

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

April 2017



From the President

April is all about San Jacinto Day.

The San Jacinto Day Ceremony will be at the Monument on Friday, April 21, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. Our Chapter is a big part of this wonderful ceremony. Martha Jorgensen, Laura-Hill Taylor and Hope Theilen-Davis will be an important part of the musical program. Hope's daughters, Madeleine and Margaret will lead the pledge to the US flag and the Texas flag. Sharolyn Wood, Nancy Burch, Sally Whittington and I will all participate.

The San Jacinto Chapter, Thelma Maresh scholarship winners will be awarded their certificates and we will have the opportunity to see and meet these outstanding seniors.

Please join us for this special event!

Jamie Moran, President



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

April 21 * San Jacinto Day (1836)

April Meeting

Nina Hendee once again captivated her audience as she shared her love of Texas and its history with the members of the San Jacinto Chapter, of which she is an honorary member.

Stories about her many activities, many of which focus on sharing Texas history with the school children of the greater Houston area, were intermingled with anecdotes from her personal life. Her skill as a speaker and her passion for all things Texas combined for a very special program.

The program was complimented by a beautifully decorated spring table showcasing a variety of foods for members to enjoy.

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 1st 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 1st 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 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
Proofreader and fine tuning: Phyllis Moody



Nina Hendee with Jamie and Ann



Members who helped provide food for the meeting with Gwen Koch who designs the beautiful tables.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

Pioneer Days at the Pioneer Memorial Log House

For several years, the San Jacinto Chapter has honored the pioneer heritage of our Log House by celebrating Pioneer Week during the week of area school's spring break. Texas crafts for the children and a history lesson about the Log House for the adults highlight the time visitors spend with chapter members. Lemonade and cookies are an added treat.

This year, though, the visitors were sparse and outnumbered by chapter members; those who were there had an enjoyable day. One highlight was member Sharolyn Wood's son and beautiful grand-daughters who were visiting from Dallas.

Unfortunately, changes in parking regulations have removed the "foot traffic" that allowed zoo and park visitors to become aware of the Log House and that it was open for visitors. From visitors that numbered in the hundreds, each year fewer and fewer guests find their way to the Log House. The really low numbers on Monday precipitated the decision not to open on Tuesday.

The San Jacinto Descendants held their annual meeting March 25, at Brady's Landing. Sharolyn Wood was honored with the San Jacinto Award given to a non-member who has done outstanding work for the San Jacinto Celebration.

Luanne Zacek was sworn in as Registrar General for the organization. Membership is available to any person proving his/her ancestry to the Battle of San Jacinto.



May Meeting

The May meeting of the San Jacinto Chapter will honor recently deceased members with a moving Memorial Service.

Remembrances of San Jacinto from San Jacinto descendants Nancy Burch, Luanne Zacek and Gina Bouchard will be shared as a way to honor the history changing event for which our chapter is named.

Thelma Maresh Scholarships

The recipients of the Thelma Maresh Scholarships for 2017 are:

Jaya George

Deer Park HS - Attending Texas State – Major: PT

Alexis Gervasio

Stratford HS-Spring Branch ISD-Attending Texas A&M – Major: Business - Mays Business School

Obumneke Jiwuaku

Lamar Consolidated HS- Attending U of Houston
Major: Business/Finance

Mitchell Mezyk

Strake Jesuit - Attending Texas A&M –
Major: Business

Levi Tally

Cinco Ranch-Katy ISD -Attending Texas A&M
Major: Engineering

Lobo Thomas

Deer Park HS - Attending UT San Antonio –
Major: Accounting

Thank you to Brenda Stover, Brenda Auld and Jamie Moran for serving on the scholarship committee and Luanne Zacek for chairing the committee.



DO NOT FORGET

Make your reservation for the June Luncheon. You can do this at the May meeting or mail your reservation to Martha Jorgensen.

My Journey to DRT Janice McNatt

After 63 years I became a member of the DRT and had two additional ancestors approved as supplements shortly thereafter. My ancestors that qualify were Crawford Trees, his wife Anna Minerva Kimmel and her Mother Katherine Hunsaker.

You might ask what took me so long and the answer would be - working, putting in 60 hour weeks for many years in Cardiology Research in both Dallas and Houston, for a total of 39 years. Genealogy has been one of my life time hobbies for over 40 years. I joined the DAR in Feb 2010 and spent most of my free time submitting 7 additional supplements and acting as the Friendswood Chapter Registrar from 2012-2015. Highlights of this work were getting approved 130 new members and over 80 new supplements, and in the process cinching the 2013 most new member award for our Chapter in Texas with 51 members in one year and 3 additional new members for other chapters. I completed the 4 DAR genealogy courses and presented 25 genealogy workshops to become a Volunteer Genealogist and Field Genealogists for the DAR. I had a significant lead in Texas for the Volunteer Genealogists of the Year Award when at the beginning of the final quarter of the contest year the new administration decided to change the contest rules and make it retroactive back to January 1st of the contest year. After losing 4,000 points and still finishing 2nd I decided it might be time to spend my volunteer time with a different organization. I always wanted to join the DRT and was delighted to find out I qualified with 3 of my ancestors. I contacted Margie and she was extremely helpful in submitting my application and the required documents. I am still a DAR member but do not participate as much as I use to.

The Trees, Kimmels, and Hunsakers were all Mennonites living in Pennsylvania in the late 1700's. After the Revolution several of them received bounty land in Kentucky where they moved their families in search of a milder climate. Upon arrival they found the local Indians very hostile, and decided instead to move to Union Co, Illinois in 1815 with others of the Brethren faith. They worked hard and established townships, organized churches, schools, and local businesses. In 1842 Anna Minerva Kimmel's father Daniel Kimmel died and Crawford Tree's father Jacob Trees became her guardian until she reached 18 years old. During the late 1830's and early 1840's Union County Illinois experienced horrible floods and many lost their crops in repetitive years. Due to standing waters Union County was also hit with a Yellow Fever epidemic causing many deaths and hardship for the survivors.

Crawford Trees, along with many from Union County, decided to move to Peters Colony in North Texas in 1845 near Dallas where they could receive free land and live in a drier area. Included in the wagon train were his future wife Anna Minerva Kimmel and her widowed Mother Katherine Hunsaker-Kimmel, her brother Phillip Kimmel, and sister Melvina. The adults received land grants for 640 acres each and were required to work their land for 5 years before the land was officially transferred. I do have copies of their land grants which I received from the Texas Archives.

There were Indians in North Texas but they were friendly compared to other areas. They would occasionally ride down and try to steal livestock at night so they had to be watched closely. Crawford was a stockman raising cattle and horses and in 1849 left his wife Anna and their young infant daughter Catherine to travel to the California Gold Fields. He returned in 1851 with considerable gold with which he purchased more land and livestock. He was the 10th largest land owner in the area southwest of Dallas by 1863. He was very lucky to find gold and live to return home since during the mid and late 1850's 50% of the men that ventured to the California Gold Fields died from Cholera due to the horrid living conditions. He also fought in the Civil War again leaving his wife and now 10 children to manage their ranch.

I qualified to become a DRT member through my ancestors who were citizens of the Republic of Texas. All three of my ancestors have bronze plaques on their graves indicating they were Citizens of the Republic of Texas. They are buried in the Trees Cemetery located in Duncanville just outside of Dallas. I am proud to be a 5th generation Texan, and proud of the tribulations my ancestors had to overcome to own and become productive citizens of Texas.



San Jacinto Chapter Officers Elected to serve from 2017 to 2019

One of the most important items of business conducted at the April meeting was the election of officers who will serve the San Jacinto Chapter for the next two years. The following were elected by members present with no additional nominations from the floor.

Laura-Hill Taylor	President
Susan Stormer	1 st Vice-President
Martha Jorgensen	2 nd Vice-President
Deborah Liss-Frank	3 rd Vice-President
Gwen Koch	4 th Vice- President
Sharolyn Wood	5 th Vice-President
No Nominee	6 th Vice-President
Hope Theilen-Davis	Recording Secretary
Diane Stachowiak	Corresponding Secretary
Amanda Cowan	Treasurer
Marje Harris	Registrar
Janice McNatt	Historian
Sally Whittington	Chaplain
Luanne Zacek	CRT Registrar



BETTE JANE KNIGHT
SHUMAKE
1923-2017

BETTE JANE KNIGHT SHUMAKE, age 94, passed from this life on Friday, the 31st of March. The prayers of her family were always that she not be in discomfort for long at the end of her life, and indeed, it was only a few short weeks. She was born on March 18, 1923 to William R Knight, Jr and Mabel Bushell Knight. She was a proud native Houstonian and loved her city. Bette earned her degree from the University of Texas, Austin, where she met her future husband, George Charles Shumake. After they were married they lived in Houston for the remainder of their lives. Bette was always a friendly, intelligent, generous and highly-respected woman who contributed her time, talents and gifts to many clubs, organizations and individuals. She was a member of the Blue Bird Circle, a past President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Certified Public Accountants of Houston, a past deacon of St Philip Presbyterian Church where she remained active until her recent illness. **She was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, a 4th generation Texan(DRT)**, in the Opera Guild, a supporter of the Women's Institute, and bridge player! She also loved to travel, to learn, to see beauty and to visit friends. She was so loved and will be greatly missed by those around her. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Charles Shumake and by her son, William Knight Shumake. She is survived by her daughter, Katherine (Katie) Shumake, her three dear nieces (who considered her their second mother), **Camille Knight Silver** and husband, Gene Silver, Susan Knight Cruse and husband, Richard Cruse, and **Catherine Knight Odette**. Bette has two treasured grandchildren, Sarah Hinds Rickard (husband, Ronald Rickard), and David Charles Hinds (wife, Shannon Robinson Hinds) and one sweet great-grandson, Noah William Hinds, and another on the way, little Luke! The memorial service was conducted at two thirty pm, Friday, the 7th of April, at St Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe Street, 77056 in Houston. Prior to the service the family gathered for a private interment at Woodlawn Funeral Home and Cemetery.



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

June Luncheon

June 1, 2017 11:30 a.m.

*New Member Ceremony
Texas History Teacher Award
Installation of Officers*

*BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77074*

*Reservations Required - \$35 per person
Make your reservation with Martha Jorgensen by May 22nd*

marthajorgensen@sbcglobal.net or 713-461-4611

=====*Clip and mail with your check*=====

**San Jacinto Chapter June Luncheon
June 1, 2017 11:30 am
Reservations must be received by May 22nd**

Please print

Reservation for _____

My Guest (s) _____

**Check for \$35 payable to:
San Jacinto Chapter DRT**

**Mail to: Martha Jorgensen
702 Wycliffe Dr
Houston, TX 77079**