

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



SPRING

March 2020

Coming Up Next:

April 2nd: Robert Roten will speak to the Chapter about the "The Texas City Disaster"

For our April Program: The Texas City Disaster

The Texas City disaster occurred on April 16, 1947 and was the worst industrial accident in United States history. The explosion, originating as a fire on the SS Grandcamp that quickly spread, killed 581 people and injured thousands more. Following the event, stricter safety procedures and regulations were enforced in the petrochemical industry. Monsanto, whose plant and offices were destroyed, committed with other companies to rebuild in Texas City and helped propel the city to a prosperous future. The Texas City disaster occurred on April 16, 1947 in Texas City, Texas and was the worst industrial accident in United States history. The explosion, originating as a fire on the SS Grandcamp that quickly spread, killed 581 people and injured thousands more. Following the event, stricter safety procedures and regulations were enforced in the petrochemical industry. Monsanto, whose plant and offices were destroyed, committed with other companies to rebuild in Texas City and helped propel the city to a prosperous future.



Robert Roten was raised in Texas City and experienced the Texas City disaster as a young schoolboy. He graduated from the University of Texas and worked for Monsanto for the next 25 years. He was involved in the leveraged buyout of the Monsanto plant in Texas City and the formation of Sterling Chemicals, eventually retiring as CEO of the company. He continues to participate in the growth of Texas City. The film was produced by Andy Hollan, narrated by Nowrin Amin, and edited by Evan Ami.

Hope to see you all in April!

Message from our President:

Hello, Ladies!

Good news! We have two new members! Welcome to Debra Grigsby (ancestor Joseph Coker) and Vanessa Flores (ancestor Mariano Cabrera)!! We are thrilled that you have joined us!

We had a wonderful field trip to San Felipe de Austin on March 5th. I learned so much! We are getting our new HVAC system put into the Log House this month and are hoping to have it up and running for our April chapter meeting.

We have several items on our wish list. One is that we need a new chapter flag. Ours is 25-30 years old and the white backing on the center seal is separating. We would like to have two flags, one for display and another to take to funerals and other events. Please consider donating to the "Friends of the Log House", any time, any amount. Total for two flags is just under \$700.00.

Stay safe, everyone, and we'll see you in April!

-Beth McCarty

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Donations needed for a new set of Chapter Flags!



The San Jacinto Chapter needs a new set of Chapter flags!

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The Friends of the Log House donation form is attached to the end of this newsletter.

We still need a volunteer!!

We are still looking for a new Chapter Registrar. If anyone would like to step up, please contact Chapter President Beth McCarty at

bethmccarty48@gmail.com

Just a reminder to please wash your hands often and if you are feeling the slightest bit under the weather, please stay home and take care of yourself!



Randalls

Kroger Community Rewards and Randalls grocery stores have given Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Pioneer Memorial Log House new numbers. Please check with your local Kroger to have your Kroger Plus Card updated for our new **#RF149**. Randalls donation card number is **#14013** for the Pioneer Memorial Log House. You can request this number to be programmed onto your Randalls shopping card. Remember, you shop anyway, so this is a painless way for our chapter to receive a donation from Kroger and Randalls just because we shop. Every little bit helps!

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Early Texas Recipe

Taken from *A Pinch of This and a Handful of That - Historic Recipes of Texas 1830-1900* published by DRT District VIII in 1988.

A Chicken Salad

1858 ~ Elizabeth Bevers Russell

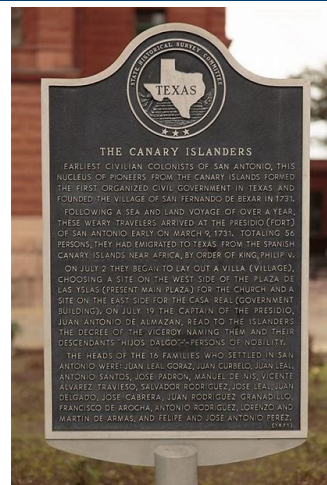
Take a fine white bunch of celery (4 or 5 heads), scrape and wash it white; reserve the delicate green leaves. Shred the white part like straws; lay this in a glass, or white china dish, in the form of a nest. (White heart lettuce may be used for the nest instead of celery.) Mince all of the white meat of a boiled or white stewed fowl, without the skin, and put it in the nest.

Make a salad dressing thus: Rub the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs to a smooth paste, with a dessert spoonful of salad oil or melted butter; add to it two teaspoons of made mustard, and a small teaspoonful of fine white sugar, and put to it gradually (stirring it in) a large cup of strong vinegar.

Make a wreath of the most delicate leaves of the celery around the edge of the nest, between it and the chicken. Pour the dressing over the chicken when ready to serve; if the dressing is poured over too soon, it will discolor the celery.

Friends of the Log House
Thank you for your support!!

During this month in Texas history - March, 1731



In an effort to populate Texas, the king of Spain decided to send some families from the Canary Islands.

Spain felt a permanent establishment of Spanish families would better support a claim to the land than would garrisons of soldiers. The islanders were chosen because of their pure morals, their high re-

spect for women and their industrious work habits; besides, there was so much poverty in the islands that most people were starving.

By June 1730, twenty-five of a proposed four hundred families reached Cuba. Those twenty-five joined ten other families in Vera Cruz and started an overland March to San Antonio de Bexar to the safety of the Spanish presidio. On March 9, 1731, fifty-six people marched into the presidio. They became the first settlers of a new city in the colonies. In San Antonio today there are people who need not trace their lineage to the Old Three Hundred of Austin; they can go back to the Old Fifty-six from the Canary Islands.

[Excerpt taken from *The Book of Texas Days* by Ron Stone]

Gifts from January 1, 2020 – February 29, 2020

Lone Star
Caskey Charitable Fund

Shining Star
Angela Mahmarian In Memory of Marje Harris

Silver Star
Carolyn Ivy Shimek In Memory of Marje Harris
Martha Sable Strang

Texas Star
Dr. Rene Maher

Diane Martin Quast In Memory of Shirley Green
Luanne Zacek In Memory of Sue Trammel Whitfield

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San Jacinto Chapter - Calendar of Events 2020

(See yearbook for details)

Texas History Pioneer Day	March 17
Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting)	April 2
San Jacinto Day Ceremony	April 21
Baked Potato Lunch and Social	TBD Fall
"Come and Sip It" Fund Raiser	TBD Fall
Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting)	May 7
CRT Celebrates Summer - Field Trip	TBD
DRT Annual Convention	May 14- May 16
June Luncheon	June 4
CRT Convention	June 26-27

Photos from our March Field Trip to San Felipe de Austin



Message on behalf of San Felipe Museum speaker, Carroll Brincefield

Carroll is actively searching for family stories of ancestors who fled toward Louisiana in the Runaway Scrape or as she titles it: Flight to the Sabine. She is working on a book about it. If you have information to share, please contact Carroll at

brincefieldc@gmail.com



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Report from the Log House Committee ~ March 2020

New Air-Conditioning and Heat at the Log House

Our Chapter has the funds to complete Phase 2 of our Log House restoration.

Phase 2—2020: HVAC.

By the end of March, Pioneer Memorial Log House will have a new HVAC system installed. Our contractor, Steve Riha Construction Co., has begun work to remove the antiquated, commercial type system of four, 5-ton units located at each corner of the Log House, replacing these with one, 8.8 ton modern HVAC unit to be located in the corner outside the parlor window.

The Log House will have a new look with the removal of four large metal, mechanical cabinets and the camouflaging cedar pole fences. And, we will have heat!

The new HVAC system will have an attic air handler system, with ceiling vents in the rooms with ceilings (dining room, kitchen, parlor, and restrooms) and side wall vents in the vaulted Assembly Room. The current air return floor vents will be used. Other floor vents will be sealed.

The current storeroom will become a mechanical room. A new, secure room to store chairs, tables, and serving pieces used for Log House events will be created.

Phase 1—2019: Major Construction.

In 2019, the Chapter had the funds on hand to undertake Phase 1 of the Log House restoration. Last March, Riha Construction Co built the new front porch and ramp, leveled the Log House, did foundation work, and repaired chinking. In November, a master plumber, Joey Baxter, replaced deteriorated galvanized pipes in the kitchen and restrooms and installed new, donated dishwashers.

Wrap-Up.

We hope to complete the last work in Phases 1 & 2 of our Log House improvements by June.

How Funds Were Raised.

The accomplishments in 2019 and 2020 were made possible by grants received and funds raised due to the work of **Gwen Koch**, 4th Vice President for Ways & Means, and **Carolyn Lightfoot**, President of the Friends of the Log House. In 2018 and 2019, Gwen sought contributions from members and obtained grants from **Albert and Ethel Herzstein Foundation** and **George and Mary Josephine Hammon Foundation**, which, when combined with money raised at our *Come and Sip It* events led by Carolyn, made our restoration work possible.

Thank you. I thank the hard-working members of the Log House Committee: **Gwen Kunz**, **Margie Forster**, and **Luanne Zacek**, along with **Beth McCarty**, **Gwen Koch**, **Laura Kaplan**, **Lisa Braly**, and **Diana Stachowiak** from the Chapter Executive Board, and **Jamie Moran** and **Laura-Hill Taylor**, past-presidents. These committee members have diligently met monthly at the Log House to plan and oversee the improvements we are making.

We continue to plan for additional preservation projects for the Pioneer Memorial Log House which will be completed as funds become available. If you would like to make a gift for the benefit of our log house, there is a donor form attached to this newsletter.

Sharolyn Wood
5th Vice President
Chair, Pioneer Memorial Log House Committee

The San Jacinto Dispatch

In and around the Log House... Boy Scout Troop visit and Program



Next Chapter meeting:

April 2, 2020

10:00 social

10:30 meeting

The San Jacinto Chapter has a Facebook Page!!

If you are on Facebook, please go to "San Jacinto Chapter Daughters of the Republic of Texas" and like our page! That's where you will find the latest photos and events for our Chapter. For quick access, copy and paste this title in quotations into your Facebook Search bar. That should take you straight to the correct, active page for our Chapter. Please note: You must have a Facebook account to access this page!

It is time to start signing up for our June Luncheon!
(Please see form attached to the end of this newsletter.)

Details:

June 4, 2020

Braeburn Country Club

11:30 a.m.

RSVP must be received by May 22

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

June Luncheon
June 4, 2020 11:30 a.m.

New Member Ceremony
Texas History Teacher Award

BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77074

\$40 per person

Complimentary Valet Parking
(Please tip Valet Attendant)



~~~~~Please print form, clip and mail with your check~~~~~

San Jacinto Chapter June Luncheon ~ June 4, 2020 11:30 a.m.

\*Reservations must be received by May 22nd

Reservation for \_\_\_\_\_

My Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \$40 each payable to:  
San Jacinto Chapter DRT

Mail to: Jamie Moran  
11406 Mullins Drive  
Houston, TX 77035-2632

# PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

## Become a "Friend of the Log House" for 2019-2020

to help preserve the house and grounds.

### Membership levels

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 _____<br>(as you wish to be printed) |             |
| Address _____                             |             |
| Phone _____                               | Email _____ |
| General Contribution                      | \$ _____    |
| Contribution in memory / honor of _____   | \$ _____    |
| Send card to: _____                       |             |
| Address _____                             |             |
| City/State/Zip _____                      |             |
| Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____            |             |

Make check payable to:  
**San Jacinto Chapter DRT**

and mail donations to:

**Gwen Koch (4<sup>th</sup> Vice President – Ways and Means)**  
**2015 Banks St., Houston, Texas 77098**

### ★★★★★★★PMLH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES★★★★★★★

How I can help:

\_\_\_ Restoration Projects

\_\_\_ Tours / Docents / Greet visitors at monthly Open House

\_\_\_ Assist with identifying craftsmen and professionals for maintenance projects

\_\_\_ Assist with opening log house for special events

\_\_\_ Texas Heritage Garden: Assist with maintenance and beautification of grounds.

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