

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



December 2018



From the President

*Dear Daughters,
Best wishes for a very Merry
Christmas, and a happy, healthy,
prosperous, and safe New Year.*

*Laura-Hill Taylor,
President*



Peggy Carter Plays Delightful Melodies on the Hammered Dulcimer at the Christmas Luncheon

Our annual Christmas luncheon was the most well attended ever with 78 attendees. The venue, Tony's restaurant, was filled with merry cheer and tunes. Professional dulcimer musician, Peggy Carter warmed our hearts with a compilation of melodies on the dulcimer reflecting tunes from all the cultures of Texas. Peggy, with the accompaniment of Martha Jorgensen on guitar, led our group in singing festive songs with joy and delight.

We sang our hearts out, right in to the Christmas spirit!



Peggy, playing the dulcimer





January 10th Meeting - Roundtable: Sharing Histories of Our Own Republic of Texas Ancestors

Martha Jorgensen has put together a round table discussion program for us to discuss our ancestors and shared Texas history. I'll share a little bit of my family history as an example of how we'll share. Please come! Tell your story!

My Republic of Texas ancestor is Robert Wyres, my 4th great-grandfather. Robert Wyres was born in 1804 near Wyres cave in Botetourt County, VA. He moved to Texas when he was young. Robert married Harriet Shipp (originally from Alabama) under old Spanish laws in 1834 in St. Augustine County Texas. Prior to meeting, while young, each had moved to the then considered far west Texas in 1831. Having moved his family still further west, they were among the fugitives fleeing before the invading army of Santa Anna. Although the master role was lost, Robert Wyres claimed to have been in the Battle of San Jacinto.

After the battle and destruction of Santa Anna's army in 1836, he moved to Houston and made the first bricks ever in "that village", as written in his

obituary. Robert also built one of the first cabins in Houston. In 1856, the family moved to Falls County, Texas, residing there for 32 years. In 1888, at the age of 84, he died while visiting his daughter Mrs. W. C. Bryan in Abilene. Harriet died just two weeks later. They are buried in Abilene, Texas.



Robert Wyres' headstone is a favorite of mine because the inscription is so representative of the language of the times. It reads 1804 - 1888. GONE. Yes, GONE!

I was surprised to learn that my 4th great-grandfather, Robert Wyres was 84 years old at the time of his death. A rarity in those days. So I suppose that explains longevity in my family!

So...what have you learned about your Texas ancestors? Please come and share with us at the January meeting!

— Susan Whitfield





New Members

Dora Dell IFulton "Sam" Akkerman
Ancestor: Eldred Barker
Lanie Aaron Carson
Ancestor: Zachariah Phillips Fenley
Victoria Elizabeth Pavay
Ancestor: Leander Calvin Cunningham
Claire Craddock Seibert
Ancestor: Thomas Platt



Honor and Memorial Days

2019

January 26

Mirabeau B. Lamar Day,
Father of Education

February 19

Texas Statehood Day (1846)

March 2

Texas Independence Day (1836)

Sam Houston's Birthday (1793)

March 6

Alamo Heroes Day (1836)

March 27

Goliad Heroes Day (1836)

April 21

San Jacinto Day (1836)

Lift a Heart, Lift a Spirit

Lift up Esther Simon

A member of our board, Esther Simon, lives in a Retirement Facility at 505 Bering Drive in Houston. Esther is dealing with a recent illness and is homebound. As a chapter, we'd like to reach out to her this holiday season.

We encourage those who know Esther to please visit her from time to time. This will surely lift her spirits. Thank you!

Thinking of you, Esther!

The WRITE STUFF:

Please bring #2 pencils to any meeting. We send them to our Texas History Teacher, Karen James, Landrum Middle School in Spring Branch. Karen never denies pencils to any of her students. It is an ongoing need.

Calendar of Events, San Jacinto Chapter

2019

January 10	Chapter Meeting	10:00 Social /10:30 Meeting
	Pioneer Memorial Log House	
	Board meeting following chapter meeting	
January 31	Executive Board Meets	11:00 am
February 7	Chapter Meeting	10:00 Social /10:30 Meeting
	Pioneer Memorial Log House	
February 28	Executive Board Meets	11:00 am
March 7	Chapter Field Trip	10:00 - 12:00 pm
March 12	Texas History Pioneer Day	
March 28	Executive Board Meets	11:00 am
April 4	Chapter Meeting	10:00 Social /10:30 Meeting
	Pioneer Memorial Log House	
April 21	San Jacinto Day Ceremony	10:00 am
	Presentation of SJC Scholarships	
	San Jacinto Battleground	
	Battle Reenactment	3:00 pm
	www.sanjacinto-museum.org	
April 25	Executive Board Meets	11:00 am
	Pioneer Memorial Log House	
May 2	Chapter Meeting	10:00 Social /10:30 Meeting
	Pioneer Memorial Log House	
May 30 thru June 1	DRT Annual Convention	
	Austin, Details to be Announced	
May 30	Executive Board Meets	11:00 am
	Pioneer Memorial Log House	
June 6	June Luncheon	11:30 am
	BraeBurn Country Club	
	8101 Bissonnet	

Program Schedule 2019

January 10, 2019

Roundtable:

Sharing Histories of Our Own
Republic of Texas Ancestors

February 7, 2018

Mike Vance, The Making of the
"Birth of Texas" Movie Series

March 7, 2018

Field Trip:

San Jacinto Battlefield

Tour Guide:

Eron Tynes Brimberry
Lunch at Monument Inn

April 4, 2018

Linda Martin

The Houston Hogg Family -
Beyond Ima

May 2, 2018

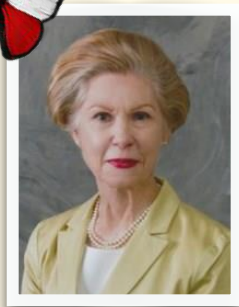
To be announced.

June 6, 2018

June Luncheon



In Memoriam Dorothy Houghton



In a family full of strong-willed and accomplished women, Dorothy Knox appreciated that her great-great-great-grandmother Jane Birdsall Harris housed the Texas government as they fled from Santa Anna in April 1836 during the Runaway Scrape. The Mexican Army burned the Harris home in frustration when they arrived to find that the government had escaped Harrisburg by boat; but, Mrs. Harris persevered and rebuilt the family home later the same year. Ultimately, the Texas government named Harris County after John R. Harris and his family.

Dorothy Knox was a fierce advocate for historic preservation within Houston. Her dismay at the many major losses in residential and commercial architecture during her lifetime spurred her to co-author and spearhead the major book project that resulted in *Houston's Forgotten Heritage: Landscape, Houses, Interiors, 1824-1914*. The expansive archives that the authors assembled in the process of writing the book are a treasure trove of Houston's history, now housed at the Houston Public Library in the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). She also authored *The Houston Club and Its City: One Hundred Years*. Dorothy Knox was pivotal in the creation of The Friends of the Texas Room, the organization formed to support the HMRC and the 1926 Julia Ideson Building, Houston's original public library. As a cofounder and lifelong president of the organization, she played an important role in ensuring the restoration of the Ideson Building in recent years. The Friends of the Texas room and HMRC have installed a temporary exhibit in her honor to recognize her leadership in compiling and protecting an historical record of Houston and the surrounding region.

Dorothy Knox also descended from many early Colonial Americans who helped to shape the politics and culture of the British Colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries. Her passion for history and understanding her own family's past led her deep into genealogy and into membership and activism within the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Daughters of the American Revolution, The National Society of The Colonial Days of America in Texas (NSCDA-TX), and the San Jacinto Museum of History. In recent years, she was president of the NSCDA-TX, where she spearheaded a major restoration of the Neill-Cochran House Museum in Austin, resulting in a dramatic revitalization of the museum's mission and standing in Central Texas.

During a sojourn in Washington, D. C. in the late 1970s, Dorothy Knox became involved with the National Cathedral Association. She joined the board and was an advocate for the National Cathedral back in Houston where she successfully lobbied for the National Cathedral Christmas Day service to run on Houston television each year. She considered it an honor and a thrill to be present when the final stone was laid to complete the National Cathedral in 1990, after 83 years of construction.

Throughout her life, Dorothy Knox focused much of her time and energy on education, particularly American history as well as multicultural understanding and sensitivity. She was known for her keen intelligence, critical thinking, and sharp wit. Friends and scholars frequently approached her for advice and tapped her vast knowledge of architectural, political, and social history.

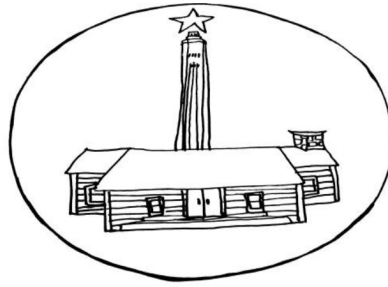
Dorothy Knox enjoyed all of the performing arts in Houston and had subscriptions to the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet, Da Camera, and the Alley Theater. She put great emphasis on ensuring that her children and grandchildren had access to the best possible education and wholeheartedly supported her daughters' professional careers. She believed a parent's or grandparent's responsibility was to mold the young into productive members of society and was gratified to encourage that development. Dorothy Knox felt that it was crucial to understand our own history in order to fully experience the wider world. She loved sharing her encyclopedic knowledge of Texas history and culture with her grandchildren. She introduced them to travel and the abundant natural beauty in America; so that, as they grow, they will have a reference point for their international explorations. Dorothy Knox was an avid and intrepid traveler. She particularly enjoyed venturing to far flung destinations like Myanmar, China, Brazil, Peru, and Norway in recent years.

On Friday, the 9th of November 2018, Dorothy Knox completed her time with us, after a 15-month battle with Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma. From the time of her diagnosis, Dorothy Knox fought the disease with everything she had, aided by an army of friends. Her family thanks all those who lifted her up and helped them face the challenge over this past year. Their support is a testament to Dorothy Knox's desire to live a life of purpose and of service to her friends. The family will never forget their love and support. Her family also thanks Walter Martinez and Andrew Edwards for their devotion to Dorothy Knox and her family, and in particular for their ready presence throughout her illness.

Dorothy Knox was preceded in death by her parents, Dorothy Trone Howe Dupree and Knox Briscoe Howe, and her husband Thomas Woodward Houghton.

A visitation was held on December 2nd at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons and a memorial service conducted on December 3rd at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston. A reception was held after the service to greet the family. Prior to the memorial service, private internment service for the family was held at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that friends consider a donation in her honor to the Dorothy Knox and Thomas Woodward Houghton Endowment at Christ Church Cathedral (1117 Texas Avenue, Houston TX 77002), MD Anderson Cancer Center (PO Box 4486 Houston, TX 77201), Bo's Place (10050 Buffalo Speedway, Houston TX 77054), or the charity of your choice.





Pioneer Memorial Log House

November 2018

Dear Daughters of the Republic of Texas,

As our calendar year comes to a close, The San Jacinto Chapter needs your annual support for our cherished Pioneer Memorial Log House. She is 82 years old, and in need of expensive preservation and maintenance.

The Log House was built by the San Jacinto Chapter for the Texas Centennial in 1936 to serve as a Hospitality House for the City of Houston on donated land in Hermann Park. San Jacinto Chapter ladies raised the money for the log house to be built by two men using a portable "sawmill" in the middle of the Great Depression. It still offers hospitality with monthly open houses, private tours, chapter meetings and rentals for events.

Our mission is to Teach Texas. Groups like Friends of the Log House and San Jacinto Chapter DRT work to maintain Texas History with our stories and display of artifacts relating to early Texas and the contribution of women during this period.

Currently, the main meeting room has no heat or adequate cooling. In fact, we had to cancel last January's chapter meeting because we had no heat for the extremely cold day. And at last year's Christmas Luncheon, everyone had to keep their coats on because the log house was so cold due to the broken heater - which is why this year's luncheon will be at Tony's. Appropriate climate control for the log house is a necessity to keep us cool during the Texas heat and warm on those bone chilling days. The Log House must be maintained in order to continue serving as a hospitality center promoting Texas history. While Hurricane Harvey did not flood the log house, it did flood our grounds and Texas Heritage Garden featuring plants and trees native to the state as well as those brought by pioneers as reminders of their former homes. Volunteers have been nurturing the grounds but funds are needed for mulch, replacement of plants, erosion control, irrigation upgrades, rebuilding the grape arbor, leveling and repaving the parking lot and regular grounds upkeep. We are a little garden oasis of Hermann Park.

Needs include:

- Foundation repair
- Replacement of damaged logs, treatment and sealant for all logs, chinking as needed
- Repair/replacement of the porches and handicap ramp
- Upgrade of the lighting inside and out
- Replacement of HVAC system
- Landscape and drainage improvements including the Grape Arbor and parking lot
- Install full size hot water heater and closet

The Log House Committee is collecting three bids for each of the projects. The total of the identified preservation and maintenance items may be about \$100,000. As you know from your own home remodeling and maintenance, bids can be very different. We appreciate those of you who have provided possible funding source suggestions for the Log House. All possible sources will be studied for our eligibility to apply.

Please support our efforts to preserve this beloved place so we can continue the important work of Teaching Texas. Foundations and major funding sources want to see that the majority of our members are supporting this project. Any gift amount is appreciated. Some members make several smaller donations throughout our year, June 1-May 31, which will be combined for their higher Friend of the Log House Donor Level. All gifts are tax deductible. A donor form is attached.

We hope you and your family enjoy this holiday season. Thank you for your generous support and God Bless Texas!

Sincerely,

Gwen Koch
4th Vice President, Ways and Means

PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

Become a "Friend of the Log House"

to help preserve the house and grounds.

Membership levels



A gift of any amount is appreciated and you will be recognized as a *Friend of the Log House*.

Donor Name _____
(as you wish to be printed)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

General Contribution \$ _____

Contribution In Memory of / In Honor of \$ _____

Send card to: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to San Jacinto Chapter DRT

and mail donations to Gwen Koch (4th Vice President – Ways and Means)

2015 Banks St., Houston, Texas 77098

★★★★★★★★PMLH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES★★★★★★★★

How I can help:

- ☐ Restoration Projects
- ☐ Tours / Docents / Greet visitors at monthly Open House
- ☐ Assist with identifying craftsmen and professionals for maintenance projects
- ☐ Assist with opening log house for special events
- ☐ Texas Heritage Garden: Assist with maintenance and beautification of grounds
- ☐ Spread the word about Log House Event Rental

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. San Jacinto Chapter DRT is a 501 (c) (3) organization.