

Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

The San Jacinto Dispatch

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January 2007

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May each of you have a healthy and blessed 2007!

February Meeting

The **February 1st** meeting will feature David Pomeroy as our speaker. His topic, "Historic Markers on the Road to San Jacinto," should be of great interest since many of the markers he will describe were placed by San Jacinto Chapter. David is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and a well-known local historian. Nancy Burch

March Field Trip

On **March 1st**, we will visit the Hilltop Herb Farm Restaurant near Cleveland, Texas, for our annual field trip. The 39-passenger bus will depart at **9:00 am** from the parking lot behind St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Our trip will include a tour of the herb gardens and a gourmet lunch. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests are welcome. Please send your check for \$30 per person, to Sara Parr, 215 Whitehall Place, Stafford, Texas 77477, by February 1st. After that date, the cost is \$35 on a space-available basis. Nancy Burch
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Air Terminal Museum:

For those of you who missed hearing the program on "Houston's Aviation History" at our January meeting, you can visit the Web site for the 1940 Air Terminal Museum at www.1940airterminal.org and learn about the restoration of the old Art Deco building at Hobby Airport and its conversion into a museum. You can also find information on the monthly Wings and Wheels Open House on Saturday, **January 20**, a great monthly event for families. Nancy Burch

FROM YOUR DISTRICT VI REPRESENTATIVE

February 8-9 is the next Board of Management meeting.

Saturday, February 24 is our mid year District Meeting in Huntsville. We will be able to meet and talk with the slate of nominees. We will elect new BOM officers

at the convention in May. These ladies will be leading DRT for the next two years. Plan to attend!

March 2, essays are due to your District VI Representative.

Saturday, March 24 is our District VI Project - Glenwood Cemetery Marker Dedication Ceremony. All district chapters are working together on this project. The ceremony will be at 2 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue, Houston. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Two items have come to the attention of this officer concerning historical items in our district.

1.) The possible removal of the marker placed by San Jacinto Chapter of Santa Anna's Capture Site on the Houston Ship Channel. I am checking with the Harris County Commissioner's office for details.

2.) The possible name change of SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY. A name change was proposed a few years ago. The State Legislature has changed the name of San Marcos University to Texas State University-San Marcos. The proposal is to change the name of SHSU to Texas State University-Huntsville.

All DRT members need to write a letter to their legislators and express their opinion on this. We need to be proactive and protective of our Texas History. It can slip into obscurity quickly if we let these things happen. Go to the website <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us> to find who represents you, their addresses and phones are listed. Anita Cooper, District VI Representative

SJC Registrar Report for January

Happy New Year to ya'll! Daughters and prospects of DRT, let us resolve to finish your supplement / application papers for DRT in 2007. Honestly, I'd like to see you finish up your new applications, or supplemental applications, on my watch, which ends in about 4 months on the 1st of June. It can easily be done. Work diligently in the coming months and contact me if you need assistance or advice on your applications.

As Chapter Registrar, I keep a log of all our prospective members. We have ladies from all across our Houston area who are working on their application for DRT. Not only are these ladies interesting to work with, their ancestors stand out in early Texas history. We recently voted on three ladies to be SJC prospects that their ancestor is David Crockett...yes THE Davy Crockett!

To keep our Chapter growing, talk with your friends; see if they are eligible for DRT. Send letters of endorsement, which include the prospects name, address, phone, e-mail, and their ancestor's name to me. It would be my pleasure to assist with the application of any "wanna-a-be" DRT members.

Our San Jacinto Chapter welcomed the following five (5) members at the January 2007 meeting.

DRT # 26103 - **Janice Kay Allen Andrews**. Her ancestor is Lorenzo de Zavala, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Janice was approved 06 December 2006,

DRT # 26150 - **Katherine "Kae" Weber Theilen**, her two daughters, DRT # 26151, **Carol Lyn Theilen**, and DRT # 26152, **Katherine Hope Theilen Davis**, along with Kae's sister, DRT # 26153, **Carolyn Weber Schwartz**, were all approved on 22 December 2006. Their ancestor is Sophie Henrietta Dorothea Ernst, who arrived in the Republic of Texas aboard a German ship in January 1846. Sophie stepped on Texas soil just in the nick of time.

These new members presented application packets with some especially interesting proofs, which included photos taken of old graves. The Theilen family packets contained some beautiful church records that were "watercolor like" pages, along with German ship records, listing the father with wife and children. For Zavala, many records were combed through, sorted out, and several of his records were selected for the application packet. Please welcome these new members when you meet them, or at the next meeting.

We have four applications pending with the Registrar General, waiting for approval. Six applications need signatures and are pending with the chapter registrar. Several supplemental applications are near completion. If a prospective member does not type, nor use a computer, this chapter registrar will type the application for a donation to the chapter, which has generated \$200.00. DRT software was sold during December and early January. Total membership at the end of 2006 was **350** members, ah, if only all of them would become active!

Be sure to make our new members feel welcome. Invite them to become active by serving on your committee. Sticky labels with the new member's information are put on the front table at each meeting for you to pick up. Attach these labels to your yearbook. Notice, at each meeting, there are several different sheets of labels; choose the one you do not already have in your yearbook. Respectively submitted, Phyllis Vaughan Moody, Registrar, SJC - DRT

Texas Independence Day Celebration & Chili Cook-Off

Come join the San Jacinto Chapter, DRT and CRT as we celebrate Texas Independence Day with the Texian Army on Sunday, **February 25, 2007**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House. It will be a Living History Festival, along with a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Tom Green, SRT, will be there to display his Texas Flags, along with Larry Hoff, Blacksmith, and Edwin Erwin will be on hand to sign Land Grants. The Texian Army in conjunction with the Sons of the Republic of Texas will present Land Grants.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 per child under 16. Please free to come in period dress or your favorite Texana.

If you are interested in having a Chili Team please contact Eron Tynes @ 713-851-0520. It is time to dig out Uncle Bob's old chili recipe and start chopping those red-hot chili peppers. Prizes will be given for the: Best Authentic Texian Chili, Best Deer Meat Chili, Best Armadillo Style Chili, Best Roadkill Chili, Best Trailriders' Chile, Best Rattlesnake Rattle Chili, Best Red Hot Pepper Chili, Best Possum Chili, Best Squirrel Chili and more. Last year we had to add two new categories - Best Buffalo Meat Chili and Best Chocolate Chili. Come see how many you can win.

As part of our celebration, we will have a **Flag Retirement Ceremony**. Last year the Flag Retirement Ceremony was held and a number of the children participated. This year we are inviting all children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., to participate in this moving patriotic ceremony. We will hold a rehearsal on **February 25** at 1:30 pm. This will allow the children to become familiar with the ceremony itself. Last year Marilyn Chapman donated the Texas Flag used in the Ceremony. If you have a used Texas Flag that needs to be properly disposed of, please let me know.

Last year a number of Chapter members provided desserts. This year Marilyn Chapman has volunteered to coordinate those interested in bringing a dessert, please call Marilyn at 713-522-1876.

We need Chapter members to assist with Registration, Judging the Chili Cook-off, and with setting and cleaning up. If you can help out, please call Eron Tynes at 281-820-0676 or email: 54texan@ev1.net.

Friends of the Log House Society

Welcome to the second half of our exciting year of learning about Texas history and honoring our ancestors.

Our Friends Society has also had some welcomed activity. As you know, the society is an entity composed of DRT members and non-members who are

interested in supporting the preservation of the Log House as a center for teaching Texas. We welcome anyone who fits into that category!

We have a display in the Log House listing the donors for 2006-2007. Check to see if your name is on the list when you are at the next Log House event or meeting. If we have left anyone out, please let us know.

November and December donations came from the following Friends:

Brenda Auld	Shirley Lightfoot
Anna Barrett	Kathryn Louie
Frances Bivins	Kay Martin
Pat Craig	Esther Simon
Al Davis	Betty Stokes
Gwen Kunz	Maryanne Tallichet
Dolores Landrum	Flora Roeder

We have members who often want to honor and memorialize friends and family with a contribution to the Log House. It is a lovely way to remember those who hold a special place in our hearts. The Log House recently received the following memorials.

In memory of:

EVALIE GREEN

from

Eron Tynes
Shirley Lightfoot

WESTON KIMBALL

from

Maryanne Tallichet

Thanks to the above contributors and to ALL of our Friends. The Log House Society appreciates your participation in preserving and maintaining this historic building. Martha Haydel & Eron Tynes

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used for a variety of occasions including San Jacinto Chapter activities, other DRT and CRT activities and fundraising rentals. Because of the growing popularity of the Log House and to avoid "double booking" it is important to coordinate all use of the Log House. Please contact Brenda Auld at 281-497-0528 or bauld@houston.rr.com to check the availability of the Log House for any function and to schedule an event at the Log House.

Bits and Pieces

San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, hosted our **Christmas Open House** at the Log House on Sunday, December 17, 2006. Warm Texas December weather made it a pleasant afternoon to celebrate the Christmas season. Our beautiful Log house was decorated and trimmed with garland, poinsettias, red and green ribbons, white flowers, and oranges stuck with cloves. The old house permeated all throughout with the smells of wassail, honey, and cloves.

People mixed and mingled with San Jacinto members, members of the Texian Army, several prospective members, and many guests. Small children played around the gigantic Christmas tree, which was hung with old Christmas ornaments, strung cranberries, and popcorn balls. Antique toys circled the big tree. Music surrounded all that entered the front doors of the old Log House. Many enjoyed the conversation of friends.

Wassail and Christmas punch was served with cookies, cakes, candies, meats, fruit and nuts, which graced the beautifully appointed dining table and side table. A red tablecloth with overlay of green and gold graced the tops of the tables. Members in the kitchen were kept busy from beginning to the end replenishing large trays of good food. The wassail pot was kept warm on the big stove, and the red fruit punch was kept on ice for a refreshing drink for our guests. Those attending brought an unwrapped package our CRT members to give to the children hospitalized at Ben Taub.

The outside of the old house was hung with green garlands, red bows, and boughs of holly. Fresh fallen yellow and green leaves carpeted the yard. This was a glorious occasion for our Chapter to show off the old house, and to share its rich heritage with family and friends.

If you were not in attendance, you missed a wonderful afternoon. Perhaps next year you can share this joyous occasion with your family. Phyllis Vaughan Moody

Once again, special thanks to Esther Simon for ensuring that everything looked absolutely beautiful, especially the Christmas tree, garland, poinsettias and the fresh greenery that adorned the house.

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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. This is the last installment. I hope you have all learned a bit more about our predecessors, the women that had the foresight and stamina to make sure our Log House was built. The torch has been passed on to each one of us!

We must carry on the vision and be the caretakers of the Pioneer Memorial Log House. Please participate and volunteer your time! Sara Parr

Part IV of IV

ORIGINS OF THE PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

In Mrs. Ueckert's final statement to the Chapter, dated May 7, 1936, she noted that additional logs were bought and the chimney was more expensive (by \$14.00) than originally planned with the addition of tile flue linings. "The total receipts to date have been \$3,706.51, the total cost of the job as is now stands is \$3,887.24, but San Jacinto Chapter paid of that amount only \$3,396.24, the difference of \$491, the cost of the additional logs and the chimney were paid for by the Centennial Association."

Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry loaned the Chapter \$500.00 at one point when it looked as if they might not have enough money to pay their contractors, receiving in return five \$100 notes at 3% interest. This debt was later paid by the San Jacinto Centennial Association.

The San Jacinto Chapter report in the 1936 Annual Proceedings states:

The greatest achievement of the Chapter during the past year has been the construction, dedication, and occupancy of our Pioneer Log House, which was made possible through the kind officers of the Honorable Oscar Holcombe, Mayor of Houston, and his Councilmen. They donated a most beautiful site on Dixie Drive in Hermann Park; the logs through the generosity of our loyal State President of the Sons of the Republic, Mr. Robert B. Morris; contribution of Money and material from interested and kind friends; pledges from Chapter Members; and last but not least the San Jacinto Centennial Association. The Log house has been dedicated to the Pioneer Men and Women of Texas And is being kept open during the official Centennial period to welcome visitors. All future meetings and social activities of the Chapter will be held in this Memorial House, which has been erected at a cost of more than \$3500.

Since, 1936, the house has been the site of many meetings of patriotic and genealogically minded organizations, teas, parties, weddings and dances.

To date, none may rival the box supper and barn dance held in the Log House on December 30, 1939. Colored lights were strung from the doorway to the street, "...It was is gala dress, with a huge log fire piled high and informal groups about the hearth...Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Berlet were the first to arrive and Mrs. Berlet in a little black and white check gingham dress with a white fissue, looked for the world like a pioneer, hair done in little side curls and a knot – Mrs. Kelly in black with a white fissue. They sat there by the fire alone for sometime, Mrs. Berlet in the Anson Jones rocker. We had a large, orderly crowd and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves to the fullest...Mr. R>S. Taylor and his sweet little wife led the old fashioned dances and square dances... We had a four piece string orchestra which delighted the dancers..."

In November 1940, the Sinclair Refining Company gave the San Jacinto Chapter a house in Montrose to be used as a caretaker's cottage. It was moved to the Hermann Park site on April 1, 1941 at a cost of \$172.50.

In the summer of 1950, the Pioneer Memorial Log House and the caretaker's cottage were moved to the present location to accommodate the expansion of the zoo. The logs, chimney, and fireplace were numbered, disassembled, and transported to the new location and then reassembled. Mrs. Aileen Wallis Manning served as Chairman of the Memorial Log House during this time and the committee that worked with her on the move were Miss Mary Todd, Mrs. George

Berlet, Mrs. H.V. Jackson, Mrs. S.H. Hearne, Mrs. L.M. Hamner, Mrs. U.B. Donley, and Mrs. R.E. Brennan.

Improvements and renovations have been made periodically to keep the log house in good condition.

The Texas Historical Commission presented the marker that is mounted near the entrance of the Log House on the occasion of the Texas Sesquicentennial in 1986. The plaque gives a brief history and highlights some of the achievements of the San Jacinto Chapter.

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.

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 If you are interesting in submitting an article for the newsletter, please send it to: Sara Parr at 215 Whitehall Place, Stafford, Texas 77477, or email s_parr1@msn.com. Please reference SJC DRT. Article deadline is the 10th of the month. Sara Parr

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 Have you visited our SJC web-site? Have a look for yourself at <http://www.sanjacintodrt.org/> Please send all additions, corrections and compliments/complaints to Anita Cooper at ajcooper@cybergal.com.

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

Country Store

Over the next few months we have several opportunities to take the Country Store on the "Road" in addition to events held at the Log House. Please contact Eron B. Tynes at 281-820-0676 to volunteer your time for any of the events listed below. Remember all proceeds from the Country Store benefit the Log House.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
January 20, 2007	Museum Educators Workshop	Log House
January 25, 2007 9:00am - 2:00pm	Travel and Trade Show	Humble Civic Center Humble, Texas
January 27, 2007 8:00am - 12:00pm	Fun Run	Log House
February 24, 2007 8:30am - 4:00pm	District VI Mid Year Workshop	Huntsville
February 25, 2007 2:00pm - 5:00pm	Tx. Independence Day and Chili Cook Off	Log House
April 14, 2007 8:00am - 3:00pm	San Jacinto Symposium	UH Hilton
April 21, 2007 9:00am - 5:00pm	Battle of San Jacinto Re-enactment	Monument

TEXAS HONOR DAYS~~~~FLY YOUR TEXAS FLAG

JANUARY 26 MIRABEAU B. LAMAR DAY
FEBRUARY 19 TEXAS STATEHOOD DAY

Historical Dates

January 17, 1821 - The Mexican Government gave Moses Austin permission to settle 300 families in Texas.

January 17, 1836 - Sam Houston ordered Jim Bowie to destroy the fortifications at San Antonio

January 21, 1886 - Dr. Ashbel Smith died this day in 1886 at his plantation on Galveston Bay.

January 25, 1839 - The Republic of Texas adopted its new Flag.

January 26, 1905 – Governor Samuel W.T. Lanham signed S.B. No. 541
 “Upon the receipt of the title to said land, the governor shall deliver the property thus acquired, together with the Alamo Church property already owned by the State, to the custody and care of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, to be maintained by them in good order and repair, without charge to the State, as a sacred memorial to the heroes who immolated themselves upon that hallowed ground...”

January 31, 1927 - The Mockingbird was designated as the state bird of Texas.

February 1, 1861 - Texas seceded from the Union

February 2, 1848 - The treaty that ended the Mexican War, the Treaty of Guadalupe was signed in 1848.

February 8, 1836 – David Crockett arrives at the Alamo.

February 11, 1836 – Colonel William Travis takes command when Colonel James Neil leaves.

Eron B. Tynes & Sara Parr

CRT

All CRT members and their parents are invited to attend and participate in the Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chile Cook Off, Feb. 25, 2007 at the Pioneer Memorial Log Houston. If you would like to participate in the cook-off, please contact Ms. Eron Tynes our San Jacinto Chapter DRT 4 V.P. at 54texan@peoplepc.com.

Our DRT President, Mrs. Carolyn Lightfoot, has graciously arranged for the children to be able to enter the Houston Zoo and ride the carousel Feb. 25. So, please make plans to attend this fun filled Celebration.

I will soon be calling on CRT members to submit projects for the 2006 – 2007 CRT Projects Book. The CRT 4th V.P. General's Project is to visit a historical place such as the San Jacinto Monument, The Alamo, Goliad or a historical site in your area. Take a picture of the historical place and write a ½ page essay about the place and why you went and the date of your visit. For CRT members under 10 please submit a picture of your visit.

I will provide all CRT members with the contact information of the CRT 4th V.P. or if you would like to mail them to me, I will gladly forward them on.

Thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to another successful CRT Convention this year that will take place in San Marcos, TX June 22 – June 23, 2007 sponsored by the DRT Chapters of District VIII. If you would like more information about the CRT Convention, please email me at latejana@houston.rr.com. Loretta Williams