From the President:

Happy New Year 2021! And a merry good-bye to 2020! Most of us would like to forget last year, but I did have two grandsons born in 2020, so the year wasn’t a total waste!

Our Chapter meeting via ZOOM on January 7th was well-attended. We heard wonderful talks from three of our members: Beverly McMahon, Carla Brown, and Laura Kaplan. Their stories of their ancestors were very interesting and heart-wrenching! Thank you, Ladies!

Welcome to three new members: Tish Wolter (ancestor Sarah Burleson Howard), Sherrill Elizondo (ancestor Jacob Woodward), and Adelaide Christensen (ancestor Kinchen Alford Welborn)! We are thrilled that you have joined us!

We approved giving four college scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of $5,000 each using the Thelma Maresh Endowment funds, so if you know of a qualified high school senior, please encourage them to apply. Contact Luanne Zacek for information.

We have received a grant from the Herzstein Foundation for $20,000! It is for maintenance and restoration of our beloved Log House. Thank you, Gwen Koch, for your wonderful work applying for grants!

Our next meeting will be via ZOOM on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. I have heard our guest speaker, Carolyn Crimm, speak and she is wonderful! Please join us!

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- Beth Garrett McCarty
Early 1836 was a difficult time in Texas. The Alamo had fallen to Santa Anna who was attempting to take Texas and Mexican Troops seemed to be gathering strength in the South Central portions of Texas. Sam Houston learned of the fall of the Alamo and that Santa Anna was heading towards Gonzalez. Houston decided to retreat east toward the Colorado River as he only had about 400 men in Gonzalez. Sam Houston ordered all of the inhabitants in that area to flee east with him towards safety. Houston’s retreat marked the beginning of the Runaway Scrape. Many Texans didn’t have time to pack everything up so many hid their furniture and possessions in the forest for fear that the Mexican army would either steal or burn their possessions. It was a gut-wrenching time for these early Texans. Due to lack of planning, many had no means of transportation and were forced to walk. The conditions were grueling; they battled hunger, fatigue, terrible weather and sickness. Many died along their journey. When the Texans finally received word of victory at the Battle of San Jacinto and the surrender of Santa Anna, the Texans turned around and returned to their homes, many of which has been destroyed by the Mexican Army.

Our own San Jacinto Chapter member, Gwen Kunz, has an ancestor, Elizabeth Isaacs Clark who was a tragic victim of the Runaway Scrape. She was pregnant with her thirteenth child and died in childbirth while she and her family were fleeing the Mexicans.

The table pictured above is an actual relic from the Runaway Scrape. This table was first used in the home of Eliza Brandon Smith when Texas was still a part of Mexico. This table, along with other things was hidden in the woods and underbrush of the Brazos River Bottom. The silverware and more valuable possessions were either buried or hidden in hollow logs. When Eliza Brandon Smith married Samuel T Burnes, this table was used by them as a table for their slaves. It later passed down to her youngest daughter, Josephine T. Burnes Love who used it as a kitchen table. It next came to belong to one of her sons, John B. Love and then to his daughter, Daisy Elnor Love Cowart, who gave the table as a Runaway Scrape relic to the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. It is a beautifully preserved relic of a very difficult time in early Texas history. Come by the Log House to see it!

Submitted by: Laura Kaplan  Photo: Gwen Kunz
Kroger Community Rewards and Randalls grocery stores have given Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Pioneer Memorial Log House new numbers. Please check with your local Kroger to have your Kroger Plus Card updated for our new #RF149. Randalls donation card number is #14197 for the Pioneer Memorial Log House. You can request this number to be programmed onto your Randalls shopping card. Remember, you shop anyway, so this is a painless way for our chapter to receive a donation from Kroger and Randalls just because we shop. Every little bit helps!

Would you like to be part of history at the Log House?

Become a Docent. The Docents Committee is responsible for conveying to visitors the history of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Chapter, Pioneer Memorial Log House, and the chapter early Texas history collection. Join our Log House committee to preserve history. The Pioneer Memorial Log House & Garden Committee has the responsibility to preserve, care for, and maintain the Pioneer Memorial Log House, the chapter early Texas history collection, Brooks Cottage, the gardens, and associated grounds.

If you would like to be a Docent or a member of The Log House Committee, please contact Sharolyn Wood, woodsharolyn@aol.com or (713) 305-2750.

San Jacinto Chapter - Calendar of Events

(See yearbook for details)

2021

Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting) February 4

Celebration of 85th Birthday of the Log House and 185th Birthday of Houston and of Texas postponed

Texas Independence Day March 2

Chapter Field Trip (TBA) March 4

Texas History Pioneer Day March 15

Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting) April 1

San Jacinto Day Ceremony April 21

“Come and Sip It” Fund Raiser (TBA Spring)

Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting) May 6

DRT Annual Convention, San Antonio May 13– May 15

June Luncheon June 3
Our Chapter has received a very generous $20,000 gift from the Herzstein Foundation to be used for improvements and upkeep of our treasured Log House.

Thank you Herzstein Foundation!

Exciting News for our San Jacinto Chapter!

MARY SMITH JONES
(Mrs. Anson Jones)
1891 — 1908
Ancestor: Anson Jones

CARRIE FRANKLIN KEMP
(Mrs. Charles Milton Kemp)
1935 — 1937

MADGE WILLIAMS HEARNE
(Mrs. Roy Hearne)
1937 — 1939
Ancestor: Sam Houston

THELMA BURNETT MARESH
(Mrs. Henry R. Maresh)
1947 — 1949
Ancestor: Anson Jones

MADGE WILLIAMS HEARNE
(Mrs. Roy Hearne)
1937 — 1939
Ancestor: Sam Houston

JULIA MATTHEWS HAGAN
(Mrs. Herbert R. Hagan)
1959 — 1961

ERETTE REESE RED
(Mrs. George Plunkett Red)
1973 — 1975

Did you know... our current President General, Carolyn Raney is a member of the San Jacinto Chapter!

If you would like to make a donation to go towards the purchase of pavers honoring our past Presidents General, please send your donation to:
San Jacinto Chapter, c/o Gwen Koch (4th VP)
2015 Banks Street
Houston, Texas 77098

*Looking for Donations to purchase pavers at the new Texas History Center in Austin to honor the Presidents General from the San Jacinto Chapter!
Become a "Friend of the Log House" for 2020-2021
to help preserve the house and grounds.

Membership levels
Texas Star..................$ 25
Silver Star..................$50
Shining Star..............$ 100
Gold Star...............$ 250
Lone Star................$ 500
Platinum Star.........$1,000 and higher

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

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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.

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