



The Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston
The San Jacinto Dispatch
November, 2010

Log House Treasures



“ . . . These two paintings of “Scouts” being chased by Indians were painted by Mrs. Harriet L. Rather prior to 1840. They were given to the chapter in 1940 by Dr. E. N. Gray who died later that year at the age of 79. . . ”

Dr. Gray donated these oil paintings to the Log House as a memorial to Mrs. Gentry, who was Mrs. Rather’s daughter. As you face the fireplace in the west end, the paintings are on the left wall. The Rather “Scout” oil paintings are only two of the treasures in the Log House.

. . . from the San Jacinto Chapter Archives

November Meeting Program



Ann Bevil, Jim Parsons, Ann Tanner

Mr. Jim Parsons, Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, fascinated us with stories of **Glenwood Cemetery, Houston’s Silent Garden**. This is the final resting place



Celebrating 119 years!!!

for many of the founding families of both Texas and Houston. Jim described the different monuments in the cemetery, especially the influence of the Victorian era on the styles of the sculpture. Ann Bevil thanked Mr. Parsons with a gift from the San Jacinto Chapter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again we traveled to Galveston to celebrate Founders Day with the Sidney Sherman Chapter. We always have an exceptional meeting on this particular momentous occasion. Of the seventeen ladies who founded the Daughters of the Lone Star Republic on November 6, 1891, nine were from Galveston and eight were from Houston.

Joanna Wilson, current President of the Sidney Sherman Chapter, wrote the text for the Founders Day ceremony. Some of the text from the beginning reads;

“ . . . It is a most significant occasion to gather today to celebrate with those who share the legacy and heritage bequeathed to us by the men and women who settled, established, secured, maintained and defended the Republic of Texas. . . and are charged with carrying on the patriotic, historical, and educational responsibilities that ensured Betty Ballinger and Hally Bryan Perry to unite others in establishing this organization . . . ”

During the ceremony we each promised to

“ . . . support this association and conscientiously discharge our duties as a member with charity for all and malice towards none . . . and promised to work to keep the unity of our chapter and to work to promote its success. . . ”

After reciting the pledge, I gave a little presentation on Mrs. Anson Jones, first President of our Association who served for 16 years. In 1891, the State only owned 10 acres at San Jacinto, the Alamo was in disrepair and the Long Barracks was a mercantile store. Under her leadership, the Alamo was saved and over 300 acres were purchased at San Jacinto.

The objective to “perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas” was established. Graves were marked, monuments erected, Texas Honor days were recognized as this newly formed organization worked diligently under Mrs. Jones to preserve the historic sites so dear to every Texan's heart.

And in Mrs. Jones own words,

“I have tried faithfully and prayerfully to do my whole duty according to the best light I have had . . . ”

We are proud of our heritage encompassing 119 years of service to the sacred memories and deeds of our pioneer ancestors. I feel, as all of you do, truly privileged to be a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

As we remember the heritage of this country, and the first Thanksgiving, may each of you enjoy a pleasurable Thanksgiving day with your families.



Eron Brimberry Tynes

Founders Day Luncheon

What a wonderful time we had in Galveston as we celebrated Founders Day with the Sidney Sherman Chapter. The Founders Day Luncheon was held in the East Parlour at the Galvez Hotel. San Jacinto Chapter members attending were Kae Theilen, Anita Cooper, Cindie Gruetzmacher, Linda Beverlin, Margaret Standard, Marilyn Chapman, Candace Sawyer, Sally Whittington and Eron Tynes.

Prior to the luncheon we went to Lakeview Cemetery, Galveston, to visit the first monument placed by the Daughters in honor of Sidney Sherman and David Burnet. After the luncheon, we toured the Cradle and the Oak Tree Sculptures, which are mainly located in the general residential area near The Strand.



Linda Beverlin and Margaret Standard



Anita Cooper and Sally Whittington





DRT Vision Project

The current goal of the Vision Team of DRT is to prepare the way for the **Republic of Texas History Complex** with the purchase of land at 810½ San Marcos Street in Austin. This property adjoins the French Legation Museum, which will be a part of the Complex. San Jacinto Chapter has made a very generous donation but money is still needed for this project to meet its goal February 1, 2011. The Vision Team is calling on DRT members as well as DRT chapters for donations to successfully meet the goal. **Donations of any amount would be appreciated!**

The information below gives an overview of what will make up the **Republic of Texas History Complex**.

Republic of Texas History Center

Viewing Theatre for educational film and video presentations
Republic of Texas Museum (relocated), Texas Family Research Center
Meeting and Conference Accommodations, Gift Shop (relocated)
DRT Business Office (relocated)
Additional Parking

French Legation Museum and Grounds

French Legation Museum
Children's Interactive Museum
DRT Gift Shop to Merge with French Legation Gift Shop

See: <http://www.drt-inc.org/forms/DRTVISIONPOWERPOINTFORWEBSITE2010.pdf>

From the Vision Team Report:

If every DRT Member donated \$215.00, the property would belong to DRT.

**DRT has (3) three months to raise the funds to purchase the property
at 810½ San Marcos Street, Austin.**

**To donate, send your check (Memo Line: DRT Vision) to DRT Headquarters, 510 East
Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752. Questions 512-339-1997.**

FRIENDS OF THE LOG HOUSE

Can it already be NOVEMBER??!! The holiday season is upon us! Time to start making a list and checking it twice. We surely hope that the old Log House will be at the top of your list. As you know, we have had some trouble in past months with someone trying to break into the house. Thus, we now have a security system--another unexpected expense to add to our already long list.

Help us to have our house ready to celebrate the joys of the up-coming holiday season. The new year will bring even more exciting events as the Log House commemorates the 75th anniversary of its founding.

Our treasurer is accepting donations of all sizes to keep our doors open and our books in the black! You can mail checks made out to PMLHM (Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum), and send to Kae Theilen, 5407 Oak Shadows Drive, Houston, Texas 77091. **Thank you to Kay Martin for her most recent contribution.**

Please consider an end-of-year gift to our chapter home. The Log House and all the San Jacinto Chapter members will be truly thankful.

Martha L. Haydel, Chair of FLH



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

San Jacinto Chapter will have our **annual** chapter **Christmas** luncheon on Thursday, **December 9, 2010, at 11:30 a.m.** (Note date change - Second Thursday) at the Log House. Please make your reservation for our December Christmas luncheon today by sending your check to Ann Bevil.

Your check is your reservation, so don't delay. **Send your money for the luncheon postmarked by December 2***. The cost is \$26.00 per person and guests are welcome. Come and enjoy a delicious catered lunch along with some wonderful Christmas music in our beautifully restored Log House. Make your check for \$26.00 payable to San Jacinto Chapter DRT: Memo-Christmas Luncheon. Mail your check to:

Ann Bevil 1237-C Post Oak Park Dr. Houston, Texas 77027

***Any reservation made after December 2, 2010, will incur an additional \$5.00 charge.**

The CRT will have their annual toy drive to deliver gifts in the spirit of Christmas to our neighbor, Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. Even though the CRT usually collects toys at the Christmas Open House, they also plan to collect toys during our Christmas Luncheon. So if you are unable to attend the Christmas Open House, don't miss this opportunity to support our CRT in this worthwhile project. Please **do not gift wrap the toys** so the staff at Ben Taub can properly distribute the gifts to the children.



Christmas Open House December 12, 2010

Come join the San Jacinto Chapter, the CRT, and the Texian Army for a Christmas Open House in the Republic of Texas. The Open House will be Sunday, December 12, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. Our Log House will be decorated in period style, with fresh greenery and a beautiful Christmas tree. There will be hot apple cider and plenty of cookies baked by the ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter. If you would like to bake cookies or bring your favorite dessert, please contact Brenda Stover at (713) 467-0680 or e-mail bt.stover@sbcglobal.net

The CRT will once again have their big box near the tree to collect toys for the Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. Remember your gift/toy should not be wrapped!

JOIN THE ELVES



**AT THE LOG HOUSE
December 2nd
1:00 p.m. (after the Board
Meeting)
COME DECORATE THE TREE AND
DECK THE LOG HOUSE FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used for a variety of occasions including San Jacinto Chapter activities and fundraising rentals. Because of the growing popularity of the Log House and in order 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@comcast.net regarding the availability of the Log House for any function and to schedule an event at the Log House.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SUSAN TRAMMELL WHITFIELD
(Mrs. William Franklin Whitfield)
ANCESTOR: ROBERT WYERS

SHANNON HOPKINS WORK
(Mrs. Chris Benjamin Work)
ANCESTOR: JACOB EBERLY



SAVE THE DATE



75th ANNIVERSARY TEA

PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

FEBRUARY 27, 2011

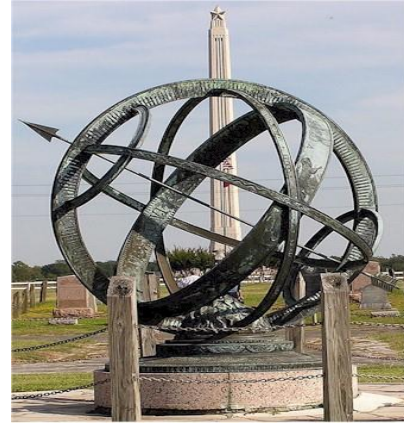
75th FUNDRAISING DINNER

PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

March 2, 2011



Santa Anna Capture Site- Sharolyn Wood, David Pomeroy, Eron Tynes and Linda Beverlin.



Erected in 1939 by SJCIRT, the Sundial aligns with the San Jacinto Monument and marks the time of the Battle, which began at 4:30 p.m. and lasted approximately 18 minutes.

Homeland Security Descends on Vince's Bridge?



Homeland Security descends upon the RPHS Committee at the Vince's Bridge monument site during Oct. Field Trip.

Vince's Bridge historic site appears to be in secure hands. Sam Houston would be proud!

The Relics and Preservation of Historic Sites Committee toured 15 historical markers on Thursday, October 21, 2010. Led by David Pomeroy, historian and author, the group met in Harrisburg, home of much Texas revolutionary activity, to visit Glendale Cemetery and the Jane Birdsall Harris home site. Next stop was Vince's Bridge site, number 18 of the 20 San Jacinto Battleground monuments placed by San Jacinto Chapter in 1912. Within minutes of having weeds around the monument cleared by a "weed eater" belonging to a

departing maintenance crew, the group was surrounded by Homeland Security – by boat and by truck! Once the group was "cleared," it became apparent the officers hungered for historical knowledge. One officer mentioned his children dress as historical patriots for Halloween. Sad to depart their company . . . the group next drove to Santa Anna's capture site, the only Battleground marker not numbered. After breaking for lunch (and water!), the group enjoyed beautiful vistas at many of the next 10 Battleground monuments.

There is a growing thirst among Texans to discover historical roots. They don't know where to begin, so it is a mission of this Committee to make sure existing Texas historical markers placed by the San Jacinto Chapter are maintained and to pursue the future placement of monuments...to not only keep the spark of pioneer spirit alive, but to fan it into a roaring blaze!

This Discovery Tour revealed the immediate work to accomplish:

1. Raise sunken monuments,
2. Clean monuments,
3. Most urgent – place a monument location map and data on the web so people can learn!

Cindie Gruetzmacher, RPHS Chair



The Country Store

As you shop for Christmas, don't forget the new Keep Texas Beautiful Monarch Butterfly ornament and the 2010 Capitol of Texas ornament (15th in the series). I have lots of Texas children's books that make wonderful Christmas gifts. Merry Christmas, and I will see you in the corner.

Luanne Zacek

YEARBOOK BINDERS

ORDER NOW!!!

The yearbook is now in a three-ring binder, 5 ½ x 8 ½, format. If you do not have your binder already, please consider purchasing one for the page inserts at this time. This will be your permanent home for your yearbook.

Yes, I want a binder and tabs.
Enclosed in my check for \$8.00 made payable to
San Jacinto Chapter, DRT.

Please include \$5.00 postage if you want it mailed to you.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Mail completed form and check to
Anita Cooper
15803 Diana Lane
Houston, Texas 77062-4433

**Lines Inscribed to Mrs. Anson Jones
April 10, 1907**

*With us in spirit, tho' absent in flesh,
The very thought of her keeps our traditions fresh;
A priceless link between us and the past,
Like some fair tree spared by the ruthless blast,
Gray Time himself gives her but tender touch,
As if he too had loved her overmuch.
Her youth and Beauty Texas knew full well;
Her gentleness and worth all tongues may tell.
And from a life so pure and brave and good
She hands to us a type of womanhood,
Within her quiet home she sits and dreams
Of things we read by History's pale gleam.
Those tragic days her spirit lives again
In chapters fraught of glory and of pain.
She viewed the scenes of which we love to write,
And saw the Lone Star in its new-born light.
To her may every Texan turn with pride,
Finding a counselor, and friend and guide!
A flower, left from Chivalry's own time,
That noble theme could make the poet's rhyme!
And other Bards shall sing fair songs of her
Who draws us nearer with each passing year!*

-Nettie Houston Bringham

**Construction for the
Log House began on
Thanksgiving Day,
November 27, 1935**

**YEARBOOK
CORRECTION**

The March Field Trip will be
Wednesday, March 16, 2011.
Please note the change on your
calendars

SAVE THE DATE

District VI finally got to select
the date for the Fall 2011
Workshop. The date is
September 17th - Texian Navy
Day. Miss Ima Hogg Chapter
and District Rep elect Carolyn
Lightfoot will be getting with
you with more details as time
goes by.

Sandra Meier

**Newsletter Editor
Bt.stover@sbcglobal.net
Brenda Stover
Co-Editor Phyllis Moody**

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



BUILT IN HONOR OF THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL

The history of the Log House continues

...

On February 5, 1935, Mayor Oscar Holcombe wrote a letter to Mrs. Berlet and requested that the Log House Building Committee appear before City Council on February 13, 1935, between the hours of 11:00a.m. and 12:00p.m.

Mayor Holcombe writes
"... at which time you will be given an opportunity to present your request to the Council. As I previously told you, I will recommend that a location be given you..."

The document on the right is an account of the presentation before the City Council.

COMMITTEE GOES BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
 February 13th., 1935

The auspicious day arrived. The Committee turned out in full force, and headed by the President, Mrs. Erl Ramsey, who was spokesman, they marched up to the long council table, and stood at attention, while the City Fathers examined the picture and floor plans.

The committee at this time was composed of the following ladies. Mrs. Geo/. Berlet-Chairman,; Mrs. Madge Houston Hearne, Mrs. Thomas White, Mrs. H.A. Pulliam, Mrs. Frank Andrews, Mrs. Carrie Franklin Kemp, Miss Mary Tbd and Mrs. John M. Nagle. (See news clipping from Houston Post)

Mayor Holcomb recommended that the Council grant the ladies of San Jacinto Chapter their request. He also stated that he thought it a splendid plan, and was heartily in favor of it. Then Mr. Pierson, moved that the Council donate land on which to build the house, the place to be selected later. This motion was unanimously carried.

This was a new experience to the Daughters of the Republic, since none of the Committee had ever had occasion to appear before the City Council before.

When they left the Council Chamber, they were interviewed by reporters- and notices appeared in the three local papers the following day.

A Call to Texas Patriotism

The San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas should have the wholehearted co-operation of Texans, and of Houstonians in particular, in their campaign for funds to construct a memorial log house on Buffalo Drive, the structure to be a replica of a pioneer Texas home. A site has been given by the city, some \$5000 is needed for the construction work, the job to be completed before the Centennial visitors begin to arrive next year.

The San Jacinto Chapter has had a noteworthy career in securing for public use notable sites of Texas history, and in making a large number of historic locations. The chapter was primarily responsible for the purchase by the state in 1897 of the San Jacinto Battleground, and year after year has worked for such improvements as have been made there.

Except for its activities—except for the never-flagging zeal of its members in preserving the history and traditions of Texas—we would today doubtless be without any historic shrines in this section. What a tragedy that would appear as the Centennial draws near!

If for no other reason than to pay some of our debts to them for past services we should come to the aid of this most worthwhile organization. But they are not asking payment, they are simply asking aid in doing something to perpetuate Texas history, and to honor Texas pioneers, which clearly every Texan should wish to do.

Mar 27, 1935

Editorial in Houston Post

CITY DONATES SITE FOR PIONEER CABIN

Daughters of Republic of Texas Will Erect Building

City Council voted Wednesday to donate a site on Buffalo drive to Daughters of the Republic of Texas as a location for a log cabin to be erected in memory of the pioneer men and women of Texas.

The home, which will be furnished in pioneer style, will be thrown open to the visitors expected to come to Houston during the Centennial celebration.

The organization will launch a drive for funds for construction of the cabin, which will cost approximately \$4000.

Mrs. E. R. Ramsey, president of the San Jacinto Chapter of the organization, headed the delegation that appeared before Council.

Definite location of the cabin will be determined after investigation by Council members.

THE HOUSTON POST: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1935

CITY COUNCIL WILL DONATE BUFFALO DRIVE SITE FOR LOG CABIN TO HONOR PIONEERS

City council Wednesday agreed to donate a site upon Buffalo drive to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto chapter, for the erection of a log cabin in commemoration of the pioneer men and women of this state.

Furnished in pioneer style, the home will be thrown open to the thousands of visitors who are expected to visit Houston next year during the celebration of the Texas Centennial, Mrs. E. R. Ramsey, president of the chapter, informed council Wednesday.

To raise funds for construction of the log cabin, the chapter is launching a drive, Mrs. Ramsey said.

"We call upon all public spirited citizens," she declared, "to support the move, regardless of whether they belong to our organization or are descendants of Texas pioneers. We are asking for donations in any amount. Contributions should be sent to Mrs. Healy Jackson, 2206 Park street, treasurer of the San Jacinto chapter.

"The names of all donors will be engraved upon a scroll which will be enshrined in the home."

The log cabin will cost from \$4000

to \$5000 to build and equip, Mrs. Ramsey said. Logs will be donated by Robert Morris, president of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

Plans for the home have been drawn by Harry Weaver, Houston architect. They show a large assembly room, measuring 26 feet by 60 feet, a library, kitchen, rest room, hallway and other smaller rooms.

Placing their stamp of approval upon the project as outlined by Mrs. Ramsey, council members agreed at once to donate a site upon Buffalo drive for the home. They will make an inspection tour of all possible sites along the driveway before making a final selection, Mayor Oscar F. Holcombe told the delegation of women who called upon council Wednesday.

The delegation included Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. George Berlet, chairman; Mrs. Madge Houston Hearne, Mrs. Thomas White, Mrs. H. A. Pulliam, Mrs. Frank Andrew, Mrs. Carrie Franklin Kemp, Miss Mary Tod and Mrs. John M. Nagle.

"Ladies of the chapter," said Mrs. Ramsey, "will act as hostesses at the log home while the Texas Centennial is in progress."

The proposed original site for the Pioneer Memorial Log House was initially to be on Buffalo Drive, however, the final location was Herman Park;

“ . . . Over a year ago, San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, deemed it their duty to do something by way of celebrating the Centennial year, and one of our Past Presidents, Mrs. Rosa Groce Berlet, conceived the idea of constructing a log cabin, to be dedicated to the pioneer men and women of Texas, wherein we could receive and entertain Houston’s visitors, from far and near, during our Centennial Year.

This idea seemed to meet with the approval of everyone, and we received hearty co-operation from many sources. The Mayor and City Commissioners gave us a beautiful wooded site in Herman Park, adjoining the hospital grounds. . . ” *From Mrs. Erl Ramsey, President*

D O N A T I O N S

THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Hon. Oscar F. Holcombe, Mayor

Hon. D. Barker, Commissioner #1

Hon. Frank L. Holton, Commissioner #2

Hon. S. A. Starkey, Commissioner #3

Hon. Walter Pierson, Commissioner #4

in the memory of

John R. and George Allen,

founders of Houston, the site on which the Memorial Log House was constructed.

The City of Houston, through its Mayor, Hon. Oscar F. Holcombe, and its City Commissioners, Honorables D. Barker, Frank L. Holton, S. A. Starkey and Walter Pierson, the site on which the Memorial Log House ~~was~~ ^{is} constructed was given to perpetuate the memory of the founders of Houston,

John R. ALLEN and *George* ALLEN.