



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



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 High School 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 significant Honor Day commemorating the most decisive battle of the Western Hemisphere.



**SAN JACINTO  
BATTLE  
REENACTMENT**



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



### *President's Message*

As we reflect back 174 years ago ~ it is mid-April, 1836. The people are fleeing east in the Runaway Scrape and the men are rushing to join General Sam Houston's army. The Alamo has fallen and Goliad has fallen. The Texian Army is in retreat.

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

President Burnet sends Houston a note, while he is still at Groce's ferry:

*Sir: The enemy are laughing you to scorn. You must fight them. You must retreat no further. The country expects you to fight. The salvation of the country depends upon you doing so.*

And on April 14, Thomas Rusk of War, Secretary, visits Houston at Groce's Plantation. He, too, said it was time to stop the retreat and begin to fight. General Houston who was more concerned with training and drilling his army said *"I consulted none---held no councils of war. If I err, the blame is mine."*

At Groce's Plantation, Houston receives the twin sister's 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 are all truly Texas Heroes.

As always, we will be present at the San Jacinto Battleground on April 21, 2010, to commemorate the most significant Battle of the Western Hemisphere.

*Eron B. Tynes*

President

San Jacinto Chapter

## HISTORICAL DATES IN TEXAS HISTORY

<p><b>May 1, 1718</b></p>	<p><b>The Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) is founded.</b></p>
<p><b>April 6, 1830</b></p>	<p><b>Law of 1830 – Mexico enacts a law to stop American immigration to Texas. It is a prime seed that leads to the revolution six years later.</b></p>
<p><b>April 16, 1836</b></p>	<p><b>Sam Houston turns his army toward San Jacinto.</b></p>
<p><b>April 19, 1836</b></p>	<p><b>Houston appeals for help to fight the war.</b></p>
<p><b>April 21, 1836</b></p>	<p><b>The Texans defeat the Mexican army at San Jacinto.</b></p>
<p><b>May 15, 1836</b></p>	<p><b>Santa Anna and President David Burnet sign the Treaty of Velasco.</b></p>



**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

**Bana Weems Caskey**

Ancestor: Mason Lock Weems, II

Sponsors: Lynn Young and  
Jan Dunham



**Luanne Zacek and Maxine Brimberry,  
Honorary Member**

Luanne Zacek presented an Honorary Member Certificate to **Maxine Brimberry**, mother of our President, **Eron Tynes**, at our March luncheon in Hempstead. Maxine has spent untold volunteer hours at the Log House and everyone is so happy to have her as an official honorary member. Thank you!

## April 1 Program



**Louis Aulbach, Eron Tynes, Ann Bevil, Linda Gorski and Mr. Morin**

### **Camp Logan - World War I Training Base on Buffalo Bayou Presented by Linda C. Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach**

On April 1, our chapter was entertained and educated about a brief time in the history of Houston and Memorial Park. Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski told us about the time when Houston served as a training camp and convalescent center for World War I soldiers. Mr. Morin provided a display of a collection of artifacts from the area, which enhanced the presentation. Linda read excerpts from letters written by a soldier at Camp Logan.

*“One of the most interesting chapters in Houston's history was written in Memorial Park along the banks of Buffalo Bayou. For it was here that the U.S. Army's sprawling Camp Logan was built in the middle of the First World War to train soldiers for combat. The thing that surprises us is how little you will hear or read about Camp Logan in any of the books dedicated to Houston's history. Even the Handbook of Texas dedicates just one paragraph to it!*

*Camp Logan was an emergency training center in World War I, located on the earlier site of a National Guard Camp just beyond the western city limits of Houston. It was named for Major General John A. Logan, a prominent Civil War Union officer. The land was leased by the United States from the Hogg family who, by World War I had assembled the block of land that includes Memorial Park in their vast real estate holdings.*

*Construction of the center began on July 24, 1917, in the area that is now Memorial Park. The developed area of Camp Logan was 3,002 acres within a tract of 9,560 acres.*

*The next time you visit Memorial Park or paddle along its banks imagine this ... in 1917 Camp Logan was a tent camp supplemented by 1,329 wooden buildings with a troop capacity of 44,899 men. Photographs of the camp depict row after row of tents on raised wooden platforms along graded streets near mess halls and latrines. Most tents had wooden walls about 4 feet high. The streets in Camp Logan were unpaved or surfaced with oyster shell or cinders. The City of Houston hired Layne & Bowler Company to drill a 600-foot deep water well south of Washington Avenue to service the camp and that well produced over 1 million gallons of water per day!*

*A complete sewer and trench system was installed. Sewer lines were of ceramic pipe with brick and mortar manholes. In addition to the main camp, a Remount Depot was constructed just west of the main camp. The Base Hospital was at the southeastern corner of Camp Logan. A rifle range was built 8 miles west on Hillendahl Road. Drill fields were between 1 and 2 miles northwest of the camp proper. In short, Camp Logan was a big place!*

*Completion of the first phase of the camp was accomplished by August 15, 1917, setting a record for construction of World War I camps. Within three months, more than 30,000 men were living and training at Camp Logan.*

*Training at Camp Logan was in drill, practice marches and rifle marksmanship with details to schools for chemical warfare, bayonet practice, hand grenade use, and cooking. Practice marches of 8 miles were made every few days. Breaking of horses was a recreational activity at Camp Logan as well as a serious duty. The 108th Engineers are known to have held impromptu rodeos at Camp Logan.*

*Despite the enormous amount of work that went into building Camp Logan, it only operated as a military establishment for 20 months, from 1917 - 1919. On March 20, 1919, it was turned over to the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1919 a building at Camp Logan, used by the American Red Cross during WW I, was converted into a hospital for charity purposes.*

*Shortly after World War I, Mike and Will Hogg regained possession of the tract on which Camp Logan was built. The City of Houston acquired the property from them for the development of Memorial Park in 1925.*

*The next time you paddle by Memorial Park, you might give a silent salute to the soldiers who trained there in World War I."*

**"Camp Logan-a World War I Training Base on Buffalo Bayou," Buffalo Bayou, an Echo of Houston Wilderness Beginnings by Linda C. Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach**

## SIGNS OF SPRING AT THE LOG HOUSE



Esther Simon and Gwen Kunz have made the Log House a beautiful landscape.

## Friends of the Log House

Here's a great big pioneer "hello" from the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. We are working our way towards the end of another great year. We have been fortunate to receive gifts from so many of our friends and benefactors. These contributions enable us to keep the doors open, the house clean, our bills paid, the grounds manicured, and the fireplace working during cold weather.

Every month it takes over approximately \$1,200 to keep the Log House operating. We are approaching the "dog days of summer" when there are not as many opportunities to make income from The Country Store items that are sold at chapter and district meetings. So, as you make your financial plans, please remember the Log House. If everyone helps just a little, the burden will be lightened. Remember that a donation to the Log House can be made in the memory of a loved one!

Thanks for your generosity.

Martha Haydel, Chair of FLH



## Country Store

This is traveling season for the store beginning with the San Jacinto Symposium, San Jacinto Festival and DRT State Convention. There are new Texas mouse pads with scenes from across our beautiful state. Texas chicken herbed rice mix packaged in wine bottles is a great gift and so very tasty. For the man in your life, the new flag tie is perfect for Father's Day. Always looking for new items so let me know if you find something.

See you in my corner,  
Luanne



## Remembering . . .



**DRT member Reba Jo Eppes Irwin**, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away on Friday, April 2, 2010, in Houston. She was born March 16, 1933, in Teague, to Richmond and Ruth Haynie Eppes, graduated from Teague High School in 1949, and earned Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education and Home Economics from Sam Houston State University. She married Forest Clyde Irwin on May 30, 1953, with Bro. Jack Bloxom presiding at the ceremony. She was a member of the following societies: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Jamestowne Society, Society of the Descendants of Francis Eppes of Virginia, Texas First Families, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Mrs. Irwin retired from teaching after thirty-two years, with twenty-eight years in Spring Branch ISD. She was also a member of Northwest Harris County Retired Teachers Association and Alpha Delta Kappa. Reba loved her family and also enjoyed the time she spent camping, shopping, and traveling with her special group of friends. She was an active member of Tallowood Baptist Church in

Houston. She is survived by her husband of fifty-six years, Forest Irwin of Houston; three daughters Terry Cline & husband Terry of Houston, Penny Robertson & husband Doug of Sugar Land, and Brenda Barlow & husband Chris of Friendswood; eight grandchildren, Jamie, David, Barbara, Robert, Randall, Mark, Rebekah and Rachel; two sisters, Sue Ivy & husband Weldon of San Antonio and Mavis Eppes of Houston; one brother Davis Eppes & wife Jeanne of Trinity; other relatives and friends. Mrs. Irwin was preceded in death by her parents Richmond and Ruth Haynie Eppes and brother Haynie Eppes and his wife Carol. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at Bowers Funeral Home in Teague. Bro. Jack Bloxom officiated. Interment followed the services at Greenwood Cemetery. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at Tallowood Baptist Church at 555 Tallowood Dr. in Houston.

**Reba was the sister of SJC member Mavis Eppes.**

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**Ted Jones**, father of **SJC member Cindie Gruetzmacher**, died on April 4, 2010. He was born on December 26, 1928. A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

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**Dora Elizabeth (Beth) Higginbotham Bitner**, 83, of Houston County, Texas, formerly of Houston, passed away April 1, 2010. **Beth was the sister of SJC members Betty H. Petty and Laura Sue Davis, aunt of SJC member Sharolyn Wood and great-aunt of Laura Wood Cox.** Beth was born July 11, 1926. She received her degree from the University of Houston and taught in the Alief School District for fifteen years. Survivors: Husband of 65 years Orlan E. Bitner, Sr.; children, Orlan E. Bitner, Jr. and his wife, Jan, of Houston, Janet Elizabeth Bitner of Austin, Judith Ann Bitner Barron and her husband Kevin of Tomball, and William Joseph Bitner and his wife Michelle of Austin,

and grandsons Jonathan, Jordan, Austin, Jameson, and Kyle; sisters Betty Jo Petty and Laura Sue Davis and her husband John Houston Davis III, of Houston, sisters-in-law Ernestine (Kelley) Bitner of Houston and Trinity, Dorothy Brasher of Bryan, Mary Brasher Wiggins of Leander, Jean Brasher Westmoreland of Bryan, and Harriet "Judy" Wade Higginbotham of Houston and Frankston. Funeral services Tues., April 6th at 11 a.m. in the First United Methodist Church. Burial in Evergreen Memorial Park. Family will receive friends Mon. 6-8 p.m. **CALLAWAY-ALLEE FUNERAL HOME**, 700 East Houston Avenue, Crockett, TX 75835, (936) 544-2244.



**INEZ KUYKENDALL WILLSON NAPIER WILLIAMS**, fifth generation Texan and Native Houstonian, died

April 1, 2010, in Houston. Born on November 19, 1915, Inez attended Houston schools and was a 1933 graduate of San Jacinto High School. She was a descendant of Austin's Old 300; former member of the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and of the American Revolution; and a member of the Tri S Society. She played first violin in the First Baptist Church Orchestra for many years. Inez was preceded in death by her parents, William Lee and Ola B. Kuykendall,

and by her husbands, Howard Willson, William Napier, and Kelly Williams. Her children, Don Willson, Gary Willson and his wife Pam, and Gail Coburn and her husband, Doug, survived her. Also surviving her are her grandchildren, Kelly Coburn, Kirk Coburn and his wife Jan, and Even Coburn, and his wife Christine, and her great-grandchildren Cecily, Carly, Ellie and Perry. A special cousin, Nathalie Bowers Moers, also survives her, as do members of the Napier and Williams families. Graveside service and Interment will be held at the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery at 10 a.m. on Friday April 9, 2010.

**SJC Members – WE WANT TO SEE YOU!**

If your beautiful face is not in our chapter yearbook, please email or mail a current photo to me. Your original photo will be returned to you. Please send pictures to:

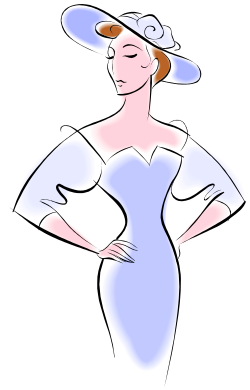
Anita Cooper, [ajcooper@cybergal.com](mailto:ajcooper@cybergal.com), or 15803 Diana Lane, Houston 77062-4433; Phone 281-286-4433.

Please send yearbook updates to:

Tina Shelton, 9814 Kings Circle S, Manvel, TX 77578-5316

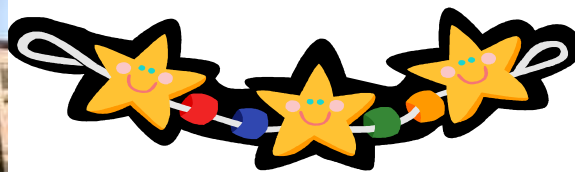
Email: [tina.shelton@skynet.houston.com](mailto:tina.shelton@skynet.houston.com)

Make “SJC DRT Yearbook Change” the subject line.

**TEXAS ESSAY RECEPTION**

Please join us on May 1, 2010, 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.



## Re-Dedication of the 1936 Madame Powell Historical Marker

The public is invited to attend the re-dedication of the Texas State Historical Marker originally placed where the Mexican Army met at Madame Powell's Tavern after learning of the Texian victory at San Jacinto. After learning of the defeat of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, General Vicente Filisola, second in command of the Mexican Army, ordered all the other Mexican Generals to meet him at Madame Powell's Tavern for a council of war, which was held from April 24 through April 26, 1836. Instead of moving the remaining two to three thousand man army on across the Brazos River and attacking General Sam Houston's Texian Army, the Mexican Generals decided to fall back to the west side of the Colorado River and wait for orders from their government. If these Mexican Generals had decided to attack the Texian Army instead of withdraw, our history might be considerably different. As the huge Mexican Army began their retreat the rear guard is believed to have burned Madame Powell's Tavern. The San Jacinto Chapter of the Sons of The Republic of Texas believes this is an important event in Texas history, and we will host a ceremony starting at **2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2010**, to re-dedicate the marker that was placed at the site of Elizabeth Powell's home as part of the massive state wide project in 1936 to



mark all historic sites in the state. Dr. Gregg Dimmick will be our featured speaker, and Bob Brinkman with the Texas Historical Commission will tell us about the history of the 1936 marker program. Everyone interested in Texas history is invited to join us.

The marker is located near the crossing of Turkey Creek in the middle of Mr. Jack Wendt's cattle ranch, and was knocked down by the cows some years back. Mr. Wendt uprighted the 1936 marker and the San Jacinto SRT Chapter has replaced the missing lone star on the marker and cleaned the years of grime from the granite marker. Mr. Wendt has also greatly improved the road through his farm to the marker, and has volunteered the use of his onsite ranch building for a reception after the re-dedication ceremony.

To reach the site of the ceremony, proceed southwest from Houston on Highway 59 to the town of Kendleton, Texas. As you exit at the Kendleton exit, make a "U" turn and drive back toward Houston on the access road for about one mile to Darst Road, where you turn right and continue until you cross the bridge over Turkey Creek. The next farm entrance on the left is the entrance to Jack Wendt's farm and ranch, where signs will direct you to the ceremony. For other details, contact Tom Green, at (281) 922-1118, or Cell phone (832) 687-3474.

**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 77054

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel

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

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

**New Hours  
Clayton Library**

**Effective April 17th, 2010**

Clayton Library for Genealogical  
Research will be open:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10-6  
Wednesday: 10-8  
Saturday: 10-5

**LIBRARY CLOSED  
on Friday and Sunday**



**Thelma Maresh Scholarship-2010**

The goal of the Thelma Maresh Scholarship is to recognize and award scholarships to graduating students who are extraordinary leaders, outstanding scholars and responsible citizens. Thanks to Mrs. Thelma Maresh's generosity, the scholarship awards will be able to continue for years to come.

The Thelma Maresh Scholarship committee met April 7, to review the applications for the scholarships awards. Many thanks to Rose Slatten, Angela Mahmarian, Mary Jo Brice, Libbie Hill and Ann Bevil for assisting with reviewing the scholarship applications and selecting the winners. It was a very difficult decision, as a number of well qualified students entered this year. The recipients will be presented certificates from Eron Tynes, President, San Jacinto Chapter along with Patti Atkins, President General, State DRT, at the San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony.

The amounts \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 respectively will be awarded as follows:

**First Place –Jenny Le**  
Clear Lake High School  
**Second Place – Heather Muir**  
Seven Lakes High School  
**Third Place- Sarah Petta**  
Home School



## “Was the Civil War in Texas Important?”

Presented by Edward T. Cotham, Jr.

Our May 6, 2010, speaker is the Civil War enthusiast and expert, Edward T. Cotham, Jr. He will be speaking at 10:00 a.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Log House. Just for starters Ed is a former President of the Houston Civil War Roundtable and is active in the Civil War preservation movement. He is also credited with several books on the Civil War; his most recent, 2004, Sabine Pass won the Dan and Marilyn Laney Prize for Civil War Battlefield Preservation. Sabine Pass best promotes the heritage and preservation of endangered battlefields of the Civil War. We do want to hear about our state, Texas’ important role in the Civil War.

Bring and share with other members some memorabilia from your ancestor’s role in the Civil War which you might have in your possession. We will place these items on display for all to view. This will be so very interesting...do bring these items...they can be photos, if you wish.

**Ann Bevil**

Second Vice President



**Newsletter Editor**  
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**Brenda Stover**  
 Co-Editor Phyllis Moody

**Honor Day**  
**April 21, 2010**  
**San Jacinto Day**  
 ~Fly Your Texas Flag~

