



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

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March 2, 2010



A Bright Texas Day



Trip to Liendo Plantation

**LIENDO PLANTATION.** In 1830, José Justo Liendo, of Leona Vicario, then residing in Nacogdoches, gave Thomas F. McKinney power of attorney to locate ten of the eleven leagues of land Liendo had purchased from the Mexican government two years before. McKinney located five of the ten leagues in what is now Waller County, where the remarkable shape of the tract still stands out on maps, since the survey was run to include only "entirely vacant" land. In 1841 McKinney, still acting for the owner, sold Leonard W. Groce the part of the Liendo survey that lay north and west of Pond Creek, "3,000 acres, more or less," for \$1,500. Groce increased his holdings through the years and in 1860 paid \$1,200 for the remainder of the five leagues that had not been sold. Groce's home on the plantation, which he named Liendo, was built by slave labor and completed in 1853. Bricks were made from the red clay of the Brazos. The foundation was of brick, stuccoed with red plaster. The chimneys were of brick, plastered with lime. The house, colonial in style, had outer walls of drop leaf siding, painted white. The adjustable blinds were dark green. The floors and ceilings were tongue-and-groove yellow pine. The ceiling of the drawing room was hand-painted in a design of roses and morning glories, the same design being carried out in its frieze. The interior walls were smoothly finished in plaster. The wainscoting of the dining room and the second-floor bedrooms reached six feet above the floors. The kitchen had facilities large enough to roast a whole beef; whole roast pig was mere routine. A "bachelors' hall" on the grounds was equipped to house guests. The Groce children and children of neighbors were instructed by a tutor at a schoolhouse on the plantation. A convenient stopping place between the Houston-Galveston area and Austin, Liendo had a stream of guests that included the prominent of its day. Revenues of the plantation, which was operated with about 300 slaves, have been estimated as high as \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year in good years.

During the Civil War, Camp Groce was established at Liendo, where cavalry, artillery, and infantry were recruited. Converted to a prisoner of war camp, it housed troops captured at the battle of Galveston. From September 1 to December 1, 1865, the plantation was the camping place of Gen. George A. Custer and his command. In 1866 Groce sold the white elephant that Liendo had become but had to take it back the next year. In 1873 Leonard W. Groce, Jr., sold Elisabet Ney and Edmund D. Montgomery<sup>qqv</sup> 1,100 acres, "the homestead tract of the late Leonard W. Groce, Sr.," for \$10,000. The new owners knew nothing about cotton planting, and the procession of their mortgages was long. In 1909 Dr. Montgomery and Elisabet Ney having moved to Austin earlier, deeded Liendo to Theodor Low, reserving for himself a life

interest and right of occupancy. The same year Low sold to W. P. Gaines, who in 1910 sold the property to George W. Harris, of Hughes County, South Dakota. Dr. Montgomery waived his life interest and reserved only the right to use a portion of the main house. He stayed at Liendo until his death in 1911. He and Elisabet Ney were buried in a grove of live oaks on the grounds. In 1943 Mrs. Laura B. Harris, widow of George W. Harris, sold her property to Miss Willene Compton, who occupied the mansion. A record of the appearance and condition of the mansion at Liendo has been deposited in the Library of Congress. Among the relics to be seen at Liendo are possessions of Elisabet Ney and Dr. Montgomery. The plantation was purchased by Phyllis and Carl Detering in 1961 and completely reconstructed and modernized.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Carrie B. Coss, *Liendo Plantation* (Hempstead, Texas: Waller County Historical Commission, 1977). Vertical Files, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin. Waller County Historical Survey Committee, *A History of Waller County, Texas* (Waco: Texian, 1973).



### **Stars of the Republic 119<sup>th</sup> State Convention May 13-15, 2010**

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Reliant Arena  
8686 Kirby Drive @Loop 610,  
Houston, Texas

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Rates: \$109.00/night  
(1-4 persons)  
713-748-3221  
before April 27, 2010

Forms are on the members only website:  
<http://drt-inc.org/members/>

bt.stover@sbcglobal.net  
Newsletter Editor  
Phyllis Moody, Co-Editor

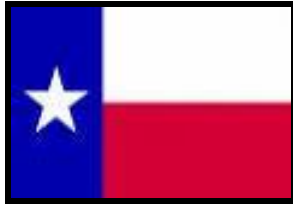
### **Log House Rental**

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](mailto:bauld@comcast.net) regarding the availability of the Log House for any function and to schedule an event at the Log House.

### **Friends of the Log House**

The Log House is pleased to recognize a long-time, loyal, generous contributor- Margaret Standard. Margaret has enthusiastically supported and maintained the raffle each month at our meetings and special events, benefitting our chapter home. We are grateful and delighted to have such an energetic and gracious member working on our behalf. THANK YOU, MARGARET!!





### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Betty J. Burkett**, DRT #27760  
Ancestor: Louis Jacob Korn

**Shelley Beroud Johnson Gottschalk**,  
DRT #27761  
Ancestor: Louis Jacob Korn

**Sarah Bigelow Molina**, DRT # 27763  
Ancestor: John Jackson Tumlinson, Sr.



### SAN JACINTO BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT

On April 24, 2010 from 10-6, will be the San Jacinto Festival and Battle Re-enactment. The festival is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games, and fun set amidst living history. The re-enactment of the battle takes place on the San Jacinto Battleground at 3:00 p.m. The Battle Re-enactment is one of the largest in the state, complete with cannons, muskets, horses, pyrotechnics and hundreds of re-enactors dressed in uniforms that duplicate the real dress of the day.

### San Jacinto Day Celebration



#### Monument in the Mist

The Official State of Texas Battle of San Jacinto Commemorative Ceremony will be Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at the San Jacinto Monument. The program begins at 11:00 a.m. and will include a musical prelude by the Deer Park HS Orchestra. The event is free and open to the public.

The Master of Ceremonies for the day is Ron Stone, Jr. and the keynote speaker will be James L. Haley, author of Sam Houston. The San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Sons of the Republic of Texas will present scholarship awards. The San Jacinto Chapter, SRT will present the USS San Jacinto Enlisted Man of the Year award and the Sam Houston Chapter, SRT will present the USS Texas Enlisted Man of the Year award. There also will be a laying of the Memorial Wreath.

Come join us as we celebrate this most significant Honor Day commemorating the most decisive battle of the Western Hemisphere.



## April 1 Meeting

“Buffalo Bayou an Echo of Houston’s Wilderness Beginnings”  
 . . . excerpt from essay by Louis Aulbach . . .

“Winding through Houston’s patchwork of diverse landscapes is our very own muddy oasis, Buffalo Bayou. Houston’s rich history has been shaped by those who depended on her waters for their livelihoods, native Texans, foreign businessmen, travelers, soldiers, and seafarers who charted territory and staked their claim in the commercial goldmine that was and still is Houston.

For centuries, before explorers descended on the Gulf of Mexico, native Indians, such as the Bidais and Akokisa, camped and traded along the lush banks of Buffalo Bayou and prowled its clear clay bottomed waters. The French and the Spanish maintained trade with these tribes, but did not establish settlements along the Bayou until the 1820’s. In the early 1800’s, the city of Harrisburg, located near today’s Ship Channel, was the focal point for shipping along the Gulf, but General Santa Anna burned it to the ground on his march to the Battle of San Jacinto. “

On Thursday, April 1, 2010, the San Jacinto Chapter will be the hosts for “Buffalo Bayou, an Echo of Houston’s Wilderness Beginnings” by Linda Gorski and Louis Aulbach. This presentation will incorporate the interesting Camp Logan (Memorial Park). No one wants to miss this interesting meeting to hear about Buffalo Bayou on April Fool’s Day!

*Ann Bevil*, Second Vice President

## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Once again, Tom Green, job of organizing the Celebration held at and Sam Houston Chapters, San Jacinto Chapter, co-sponsored the ceremony other DRT and SRT also in attendance.



Knights of San Jacinto, did a superb March 2, Texas Independence Day Houston City Hall. The San Jacinto Sons of the Republic of Texas, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, with the City of Houston. Members of chapters and the Texian Army were

Tom Green was the Master of Ceremonies with the Mayor of Houston, Annise Parker, beginning the program by welcoming everyone and reading a proclamation. Eron Brimberry Tynes, President, San Jacinto Chapter, spoke about our DRT history and Clay Fisher, President, San Jacinto Chapter, SRT spoke about the impact the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence had in shaping modern day Texas. Jan DeVault, President, Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, and Will Haddock, Vice-President, San Jacinto Descendants, also spoke. J. Richard Reese, KSJ, Past President General, Sons of the Republic of Texas, concluded the ceremony by leading everyone in a toast, with good old Texas water, to all those brave men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

After the ceremony, the San Jacinto Chapter, SRT hosted a luncheon for the DRT and other guests at the Heritage Tea Room.



### Frankie Evelyn Johnson

Frankie Evelyn Johnson, died on March 7, 2010, in Houston, Texas She was the mother of Doris Lynn Hoyt, a SJC member. Mrs. Johnson was 90 years old. She was born in Palestine, Texas, and married Olen Johnson in 1938. She worked as an Executive Secretary for Southline Metal Products most of her career.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her granddaughter, Debbie Shelton, also a member of SJC. Mrs. Johnson was buried at Memorial Oaks Cemetery, Houston, Texas.



### William K. Shumake

William K. Shumake, the son of SJC member Bettie Knight Shumake, passed away on March 13, 2010. He was a native Houstonian. He is also survived by his cousins, Camille Silver, Susan Cruse, and Catherine Odette, all members of SJC. Will was an employee at North American Title. He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery. Please remember this precious family in your thoughts and prayers.

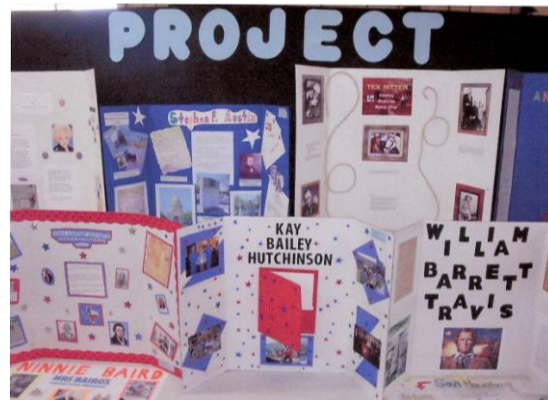
## Outstanding Texas History Teacher of the Year

The winner of the Outstanding Texas History Teacher of the Year for fourth grade is Danielle Cheek. Ms. Cheek has taught fourth grade social studies at Anahuac Elementary for the past three years. Her curriculum includes a research project titled "Famous Texan Project".

Rosie Womack, Principal, Anahuac Elementary, writes:

"Her positive attitude and love of history and children are reflected in the outstanding quality of teaching that she displays here at Anahuac Elementary. Her enthusiasm, her innovativeness and her dedication to Texas History is exemplary."

Ms. Cheek will be invited to attend our June Luncheon to receive her certificate.



BATTLE OF

# San Jacinto

SYMPOSIUM

2010

Saturday, April 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, University of Houston

\$50 includes lunch and parking

## “Skulls, Slaves, and Sex: Secrets of Early Texas”

Announcing the discovery of six skulls of Mexican soldiers slain at the Battle of San Jacinto



In 1837, American naturalist John James Audubon visited the San Jacinto battleground. He picked up four skulls of Mexican soldiers and sent them to his friend, Dr. Samuel Morton, in Philadelphia.

These, plus skulls from two other collectors, became part of Morton's worldwide collection of 1500 crania. In 2009, the six Mexican skulls were discovered at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, virtually unknown to Texas historians for 170 years. Last January, internationally renowned anthropologist Doug Owsley conducted a forensic examination of the Mexican skulls on behalf of the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground. His findings will be presented publicly for the first time at the 2010 Battle of San Jacinto Symposium.

**Dr. Ron Tyler**, Director of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, will talk about Audubon's visit to Galveston, Houston, and San Jacinto Battleground in 1837. Dr. Tyler spent 20 years as a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and Executive Director of the Texas State Historical Association.

**Dr. Doug Owsley**, Division Head for Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, will discuss "Crania Injuries in Mexican Soldiers at San Jacinto."

Dr. Owsley is a specialist on bioarchaeological and osteological research relating to the peopling of the New World and the activity patterns and diseases of American Indians of the Southwest.

### Speaking on Slaves ...

"*The Slaveholder's Republic*," by **Dr. Andrew J. Torget**, Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Texas. Dr. Torget, creator of the digital Texas Slavery Project, will discuss slavery and its impact on revolutionary Texas. He is working on a book titled *Cotton Empire: Slavery, Texas, and the Origins of the Mexican-American War*.

### Speaking on Sex ...

"*Was Sam a Bigamist? - A Lawyer Looks at Sam Houston's Divorce*," by **James W. Paulsen**, Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law. Prof. Paulsen, who specializes in family law, legal history, and civil procedure, will discuss Sam Houston's legal problems following the breakup of his marriage to Eliza Allen in Tennessee and subsequent romance with Anna Raguet of Nacogdoches during the Texas Revolution and the early years of the Republic.

"*Revolutionary Sex: Texas' Philandering Founders*," by **Lael Morgan**, author, journalist, lecturer, photographer, and teacher. Ms Morgan currently lectures at the Department of Communications, University of Texas at Arlington. She is the author of *Good Time Girls of the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush*.

### And keeping things in line ...

**Dr. James E. Crisp**, Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University, will moderate the Symposium. Dr. Crisp's latest book, *How Did Davy Die? And Why Do We Care So Much?* was recently released by Texas A&M University Press.

### Special luncheon presentation

**Hon. William P. Hobby, Jr.**, Lt. Governor of Texas, 1973-1991.

**Dr. Frank de la Teja**, Professor and Department of History Chair, Texas State University in San Marcos, and former State Historian, will comment on his new book, *Tejano Leadership in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas*.

### Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground

The San Jacinto Symposium is sponsored by the San Jacinto Battleground Association - "The Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground" - as a forum for promoting public awareness and academic scholarship concerning the events of the Texas Revolution era.

The Friends is a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to preserve, protect and reclaim the San Jacinto Battleground and educate the public about the Battle of San Jacinto and the Texas Revolutionary era. In addition to the Symposium, the Friends supports and funds archeological projects, marsh and prairie restoration, educational programs, land acquisition, and the annual San Jacinto Day commemoration and battle reenactment. The Friends is an organization separate and distinct from the San Jacinto Museum of History and the Battleship Texas Foundation and is not a closely-related nonprofit partner of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

For additional information please visit our website at [www.friendsofsanjacinto.org](http://www.friendsofsanjacinto.org)

The Friends is approved as Certified Professional Education (CPE) Provider #501087. Six CPE hours will be issued for teachers attending the 2010 San Jacinto Symposium.



### Texas History Essay

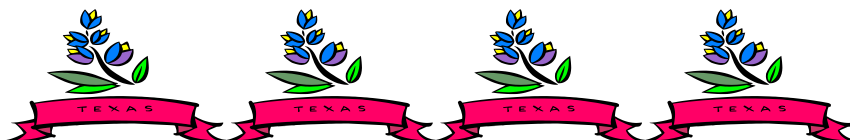
Every year, the Daughters sponsor an essay contest for 4th and 7th graders. Each chapter sends out information on the essay contest to local school districts. The essay topic this year for 4th graders was "Texas State Cemetery – Its beginnings" and for 7th graders, the topic was "Rip Ford".

The 1st place winner for 4th grade was Elizabeth Collier, Mittelstadt Elementary, Klein ISD; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Wesley Partridge, Mittelstadt Elementary, Klein ISD; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Hailey Brenner, Warner Elementary, Cy-Fair ISD and Honorable Mention – Carissa Lee, Mittelstadt Elementary, Klein ISD. All three 7<sup>th</sup> grade winners were submitted by Memorial Middle School in Spring Branch ISD. The winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place –Alex Pierce; 2<sup>nd</sup> place –Erin Williams; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place –Susan Nash.

Miss Elizabeth Collier, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner for the fourth grade has been selected as the District VI winner. Her entry has been submitted to the State DRT level. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners from the San Jacinto Chapter will receive a check, trophy, and a certificate. The Honorable Mention winner and all entries will receive participation certificates.

Our chapter will honor all of the winners, their parents, and teachers on Saturday, May 1, at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House during the Texas History Essay Awards Reception. San Jacinto Chapter members are invited to attend this event. Please make a special effort to attend this reception as we honor these Texas students who have displayed such an interest in Texas history.

Special thanks to the members of the essay committee who assisted with reading all of the essays and selecting the winners. The members of the committee were Jan Broadway, Libbie Hill, Rose Slatton, Bette Shumate, Marje Harris, Ann Tanner, Linda Beverlin and Adrianna Wilcox.





### Historical Dates in Texas

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>March 19 1836</b>                           | <b>James Walker Fannin and his men lost the Battle of Coleto Creek</b>  |
| <b>March 20 1687</b>                           | <b>La Salle, a French explorer, landed in Texas instead of finding the mouth of the Mississippi</b>   |
| <b>March 25 1843</b>                           | <b>Seventeen Texans were executed at what became known as the Black Bean Episode, which resulted from the Mier Expedition, one of several raids by the Texans into Mexico</b> |
| <b>March 27 1836</b><br><b>TEXAS HONOR DAY</b> | <b>The Texas prisoners from Coleto Creek were massacred at Goliad.</b>  |
| <b>March 29 1836</b>                           | <b>San Felipe was burned to prevent its falling into the hands of the Mexican army.</b>   |
| <b>March 30 1870</b>                           | <b>After the Civil War, the United States Congress readmitted Texas into the Union</b>  |

#### LOG HOUSE TOUR

There will be a tour of the Log House after the April 1 chapter meeting. It will begin at 12:15 p.m. and should last approximately 20-30 minutes. The Log House was officially dedicated on March 2, 1936, in honor of one hundred years of Texas Independence. Join us and hear more about our Memorial Log House!

#### UPDATE

Pat Craig is now living at 8713 Westview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055. She appreciates receiving mail and news from her SJC friends. However, no visitors, please.



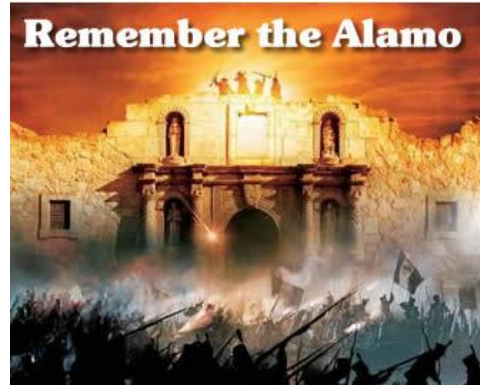
## ***The President's Message***

### ***Dawn at Alamo . . .***

As I stood in Alamo Plaza before dawn on March 6, on the sacred ground where our Texian men fought and died 174 years ago, I closed my eyes and tried to imagine what it must have been like. These men who had the opportunity to leave the Alamo during the siege, stayed and gave their lives in the struggle for Liberty and Independence. Their courage and sacrifice bought valuable time for Texas.

While the sky was somewhat overcast on this past March 6, the half full moon was visible in the dark sky at dawn. Hundreds of people were gathered in Alamo Plaza for the *Dawn at Alamo* ceremony. Members of the DRT and SRT generally stand to the left of the chapel. As is tradition, the San Antonio Living History Association presented to Patti Atkins, President General, 12 yellow roses (to commemorate 12 days of the siege) and one blood red rose for the final and last day. Mrs. Atkins along with the DRT Board of Management, Sons of the Republic of Texas, and Alamo Defender descendants laid flowers in memory of those who died during the battle.

Throughout the day the re-enactors were on the Plaza and two "battles" were conducted. The Alamo Mission Chapter, DRT held a Memorial Service inside the chapel during the afternoon.



That evening, the Alamo Defenders ceremony was held. The names of all the defenders were read, under the flag of the state or country where they were born. As each defender's name was read, their descendants stood. In honor of these men and their sacrifice, some of the children sang "Always Cross the Line", with the chorus . . .

**Always cross the line,  
We'll always cross the line.  
Just like our fathers long ago,  
We want our watching world to know,  
We're children of the Alamo.  
We'll always cross the line!**

As Texans, we'll always cross the line.

*Eron Brimberry Tynes*

