

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



March 2022

Coming Up Next Month: April 7th Chapter Meeting

## How Television Came to Houston Speaker: Phil Archer

After more than 44 years reporting the news for KPRC TV, Phil Archer retired last year. From being stabbed while covering a protest to wading into flood waters during Hurricane Harvey to save a dog from drowning, Phil has reported on a broad spectrum of Houston's history as it was being made.



A native of Wichita Falls, he began his career with KPRC in 1976, starting out as a police beat reporter and photographer. Over more than four decades he has covered countless stories in Houston, along with such assignments as documenting war on the ground in El Salvador and pursuing a fugitive priest to Spain.

Along the way, Phil has won awards from Associated Press, UPI, the Houston Press Club, the Houston Fire Department, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and the American Quarter Horse Association. In 2006, the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters awarded him first place for his coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

He'd been on the job less than two years when the tensions over the beating and killing of Vietnam veteran Joe Campos Torres by police officers – who were convicted of negligent homicide and sentenced to a year's probation – boiled at a Cinco de Mayo event at Moody Park. Archer and his mentor, the late newsman Jack Cato, were covering the event when they were attacked. Archer was stabbed, beaten and left unconscious. In 1978, he received the Perringer Award from the Texas Association of Broadcasters as a result of this event.

In 1983, he was chosen to attend the University of Chicago as a William Benton Fellow in Broadcasting. Prior to that, he attended the University of Houston, majoring in journalism.

He describes himself as an amateur historian with a special interest in Texas history and culture, a collector of antique handmade Texas furniture and a horseman.

Phil will once again be the emcee for the San Jacinto Day Ceremony at the battleground on April 21st.

- Submitted by Nancy Burch

## From the President:

Welcome to Spring! We had a nice Field Trip on March 3, 2022, to the new Houston Botanic Garden. Seventeen members and guests enjoyed the perfect weather and the beautiful gardens and trails and then had a fun lunch at the Dinner Bell Cafeteria and Bakery on Lawndale. It was so nice to get to know some new DRT sisters! Thank you to Nancy Burch for organizing it!

Your Executive Board and numerous committees are working hard with a wonderful spirit of collegiality. There is so much happening that it is hard to keep up sometimes! But it is wonderful. Look for various reports and happenings in this newsletter. Congrats to our 7th grade Essay Contest Winner, Anthony Klementich, a member of our CRT, for his delightful essay on 'Sam Houston'. See Tish Wolter's report from the Education Committee.

April is a busy month! Our Chapter meeting will be both in person and on Zoom on Thursday, April 7th. If coming in person, please join us at 10:00 for visitation and refreshments! Our Zoom session will begin at 10:30. Our guest speaker is retired newscaster Phil Archer. You won't want to miss his talk on "The History of Houston's First Television Station"!

Please put April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd on your calendar and plan your trip to the San Jacinto Battlegrounds! On Thursday the 21st, we will be part of the San Jacinto Day Ceremony. Phil Archer will be the MC, James Haley will be the guest speaker, and DRT President General Kim Zapalac will assist me in recognizing our scholarship winners. Friday, the 22nd, is Student Field Trip Day and several local school groups will be there. We will have a table set up and need volunteers! Saturday, the 23rd is Family Day. Our CRT and several of our families will be a part of this day, but we need you, too!

-Beth Garrett McCarty

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Membership Corner

Welcome new chapter members Michelle Bennett-Davis, Mary Allene Breazeale and Jolee Haddock. Please look for these ladies at our meeting and say hello!

We have welcomed over 30 new members since June and we have achieved our 10% new member goal. Our chapter will be honored with a certificate at the convention in May!

We also welcome new members to the Membership Committee Susan Long and Patti Randolph. Thanks for serving!

In other news, we have indexed and digitized all of our applications from 1891 through February 2022. Over 2000 applications! This goal was met a full year earlier than expected. Of course we had to read some of the older ones while in the process. We were so impressed with the stories of members who knew their ancestor that we selected four of those narratives for a brief docu-film. It will be shown at the May 5 meeting in the Log House 1510 Cambridge. 10:30AM. You won't want to miss it. Keep sending new member prospects to us at my email [dgrig1@comcast.net](mailto:dgrig1@comcast.net). We love them!

- Debra Grigsby

## Alamo Day

Alamo Plaza was filled with hundreds of people to commemorate the 186th anniversary of the Fall of the Alamo on March 6, Alamo Heroes Day. The Memorial ceremony began at 6:00 am. Alamo descendants, DRT chapters, SRT chapters and other historical groups gathered to lay wreaths in memory of those brave Texas Heroes who gave their lives for Liberty and Independence. Eron Tynes representing the San Jacinto chapter laid a wreath of twelve red roses and one white rose to symbolize the 13 day siege. She was accompanied by Carl Hill, San Jacinto Chapter, SRT. Also in attendance was new chapter member Deidre Vick and her husband Wes.

Prior to the Dawn Ceremony, the wreaths from the DRT and SRT chapters were placed in the lobby of the Menger. Below is a picture of Deidre with the Chapter's wreath at the Menger.

-Eron Tynes



Deidre with the San Jacinto Chapter Wreath at the Menger.

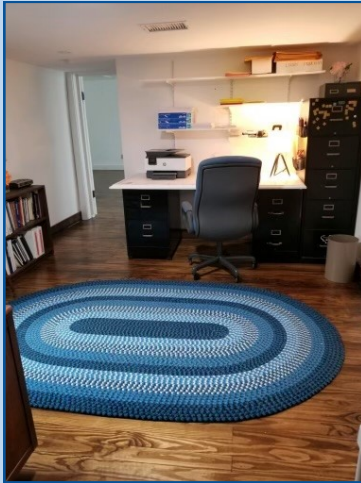


Deidre with Alamo Re-enactors at the Alamo

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## LOG HOUSE RESTORATION 2019-2022: Part 2

Brooks Cottage has been renovated. "Phase I" of a major lighting project has been completed. Work currently underway on the "Log Restoration Project" will be described in April.



Renovation of Brooks Cottage. Thanks to a grant received from a member of our chapter, work to renovate Brooks Cottage began in May 2021. Walls were stripped down to the studs. New walls, floors, and kitchenette were built. New wiring and plumbing were installed. Porches rebuilt. The bathroom rebuilt.



The chapter office was renovated. Our Registrar, Debra Grigsby, began meeting with prospective members in the new chapter office in September. The chapter celebrated the official opening of the renovated Brooks Cottage at the November chapter meeting with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by President Beth McCarthy.

Interior walls were removed in the renovation, resulting in a large meeting room for chapter meetings and activities. Further improvements were made possible in January 2022, with a grant from a chapter member for a new HVAC unit, new security system, and modern tables and chairs. Debra Grigsby served as the project coordinator for the Brooks Cottage renovation. She and Gwen Kunz are coordinating the outfitting of our new Brooks Cottage.



Lighting Project – Phase I. A lighting project will improve interior and exterior lighting at the Log House. A lighting expert prepared the lighting plan. A contractor chosen. Phase I was been completed in January 2022.

Dawn to dusk security lights were installed to light the front porch area, chimney side, and the back walkway of the Log House, with a motion activated light installed for the parking lot. No longer-needed commercial electrical connections on the exterior of the Log House were removed. Pot lights installed on the front porch.



In the dining room, spotlights cross the central beam lighting the dining table and highlighting the picture gallery, the Republic of Texas map, and furniture pieces. The sculpture of General Houston is lighted with a spotlight.

Phase II to install new lighting in the Assembly Room will proceed when funding is available. Gwen Koch was the project coordinator for Phase I and is working to implement Phase II.

Log House Restoration Projects - If you have time to contribute to the Log House, you might begin by visiting the Log House. Come to an Open House the third Saturday of the month from 1 to 3 pm or call to schedule a private tour. Contact me if you have any questions.

Sharolyn Wood  
5th VP; Chair, Log House Committee

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Botanic Garden Field Trip Photo Collage



**These beautiful photos were submitted by Heather Henderson!**

## *In Memoriam*



Kay Kimball Martin  
1930-2022

Kay Kimball Martin, age 91, passed away peacefully on March 4, in Sugar Land. A six-generation Texan born August 24, 1930, she attended Lamar High School and the University of Houston. Her enthusiasm for genealogy and Texas history led to memberships in The San Jacinto

Descendants, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of the American Revolution, and The Huguenot and Jamestown Societies. The Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum maintained by the San Jacinto Chapter of the DRT was particularly dear to Kay.

Elizabeth Mae Makela  
June 1, 1951 to March 1, 2022

Elizabeth was the rock of our family. She was counselor, DIY'er, and historian all in one. She was outspoken and ready to help others, even strangers when she could. Her ability to share childhood stories and history in such detail was amazing. She was a member of the Daughters of The American Revolution and an associate member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She enjoyed tending to her garden, fixing things around her home, researching our family lineage and spending time with family and friends. She was blessed to have traveled to Finland to visit family and historical markers. Persistent, perseverant, and strong, she would not back down from anything. "Fight like hell!"  
– Elizabeth



# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## SJC - 2021~2022 Calendar of Events

(See yearbook for details)

### 2022

Monthly Saturday Open House, 1-3 p.m. March 19

### April

**Chapter Meeting** Log House/Zoom, 10:00 a.m. April 7

Monthly Saturday Open House, 1-3 p.m. April 16

San Jacinto Day Ceremony April 21

### May

Reception for Essay Contest winners and May 1

Scholarship recipients, Log House, 2:00 p.m.

**Chapter Meeting** Log House/Zoom, 10:00 a.m. May 5

DRT Annual Convention, Austin May 19- May 21

Monthly Saturday Open House, 1-3 p.m. May 21

### June

June Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. June 2

Third Thursday Log House Workday, 9:30 a.m. June 16

Monthly Saturday Open House, 1-3 p.m. June 18

CRT Annual Convention, Denton June 24-25

Monthly Saturday Open House, 1-3 p.m. July 16

Third Thursday Log House Workday, 9:30 a.m. July 21

## Education Committee Award Winners

The Education Committee is very pleased to share our chapter-level winners of the DRT Texas History essay contest and the Marian Beckham Texas History Teacher Award. The winner of the 7th grade Texas history essay contest is **Anthony Klementich**, a student at Pershing Middle School. He is the son of San Jacinto Chapter DRT member Vanessa Flores. Anthony submitted a fantastic essay about Sam Houston. Congratulations to Anthony, and we wish him the best of luck as he advances to District judging.

The San Jacinto Chapter DRT is awarding the Marian Beckham Texas History Teacher Award to two deserving educators. **Allison Harris** teaches 4th grade Texas history at Horn Elementary. **Phillip Nelson** teaches 7th grade Texas history at Memorial Private School. Our chapter received excellent reference letters for each of them. Congratulations to both!

Congratulations to all our award recipients!

-Tish Wolter

### Be a Volunteer at the Log House

Volunteers are essential to maintaining our Pioneer Memorial Log House. Check out the section of the Yearbook section on the Log House and the Bylaws for Log House Committee duties. If you would like to be involved in Chapter activities and meet other members, the Log House Committee has a place for you in our many activities.

Chapter Meetings, 1st Thursday of the Month.

Workdays, 3rd Thursday of the Month.

Open House, 3rd Saturday of the Month.

Grounds Upkeep.

Preserving our early Texas history collection.

### Attention all members!!

If you have not yet done so, please fill out the attached Member Biographical Form.

Every member needs to have one on file!

Please complete and return to our Chaplain, Luanne Zacek as soon as possible.

Bring it to one of our Chapter meetings or email it to Luanne at

lzacek@hotmail.com

## SAVE the DATE!!!

**JUNE 2, 2022**  
**San Jacinto Chapter Annual**  
**Spring Luncheon**  
**at Braeburn Country Club**  
**Invitation with details and**  
**registration information**  
**coming in April.**

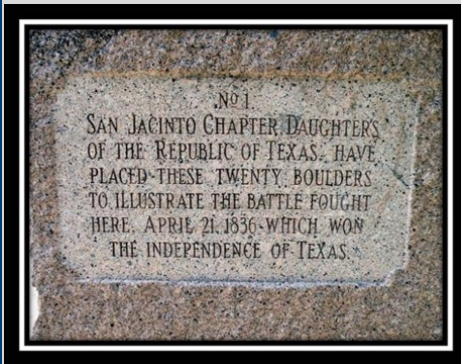


# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Historic Sites Report

From its beginnings in 1891 the San Jacinto Chapter worked diligently to acquire the Battlegrounds of San Jacinto where our Republic was born. We petitioned the Texas State Legislature for years and finally in 1907 the Legislature approved purchasing 327 acres at San Jacinto. However the State Treasury was about \$400.00 short and the San Jacinto Chapter donated the \$400.00 to the State in order to complete the purchase.

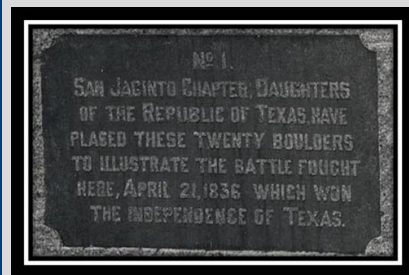
In the 1890's the San Jacinto Chapter began working with the Texas Veterans to mark the key historic sites at the Battleground. The original ones were initially iron markers. In 1908 the Chapter commissioned a "Battlefield Souvenir Spoon" to be sold for two dollars each to raise the necessary funds for the Memorial Boulders that cost approximately \$600.00. The granite boulders came from the Llano quarries and averaged 2,000 pounds each.



There are 19 boulders on the Battleground and two off-site boulders – Vince's Bridge and the Santa Anna Capture Site. Each boulder is inscribed and has survived the past 112 years quite well despite hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and subsidence. The only exception is the Surrender Tree boulder (No. 20) that was lost during a storm in 1924 and was replaced in the 1930's.

When the Boulders were placed in 1912 they were originally inscribed with raised lettering versus incised along with a black background versus the natural background and block letters versus Times New Roman. During the time of the Centennial they changed to the current status in order to have the boulders inscribed more uniform with the San Jacinto Monument Panels.

The first marker is the No. 1 marker, the Twin sisters, that is at the Texian Army Camp site. This is the largest boulder at the Battleground and is the only one with the name of the Chapter. These two cannons were the only artillery the Texas Army had as so much had been lost at the Alamo and Goliad. The Twin Sisters were donated by the people of Cincinnati and delivered to General Houston on April 13 while he was camped at Groce's Plantation. Colonel George Washington Hockley commanded the Twin Sisters during the Battle of San Jacinto.

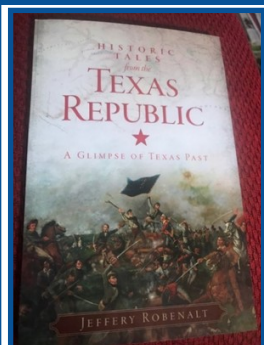


After the Battle of San Jacinto, the Twin Sisters were probably used during the Mexican Invasion in 1842. Unfortunately, the location of the Twin Sisters is unknown today. There are several theories regarding the whereabouts however it is widely believed they were buried during the American Civil War to prevent them from falling into possession of the approaching Union Army.



-Eron Tynes

## Book Review Corner



**Historic Tales from the Texas Republic** by Jeffery Robenalt is a wonderful resource for all of us. It has a brief history of many famous events that happened in Texas between 1824 ("The Rising Tide of Revolution") and 1846 ("The Struggle for Annexation"). And it is filled with wonderful photographs and maps! Each chapter is only 5 – 8 pages long, so it is an easy read. There are interesting details about the famous battles (Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad, San Jacinto) and famous people (Houston and Lamar), but also less familiar people and events like "Chief Bowles and the Battle of the Neches" and the "Battle of the Salado". I was glad to learn more about Chief Bowles since his picture hangs on the wall of our Dining Room! This great resource is available in our Country Store!

-Beth McCarty

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

## Country Store at DRT Convention Update

As you have heard, DRT's Annual Convention has been rescheduled to May 26 - 28 but still in Austin. I have a family conflict that prevents me from attending the new dates. Country Store sells a great deal of product at convention which creates a nice income/profit for our chapter. And it is a fun event where you meet lots of our "sisters".

I need several people to volunteer to transport, set up, sell, take down and bring things back to the log house. Everything will be packed for transport and all items have a price tag on them. Convention is fun! The store must be closed during the business meetings, so if you wanted to actually attend the convention, you can. If I can't find several volunteers, then San Jacinto Chapter's Country Store will not attend this year. Carla Brown will be there to handle Square, for credit cards.

Call, text or email me (Gwen Koch) if you can help and to get more information:

713/826-9061

[jkoch11949@att.net](mailto:jkoch11949@att.net)

God Bless Texas!  
Gwen Koch

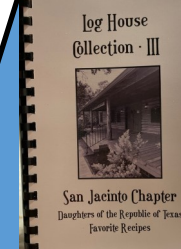
## Very Special Books For Sale From Our Chapter Library

The following books will be offered in a Silent Auction at our April 7 Chapter meeting.

- A Biography of Governor Will Hobby, The Tactful Texan, 1958, signed by Bill Hobby
- How Things Really Work, Lessons from a Life in Politics, 2010, author Bill Hobby
- War of 1812 Veterans in Texas, Mary Smith Fay, first edition, 1979
- The French Legation in Texas, Volumes I and II, 1971 and 1973
- Lone Star Navy, Texas, 2006

Proceeds will benefit Historic Preservation of our historical documents.

-Gwen Kunz



Cookbooks

are in!!

More info

Coming soon!

## Our Thelma Maresh Scholarship Makes a Difference!



**From Carolyn A. Lightfoot:**

**This is Ben Vial. When I was president, he received one of our Thelma Maresh scholarships. I saw him at my nephew's wedding party. He graduated and received his MBA from UT Austin. He is now working for Deloitte, married with 3 children, girls 4, 2 and a boy, 4 months and living in Austin. We did good!**

## Upcoming State DRT Events

April 4, 2022 - DRT Pilgrimage to the Alamo, 3:00 p.m. in San Antonio  
[DRTPilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:DRTPilgrimage@gmail.com)

May 26 - 28, 2022 - DRT State Convention at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, [www.drinfo.org/members](http://www.drinfo.org/members)

We would love to have you join us at this year's State Convention. It's a great way to find out what other chapters are doing and a chance to get to know your own chapter members better! We could also use your help selling items from our Country Store!

Make your plans now!

## Member Biographical Form Daughters of the Republic of Texas

Member Name:		DRT #:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:	
DRT Memorial Medallion?: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no			
Date Admitted to DRT:		Original DRT Chapter:	
Current Chapter:		Date of Transfer:	
Primary Ancestor Name:	Birth:	Death:	Service to Republic:
<b>Note:</b> If more than one ancestor, please list on reverse side of form or attach another page to this one.			
PERSONAL INFORMATION			
Birth Date:		Birth Place:	
Spouse/Partner Name:		Marriage Date:	
<b>Note:</b> If any other spouses or partners, please list on reverse side of this form or attach another page to this one.			
Names of Children:	Address:	Primary Phone No.:	E-mail:
<b>Note:</b> If any other children, please list on reverse side of this form or attach another page to this one.			
DRT SERVICE			
Chapter Offices Held:			
Chapter Committees Held:			
DRT Elective, Administrative, or Standing Committees Held:			
BOM Offices Held:			
Other:			
COMMUNITY, GENEALOGICAL, AND LINEAL MEMBERSHIPS			
Genealogical Societies:			
Lineal Associations/Societies:			
Community Organizations:			
OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT YOU			
Religious Affiliation:			
Education:			
Hobbies & Interests:			
Chapter: Please return to Chapter Chaplain. Member at Large: Please return to Chaplain General.		Date Completed:	



**PIIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE**

**Become a "Friend of the Log House" for 2021-2022**

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*.

Name _____ <small>(as you wish to be printed)</small>	
Address _____	
Phone _____	Email _____
General Contribution	\$ _____
Contribution in memory / 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Vice President – Ways and Means)**

**1510 Cambridge St., Houston, Texas 77030**

**\*\*\*\*\*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.

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

San Jacinto Chapter

1510 Cambridge Street

Houston, Tx. 77030

Prospective Member Biography

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of family who are prior/current members: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about you. (Education, career, hobbies and interests)

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What type of volunteer/committee interests you?

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Tell us about your Ancestor:

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What interests you in joining our organization?

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We will be in contact soon!

Debra Grigsby

Registrar

[Dgrig1@comcast.net](mailto:Dgrig1@comcast.net)

713-598-8451