

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

December 2016



From the President

Christmas tree lights aglow and Chanukah candles burning brightly, what a wonderful season has begun for us. Our kitchens will be warm and cozy as we bake Christmas cookies or cook potato latkes; I hope all your kitchen helpers are those you love the most. Holiday treats are sweetest when shaped by little hands!

I hope your home will be filled with the light and spirit of the season as you celebrate with family and friends.

Happy Holidays!
Jamie Moran, President



HONOR and MEMORIAL DAYS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

February 19 * Texas Statehood Day (1846)

March 2 * Texas Independence Day (1836)

March 2 * Sam Houston's Birthday (1793)

March 6 * Alamo Heroes Day (1836)

March 27 * Goliad Heroes Day (1836)

April 21 * San Jacinto Day (1836)



Join Us on January 5

January 5 the San Jacinto Chapter will hold the first meeting of 2017. The program for the January 5, 2017, meeting will be presented by Dr. Carlos Hamilton, Jr who will discuss his book "A Rose Blooms in Texas: Coming of Age in the Civil War Era."

Historical fiction augmented with original letters and documents, "A Rose Blooms in Texas" presents a compelling picture of life in East Texas during the Civil War and the strength of character of a woman who was able to preserve her family's values of education and enlightened treatment of others--and her beloved piano--for future generations.

My Journey to DRT

This month, the San Jacinto Dispatch will again feature the heritage story of one of our members

We hope that each of you will share **your** journey with us.

PLEASE write your story and send it to the newsletter editor.

This issue's **Journey** features the story of Martha Hydell on page 6.

Welcome to the Newest Prospective Member
of the
San Jacinto Chapter
Members at the December meeting approved
Mildred Diane Arnold Martin Quast
as a prospective member.

Editor: Susan Stormer susan@familyaggies.com
Proofreader and fine tuning: Phyllis Moody

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 5, 2017 — Dr. Carlos Hamilton, Jr.
A Rose Blooms in Texas—Coming of Age in the Civil War Era

February 2, 2017—Bayou Bend Speakers Bureau
"Dinner at 8:05 p.m."

March 2, 2017—Field Trip
Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens

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

Biographical Form

If you have not yet sent your biographical form to Sally Whittington, please do so as soon as possible. The form can be found on the DRT website under FORMS, officially named **Member Biological Form M.06**.

You can type your information directly into the form, save it on your computer, and forward it on to Sally's email address ssw2517a@gmail.com. Or you can print out a copy and either scan it back to Sally at her email address or US mail a hard copy to her at 18112 Lakeside Lane, Houston, Texas 77058.

New Ornaments in the Country Store

The new ornaments in the Country Store are not just for Christmas! They will be available whenever the Country Store is open.



Friends of the Log House

Please
help decorate
our Christmas Tree
in the Log House. Choose
your level of giving from the
decorations below with a check payable to
The Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum and
mail to:

Gwen Kunz, Treasurer
2001 Holcombe Blvd, #2901
Houston, TX 77030

- Yard Clean Up – 2X year \$600
- Insurance - \$370 monthly
- HVAC Maintenance - \$290 quarterly
- Alarm System - \$210 quarterly
- Pest Control - \$150 quarterly
- Cleaning Service - \$80 monthly
- Phone - \$70 monthly
- Lawn Service- \$60 weekly
- Texas Heritage Garden Plants - \$40 each
- Water - \$35 monthly
- Gas - \$25 monthly



Thank you for your support of the Pioneer Memorial Log House and for sharing your Christmas with us.

Jamie Moran, President, San Jacinto DRT

Carolyn Lightfoot, Chair, Friends of the Log House



Getting Ready for the Holidays



We all know that getting any area decorated and ready for the holidays is a time consuming and labor intensive job. Thanks to the volunteers on November 29 the PMLH once again is beautiful and festive for the season.

A special thanks goes to Liz Leifeste who annually coordinates the baked potato lunch and bakes all the potatoes. Members bring additional food items and everyone enjoys the great food and fellowship before decorating the tree and Log House.

Front Row from left:

Gwen Koch, Jamie Moran, Sharron Wilson, Nancy Burch, Gwen Kunz, Margie Forster, Luanne Zacek

Back row from left:

Susan Stormer, Liz Leifeste, Diane Martin Quast, Diane Stachowiak, Margaret Standard, Marjie Harris, Ann Tanner
Not pictured – Hope Davis



December Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

December 1 San Jacinto members and guests gathered at the beautifully decorated Pioneer Memorial Log House for the December meeting. This meeting is traditionally business, entertainment and a special catered meal.

The only item of business was a vote of members present to approve or not approve a motion brought from the board and scholarship committee. Due to low interest income, the interest from the Thelma Maresh Scholarship Fund will only provide funding for four scholarships this year. Since six scholarships have been funded for the last few years, the motion was to take from the principle the amount needed to fund the two additional scholarships. This motion was approved for this to be done for this year only.

For the second year, Janice McNatt shared her artistic talent with the chapter by decorating and donating eleven miniature Christmas trees for door prizes. Each tree was beautifully decorated with lights, ornaments, bows and more. Several of the trees were Texas themed and each tree featured a color scheme. Eleven lucky attendees took home a tree ready to add to their home's holiday decorations.

Each person had their luncheon enhanced by the magnificent table décor. White rose centerpieces and silver chargers set the theme for the tables. Special thanks to Sharolyn Wood, Brenda Stover, and Luanne Zacek for this addition to the day.

After enjoying the meal catered by Ezar Catering, members and guests were entertained by chapter members Martha Jorgensen, Leah Jorgensen, and Laura-Hill Taylor. Joining them was guest musician Michael Weise with his fiddle.



Four Generations of DRT

Four generations of Jamie Moran's family were in attendance at the December luncheon.

Back: Deborah Liss-Frank SJCDRT
(daughter)

Jamie Moran-President, SJCDRT
Jessica Liss – SJCDRT (granddaughter)

Front: Suzie Hair-John Tilley Edwards DRT
Longview (sister)
Stella Castilla-John Tilley Edwards
DRT (mother)





***Open House at Pioneer Memorial Log House
December 4***

The annual Pioneer Memorial Log House Open House was held on December 4. The rain and colder weather were a deterrent for the usual non-member guests who enjoy this event. Despite the weather, several chapter members were in attendance and enjoyed delicious refreshments and the opportunity for relaxed visits.

Once again, Sharolyn Wood added her designer touch to the event with the addition of several Santas from her personal collection.



My Journey to DRT
Martha Sanchez Haydel

From the Canary Islands to Texas

Discovering the facts of my family's connection with early Texas history began as an adult. My family always knew that we descended from Canary Islanders, but the details were fuzzy. The many courageous people who are a part of my personal history were unknown to me as real people. Without the help of a cousin, I would still be in the dark, wondering who I am and where I came from.

In the 1990s my aunt Clara received a call from Gilbert Patino, a cousin who lived in San Antonio. Our families had lost close contact for quite some time, so she was surprised to hear from Gilbert. He told her that he and his wife, Yolanda, had accumulated a great deal of data relating to our shared family, and asked if we would be interested in learning about their discoveries. Aunt Clara immediately called other family members asking if we wanted to be a part of this unveiling. Of course, we all said "yes!"

The day arrived; we were about to have our first lesson in genealogy at my aunt's house in Yoakum. The Patinos drove down from San Antonio, their car laden with boxes of books, folders, and photos. After the usual meet and greet we got down to business. Gilbert and Yolanda explained the various bits of information they had uncovered. We had no idea that the vague notion we had concerning our ancestors was now becoming verifiable facts! They meticulously traced each generation back to the original immigrants who traveled from the Spanish Canary Islands to Texas, arriving in 1731. We are indebted to the Catholic Church for keeping such precise records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, and to the Spanish bureaucracy regarding ships, travelers, leaders, etc. Those records provided hard evidence of the journey of the explorers as well as settlers.

Beginning with Columbus' landing in 1492, Spain began occupying the Caribbean, present-day Mexico and South America, but was slow to colonize their northern frontier which included present day Texas. Anxious to keep the French from encroaching onto its territory, King Philip V of Spain looked for pioneers to settle the area. Finding it difficult to enlist Spanish citizens from the homeland or other settled areas, they turned to the Canary Islanders for possible candidates. In the 1730s, the life of the Islanders was in crisis due to volcanic activity and scant food production. After much deliberation, ten brave families left Tenerife in March 1730 under the sponsorship of King Philip V never to return to their island home, a heart-wrenching decision.

Juan Leal Goraz, my direct ancestor, being the senior member of the group, became the emigrants' leader and spokesman, settled disputes and looked out for the Islanders' best interests. They sailed to Havana where they stayed a few weeks to rest, recover and take on supplies, then on to the port of Vera Cruz (Mexico). At that time, they were given shelter, food, tools and an armed guide for the trek by foot to Bexar (San Antonio). Throughout this journey, there were marriages, births and deaths and additional Canarians who preceded them to the new world.

March 9, 1731 marked the date when sixteen pioneer families, numbering fifty-five people, arrived in the settlement of La Villa de San Fernando, a small community of missionaries, ranchers and soldiers. It also announced the presence of my family in America. Juan Leal again took the lead, serving as the first *alcalde* (mayor) of a town which would later become San Antonio.

The Canary Islanders continued to live and thrive and contribute to their new home. After battling the elements of the frontier, they willingly supported and embraced their home throughout the ensuing years. They supplied beef to the American troops in the Revolutionary War, they fought in the War Between the States, the Texas Revolution, WW I, WWII and other military conflicts. In 1836 two of my direct ancestors, Juana Navarro Alsbury and her son, Alejo Encarnacion Perez were civilian survivors of the battle of the Alamo.

This group of people faced unending hardships to establish the first civil government in Texas. They are recognized as the founders of the city where today many descendants still live. To this day, we can find names of the original families throughout the city. I am so thankful to my cousin, Gilbert, for his gift of family history, DRT and CI Descendants Association and I'm proud to call these people *primos* (cousins).