

Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

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December 2006

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Have a very Merry Christmas, enjoy the Holiday Season, and may you have a great New Year!!!

## January Meeting

Our speaker for the **January 4th** meeting will be Drew Coats, president of the Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society, founded in 1998 to research, promote and preserve the aviation history of Houston and Southeast Texas. The central mission for the organization is its 1940 Air Terminal Museum Project -- the restoration and conversion of the long-vacant Houston Municipal Airport Terminal into an interactive museum to showcase the important role of civil aviation in the Houston area since the dawn of manned flight. The topic of Mr. Coats talk will be "Houston's Aviation History". Nancy Burch

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## Christmas Open House

On Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. the Daughters of the Republic of Texas - San Jacinto Chapter will have a Christmas Open House at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. The CRT will have their annual toy drive to deliver gifts in the spirit of Christmas to our neighbor, Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. We plan to collect toys at the Christmas Open House. Please do not gift-wrap them so the staff at Ben Taub can properly distribute them to the children. Please support this worthy cause. Loretta Williams

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## SJC Registrar Report for December

Welcome the following seven (7) new members to San Jacinto Chapter, DRT.

- Mary "**Sue**" Manly Montgomery
- **Linda** Montgomery Beverlin
- **Melissa** Dawn Riley

This three-generation family proved back to ancestor Elisha Davis Jackson, their early TX ancestor.

- **Trudi** Lynell Tanner, ancestor Edward Morris Tanner.

These ladies were approved in mid-November 2006, and welcomed at the December meeting.

- **Janice** Kay Allen Andrews was approved on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December under ancestor Lorenzo de Zavala.
- **Trudy** Lynn Knobles Schuckers and her daughter,
- **KaySea** Lynn Walling Wadley, were approved on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 2006, under the ancestor Alfred Mynott Hallmark.

It is with great pleasure I welcome these new members, as we saw eleven (11) members become inactive December 1<sup>st</sup> because of non-payment. If a member would like to see this list of inactive members, please contact this chapter registrar or the chapter treasurer.

There are several applications pending with the Registrar General, which should be approved very soon.

Prospective members, "DRT software is available to you to produce your application. It is simply a fill-in-the-blank software, and very user friendly. If you would like a package, please contact this registrar." [moodyphyll@pdq.net](mailto:moodyphyll@pdq.net)

Chapter total membership is **346**.

### **Heartfelt Condolences**

Death to report:

DRT# 021014 - Evalie Berry Green, the mother of member Tina Shelton. Mrs. Green died on Saturday, November 11, 2006. SJC was represented at the funeral by Eron Tynes, Phyllis Moody, and Marian Beckham took the TX flag to the visitation and left it for the service. Mrs. Green became a member of SJC in August of 1996, under ancestor George O'Brien. She was a resident of Friendswood, TX.

Looking forward to the New Year, and wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas,  
Respectfully, your chapter registrar, Phyllis Vaughan Moody

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### **Friends Of The Log House**

Holiday greetings to everyone from the Log House! May your new year be filled with many blessings and opportunities to do good for others.

The Friends of the Log House Society was begun a few years ago to enable anyone who loves this unique Texas teaching center to support us. You do not have to be a DRT member—we encourage your family members and friends to join us in this effort.

Our membership year follows the same as our chapter fiscal year—from June to June. An annual contribution is a great help in maintaining the house and grounds. As with your own home, our chapter home needs continuous funds to meet monthly and yearly expenses. It takes about \$1000 a month to keep things in good repair. The country store is a great source of income for us, so we hope you will continue to patronize the Texana items there.

Although we accept and appreciate all donations, the levels for Friends are as follows:

Texas Star--\$25  
 Silver Star--\$50  
 Shining Star--\$100  
 Lone Star--\$500  
 Platinum Star--\$1000 and higher

An exhibit at the Log House acknowledges the Friends for 2006-2007. If you are not sure if you are up-to-date, you may check the exhibit, or call Martha Haydel, 936-756-6941 or email [qjohn@aol.com](mailto:qjohn@aol.com). Martha Haydel

PS.....On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This act contains the new IRA Charitable Rollover which may benefit both you and certain charitable organizations. People 70-1/2 or older may make qualified charitable distributions totaling up to \$100,000 per year in 2006 and 2007 directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualifying charity. These charitable contributions will count toward your minimum required distribution and, as such, will not be included in your income. However, you may not take an allowable deduction on your taxes. If you have question about how to maximize your giving through the new IRA Charitable Rollover please consult your legal, tax and/or financial advisor.

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### **Bits and Pieces**

We have had several San Jacinto Chapter members, who have asked about the origins of the Log House. To that end, we have had an excerpt each month to tell the story.

Part III of IV

#### **ORIGINS OF THE PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE**

By November, the Committee members had secured the services of John Mackay “who is an experienced builder and also understands log construction and after many attempts and much effort we succeeded in reducing the cost of the building per plans... The log work was the stumbling block. By taking each unit or component part of the building separately, we finally arrived at a cost of \$3,185.06. In other words, we have a separate contract with the electrician, plumber, stone mason, log and carpenter work, and also foundation. Mr. MacKay will handle the log, carpenter and foundation work, and have supervision over all the other contractors...This price does not include lighting fixtures, finishing of floors, landscaping of grounds nor miscellaneous expense...”

A contract was signed with Mr. MacKay on November 27, 1935 and work began on the foundation the following day – November 28, Thanksgiving Day. The only changes in the plans as drawn by Weaver state “instead of random width oak flooring, No. 2 common oak flooring is to be used, and instead of hand-hewn cypress shingle roofing, creosoted red cedar shingles are to be used...”

The city donated the site for the log house “to perpetuate the memory of the founders of Houston, John K. Allen and George Allen.” The first location of the Log House was actually where the Hermann Park Zoo is now located. A letter from Sarah Kemp Jackson indicated that “the reason the San Jacinto DRT Log House was constructed in Hermann Park, instead of a site on Buffalo Bayou was because the Park site was more accessible to the members, and this decision had the support of Oscar Holcombe, then mayor of the city of Houston.”

The building was not completely finished when it was dedicated on March 2, 1936, but as Mrs. Ramsey explained, “there has been so much bad weather during the winter that the work is behind schedule, and while it is not customary to dedicate a building before it is actually completed, it has been decided that our hospitality house will be so near completing that we will not be doing violence to precedent by proceeding with the dedication ceremonies as planned.”

The dedication of the Pioneer Memorial Log House was front-page news in Houston newspapers and was included as part of Houston’s official Independence Day Program of March 2, 1936.

The ceremony took place at 3:30 p.m. with Mrs. Marian Hearne Thornall, great-granddaughter of General Sam Houston “christening” the log house using a pitcher of water from the Brazos River, a river which has played an important role in Texas history. An invocation was given by Bishop A. Frank Smith, a descendant of Texas pioneers and Daffan Gilmer, also a descendant of Texas pioneers and member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, gave the principal remarks.

Fifteen firms and individuals ontributed materials and supplies to build the log house.

Over 130 individuals and civic clubs donated cash, some in memory of an ancestor, relative, or founder of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas or the San Jacinto Chapter.

Over 100 items of household furnishings were donated many with historic value.

Mrs. Ueckert in her report to the Chapter in April, 1936 said,

When I reluctantly accepted the Chairmanship of the Building Committee, I fully realized that it would be a difficult task to carry to completion our undertaking, but by the wildest stretch of imagination, I never dreamed of so many unheard of complications, but thanks to the hearty cooperation of the Mayor, City Council, our President, General Chairman, and the Log House Committee, “We are here, Lafayette.”

We are forever indebted to the men who worked on the building who did such a pretty job of notching the logs. All of this work was tedious, heavy and difficult, with the worst sort of weather thrown in for good measure, but they stuck to the work until it was finished. Every man worked for less than the prevailing scale... The chimney which is the chief attraction of the assembly room, was made possible thru the Shepherd Drive Rock & Stone Co., the actual cost was over \$500, it cost us \$400...The National Lumber and Creosoting Co., aside from the City, is our greatest benefactor, for it is due to the treatments given to the logs, that we confidently expect the walls of this Log House to be here to help commemorate the next Centennial...To Mr. John MacKay, we owe much..for had it been anyone else, I fear he would have deserted us in the midst of the work..two weeks at a time he could do nothing. Everyone who sees the job, marvels at the workmanship

particularly when you remember how crooked some of the logs were. The cement chinking will fall out in pieces from time to time as the house settles, that is to be expected, but on the whole we have a house that had it been built by the Architect who drew the plans would have cost \$6 or \$7000.00 and I question it being as well built as this one is. Mr. McKay takes a great pride in his work and expects this building to stand as a monument to his skill. He was forced to use cheaper labor than he is accustomed to but under his eagle eyes we have a good job.

*Sources: Donor and Chapter Records, San Jacinto Chapter DRT; Daughters of the Republic of Texas Annual Proceedings, 1935, 1936; Letter dated August 11, 1980 from Sarah Kemp Jackson; Various articles, The Houston Press, February 28, 1936; "Texas Daughters Dedicate Pioneer Log Cabin," The Houston Press, March 3, 1936; "D.R.T. Group to be honored," The Houston Post, October 29, 1946; "Conception of the Pioneer Memorial Log House..." compiled by Sarah Groce Berlet.*

**To be continued.** The Final Part - IV of IV will be in our January Newsletter.

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In the spirit of Christmas, I felt compelled to include this story that Carolyn Lightfoot passed along to me:

What? No Santa Claus?

I remember my first Christmas adventure with Grandma. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," she jeered. "Even dummies know that!"

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her "world-famous" cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true.

Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus?" She snorted...."Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!! Now, put on your coat, and let's go."

"Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second world-famous cinnamon bun. "Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car. "Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and

who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, and the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class. Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out to recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but all we kids knew that Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he didn't have a good coat. I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat!

I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my ten dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly. "It's for Bobby." The nice lady smiled at me, as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus" on it.

Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially, one of Santa's helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going."

I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma.

Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobby. Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma, in Bobby Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team. I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: \$19.95.

May you always have LOVE to share, HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that care.... And may you always believe in the magic of Santa Claus! May we all take time to remember the least among us. God bless.

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## Museum Educators Open House

Saturday, January 20, 2007 10 AM – 4 PM

Buffalo Soldiers National Museum  
The Children's Museum of Houston  
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston  
The Health Museum  
Holocaust Museum Houston  
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft  
Houston Museum of Natural Science  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum

There will be Booths from more than 40 area museums and organizations  
Hourly presentations  
Continuing education credits (3 hours)  
Refreshments  
Door prizes

For more information, visit [www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org](http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org)

Pre-registration  
Participating museums and organization  
Day of event schedule  
Shuttle Route - Free

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### CRT

CRT Annual Convention information update

**Subject:** Accommodations

All accommodations at the Newcombe Tennis Ranch have been booked. We have reserved a block of rooms at the following motels located a reasonable distance from the Ranch. Ask for DRT/CRT Convention reserved block of rooms.

Motel about 7 miles away:

Best Western Inn and Suites, I-35, exit 190, located on southbound access road on north side of New Braunfels and a short distance north of the I-35 and Hwy 46/Loop 337 intersection.

830-625-7337 \$89.00 Double or King

Best Western will hold these rooms until May 22, 2007 when they will be released into their rental pool.

Hotel about 5 miles away:

Hotel Faust, 240 South Seguin Avenue, Older Historic Hotel in downtown New Braunfels, in the block before Main Plaza.

830-625-7791

For Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and possibly June 21<sup>st</sup> (if needed), rates per night:

\$99.00 Double (2 Full Beds), \$89.00 Queen (1 Queen Bed), \$95.00 King (1 King Bed), \$79.00 Single B&B (1 Full Bed)  
Ask for rooms reserved for DRT. Hotel Faust will hold these rooms until May 22, 2007

Motel about 20 miles away:

At Seguin, at intersection of I-10 and Highway 46  
La Quinta Inn, 830-372-0567, 1 king or 2 double beds-\$109.99+tax  
Cancellation: at least 2 weeks prior to reservation

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There have been several inquiries from members and officers regarding the transfer process and fees. I have provided some of the information and by-laws.

Boys can join the SRT anytime but will be considered a regular member after age 18. If they join prior to 18 years of age they are considered junior members of the SRT and do not have dues. There are no ancestor bars available in the SRT.

The fee is \$50.00 for a male CRT member to become a SRT member. The application requires their signature and the application is a CRT to SRT Transfer application. It is not necessary to have a CRT Registrar signature, but one just needs to have their names inserted. The applicant will need to know when they were admitted to the CRT. One Copy of the CRT to SRT Short form (which is the application) will also need to be attached to a copy of the CRT Application.

The applications are available on line or they can be mailed.  
<http://www.srttexas.org/>

For more information contact:  
Janet Hickl  
SRTheadquarters  
1717 Eighth Street  
Bay City, Texas 77414  
Telephone: 979/245-6644

CRT By-laws as taken from the Charter and Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Article III Section 4. Transfer to SRT/DRT

(a.) Any girl who is a member of CRT is eligible for transfer to DRT at anytime after her 16th birthday but before her 21st birthday without payment of initiation fee. A boy who is a member of the CRT is eligible for transfer to the Sons of the Republic of Texas anytime after his 16th birthday without payment of initiation fee.

(b) A transfer card shall be requested from the chapter sponsor, who shall obtain said card from the CRT Registrar General of the DRT. This transfer card shall accompany two typewritten copies of the SRT applications for memberships or the CRT transfer to DRT Short form which is accompanied by two copies of



applicant's original CRT applications papers. Rules governing DRT membership as outlined in DRT MOP, Membership section, shall be followed.

(c) Any girls who is a member-at-large of CRT may transfer to DRT at anytime after her 16th birthday but before her 21st birthday without payment of initiation fee. Any boy who is a member-at-large of the CRT may transfer to the SRT anytime after his 16th birthday but before his 21st birthday without payment of initiation fee. A girl may obtain membership papers from the Chapter Registrar of to which she had applied for membership. Upon completion of said papers, as stated above the applicant shall return the papers to the Chapter Registrar.

#### Section 5. Retired CRT Members

(a) CRT members who have reached the age of 21 must be retired from the CRT membership roster, as prepared for the DRT Annual Proceedings, by the chapter sponsor, and from the membership-at-large roster by the CRT Registrar General of the DRT and the DRT Business Office.

(b) The DRT Chapter's CRT Register shall submit the names of girls being retired from the CRT membership rosters to the membership chairman of the sponsoring DRT Chapter as prospective members. The names of the boys being retired from the CRT membership rosters shall be submitted to the SRT as prospective members.

#### ARTICLE VI - Fees

##### Section 1. Application papers

A charge of four dollars (\$4.00) for application shall be payable to CRT, Inc. by DRT, Inc. chapters. A charge of two dollars (\$2.00) for CRT Transfer to DRT Short Form shall be payable to CRT, Inc. by DRT Chapters.

##### 2. Initiation Fee

An initiation fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) made payable to CRT, Inc. shall accompany each application for membership.

##### Section 3. Supplemental Lines

Supplemental lines may be established by submitting an application in duplicate for each ancestor, accompanied by a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) made payable to CRT, Inc.

Loretta Williams