



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



Welcoming Hearth in the Log House



Eron Tynes, Jack Shepherd, Pat Spackey

January Program “The Texas Flag”

Pat Spackey and Jack Shepherd presented a lively portrait of Charles Bellinger Tate Stewart and his wife, Julia Shepherd. Wearing period costumes, Pat, a direct descendant of Charles Stewart, portrayed Julia Stewart and Jack Shepherd stepped into the role of Charles B. Stewart.

Charles Stewart, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1806. He studied medicine in the early 1820s and was a druggist in SC. He ventured to Cuba for a trading partnership, but returned to SC to receive his pharmacy license. He moved to Texas and opened an apothecary shop in 1830 in Brazoria. He joined Francis Johnson’s command during the Anahuac disturbances and fought at the battle of Velasco. In 1834 he was appointed secretary of the judicial district of Brazoria. Stewart moved to San Felipe de Austin in 1835 and opened a drugstore. In 1835 he received a license to practice medicine in Texas.

In addition to his medical practice and drugstore, he became the first Texas Secretary of State. He was elected to represent Austin at the Convention of 1836 and was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Stewart moved to Montgomery in 1837 to establish his medical practice and drugstore. He was appointed in 1839 to serve on a committee of the Republic to design a new state flag. Stewart is credited with drawing the original draft of the Lone Star flag. He was also appointed district attorney and Mirabeau B. Lamar appointed him notary public in 1841. Stewart represented Montgomery County in 1845 at the Constitutional Convention.

Stewart married Julia Sheppard in 1835 and they had five children. After her death, he married Elizabeth Antoinette Nichols Boyd. They had two children, and he also adopted her two children by a previous marriage. Stewart died on July 2, 1885, and was buried in the Montgomery Cemetery. Charles B. Stewart, obviously a man of many talents, was a true Texas patriot. This wonderful presentation brought history to life in our own Log Cabin living room on a cold day in January.

Ann Bevil, Second Vice President,
Programs

Come Inside the Log House



Cindi Gruetzmacher, Ann Bevil, Carolyn Lightfoot, Lynn Forney Young, & Jack Shepherd



Nancy Habermacher, Phyllis Moody and "The Stewarts"



Ann Bevil “The Stewarts” and Lynn Forney Young



Clippings from Presentations by the “Stewarts”



In costume—“Julia and Charles Stewart”

Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-off

Once again we are hosting our annual Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-off. Come join the San Jacinto Chapter DRT and CRT as we celebrate Texas Independence Day with the Texian Army on Sunday, **February 28, 2010**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House. A Living History Festival along with a Flag Retirement Ceremony will be part of the festivities. Last year the Flag Retirement Ceremony was held and approximately 25 children participated. This year we are inviting all children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., to participate in this moving patriotic ceremony. We will hold a rehearsal on **February 28** at 1:30 pm. This will allow the children to become familiar with the ceremony.

The Texian Army in conjunction with the Sons of the Republic of Texas will present the reading of William Barrett Travis’ famous letter. For the Chili Cook-off, it is time to begin perfecting your favorite chili recipe! If you are interested in having a chili team, please contact Eron Tynes @ 281-820-0676.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 per child under age 16. Please feel free to come in period dress or your favorite Texana attire. In addition, we need assistance with judging the Chili Cook-off and with setting up and cleaning up. If you can help out, please email Eron Tynes @ 54texan@peoplepc.com





Loretta Williams delivers toys to Ben Taub Clinic

Ms. Gamara, Social Worker of Ben Taub Pediatric Clinic, stated that with this donation they would be able to see to the needs of the children at the clinic. Thank you to everyone for their support in this worthy project. Loretta Williams, CRT Sponsor, delivered the toys collected at the Christmas Open House. The CRT is encouraged to support the Chili Cook Off which will be held on February 28, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Log House.

Loretta Williams, CRT

**“Freedman Community Archaeological Digs
Presented by Dr. Carol McDavid and Ms. Derbra Blacklock-Sloan**

Join us for a wonderful and enlightening presentation by Dr. Carol McDavid on Houston’s own Freedman’s Town National District. Houston’s Freedman’s Town is regarded to be the last African American “Freedman’s Town” community existent in the United States that continues to be occupied, at least in part, by descendants of the original emancipated founders. Freedman’s Town emerged post-Civil War when freed African Americans settled in the area known as the Fourth Ward after emancipation. Freedman’s Town has been characterized as Houston’s most prominent African American neighborhood.

Dr. McDavid will present her archeological dig findings from Freedman’s Town National Historic District on February 4, 2010 at 10:00 AM at our Pioneer Log House. You are not going to want to miss this!



Friends of the Log House

We want to wish everyone a very happy new year—and a new decade! Let us hope for peace and good health for all.

We are also grateful for those who donated so generously to the Log House during the months of November and December. Without you, our log house and museum would be in a dire situation.

Here are our Christmas angels. If I missed anyone, please let me know.

Kristin Richter
Phyllis Moody
Ann Brannen
Candace Sawyer
Kae Theilen
Shirley Lightfoot
Betty Stokes

Sandra Wellen
Anita Cooper
Nancy Burch
Sally Whittington
Ann Bevil
Nedaye Potts
Penny Remick

Dorothy Tabb
Patsy Teas
Marje Harris
Kay Martin
Camille Dabaghi
Camille Silver
Dorwayne Hinde

In gratitude,
Martha Haydel, Chair FLH

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used for a variety of occasions, including San Jacinto Chapter activities, other DRT and CRT 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 the Log House.



SAVE THE DATE

February 23, 2010-- "The Allies of the Alamo" at the Alamo. For the first time the DRT will invite the public to participate with us in the preservation, maintenance and operations of the Alamo. All funds raised from this membership drive go directly to the Alamo. Details to follow.

Texas Essay

The deadline of February 4, 2010 is drawing near for entering the Texas History Essay Contest. Every year, the Daughters sponsor an essay contest for 4th and 7th graders. Each chapter sends out information on the essay contest to local schools. The essay topic this year for 4th graders is "Texas State Cemetery" and for 7th graders, the topic is "Rip Ford."

The first, second, and third place winners from the San Jacinto Chapter will be presented with a check, trophy, and a certificate. All winners will be offered an opportunity to read their essays during the Texas History Essay Awards reception on May 1, 2010 at the Log House. First place winners will have their essays forwarded to the District level.

For more information please feel free to e-mail Sally Whittington at whitsend@swbell.net. Essays must be postmarked by February 4, 2010 and sent to Sally Whittington, 18112 Lakeside Lane, Houston, Texas 77058-4331.

The Country Store

The Jalapeno Man, by Debbie Leland, is our newest children's book and is a wonderful take-off on The Gingerbread Man. The Jalapeno Man meets many of the Texas animals as he runs away. The price is \$16.00. I am always looking for new items for our store, so let me know if you have an idea.

Luanne Zacek

**DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
SAN JACINTO CHAPTER**

Thelma Maresh Scholarship 2010

The goal of the Thelma Maresh Scholarship Program is to recognize and award scholarships to graduating students in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Houston who are extraordinary leaders, outstanding scholars and responsible citizens. Three scholarships in the amounts of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 will be awarded. Awards will be presented on April 21, 2010 during the San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony at the San Jacinto Monument, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site.

Criteria for Selection

The scholarship committee will seek the most promising student leaders with potential for providing exceptional contributions to the college or university which he/she will attend and to the world at large. The selection will be based on:

1. leadership
2. scholarship
3. responsible citizenship

In addition to these criteria, the scholarship committee is interested in the applicant's educational and career plans, life philosophy and volunteerism, motivation and determination.

Eligibility

1. Must be a high school senior who will graduate before June 30 of the current school year.
2. Must be qualified, upon graduation, to enroll at an accredited four-year college or university.
3. Must be a citizen of the United States.
4. Must have a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0.
5. Must exemplify achievement, leadership, and college and career potential.

Application Procedures

Complete the application form with a photograph attached and return on or before March 21, 2010 to:
Adrianna Wilcox, 201 S. Heights Blvd. Apt. 334 Houston, TX 77007

1. Provide official high school transcript(s) and copy of SAT/ACT Official Test Results. Transcript(s) should show final grades for all courses taken from 9th grade to most recently completed semester in high school. Unofficial transcripts are not acceptable.
2. Provide 2 letters of recommendation: one recommendation of academic and one of nonacademic, supporting academic achievements, leadership skills, and college potential.
3. Submit a typed narrative supporting your life goals and experiences. See application instructions.
4. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to April 14, 2010.
5. The scholarship committee reserves the right to interview applicants as part of the application process.

Scholarship Award Checks will be issued upon proof of registration at college or university.

For Scholarship Applications, contact:

Adrianna Wilcox

E- mail - adrianna.wilcox@gmail.com

Our Field trip in March will be to Liendo Plantation. The following excerpts are taken from *Legendary Texans, Vol. III* by Joe Tom Davis.



. . .From 1822 until 1878, the Groce and Wharton families played key roles in the agricultural, political, military, social and cultural history of Texas. Joined by bonds of marriage, they contributed the “Cotton King” of Texas, a hero at San Jacinto, the Republic’s first minister to the United States, two members of the Texas Congress, the hostess for President Lamar, a Confederate general, and the builder of an historic mansion. The families left an indelible mark on the Texas past, and their grand old house has a history of its own.

Jared E. Groce, the patriarch of this remarkable clan, was born on a Virginia plantation in 1782. After moving to Lincoln County, Georgia, in 1804, he married Mary Ann Waller. In 1814 he settled in Alabama, where he founded a settlement and plantation called Groce’s Fort.

After being attracted by the generous land terms, Jared became one of Stephen F. Austin’s “Old Three Hundred” families and started for Texas in the fall of 1821. He brought a caravan of fifty covered wagons, farm implements, tools, seeds, building materials, a train of livestock and ninety slaves. Crossing rivers on pontoon bridges he first came to Brazoria County but soon concluded that the Gulf Coast climate was too unhealthy. Groce then moved up the Brazos River and founded a settlement called Groce’s Landing (or Ferry) four miles south of present Hempstead in January, 1822. Because “of the property he brought with him,” Jared in 1824 received title to ten leagues of land from Austin - - a total of 44,284 acres. Five of the leagues were in present Waller and Grimes counties; the other five in present Brazoria County were divided into three plantations: Eagle Island, Evergreen, and Lake Place. Evergreen was later sold to Alexander Calvit, while Lake Place was purchased by Maj. Abner Jackson and re-named Lake Jackson.

In 1822 Groce built “Bernardo” a house of cottonwood logs hewed and counterhewed as smooth as glass. . . For many years Bernardo was considered the finest home in Texas, and Jared was renowned for his lavish displays of hospitality. Mrs. Jane Long was a frequent house guest while she lived at nearby San Felipe. . . The Groce family eventually built five princely homes in Texas: Bernardo, Pleasant Hill, and Liendo in Waller County, Groce’s Retreat in Grimes County and Eagle Island in Brazoria County.

More to follow in our February newsletter.

Remembering

DOROTHY MAE BAKER GARNER GOODWIN. She was a fifth generation Texan born at Millican, Texas on April 6, 1919 to Raleigh W. Baker and his wife the former Addie M. Marquart, a descendant of a pioneer family. She grew up in Baytown, TX where she married Harold Arthur Garner in 1941. They were active at the Trinity Episcopal Church. She was a graduate of the University of Houston and taught in the Channelview and Galena Park public school districts. After Mr. Garner's death in 1966, she moved to Houston and in 1975 married Herbert Lee Goodwin. She was a member of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit; the Episcopal Church Women; Ann Poage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; Robert E. Lee Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy; **San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas**; Houston Genealogical Forum; Friends of Clayton Library; College Women's Club of Houston and the Harris County Heritage Society. Preceded in death by both husbands, 2 brothers, Robert W. Baker and Orville Baker and wife Joyce, and daughter-in-law Anne E Garner. Survived by 2 sons, Harold E. (Gene) Garner of Kingwood, TX and Brian A. Garner and his wife Jerrie of Houston, TX, 5 grandchildren, James N. Garner and wife Nicole of Grand Prairie, TX, Katheryn G. Watts and husband William (Billy) of Humble, TX, Christopher A. Garner and wife Vennessa of Missouri City, TX, Steven M. Garner and wife Jennifer of Spring, TX, and Jonathan R. Garner and wife Meghan of Mishawaka, IN, 7 great grandchildren, Paul A. Hansen, Daniel B. Watts, and Rachel E. Watts of Humble, TX, Zoe D. Garner and Brett N. Garner of Grand Prairie, TX, and Scarlett C. Garner and Susannah M. Garner of Spring, TX, and 2 brothers Bill W. Baker and wife Jeri and Dr. Charles E. Baker and wife Barbara both of Houston, TX, and sister-in-law, Iris A. Baker of Bryan, TX. Memorial contributions may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit or the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research. Visitation will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2010 from 5pm to 8pm at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home. The funeral service will be Wednesday, January, 13, 2010 in the Chapel of Angels of Forest Park followed by a committal service at graveside.

8th Annual Texas Med 5k

The Harris County Hospital District's Texas Med 5K Fun Run will be held on January 30, 2010 at our Log House. The proceeds will benefit the Hospital District's Mammography Services.



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Phyllis Moody, Co-Editor

