Sorsby Koch
Thomas Bell Stephenson	Sharron Stephenson Wilson
Joe W. Stow	Sharon Hanan
Dr. John Sutherland	Susan Creech Stormer
Thomas Jefferson Sweeny	Kay Martin
<b>T</b>	
<b>U</b>	
<b>V</b>	
W. J. Viser	Jamie Moran
<b>W</b>	
Headley C. White	Carol Ann Elinger Haddock
Robert Wyers	Susan Whitfield
<b>XYZ</b>	
Lorenzo Dow Yarborough	Carol Ellinger Haddock





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Essay Contest and Teacher Award

### Essay Contest and Teacher Award

Time is flying by as we are closing in on the holiday season. The February 1st deadline for our essay contest will be here soon after the holidays. The State chose interesting topics for both the 4th and 7th grade essays this year. The 4th grade topic is the life of Juana Navarro Alsbury, an Alamo survivor. The 7th grade topic is the birthplace of the Republic of Texas. The students may choose San Jacinto, Washington-on-the-Brazos, or West Columbia. 7th grade students are to write a persuasive essay supporting their choice. Winning students will receive a \$100 check from our chapter and have opportunities to win more monetary prizes from District VI and State.

Both 4th and 7th grade teachers have several units to cover before introducing the Texas Revolution. Hopefully by now Texas students are being introduced to the events leading up to the Revolution. Any assistance in promoting our essay contest will be greatly appreciated. If you live near a public or private school, please drop off one of the informational flyers. Homeschooled students and students that live out of state are also welcome to participate in the contest.

We are also awarding the Marian Beckham Teaching Award to both a 4th and a 7th grade teacher. A letter of nomination from a parent, colleague, or administrator sent to the email address on the flyer will begin the process. After we receive the letter of nomination, we will ask the teacher to write a letter describing their teaching philosophy and methods that include interesting activities that engage their students. Each teacher will be awarded a \$400 check by our chapter at our spring luncheon. They may also win more prizes at the District and State levels.

Thank you for your support in spreading the word. We hope to receive some great essays and teacher nominations before February 1st.

# ESSAY CONTEST FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS



*SPONSORED BY THE SAN JACINTO CHAPTER  
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS*



## ESSAY TOPIC

**WRITE AN ESSAY ON JUANA NAVARRO ALSBURY-  
SURVIVOR OF THE ALAMO**

### COVER PAGE MUST INCLUDE:

Student's Name – Title of Essay – Name of school and address – Daughters of the Republic of Texas – San Jacinto Chapter, Houston, Texas – Gayla Sonderegger, 713-417-6048 – Patti Johnson, District VI – Parent's Name, phone, and mailing address.

### ESSAY GUIDELINES:

The most important part of the essay should be historical accuracy. The essay should be original, interesting, and well organized. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are considered in judging.

Typed essays: 1" margins top and bottom, 1.25" margins on sides, minimum 1.5 pages

"New Times Roman" font, size 12, double spaced

Handwritten essays: Word count between 500-525 words

### BIBLIOGRAPHY REQUIREMENTS:

Four references are needed with no more than two internet references. Bibliography should include author's name, title of book, article, or newspaper, city of publication, publisher, date of publication.

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Attach and submit essay including cover sheet and bibliography to [sjcdrteducation@gmail.com](mailto:sjcdrteducation@gmail.com) on or before FEBRUARY 1, 2025. Essays may be mailed to DRT Pioneer Memorial Log House, 1510 Cambridge, Houston, Texas 77030-1732. Please contact Gayla Sonderegger at 713-417-6048 with any questions.

The winners will be awarded a \$100 check and honored at an awards reception by the San Jacinto Chapter at the DRT Pioneer Memorial Log House in May, 2025. The winning essays are then submitted to District VI for a chance to win \$50. At the state level, the winning district essays will be considered for \$500, a certificate, and a plaque. The state winners will be honored at the DRT Convention Luncheon.

# ESSAY CONTEST FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS



*SPONSORED BY THE SAN JACINTO CHAPTER  
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS*



## ESSAY TOPIC

**WHICH SITE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS: SAN JACINTO, WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS, OR WEST COLUMBIA?**

## COVER PAGE MUST INCLUDE:

Student's Name – Title of Essay – Name of school and address – Daughters of the Republic of Texas – San Jacinto Chapter, Houston, Texas – Gayla Sonderegger, 713-417-6048 – Patti Johnson, District VI – Parent's Name, phone, and mailing address.

## ESSAY GUIDELINES:

The most important part of the essay should be historical accuracy. The essay should be original, interesting, and well organized. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are considered in judging.

Typed essays: 1" margins top and bottom, 1.25" margins sides on 8 ½ " x 11" paper, minimum 2.5 pages

"New Times Roman" font, size 12, double spaced

Handwritten essays: Word count between 800-825 words

## BIBLIOGRAPHY REQUIREMENTS:

Four references are needed with no more than two internet references. Bibliography should include author's name, title of book, article, or newspaper, city of publication, publisher, date of publication.

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Attach and submit essay including cover sheet and bibliography to [sjcdrteducation@gmail.com](mailto:sjcdrteducation@gmail.com) on or before FEBRUARY 1, 2025. Essays may be mailed to DRT Pioneer Memorial Log House, 1510 Cambridge, Houston, Texas 77030-1732. Please contact Gayla Sonderegger at 713-417-6048 with any questions.

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# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Teacher of the Year

### Teacher Tools

Many DRT chapters offer programs on the Republic of Texas and its settlers for local schools, clubs, and the public. You may wish to check with your local chapters.



Almost fifteen years ago the Curator at the Alamo suggested that

DRT develop a History Trunk for each District. Chapters use these trunks for programs.

The trunks contain everyday items like the following:

- Clothing & accessories
- Cooking & eating utensils
- Household items
- Personal items
- Foods
- Hunting gear
- Games
- Money

### DRT Mission

- Perpetuate the memory and spirit of those who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.
- Provide educational programs of the highest caliber in coordination with Texas school districts and the Texas Education Agency, as well as programs for the public.
- Encourage research into early Texas records, preserve historic documents and encourage the publication of historic records.
- Secure and memorialize historic sites.

Your local chapter is

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**4th and 7th Grade  
Teacher of the Year**

The state winners in each grade receive a cash award of **\$750**, and an award to the teacher's school of **\$1,000** to be used in Texas History Educational programs.



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Teacher of the Year

### What is the Teacher of the Year Award?

One of the four stated missions of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas is to promote the education into early Texas History.

It is our intention to award teacher's creativity and efficacy. One of the highlights of our Annual Convention is hearing from our fourth and seventh grade teachers. Learning how the students respond to these programs is inspiring.

### How to participate?

The programs are administered by local chapters. A chapter list and finding tool is located on the DRT Website. If you are unable to find a local chapter you may email the Historian General for assistance. [Historian@drinfo.org](mailto:Historian@drinfo.org)

Chapters will assist the teacher with the application and submit the chapter sponsored teacher's

application to compete in the District wide competition.

The ten District Winners will compete at the national level. The winner of this competition is named the grade level Teacher of the Year.

### Rules

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The teacher should prepare an application. An application may be obtained from local chapters, on the DRT website or from the Historian General. It includes the information found in Nos. 1-4 below. The District Representative must receive the Chapter's winning application no later than March 1st.

1. Cover page should include:

- Teacher's name and grade taught
- Name of school, address, and city
- Name of principal

- Sponsoring DRT chapter and city
  - Chapter contact person and telephone number
2. Letters of recommendation, limit of four.

3. Applicant's curriculum vitae/résumé.

4. The applicant should submit his/her thoughts about teaching; about Texas history; manner of instruction in the classroom; innovations conceived and executed for 4th or 7th graders; and response of the students. This should be typed on 8½" by 11" paper. On a computer, use 12 to 14 point type.

5. The winning teacher will receive a \$750 award and will be invited to attend the DRT Convention. DRT is not responsible for expense incurred to attend. However, the teacher and a guest will be guests of DRT at the Historical Luncheon on Saturday. The awards will be presented by the Historian General.



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## DRT Art Contest

### **Our purpose — to promote Texas heritage and history.**

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) have ten districts in the State of Texas. Students' research for their artwork will reveal the diverse culture and heritage of Texas of the district they live in, prior to 1850, noting the contributions to this great state.

- **OUR PURPOSE** is for the child to recognize Texas historical sites, events, activities and individuals in the various districts that the student lives in.
- **TOPICS ARE LIMITED** to those recognized sites, events and individuals.
- **CRITERIA** includes:
  1. Accuracy, Neatness and Clarity
  2. Relevancy to topic in the home district
  3. Size Requirement

Each district will have a first, second and third place for each division. Winners will be contacted by mail or email. Winners also receive a monetary prize. First place winners will receive \$100.00, second place, \$75.00 and third place winners, \$50.00

Art Contest entries are judged by Republic of Texas Museum Committee Members. Please submit Art Contest questions to: [republicoftexasmuseumchair@drinfo.org](mailto:republicoftexasmuseumchair@drinfo.org).

### **Republic of Texas Annual Art Contest**

#### **ELEMENTARY GRADES 1-5**

- The poster size MUST be 11" x 14" in size, with or without a border
- It MUST be original artwork
- It MUST denote a historic site, event or activity that occurred, or individual(s) that lived in your home district prior to 1850, who helped settle Texas
- The reverse side of the artwork MUST include the following:
  - A. Title of the artwork
  - B. At least two sentences describing the artwork
  - C. Your name, age, grade, full mailing address, school name, email address for a parent or teacher, county of the district you are in along with the district number, and name of local newspaper

#### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

Art entries may be mailed or delivered to the following address:

Republic of Texas Museum  
810 SAN MARCOS ST.  
AUSTIN, TX 78702

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 6-12**

- The poster size MUST be 9" x 12" in size, with or without a border
- It MUST be original artwork
- It MUST denote a historic site, event or activity that occurred, or individual(s) that lived in your home district prior to 1850, who helped settle Texas
- The artwork MUST be signed on the front, lower right hand side
- The reverse side of the artwork MUST include the following:
  - A. Title of the artwork
  - B. At least two sentences describing the artwork
  - C. Your name, age, grade, full mailing address, school name, email address for a parent or teacher, county of the district you are in along with the district number, and name of local newspaper.



See reverse side of brochure to locate the district your county is in.



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Christmas Shopping at the Country Store

### Christmas Shopping at the Country Store

The Country Store sold \$1,725 at the District VI workshop. At the 6 workshops that Country Store volunteers attended, almost \$7,000 of goods were sold. After all expenses – sales tax, cost of goods sold, credit card fees, and sales table expenses – net sales were \$2,713, 39%.

The store is open at chapter meetings and other events at the Pioneer Memorial Log House. Shop with us for Holiday gifts, stocking stuffers and for gifts throughout the year. Net of your purchase goes directly to support the log house. We need about \$25,000 in donations and net purchases of Country Store to meet the budgeted expenses for the log house each year. This amount is separate from emergency expenses and improvements we might want such as a new fence, drainage improvements, grounds irrigation, flood control, more tree work, etc.

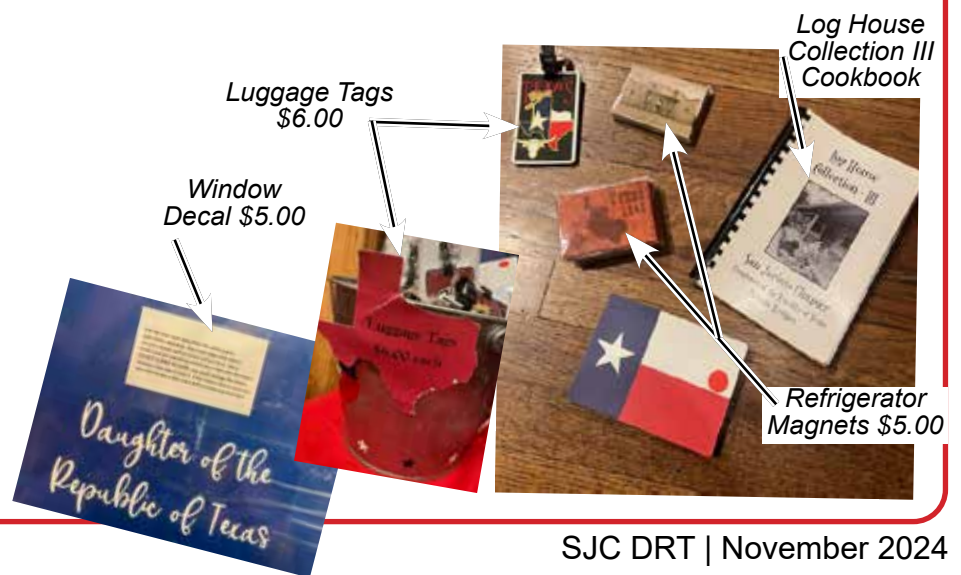
If you can't get to the log house when it is open, call Gwen Koch or Carla Brown and we can meet you or take an order over the phone. Photographs of some of the "Texas" things we have for sale are included in this newsletter. And if you want to donate a gift for our underprivileged children this holiday season but can't visit, call us to make an order from our inventory, and we will put it under the tree for you.

Thank you for your support!

We will be at the log house November 21 from 10am–2pm, December 3, 4, 5 from 10am–2pm, December 8 from 2-4pm if you would like to stop by and make a purchase. All purchases at the Country Store support our Pioneer Memorial Log House.



District IV Workshop sales table



Luggage Tags \$6.00

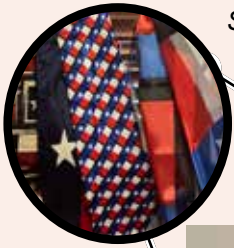
Window Decal \$5.00

Log House Collection III Cookbook

Refrigerator Magnets \$5.00



## Some of the items available at the Country Store:



Scarves and ties  
\$15.00



Texas boot dispenser  
\$15.00  
(hand cream, soap – even ketchup)

Texas Flag Jacket  
\$55.00

Log House Collection III  
Cookbook \$25.00



Texas Flag cufflinks  
\$45.00

(Not showing)  
Texas Flag Lapel Pin \$5.00

Christmas Tree Ornaments \$30  
(collector items)



Texas Flag Canvas Totes  
\$20.00

San Jacinto T-shirts  
(short sleeved)  
\$25.00

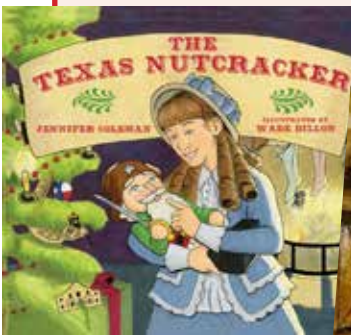


front

back



Check out our Christmas themed books for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends





# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Tidbits

A couple from Denmark toured the log House last month - we have many international visitors each month at our Open House

CRT officers will be installed at the Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 8, 2-4 pm

Gwen Kunz, chair of Historic Preservation Committee, has framed and hung photographs of the 4 presidents of the Republic of Texas in Brooks Cottage - drop by to see them.

A Texan Native License Plate can make a great gift for Christmas, birthday or anytime. It can also help you find your car in the parking lot.

Speaker Andy Smith, site manager for San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, talked about the history of San Jacinto:

- owned by the State of Texas
- World's Tallest Masonry Column
- Octagon shaped - 4 large sides with 4 small corners
- Brigham Monument erected 1881 is the only memorial in the park
- The bronze sundial was dedicated in 1940

We have new Social Committee chairs - Rachel Berte and Luisa Feagin! They did a beautiful job rounding up delicious refreshments and setting a pretty table. Thank you Patty Bassine, Rachel Berte, Carla Brown, Luisa Feagin, Mary Munn, Patti Randolph, Lindsy Toomey, and April Townsend. And thank you to Sharolyn Wood for bringing the beautiful birthday cake for us to celebrate the Founding of Daughters of the Republic of Texas November 6, and the 133rd anniversary of our San Jacinto Chapter on November 9. "Honoring our legacy and heritage."

A Texas Honor Day, we celebrated Stephen F. Ausin's birthday, November 3, 1891, at our Road to Independence Chili Cookoff

November is here ! Plans are underway for our upcoming Holiday Luncheon and New Member Installation on December 5. We hope you will join us. Please note that your payment is your reservation and is needed before Thanksgiving.

2017 - 2025 San Jacinto Chapter yearbooks have been bound and placed in our Chapter Library



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Thelma Maresh Medallion Ceremony

### Thelma Maresh Medallion Ceremony

In 2001, our San Jacinto Chapter marked the grave of Erette (Mrs. George P.) Red, member of our chapter and Past President General of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, with a DRT medallion.

Now, we gather to do the same for another of our superstars: Thelma Beatrice Burnett (Mrs. Henry R.) Maresh.

Thelma Beatrice Burnett was born 5 May 1905 in Sipe Springs, Comanche County, Texas, and passed away 17 January 2007 (aged 101 years) in Houston, Texas.

Her husband was Dr. Henry Rudolph Maresh who had passed away in 1957 (she outlived him by 50 years!). They had four children: Karele, Haden, Harlan, and Marsha. Only Marsha Maresh Milligan is still living, but unable to travel. She and her daughter, Montie Milligan Elkins, live in Temple, Texas. Her granddaughter, Rachel Maresh, lives in Austin, and granddaughters Rebecca and Marsha live in the Houston area.

At the time Mrs. Maresh joined the San Jacinto Chapter on January 30, 1934, the San Jacinto Chapter was actively involved in planning for the Centennial Celebrations of 100 years of Texas Independence. The major projects were the San Jacinto Monument, establishment of the San Jacinto Museum of History, the planting of the Oak Trees along Vista Drive and placing Centennial Markers. In addition, the chapter also constructed the Pioneer Memorial Log House to serve as a Hospitality Center during the Centennial Celebrations.

Thelma was the Recording Secretary for our chapter in 1937 when the chapter's most outstanding accomplishment for the year was the selection of an appropriate tribute—the bronze Sundial, to be erected at the Texian Army Camp, San Jacinto Battlefield. This Texas Veterans Association Fund had been entrusted to the San Jacinto Chapter for this purpose in 1904.

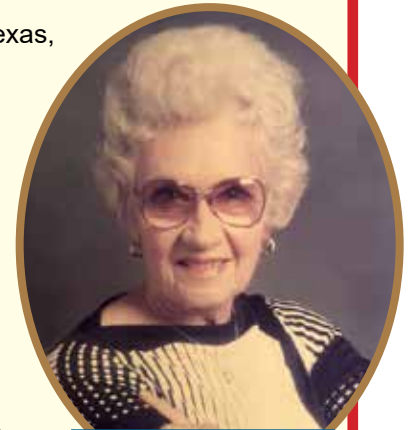
In 1942, Mrs. Maresh was appointed to serve the unexpired term of Mrs. Suhi, Chapter President, who was ill. As the San Jacinto Chapter President, she hosted a dance in the Log House for 50 soldiers as well as several other dances to benefit the Maintenance of the Log House and grounds. In addition, she began radio programs on Lamar Day, Texas Independence Day and San Jacinto Day. Mrs. Maresh also named Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry, a co-founder of the DRT, an Honorary Life President of our chapter.

In 1947, Mrs. Maresh was elected President General of the DRT. During her two-year term, she traveled 7,734 miles, wrote 1,005 letters, and signed 178 new DRT applications and 54 new CRT ones. In 1949, she organized a luncheon for San Jacinto Day which was held on the Battleship Texas! When she retired as President General in 1949, the San Jacinto Chapter had 220 members, 4 Honorary, 3 Associate, and 12 new members.

Mrs. Maresh was a member of numerous Houston organizations but had a deep passion to further education throughout Texas. She established several scholarships to assist future generations including at the University of Texas, The University of Houston, Texas A & M Kingsville, Houston Baptist University, Houston Community College, and San Jacinto College.

She started her endowment for our chapter's college scholarships in 2000 by giving us 500 shares of Walmart stock which had a market value of \$30,750.00. Another 476 shares were transferred to us in 2004 with a value of \$25,604.00. Upon her death in 2007, we received another \$250,000.00. Additional amounts were given to us in 2008, 2009, and 2011. To date, we have awarded over \$260,000 in college scholarships. Thelma Maresh herself personally awarded the scholarships up until her 99th birthday in 2004. These scholarships now known as the Thelma Maresh Scholarships are presented annually on April 21 during the San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony.

Thank you, Thelma Burnett Maresh! Your legacy is an inspiration to us all and your gifts to us will continue to inspire us for years to come.



Thelma Maresh



### District VI Workshop

Our district's workshop was hosted by the Seth Hurin Bates Chapter, Kingwood this year. Friday, the chapter hosted a tour of the quaint and interesting Humble Museum. At Saturday's event Dallam Masterson was the keynote speaker talking about the early Texas Navy. It was attended by 11 members and 2 CRT members of San Jacinto Chapter. President General Carol Steakley announced that with donations at all 10 workshops this year (District VI raising the most), the note for the Headquarters building will be "burned" at the May DRT convention in Odessa.

Things you may not know about District VI:

- 9 chapters
- San Jacinto Chapter is the oldest and largest - 1891
- Next chapter formed - President Houston Chapter, Huntsville - 1933
- Next one - Judge Nathaniel H. Davis Chapter, Montgomery - 1967
- Newest chapter - New Kentucky, Spring/Tomball - 1986
- 6 of the 9 chapters are in Harris County, one each Montgomery Co., Walker Co., Washington Co.



1. Beth Fisher Presenting Carol Steakley Navy Certificate  
 2. District Representative Patti Johnson at podium  
 3. Country Store Customers  
 4. Sales group  
 5. Merchandise  
 6. SJC CRT helping at workshop

Save the Date for

*A Christmas  
Open House*

*December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

*2:00-4:00p.m.*

*Pioneer Memorial Log House*

*1510 Cambridge Street*

*Houston, Texas 77030*

Hosted by the San Jacinto Chapter, DRT





# San Jacinto Chapter Gift Drive

Our chapter is collecting unwrapped gifts for children in CPS care, "Be a Resource" (B.E.A.R.) Houston. If you would like to donate a gift for the chapter's project, bring it to the log house on November 21, December 3, 4, 5, 8; or contact Carla Brown or Sharolyn Wood to make other arrangements.

## Gift Suggestions

### Books for all Ages - Visit our Country Store!

#### Infants:

Nursery Toys, Teething Toys, Ride-On Toys, Sit-To-Stand Walkers, Activity Mats, Soft Building Blocks

#### Toddlers:

Toy Trucks/Cars, Action Figures/Dolls, Costume/Dress Up Items, Building Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Play Food/Dishes, Interactive Learning Toys (VTech)

#### Children (up to 12 years old):

Action Figures/Dolls, Tween Make-Up Sets, Arts and Crafts Kits, Science/Discovery Kits, Puzzles, Legos, Remote Control Cars/Helicopters

#### Children (13+):

Tablets, Bluetooth Headphones, Digital/Instant Camera (with refills), Make-Up Sets, Nail Polish, Bath & Body Sets, Jewelry Items (both genders), Cologne/Perfume Sets, Purses/Wallets

#### General Toys:

Bikes\*, Scooters, Sports Equipment (all types), Board Games, Handheld Gaming Device, Tablets



**BEAR**  
PROVIDING HOPE AND HELP

\*Bikes = please ensure they are **not** assembled and are still in the box.

Help BEAR fulfill the holiday wishes of over **26,000 abused, neglected, and at-risk children** this holiday season through our **BEARing Gifts** program!

# DAUGHTERS *of The Republic of Texas* STARS GROUP

For DRT Members 50 & Under

Daughters under 50, join  
this focus group today!



Join us for monthly meetings throughout  
the year to collaborate on new ways to  
attract new members, excite the minds of  
little Texans and further promote the  
Daughters of the Republic of Texas.



Join the private Facebook group:



[www.facebook.com/groups/DRTstars](http://www.facebook.com/groups/DRTstars)

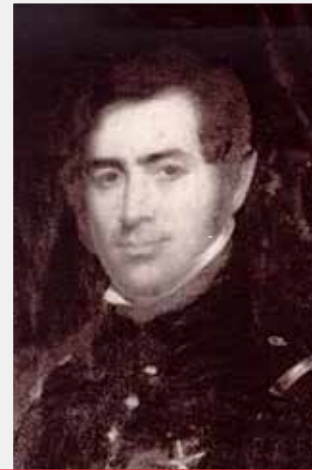




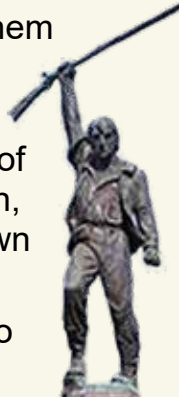
### The Siege of Bexar Day

The Siege of Bexar began in October 1835 and ended with the surrender of Mexican General Cos on December 9, 1835.

- This was the only victory of the Revolution until the Battle of San Jacinto.
- When Texian troops were about to go into winter quarter, Colonel Ben Milam drew a line in the dirt and challenged them by saying, “Who will follow old Ben Milam into San Antonio?”
- 300 men, under the leadership of Ben Milam and Francis Johnson, entered San Antonio before dawn on December 5.
- The conflict was fought house to house. Milam was killed by a sniper. General Cos surrendered on December 9. This is how the Texans got the Alamo.



*Col. Benjamin Rush Milam*



*Col. Benjamin Milam  
Milam Park, San Antonio Texas*





# Pioneer Memorial Log House



Become a "Friend of the Log House" for 2024-2025

To help preserve the house and grounds

- Texas Star ..... \$ 25
- Silver Star ..... \$ 50
- Shining Star ..... \$ 100
- Gold Star ..... \$ 250
- Lone Star ..... \$ 500
- Platinum Star ..... \$1,000 and higher

A gift of any amount is appreciated, and you will be recognized as a *Friend of the Log House*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you wish to be printed)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

General Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution in Memory / Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send card to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Gift** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## San Jacinto Chapter DRT

You can make your donations by check, credit card, or Venmo:

To pay by check, make your check payable to San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, note Log House in the memo line of your check, and mail donations to:

Pioneer Memorial Log House  
1510 Cambridge Street  
Houston, Texas 77030-1732



To pay with credit card or Venmo, please access and complete our online form by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. San Jacinto Chapter DRT is a 501(c)(3) organization.



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Double Your Donation

### Double Your Donation (at no cost to you)

Ladies, does your employer have a matching gift program? You can double your donation to our Chapter or the *Friends of the Log House* through Employer's Matching Gifts. And retirees can often do the same through their previous Employer's Matching Gifts. Help our chapter and the loghouse increase our donations through this free program. Please contact Carla Brown, Treasurer at [treasurer@sjcdrt.org](mailto:treasurer@sjcdrt.org) for assistance in setting up your matching gift.

### Did You Know???

Kroger and Randall's both offer a 1% Rebate to us for all money you spend on groceries. Simply sign up to link your account to us; here's how:

#### Kroger:

Go to

[HOKrogerCommunityRewards@kroger.com](mailto:HOKrogerCommunityRewards@kroger.com). Our account is

DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE, Account number is RF149. Ask them in the email to link your Kroger Rewards Account to us. You will need to provide your Kroger Rewards number *OR* go to the courtesy counter and ask them to help you. Kroger has a number of affiliate stores including City Market, Dillon's, King Super and Fry's (grocery).

#### Randall's:

Set up a Randalls for U account through the smart phone app or the website at [www.randalls.com](http://www.randalls.com). Then, send an email to [GoodNeighbor@Randalls.com](mailto:GoodNeighbor@Randalls.com) and ask them to link your account to the non-profit by providing the organization's Good Neighbor number in your message, along with the phone number used to set up your Randalls for U account. (This is the same phone number you use at the register when shopping.) Our Good Neighbor account number is 14197. Affiliates include Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's, Acme, Tom Thumb, United Supermarkets, Pavilions, Star Market, Haggen, Carrs, Kings Food Markets, and Balducci's Food Lovers Market. Be sure to ask the courtesy booth if you need other help.

If you are aware of other stores that offer rebates to non-profits please let me know so that we can apply. My email is [dgrig1@comcast.net](mailto:dgrig1@comcast.net).

Thanks,

*Debra Grigsby*, 4th VP Ways and Means

