

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

March 2017



## From the President

*March has blown in with promises of so many things to look forward to!*

*This month is full of Texas Honor and Memorial Days. We start the month with Texas Independence Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and finish up March with Goliad Heroes Day on the 27<sup>th</sup>.*

*Our Field Trip to Bayou Bend was grand and Pioneer Day at the Log House will be next week, on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Luanne Zacek and Deborah Liss-Frank plan so many fun activities for all the children who visit the Log House, including a goodie bag to take with them. I hope you will all come and visit too.*

*Happy Spring and I hope to see you at the Log House!*

**Jamie Moran, President**



## HONOR and MEMORIAL DAYS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

March 27 \* Goliad Heroes Day (1836)

April 21 \* San Jacinto Day (1836)

## March Meeting

Once again Ann Tanner organized a wonderful field trip for San Jacinto members. She even managed to produce a perfect spring day with blooming foliage!

Members gathered in the guest center at Bayou Bend and watched an introductory presentation about the estate and its original owner, Ima Hogg. This was followed by small group tours of the house which is a walk through history. The grounds were beautiful with much in bloom.

A gathering at the nearby Black Walnut Café allowed members to enjoy a delicious lunch and visit.

## Position of Newsletter Editor

For the past 18 months, I have served the chapter as editor of the newsletter with Phyllis Moody graciously serving as proofreader. Now, it is time for me to hand the position of newsletter editor to someone else.

I stepped into this position because there was an immediate need. I then also accepted the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to complete a vacant term and have agreed to serve in this same position for the next two years.

I love being a member of the San Jacinto Chapter and plan to continue to support the chapter serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, but need to hand the responsibility of the monthly newsletter to someone else.

If you are interested in serving the chapter please contact me or Jamie Moran. I will be glad to provide support and any needed help to get started in this position for the new chapter year.



Editor: Susan Stormer [susan@familyaggies.com](mailto:susan@familyaggies.com)  
Proofreader and fine tuning: Phyllis Moody

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**April 6, 2017—Nina Hendee**  
*Texian Legacy*

**May 4, 2017—Memorial Service**  
*Remembrances of San Jacinto from San Jacinto*  
*descendants Nancy Burch, Luanne Zacek and*  
*Gina Bouchard*

**June 1, 2017—June Luncheon**  
**BraeBurn Country Club**  
*Installation of Officers, State Convention report,*  
*and New Member ceremony*

## *April Meeting*

If you have never heard Nina Hendee as she talks about Texas, you are in for a real treat at the April meeting.

Nina, who with her husband Ed, own and run the well-known Houston restaurant *Taste of Texas*, has a passion for Texas and its history. She shares this with her listeners as she weaves her stories, bringing you with her.

Last September Nina was honored on Texian Navy Day by being commissioned as an Admiral in the Texas Navy in honor of her service to Texas by her diligence in helping preserve the history of Texas. She was also the featured speaker at the San Jacinto Day ceremonies last April. Nina is also an Honorary Member of the San Jacinto Chapter of DRT.

Mark your calendar to attend this meeting!

In accordance with the by-laws of the chapter, the slate of prospective officers is posted in the newsletter in March. The slate shall be presented to members at the April chapter meeting.

### Slate of Prospective Chapter Officers 2017-2019

President	Laura-Hill Taylor
1 <sup>st</sup> VP (Yearbook)	Susan Stormer
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP (Programs)	Martha Jorgensen
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP (CRT)	Deborah Liss-Frank
4 <sup>th</sup> VP (Ways & Means)	Gwen Koch
5 <sup>th</sup> VP (PMLHM)	Sharolyn Wood
6 <sup>th</sup> VP	Open
Chaplain	Sally Whittington
Recording Secretary	Hope Theilen-Davis
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Stachowiak
Treasurer	Amanda Cowan
Registrar	Marje Harris
CRT Registrar	Luanne Zacek
Historian	Janice McNatt
Parliamentarian	Lisa Braly
Retiring President	Jamie Moran



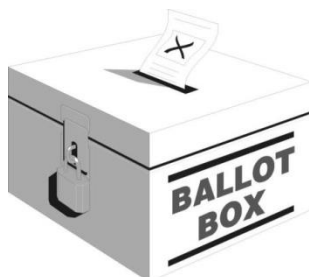
Nina Hendee being commissioned as an Admiral in the Texas Navy, September 1016.

### Pioneer Days at the Log House Luanne Zacek

Spring Break begins **Monday, March 13**. The Log House will be open from 10:00-2:00 for visitors. Everything will be set up and ready to go for the day. It is fun to see the children enjoy Texas crafts and have cookies and lemonade. We will need ladies to help with easy crafts.

If you have grandchildren who need community service hours, this is a good way to get them. I will be happy to write letters for them.

Look forward to seeing you. Depending on the crowd, we will decide on Tuesday.



## Historian's Report from Angela Mahmarian

Gwen Kunz, Eron Tynes and I made a trip down to the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library at the San Jacinto Museum of History to deliver several donations from our chapter. As many of you know, each year we purchase two Annual Proceedings books at convention and keep one for our library and donate the other to the SJ Museum of History. We do the same for the Founders and Patriots books, once they are published. I presented both of these to The Library Director, Lisa Struthers. Eron and Gwen also presented the box of Fannie C. Little's papers that the PMLHM donated to the museum.

Afterwards we took Lisa for a nice lunch at the Monument Inn. When we returned to the museum, Lisa was kind enough to pull the Dilue Rose Harris diary, which our chapter owns, for us to view. Two pages of the diary will be on exhibit at the Bullock Museum in Austin and I will update you in the next newsletter of the exact dates of the exhibition. Lisa wanted us to be sure and thank all of you for our continued support of the library with these donations.



Eron Tynes, Gwen Kunz, and Angela Mahmarian make the presentation to Lisa Struthers who is the Library Director of the San Jacinto Museum of History.

# Welcome

The Registrar General has approved five new applications for the San Jacinto Chapter.

Mehling, Cheryl Louise Brasseaux <a href="mailto:cmehling@sbcglobal.net">cmehling@sbcglobal.net</a> (daughter of Shirley Brasseaux)	01/04/2017
Mehling, Taylor Michelle <a href="mailto:tmehling2012@gmail.com">tmehling2012@gmail.com</a> (daughter of Shirley Brasseaux)	12/15/16
Ludwig, Ainslie Elizabeth Watkins (daughter of Lisa Watkins)	11/29/2016
Watkins, Cassandra Faith (daughter of Lisa Watkins)	11/29/2016
Quast, Mildred Diane Arnold Martin <a href="mailto:dmartinhouston@yahoo.com">dmartinhouston@yahoo.com</a>	01/03/2017

Over the past few months members have had the opportunity to share their stories about family roots in Texas and their personal journey to DRT.

Each story has been unique in its approach and content, but all have been interesting and a wonderful insight into the lives of fellow members of the San Jacinto Chapter.

This month we will be learning more about our chapter Historian Marje Harris. So many of us have had the privilege of working with Marje as we try to get our paperwork together for membership; trying to find that one last connection or one last document. Marje has guided so many of us through our journey to membership.

The story this month is about the interesting life Marje has led, all of it leading her to her Texas roots and DRT.

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I truly enjoyed the *My Journey to DRT* stories that have been shared. Please share **YOUR** story for a future issue. Send it in any format and I can use it.



## Margaret J. Harris

I was born at 9:52 p.m. on Saturday, 13 September 1947, in St Joseph's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas and am a proud 6<sup>th</sup> generation Texan. I came along at the end of World War II. Momma and I stayed in Houston in the house Poppa and Momma bought when they first married at 2017 Wentworth, Houston, Texas.

At the age of 6 months, around March or April of 1948, Momma and I left Houston to join Poppa in the Philippines. A short time later Poppa was stationed in Japan and I believe that is where we celebrated my 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Poppa was promoted to Captain and we moved for a short while to San Antonio, Texas. When I was about age 5, about 1952, Poppa was stationed at the Pentagon. My parents bought a house in Arlington, Virginia at 5428 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. We lived there for about 3-4 years of which I have many wonderful memories. We then lived in Maryland and moved to Germany, first Wiesbaden then Zweibrucken where I met my lifetime best friend, Carol Grace Roberts Tyler. Finally, Poppa was stationed at Kelly Air Force base in San Antonio where he retired. We lived there from about 1960 to my college graduation in 1970. I loved being a part of an Air Force family; all the travel, meeting new and different people, cultures, religions. It was exciting and fun.

For a graduation present my college roomies gave me a puppy dog. When trying to locate an apartment the manager liked me OK but not the dog. I had a terrible time finding a place to live. Momma was living with her sister here in Houston. She and I were out wandering around one Sunday and we spotted a house for sale in West University. We both liked it. Mom had the cash; I had the credit so we bought the house together in November of 1970. I've been here ever since.

During the summer before I graduated I volunteered to work in the University of Texas Dental School Library and was offered a job. I worked there for 2 years, long enough to get all my teeth fixed, then worked for a short time in the Joske's book department and just loved it. I received three job offers including that of a high school librarian from a woman who was retiring and who was also looking for a wife for her grandson. I politely declined both offers. Then I met Mrs. Ulmer who enjoyed much the same reading genres as me. She suggested I put in an application at the Houston Public Library. Surprise, surprise, I was hired. That is how I came to work at Clayton Library.

Because my Grandmother Harris had talked about family history and genealogy all my life I did not care a whit or a feather about genealogy. But when I went to work at Clayton I decided to do some research on an ancestor of whom she was very proud, Robert Slaughter, who was a member of the Virginia House of Burgess. Since we had the books at Clayton I decided to find all his accomplishments as a DISTINGUISHED member of the House of Burgess and found out he was kicked out after the revelation that he was illegally elected. With that revelation I decided that genealogy was indeed a worthwhile endeavor. Genealogy is not the statistics of just names and dates. It is about real live honest to goodness flesh and blood people, each with their own personalities and peccadillos. Search the original sources and materials to discover their true humanity.

What started out as just another job became an abiding lifetime interest. That, along with my interest in history and love of Texas, brought me here. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the San Jacinto Chapter. As registrar I have had the pleasure of getting to know our new members and have learned a great deal about Texas history, research, and records. Through our Chapter I have also met the most wonderful friends with like interest, dedication, goals and objectives.