



The Daughters of the Republic of Texas

San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

The San Jacinto Dispatch

April, 2011



The Battle of San Jacinto (1898), by H.A. McArdle, courtesy of the prints and photographs collection, archives and information services division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS-1836-1845

Mid - April 1836. The Texian Army is in retreat and the people are fleeing east.

Arriving at Groce's ferry on March 31, where he remained for 12 days, Sam Houston made great efforts to bring discipline to his army--this army of warriors-- but never soldiers. They were unused to discipline, unused to taking orders and ready to fight. The men charged that Houston was running away when he should be standing and fighting.

At Groce's plantation, Houston receives the twin sisters cannons, two six-pounders, the only pieces of artillery that he would have at San Jacinto. On April 16, as the army proceeded eastward they came to the "fork" in the road and made the turn south towards San Jacinto.

This timeline of those days in April is so familiar to all of us as we track General Houston's Army on the road to San Jacinto. Our ancestors who sacrificed and gave so much of themselves for Texas Independence all are truly Texas Heroes.

On the day after the battle, Thomas J. Rusk writes:

The Sun was sinking in the horizon as the battle commenced, but, at the close of the conflict, the sun of liberty and independence rose in Texas, never it is to be hoped to be obscured by the clouds of despotism again. We have read of deeds of chivalry, and perused with ardor the annals of war; we have contemplated, with the highest emotions of sublimity, the loud roaring thunder, the desolating tornado, and the withering simoom of the desert; but neither of these nor all inspired us with emotions like those felt on this occasion.

There was a general cry which pervaded the ranks. Remember the ALAMO. Remember La BAHIA. These words electrified us all. Onward was the cry. The unerring aim and irresistible energy of the Texas army could not be withstood. It was freeman fighting against the minions of tyranny and the result proved the inequality of such a contest.

T. J. Rusk,

What an honor and privilege it was to be at San Jacinto on April 21 to commemorate 175 years of the Battle of San Jacinto and celebrate 175 years of Texas Independence.

San Jacinto

The most significant battle of the Western Hemisphere

Eron Brimberry Tynes, President

San Jacinto Chapter



San Jacinto Battleground and Monument





San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony

The official San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony honoring 175 years of Texas Independence was held on Thursday, April 21, 2011. Approximately 500 people attended to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the most significant battle in the western hemisphere. The Sam Houston State University Bearkat Marching Band played for the singing of the National Anthem and “Texas Our Texas”.

The ceremony featured Ron Stone, Jr., as Master of Ceremonies and The Honorable Mark White, former Governor of Texas as the keynote speaker. During his speech, Governor White spoke of the significance of the Battle of San Jacinto and the importance of freedom.

The invocation was given by Patsy Teas, Chaplain General, San Jacinto Descendants and Miss Ima Hogg Chapter, DRT. Melody Townsend, President General, Children of the Republic of Texas led the Pledges to the United States Flag and to the Texas Flag. Trey Strake, Chairman, San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board, presented opening remarks.

Sam Houston IV, Knight of San Jacinto, read the Battle Analysis from San Jacinto, written by his great-grandfather, General Sam Houston. The Fife and Drum Corps played “Will You Come to the Bower.” The laying of the memorial wreath and the Salute to the Texas Patriots was conducted by the Texas Army and SRT Texian Volunteers.

During the ceremony, Ms. Tynes said that the San Jacinto Chapter holds a special interest in the San Jacinto Battlefield, explaining that one of its original purposes was “to acquire and mark the Battlegrounds of San Jacinto, where our Republic was born.” Ms. Tynes also noted that the Texas Veterans had bequeathed their deeds and memories to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. by them, to be held in trust forever. In closing she said, “As Daughters we are proud of our 119 years of service to the people of the State of Texas. We are honored and humbled to be entrusted with the sacred duty of preserving the historic sites of the Texas Revolution so dear to every Texan’s heart. We are proud to be custodians of the Alamo and proud of our heritage here at the San Jacinto Battleground.”

Patti Atkins, President General, DRT and Eron Brimberry Tynes, President, San Jacinto Chapter, then recognized the Thelma Maresh scholarship winners. A total of \$6,000.00 was presented to high school seniors.

The first place recipient was Hunter Shannon, who is the son of Jon and Patricia Shannon. Hunter attends Willis High School and is in the National Honor Society. He is in the Willis High School Marching Band and Jazz Band. Hunter plans to attend Texas A&M and will major in Nuclear Engineering.

The second place winner was Gregory Slatton, the son of Bruce and Carmell Slatton. Gregory attends Cy-Fair High School and is also in the National Honor Society. He was a National Merit Finalist and has received the Eagle Scout Award. He plans to major in Mechanical Engineering and has applied to several universities, including MIT, Stanford, Harvard, UT and Texas A & M. His grandmother, Rose Slatton, is a member of the San Jacinto Chapter.

Connie Gilbert was our third place winner and her parents are Mark and Carolyn Gilbert. Connie attends Memorial High School and is in the National Honor Society. She plays tennis and was 2nd place team in Texas (5A) during her senior year. Her mother, Carolyn, is also a member of the San Jacinto Chapter.

The ceremony was organized under the auspices of the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board, with Nancy Burch and Clay Fisher serving as Co-Chairs for the Planning Committee. Other San Jacinto Chapter members serving on the Planning Committee were Jan DeVault and Eron Tynes.

After the ceremony many of us went over to the Monument Inn, for a celebratory lunch. The restaurant was filled with Daughters, Sons, San Jacinto Descendants, the Texian Army and many others as we celebrated 175 years of Texas Independence.

Following the luncheon, members of the San Jacinto Chapter went to the Texian Army Camp. Pictures of the daughters were taken with the Sundial and the DRT Panels, along with Bob Gruetzmacher and Joe Gandy.

“All that we have, all that we are, we owe to these men and women” . . . Betty Ballinger, Co-Founder, Daughters of the Republic of Texas

Eron Brimberry Tynes

Pictures from the Celebration



Texian Army



SJC Wreath



Texian Salute





Spring Flowers Bloom at the Log House

FRIENDS OF THE LOG HOUSE

What a wonderful celebration we have had this year in the Log House! The 75th anniversary of the construction of this historic building was quite an occasion. The house and grounds have never looked better, thanks to the many hands who tend to all the needs. Following is a roster of all the contributing *Friends* who made our anniversary dinner and open house a roaring success. We are, indeed, grateful to ALL of you.

Martha Haydel, Chair
Friends of the Log House

Adams, Sharon
Auld, Brenda
Bailey, James
Baker, Sharyn
Bevil, Ann
Bouchard, Gina
Brice, Mary Jane
Brimberry, Maxine
Burch, Nancy
Cagle, Dorothy
Cathriner, Jean
Chapman, Marilyn
Deaver, Claire
Davis, Al IV
Davis, Laura
Fisher, Carrie & Clay
Fossler, Cheri & Andy

Gilbert, Carolyn
Green, Tom
Harmon, Mary Jane
Harris, Marje
Haydel, Martha
Hendee, Nina
Houghton, Dorothy
Kunz, Gwen
Lemon, Susan
Lightfoot, Carolyn
Mahmarian, Angela
Martin, Kay
McNeil, Carol
Montgomery, Sue
Nelson, Joe
Pollard, Jennifer
Remick, Penny

Shelton, Tina
Simon, Esther
Slatton, Rose
Standard, Margaret
Stover, Brenda
Strange, M.
Tallichet, Maryanne
Taylor, Charlotte
Tanner, Ann
Teas, Patsy
Ulmer, Francita
Ward, Molly.
Wellen, Sandra
Whittington, Sally
Wood, Sharolyn
Worrell, Mary
Zacek, Luanne

April Program

April 7, 2011



“A Handful of This and a Sackful of That”
By Chapter Member, Sharon Hanan

Sharon Hanan, our April speaker, gave a delightful presentation on native, edible Texas plants. Many samples of these native Texas plants were available to view and compare with other plants. She presented varied sources from which she collected her information--her grandmothers’ recipes and how they baked and cooked; books, journals, and recipes. The dated books showed what cooking was like during that time. We sampled a grape pie which was quite tart but very good! The jelly was good, too.

Think about what you are planting in your own garden as native plants in the garden are also helping sustain nature in a time when the wild is disappearing. This was an enjoyable and informative presentation.



Marilyn Chapman in Texas Apron



May Program

Kenny Lewis, Cowboy Poet

May 7, 2011

Kenny Lewis’ poetry presentation, May 7, 2011, will certainly pique the San Jacinto Chapter member’s interests as it will demonstrate his passion for history. His interests are in our ancestors’ struggles. The way in which these ancestors managed their daily routines made them heroes; heroes who should never be forgotten.

His poetry writing began in high school. An English teacher suggested a daily journal of self-observations. These observations quickly became poetry. He was shy about sharing his poetry, but he eventually overcame his shyness by sharing them with close friends. These “sharing” friends encouraged him to continue with his poetry writing.

In the 1990s, Kenny had his first collection published. A dear church friend read his poems and praised them, but suggested he try writing cowboy poetry. This friend had known of Kenny’s summers and weekends on his uncle’s cattle ranch near Buffalo in Leon County. He kept telling my friend, “I don’t have any idea about how to write a cowboy poem.” However, this friend persisted...so, Kenny finally wrote a cowboy poem with the idea and intent of getting his friend to be quiet so he could get on with his life.

But, guess what? That one poem changed Kenny Lewis’ life. The wheels started turning because he rediscovered his cowboy roots. While most of his contemporaries lamented the vanishing prairies and the demise of the cowboy, Kenny focused his poetry on the happenings of the cowboy. These poems were to be shared around a campfire at the end of a hard day when the men were too tired to sleep.

Do join us for this presentation as he shares his cowboy poetry and a special poem for our dear departed ladies of this past year. You will want to honor them, too.

Ann Bevil
Second Vice President



Steven Baird

Outstanding Fourth Grade Teacher of the Year

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

The state winner of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Fourth Grade Texas History Teacher contest is the San Jacinto Chapter DRT nominee. Mr. Steven Baird, a fourth grade social studies teacher at Mittelstadt Elementary in Klein ISD is this year's recipient of the award. We are thrilled that he was selected as the state winner. What a great honor this is for our chapter!

Prior to teaching, Steven was an archaeologist and brings to the class real artifacts that make history come alive. Steven will be honored at the historical evening dinner on May 13 in San Antonio, Texas, during the DRT state convention. He will receive a monetary award of \$700, a plaque, dinner for two, and his school will receive \$1,000.

Sherry Bowerstock (Fourth grade history teacher of the Year, 2009) writes

“ . . . He has brought his love of history and many artifacts from actual digs he did in Texas into his classroom to teach his students about their state. Steve is a great storyteller and holds his students' attention with his accents and animation. He has been at the sites of many of the battles of the Texas Revolution and has artifacts from all over Texas. The students love to hear him “show and tell” the history of their state and not just read it! I have learned many interesting facts about our state from Steve . . . ”



Steven Baird recreating Travis' drawing the "line in the sand" using a cavalry sword. As Mr. Baird writes;

“ . . . We discussed that this version only came from Moses Rose after he left, but it is a

Sprucing up the Battleground for the 175th Anniversary

For the past few weeks, Cindie Gruetzmacher, Chair of the Relics and Preservation of Historic Sites Committee, San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, worked in conjunction with Russ Kuykendal, Site Manager, San Jacinto Battleground and Dennis Gerow, Architect, Historic Sites Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife along with Bob Gruetzmacher, Hydro Tek U.S. on a cleaning project.

Cindie selected the following areas; the panels of the DRT Plaza area; the Plaza and seating walls surrounding the Panel; The Great Stone Circle in the Plaza area, the walkways from the Panels to Park Road and the Small Circle Walkway around the Sundial. On March 30 and 31, Bob Gruetzmacher was joined by the following volunteers, David Parks, Evans Equipment; Joe Gandy, Action Cleaning; and John Purswell, Jr. Pete Bullmore, Pedro Garza with Alklean Industries.



The DRT panels were erected in 1937 by the State of Texas in recognition for the efforts by the San Jacinto Chapter, DRT to “acquire and mark the Battlegrounds of San Jacinto where our Republic was born.” In the 1890’s, the San Jacinto

Chapter worked with the Texas Veterans to “mark” the Battlefield with iron markers. These markers were replaced in 1912 with granite boulders (twenty in all), that are still in existence today. The Sundial was erected in 1940 by the San Jacinto Chapter members, who were trustees of the Texas Veterans Association Memorial Fund. The Sundial was dedicated to the nine men who gave their lives at the Battleground for Texas liberty.

Special thanks go to Russ Kuykendahl, Dennis Grow, Bob Gruetzmacher and all the volunteers who assisted with this project. The San Jacinto Chapter is deeply grateful for their efforts to beautify this part of the battleground in preparation of the 175th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto and Texas Independence.



John Purswell and Bob Gruetzmacher cleaning the panels.



David Parks and crew



SJC Members at the Sundial



At the Monuments



President Patti Atkins



April 21, 2011



Phyllis Moody and Peggy Payne



Sam Houston Portrayer
Call to the Texians



Former Texas Governor Mark White
Speaker of the Day



Lone Star of Texas

2011 San Jacinto Day

News from SJC Members



SJC Member Kae Theilen
Named Volunteer of the Year
Houston Heritage Society



SJC Members
Enjoying Refreshments
at the April Chapter Meeting



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
"Remember the Alamo"
120th Annual DRT Convention, May 12 – 14, 2011
Crowne Plaza Hotel Riverwalk, 111 East Pecan Street, San Antonio, Texas

TEXAS ESSAY RECEPTION

Please join us on May 7, 2011, as we host the reception for the Texas History Essay Contest winners and their parents. All participants will be recognized during the program. The reception will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House.

Please make a special effort to attend the reception as we honor these Texas students who have displayed such an interest in Texas history. It will be heartwarming to hear these students read their essays that they have worked so diligently to prepare. They are the future of TEXAS.



Annie Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange

Annie Strange passed away on Monday, March 21, 2011. Mrs. Strange, DRT #007840 became a member on November 19, 1972. Her ancestor was Asa Townsend.

Annie Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange, of Houston, Texas, passed away on Monday, the 21st of March 2011, at her home in The Hallmark Apartments, where she was a long time resident. Annie Ray Watkin, born the 11th of May 1915, in Houston, Texas, was the daughter of the late William Ward Watkin and the late Annie Ray Townsend Watkin. Her father, William Ward Watkin came to Houston in 1910 from the firm of Ralph, Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, Architects, in Boston, to supervise the planning and building of the original buildings of Rice University.

Annie Ray, attended Kinkaid School, and Chatham Hall School in Virginia. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Rice University in 1936, and later received her Master's Degree in Art History at Rice University in 1943. Her interests were history and foreign languages and she was involved in the following organizations--The National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Massachusetts and Texas Chapters; National Society of DAR – Hannah Goddard Chapter, Massachusetts; Daughters of the Republic of Texas – San Jacinto Chapter; Southern Garden Club; Honorary Board Member, Rice University Historical Society, She was also a member of the Junior League (Sustainer).

Ray's hobby was genealogy. She published three books for her family history, the first book, "The Seven Townsend Brothers of Texas" in 1975, was written by Tula Townsend Wyatt; and the second book, a biography of her father, "Wm. Ward Watkin and the Rice Institute" in 1991, was written by Patrick Nicholson. A third book followed, "Advance Man, The Life of Henry W. Hoagland," in 2005, after his death, published by the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Ray was instrumental in lending help to publish a fourth book in 2010, "A Leader by Example: Harry Hoagland and the Dawn of American Venture Capital," by the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Mrs. Strange was predeceased by her sister, the late Rosemary Watkin Barrick (Mrs. Nolan E. Barrick of Lubbock, Texas) in 1984; her brother, the late William Ward Watkin, Jr., Brigadier General, U. S. Army Retired, graduate of the Class of 1942, who died in Brevard, North Carolina in 2001; and nephew, the late Bruce Watkin Barrick, who died in Austin, Texas, on the 12th of July 2010. A memorial service is to be conducted at two o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, the 28th of March, in the Community Center of The Hallmark, 4718 Hallmark Drive in Houston, where the Rev. Martin J. Bastian, Senior Associate Rector for Pastor Care at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, is to officiate. A reception will follow in the adjacent lounge area. Prior to the service, the family will gather for a private interment at the Glenwood Cemetery in Houston. In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests memorial gifts be directed to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd., Houston, TX, 77056; Rice University Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library, P. O. Box 1892, Houston, TX, 77251; Rice School of Architecture, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX, 77005; or the charity of one's choice.



Newsletter Editor

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Brenda Stover

Co-Editor Phyllis Moody

Congratulations to our newly elected
San Jacinto Chapter Executive Board
2011-2013

President:	Luanne Zacek
First Vice President	Cindie Gruetzmacher
Second Vice President	Nancy Burch
Third Vice President	Kay Martin
Fourth Vice President	No candidate
Fifth Vice President	No candidate
Recording Secretary	Sharolyn Wood
Corresponding Secretary	Sally Whittington
Treasurer	Tamara Kittleson
Registrar	Marje Harris
CRT Registrar	Marilyn Chapman
Historian	Linda Beverlin
Chaplain	Kae Theilen