



From the President

Dear San Jacinto Chapter Members,

Rain or shine, SJC must go on! Our first chapter meeting of the year was Thursday, October 5 - the DAY it rained HARD off and on ALL day! Those of you "from around here" know that Houston drivers do not do well with rain. And it has been "forever" since we had rain, so we were extra crazy. Thank you to the twenty-four members who drove to the Log House for the meeting that day and to the twenty ladies attending on ZOOM - this meeting had wonderful attendance. It was so appropriate that our program was about the Texas Navy - too bad their ships did not come to pick us up. Hopefully, everyone is safe, and our yards are greening up.

Doesn't this make you wonder how our ancestors could handle harsh weather days? Dirt floors, no paved roads, mud roofs, living on creeks and rivers that were prone to flooding. Because they were strong and persevering, we are here today to continue teaching our family and friends about Texas.

We are five months into our chapter year and already have eight new members, and twenty women in the prospective process. Trudi Becht, our Registrar, is a wiz at gathering information and preparing applications which can be very time-consuming.

Congratulations to Ashley Naumann on the birth of her daughter born on September 25. Ashley has already inquired how to apply to our CRT Chapter for membership - our youngest prospective member!

Prayers needed:

Roni Thelen, 1st Vice President (yearbook), as she is recovering from several broken bones in her right leg that required surgery because of a roller-skating accident. And now she is unable to drive for several more weeks. Before the accident, Roni was working on CRT applications for her four nieces.

The family of Susan Schaefer, our newsletter editor, as she has several family members living in war torn Israel. And other members who may have family and friends there.

The family of Liberty Pollard who passed away earlier in October- granddaughter Jennifer Switzer a member of SJC and her three children who are members of our CRT Chapter, and Mrs. Pollard's son Randy who is President General of SRT.

Speaking of the yearbook, I hope you have received yours in the mail. If not or you have changes/corrections, please contact Roni Thelen or me.

As you will read in the newsletter, we have many activities planned. We hope you will be able to join us!



God Bless Texas and you!

Gwen Sorsby Koch, President
San Jacinto Chapter

PS, I can be reached at
sjcdrtpres@gmail.com

In This Issue

Page No.

- 1 From the President
- 2 Upcoming Calendar: October 21- November 16
- 3 Special Notes and Thank You
- 4 Honor Days - November 3rd - /December 9th
- 6 Republic of Texas Museum Annual Art Contest
- 8 CRT Corner
- 9 Show Us Your Colors
- 10 Book Corner
- 11 Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction
- 15 Quilt Raffle to Benefit the Pioneer Memorial Log House
- 16 Tidbits
- 18 Sons of the Republic of Texas
- 19 2023 Texas Capital Ornament
- 20 Moment in History - Juan Seguin
- 21 132nd Anniversary of San Jacinto Chapter



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Calendar October 16th – November 28th



October 21 District VIII Workshop – New Braunfels
(drtinfo.org/members for more information)

Pioneer Memorial Log House
Open House 1-3 pm
Set up for San Jacinto Chapter
Chili Cookoff

October 22 Chili Cook Off and Auction 2-5 pm at
Pioneer Memorial Log House and Grounds

October 28 District VI Workshop - Huntsville
(drtinfo.org/members for more information) This is San Jacinto
Chapter's district. Try to attend to show support.

OCTOBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
X	22	23	24	25	26	X
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
					X	28



November 2 SJC Chapter Meeting 10 am

November 3 Stephen F Austin Birthday 1793 – Texas Honor Day

November 6 DRT Founder's Day 1891 - Texas Honor Day

November 9 San Jacinto Chapter 132nd Anniversary 1891

November 16 Chapter Workday 9:30 am

NOVEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	X	7	8	X	X	11
12	13	14	15	X	17	18
19	20	21	22	X	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Special Notes and Thank You

Thank you to our refreshment hostesses Carla Brown, Martha Jorgensen, Patti Randolph, Tish Wolter, Sharolyn Wood and Luanne Zacek for the tasty treats - and to Diane Stool for the beautiful centerpieces.



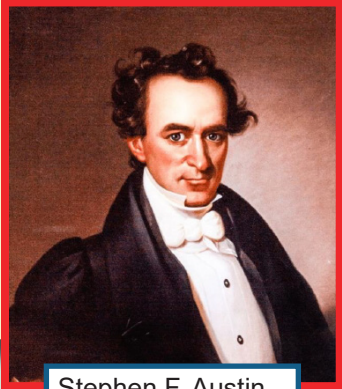
There are several rentals in December; our Holiday Open House on Sunday December 3; and our Holiday Luncheon December 7 (invitation coming soon for luncheon). On November 30, we need many volunteers getting into the holiday spirit by helping us decorate the Log House with poinsettias and the Christmas tree for all of the holiday activities. And on December 6 to set the tables for the luncheon.

If you would like to help with refreshments for an upcoming meeting or to help decorate for Christmas, please contact Gwen Koch at 713/826-9061 or sjcdrtpres@gmail.com.





November 3rd – Stephen F. Austin’s Birthday (1793)



Stephen F. Austin

- Remembering The Father of Texas birthday provides a time to reflect on the life of our founder and the importance of his contributions to Texas history, and ultimately U.S. history.
- He lived only forty-three years, but the significance of his achievements in the successful settlement and independence of Texas shaped our country’s history forever.

November 6, 1891 Founding of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas

On November 6, 1891, a group of seventeen ladies met in the home of Mrs. Andrew Briscoe in Houston to carry out the idea of Misses Betty Ballinger and Hally Bryan for organizing a Republic of Texas daughters’ organization to meet with the Texas Veterans.



Betty Ballinger



The Cradle, Galveston, Texas



Betty Ballinger

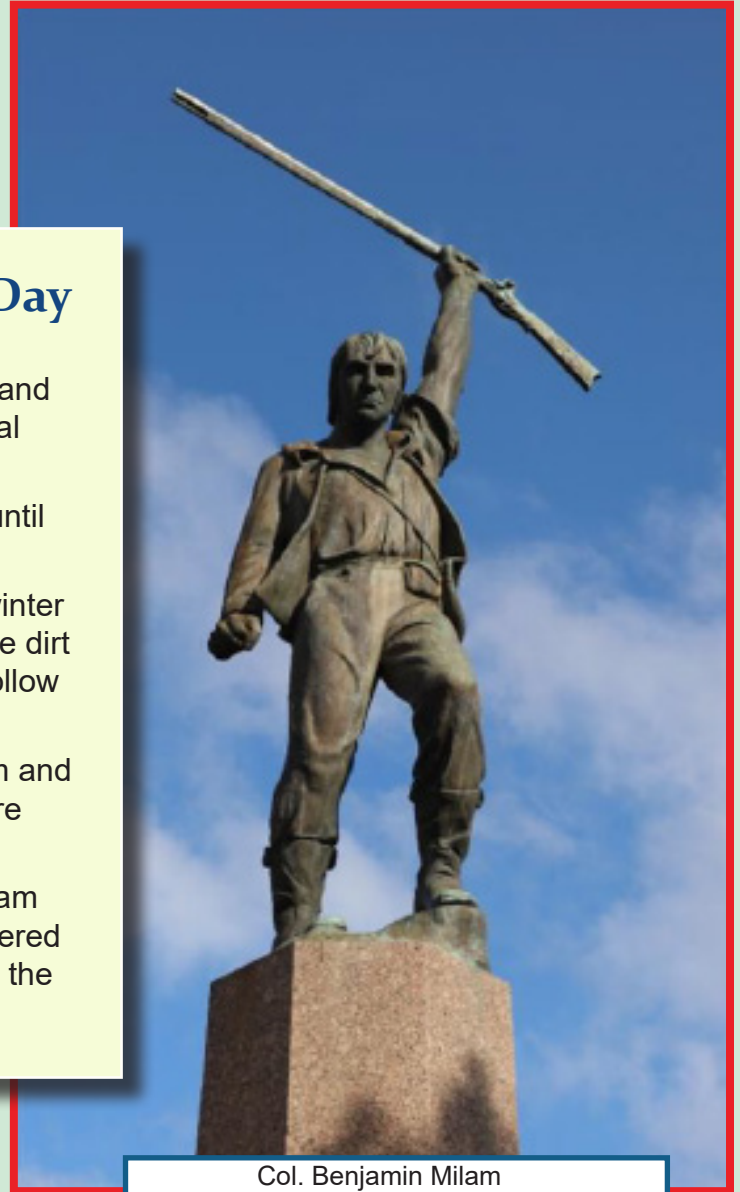


The San Jacinto Dispatch

Texas Honor Days (cont'd)

December 9 – 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 Texians got the Alamo.



Col. Benjamin Milam
Milam Park, San Antonio Texas



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Republic of Texas Museum Annual Art Contest

1836



1846

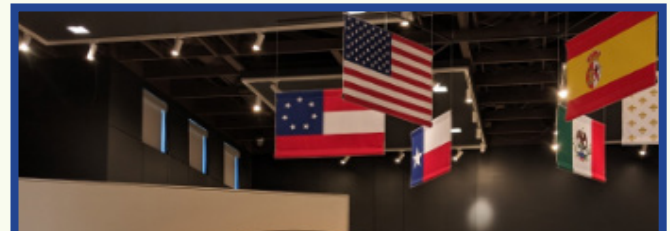
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS MUSEUM

2023 – 2024 Annual Art Contest

In order to promote Texas Heritage and history, the Republic of Texas Museum sponsors an Annual Art Contest for school age students across Texas. Entries from out of state should connect to their relative's district.

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:

1st place winner will receive \$100.00

2nd place winner will receive \$75.00

3rd place winner will receive \$50.00

Art Contest entries are judged by Republic of Texas Museum Committee Members.

**Please submit Art Contest questions to:
republicoftexasmuseumchair@drinfo.org.**





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Republic of Texas Museum 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

MARCH 1, 2024

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

Republic of Texas Museum
PO Box 6290
Austin, TX 78762-6290

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.



All artwork becomes the property of the Republic of Texas Museum and may be duplicated for any reason by the Museum without further authorization by the artist. Winning entries may be displayed on occasion at the Republic of Texas Museum and at the DRT Annual State Convention. Art pieces that **DO NOT** comply to size, district, or topic criteria will be disqualified from the Art Contest. Winners' names will be sent to local news services for recognition, if provided by the student.



The San Jacinto Dispatch

CRT Corner

The SJCCRT had a great time visiting San Felipe de Austin! Our next event will be the chili cook off (and we will have a CRT team). Hope to see lots of CRT members there! On the horizon: The Republic of Texas Museum is sponsoring an art contest for young people in 1st-12th grade. The deadline for entries is March 1, 2024, but it's not too early to start planning. Two of our CRT members, Lorien and Morgan Wolter, placed first in their divisions this year. Please see the attached brochure for details. We also have the DRT Texas History essay contest coming up. You don't have to be a CRT member to participate. Please encourage your 4th and 7th grade kids and grandkids to enter!





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Show Us Your Colors

SHOW US YOUR COLORS!!!



Gwen Koch's lovely home in Houston, Texas

"Our house was built in 1936 by Joe's father and grandfather who owned a lumber company near the old Bute Paint Company downtown. It has remained in the family all of this time, and three generations have been raised here."

We want to encourage everyone to proudly display the Texas flag. Send us a picture of your home with the Texas flag on display and your home may be the next to appear in our newsletter!

All interested may send their photographs to:
sjcdrtpres@gmail.com



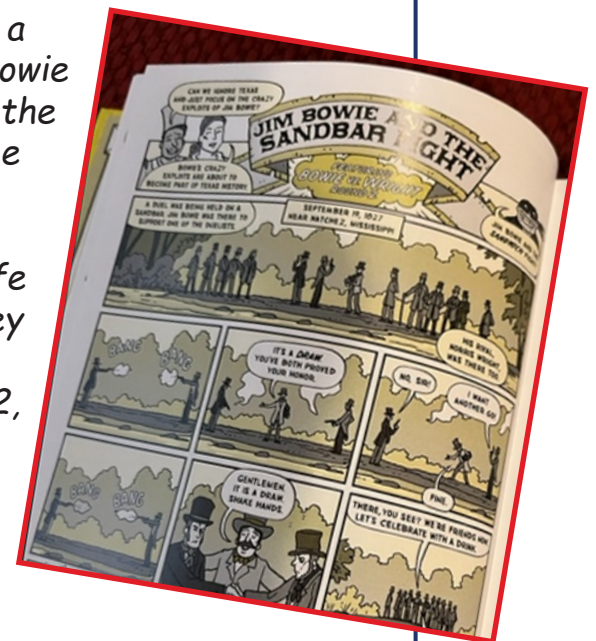
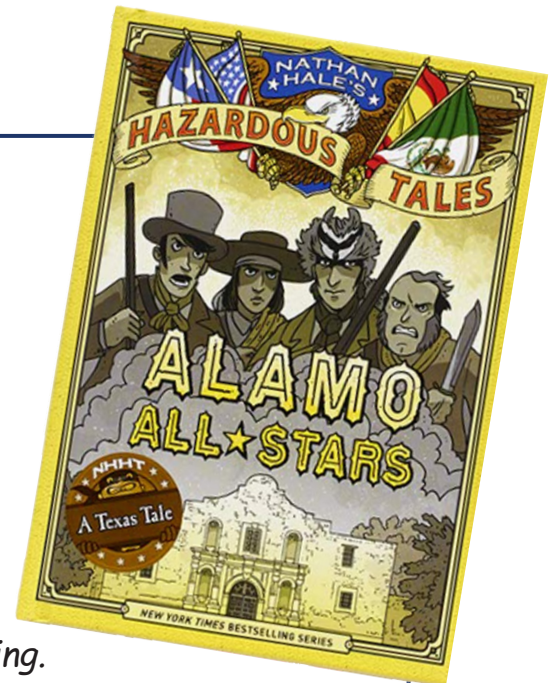
Nathan Hale's HAZARDOUS TALES Series now includes A Texas Tale called "Alamo All-Stars".

It is a graphic novel for 8 years through adults and tells the stories of the major actors in the story of the Alamo, both Texian and Mexican. It's filled with a lot of the history leading up to the fight for independence in Texas. It should appeal to all ages who like to read books with pictures, especially boys!

For example, the story of how Jim Bowie became famous even before the Alamo is fascinating. It starts with a duel on a sandbar in 1827. Bowie was there as a friend of one of the duelists, but when a brawl erupted and bullets flew, he pulled out his bowie knife and somehow survived two bullet wounds (in the leg and lung), seven sword slashes (one through the hand), and a serious bludgeon wound on the scalp. He and his knife became legendary! His brother Rezin had helped him design the curved bowie knife (Rezin was pronounced "Reason") and together they survived an attack by over a hundred Native Americans to add to the legend. And later, in 1832, Jim Bowie, with only 20 men, captured over 200 Mexican soldiers. All of these stories are told in detail in this book!

Others featured include Stephen F. Austin, William B. Travis, Davy Crockett, Ben Milam, James Fannin, and Sam Houston. We also get to know General Cos and General Santa Anna and so many more! Buy this book in our Country Store!

Beth McCarty



Road to Independence



Celebrate our Heritage

Please come and join the Children of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and The Sons of the Republic of Texas on October 22, 2023 at the Pioneer Memorial Log House (owned by the San Jacinto Chapter, DRT).

The event will be from 2:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. and the location is 1510 Cambridge, Houston, Texas. Complimentary parking will be available in the Log House parking lot or Ben Taub Hospital Parking Garage.

There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony, Rolling Thunder, Texas Music, Re-enactors, and a Chili Cook-off. In addition, we will have Texas themed coloring pages, Land Grants and children's games from the 1830's. There will also be a Silent Auction with all proceeds benefitting the Pioneer Memorial Log House and the SRT Scholarship Fund.

Admission will be \$10.00 per person and \$5.00 per child (3-16). Price includes chili, soft drink, chips and dessert.

Please feel free to come in period dress or your favorite Texana as we continue our mission to:



perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the Independence of Texas.

Flag Retirement Ceremony



Texas Army saluting during the Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Rolling Thunder

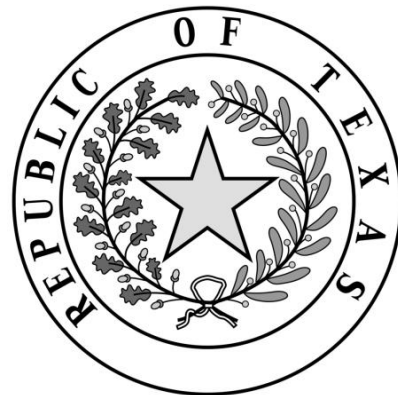


Lone Star Volunteers

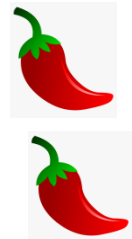
Mike Wilson, Todd Homman, Marshall Brown, Fred Mead and John Homman.

Desserts

We are also in need of desserts, mainly cookies, brownies or wrapped candy. If you are interested in donating a dessert, please contact Beth McCarty at bethmccarty48@gmail.com or send in the **attached registration form**.



Chili Cook Off



It is time to get out Grandma's or Grandpa's old Chili recipe and prepare for the Chili Cook off. We will be sponsoring the Chili Cook off and all Chili Teams will be recognized. Special recognition will be given for Best Texas Trailriders Chili, Best Texas Cowgirl Chili, Best Texas Cowboy Chili, Best Texas Roadkill Chili, Best Table Decorations and others.

If you want to organize a Chili Team, please contact Eron B. Tynes at texan54@att.net or Robyn Davis at robdesgallion@aol.com for more information and to registrar.

Texas Army



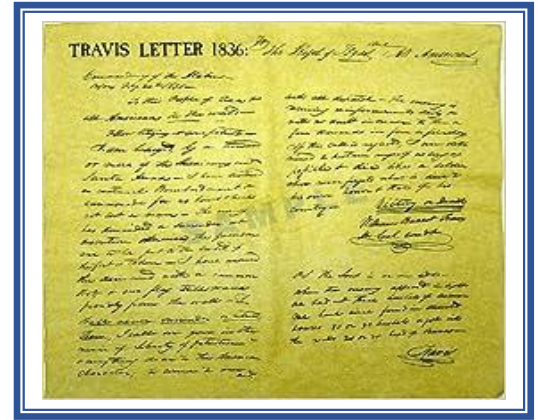
Silent Auction

There will be a Silent Auction to benefit the Pioneer Memorial Log House and the SRT Scholarship Fund. The Log House was built by the San Jacinto Chapter in 1936 in honor of the Texas Centennial and our pioneer ancestors. Today, the Log House provides schoolchildren and other visitors with a glimpse of pioneer life in early Texas and is available for tours. The Log House is available for rental to historical groups for a nominal fee.

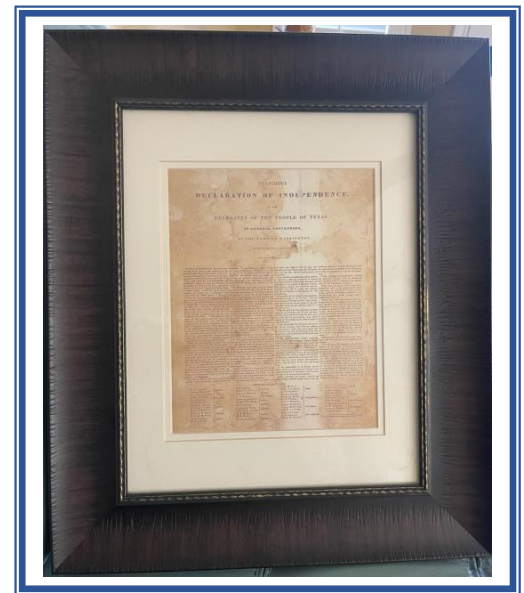
The SRT Scholarship Fund is a Texas History Essay Contest sponsored by The Sons of the Republic of Texas for graduating High School Seniors. The Awards are presented annually at the San Jacinto Day Celebration at the Battleground.

If you would like to donate an item please contact Debra Grigsby at dgrig1@comcast.net or send in the **attached Registration Form**. Items that usually work well include any type of Texana and tickets to sporting events, rodeo or other events.

All items must be received by October 15, 2023 in order for donors to be listed in the Program.



Texas Declaration of Independence

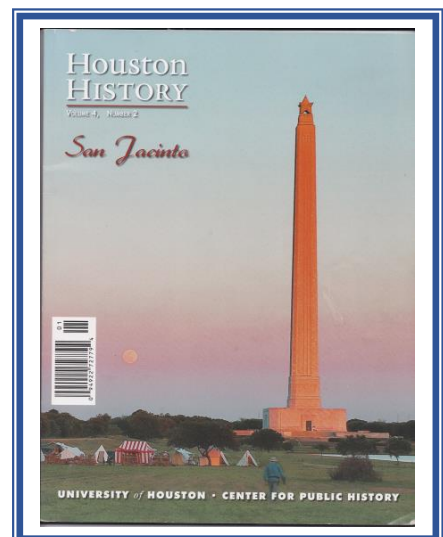


US and Texas Flag



US Flag and Texas Flag Set along with 4 Admission tickets to the San Jacinto Museum.

Both flags flew at the **San Jacinto Battleground** on April 21, 2022 and April 21, 2023 respectively.



100 Year Anniversary magazine of the History of the **San Jacinto Battleground**

Road to Independence - Celebrating our Heritage



October 22, 2023 Registration and Donation Form

As with many events it takes all of us working together to help defray expenses. There are several areas where you may make a contribution or donation. Please mail completed form with payment to Carla Brown, 5220 Wesleyan, C103, Houston, TX 77005-1079; email form to Carla Brown at treasurer.sjcdrt@gmail.com or complete the online form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

GUEST FEES:

No. of Adults _____ @ \$10.00/adult \$ _____

No. of Children _____ @ \$ 5.00/child \$ _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Payment can be made by (please denote **22Oct23** in memo): 1. Cash or check payable to San Jacinto Chapter, DRT. 2. Venmo to @San-Jacinto. 3. Credit Card – [click here](#) or scan QR code for online registration.

Other Contributions

Dessert _____

(Please only cookies, brownies or wrapped candy)

Silent Auction

Item(s) _____

Value: \$ _____

If you are interested in having a Chili Team, please contact Eron Tynes at texan54@att.net or Robyn Davis at robdesgallion@aol.com



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Special Quilt Raffle for the Log House

Quilt Raffle to Benefit the Pioneer Memorial Log House

1 ticket for \$10
3 tickets for \$25.

A beautifully designed **Texas Our Texas** quilt featuring all things Texas is being raffled this year. This artful quilt can be used as a wall hanging, bed coverlet or throw!

San Jacinto DRT member, Debra Grigsby, adapted the design to include the San Jacinto Monument, Bluebonnets, Indian Paintbrush, the Alamo, Mockingbird, Spindletop, boots and more!!!

Debra's craftsmanship and attention to detail AND quality make this a one-of-a-kind treasure. The quilt measures 52" x 64" and is definitely a labor of love for Texas!

Proceeds of this raffle will benefit our Pioneer Memorial Log House. Tickets will be for sale at San Jacinto Chapter meetings and activities and DRT District Workshops this summer and fall. The drawing for this quilt will be December 7, 2023 at our chapter's Christmas Luncheon. The Winner need not be present to win.



Raffle to Raise Funds for our Pioneer Memorial Log House Restoration

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:
Gwen Koch at 713-826-9061 or sjcdrtpres@gmail.com.



Travis Ring and 50 Years in the DRT



Gwen Kunz was overjoyed to show off her custom made Travis Ring, given in honor of her 50 year membership in DRT.



Texas Heritage Garden

Our Texas Heritage Garden features plants and trees native to our state as well as those brought by pioneers as reminders of their former homes. Growing on our grounds is a very important historic tree, the Sam Houston Walnut Tree. This September a marker was installed to identify this tree and describe its history. The sapling was given to Nancy Burch, SJC member and descendant of Sam Houston. In 2002, Nancy donated the tree to our chapter and it was planted by Barry Ward, her son-in-law. It was grown from a nut harvested on the grounds of the schoolhouse in Maryville, Tennessee where Sam Houston taught in 1812.





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Tidbits (cont'd)



Nina Hendee speaking

Presidio la Bahia Chapter DRT hosted a Texas sized luncheon at Taste of Texas with Nina Hendee as the fabulous speaker. It was attended by 4 members of SJC.

Open House San Jacinto Chapter Docents continued to host the "Log House Public Open House" on the third Saturday every month. You are invited to visit the Log House on Open House day between 1:00 and 3:00 and bring any visitors. Thank you to our docents Clarlyn Bhatti, Mary DiStefano, Carolyn Gilbert, Gwen Kunz, and Beth McCarty. If you would like to become a docent for the Pioneer Memorial Log House, contact Sharolyn Wood.

Our October Chapter meeting speaker was Dr. Dallam Masterson. He presented a wonderful history of the Texas Navy and added tremendously to our knowledge of the birth of the Navy and the important role it played in the struggle for independence from Mexico. Beth Fisher, a long time member of the San Jacinto Chapter, is Dr. Masterson's cousin and she helped to bring him to our attention...thank you Beth! Ms. Fisher and Dr. Masterson are both descendants of Samuel Rhoads Fisher, the first Secretary of the Navy for the Republic of Texas.

Jamie Moran

The month of November is home to Honor Day for DRT. Our Chapter meeting will recognize this special day with two speakers. Sally Whittington, a San Jacinto member and former Board member will present her ancestor story "The Texas Star". Debra and Richard Grigsby will show us a video they created "Our Beginning". Debra is a member of our Chapter and serves on the Board. We hope you will be able to join us for this very special program.

Jamie Moran

Would you like to be part of history at the Log House? Become a Docent. The Docents Committee is responsible for conveying to visitors the history of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Chapter, Pioneer Memorial Log House, and the chapter's early Texas history collection. Join our Log House committee to preserve history. The Pioneer Memorial Log House & Garden Committee has the responsibility to preserve, care for, and maintain the Pioneer Memorial Log House, the chapter early Texas history collection, Brooks Cottage, the gardens, and associated grounds. If you would like to be a Docent or a member of The Log House Committee, please contact Sharolyn Wood, woodsharolyn@aol.com or (713) 305-2750.



The San Jacinto Dispatch

Sons of the Republic of Texas



David G. Burnet
First President, Republic of Texas
&
General Sidney Sherman

**Graveside Ceremony
October 17, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Lakeview Cemetery
3015 57th St., Galveston, Texas**

**Note - Gravesite is located on Avenue T 1/2 between
Avenue 57th and Avenue 59th.**

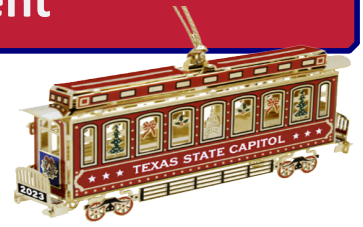
*Keynote Speaker – David Martin, Lone Star Chapter, SRT
Musical Presentation – David G. Burnett Elementary
Laying of Wreath – Sidney Sherman Chapter, No. 1, DRT*

**Hosted by the Sidney Sherman Chapter No. 2
The Sons of the Republic of Texas**



The San Jacinto Dispatch

2023 Texas Capital Ornament



Texas Ornaments

Each year since 1996, the Capitol has issued a new annual design reflecting an aspect of the Capitol's building or history. Over the years, ornaments featuring popular themes such as the Alamo, bluebonnets, wildflowers, and the Texas House and Senate chambers have been added to the assortment. Each ornament is finished in 24K gold, made in the USA and presented in a velour lined gift box. They are easily polished with a soft, dry cloth.

The 2023 Texas Capitol Ornament is the Austin Trolley. The ornament measures approximately 1 1/2" x 3" x 1/2". You may purchase your ornament from the DRT Country Store.



The DRT Country Store

The Austin Trolley

Trolleys were a common sight in Austin between 1875 and 1940. The first trolleys were pulled by mule teams of two or three animals – for a nickel per passenger.

The Austin Street Railway Company existed from 1911 until 1940. A rider could take the trolley north to Hyde Park or south from the Texas State Capitol across the river to the Texas School for the Deaf on South Congress Avenue.

On February 7th, 1940, the trolley ran its last route. The iron rails were recycled by 1942 to help with the war effort.





The San Jacinto Dispatch

Moment in History – Juan Seguin

The Juan Seguin Medallion Marking at Juan Seguin Historic Park on October 7 unveiled the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Medallion, Sons of the Republic of Texas Medallion and San Jacinto Descendants Medallion in recognition of his lifetime of service to the land of his birth, Texas.

Who was Juan Seguin?

He was a 19th century political, military and social leader under the flags of Spain, Mexico and the Republic of Texas. He served Texas as Legislator, Texas senator, Alcalde, Mayor, Judge, Justice of the Peace, and prominent participant in the Texas Revolution and Defender at the Alamo. He commanded the 9th Company, Second Regiment of Texas Volunteers at the Battle of San Jacinto as infantry with John Sidney Sherman's Company. He was chosen to carry the Alamo message through enemy lines that the Texans "shall never surrender or retreat". He got that message through to the other soldiers on the Texian side and then returned with men to reinforce the Alamo but it had already fallen to Santa Anna's army. Later, Juan Seguin buried the remains of the Alamo Defenders with military honors and with a Christian burial. In a religious procession, he carried the remains of those heroes' ashes and buried them at the San Fernando cathedral. A man with gallant and heroic Service to Texas.



Juan Seguin



Martha Fleitas for DRT



Robin Davis for SRT



SRT at Juan Seguin Medallion marking



The San Jacinto Dispatch

132nd Anniversary of San Jacinto Chapter

November 9 – Founding of the San Jacinto Chapter

While it isn't really a Texas Honor Day, November 9 is San Jacinto Chapter 132nd Anniversary 1891.

San Jacinto Chapter is the second oldest DRT Chapter. Eight of the seventeen ladies who formed DRT became charter members of the San Jacinto Chapter. From its beginning, the San Jacinto Chapter has held a very special interest in the San Jacinto Battlefield. One of its original purposes was to "acquire and mark the Battlegrounds of San Jacinto where our Republic was Born".

San Jacinto Chapter DRT is the oldest women's organization in Houston.

