



*The Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston  
The San Jacinto Dispatch  
November 2009*

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*Founder's Day 2009*

On November 5, seven members of our San Jacinto Chapter for a House. We were also honored with Management members, Patti Atkins, Treasurer General and Sandra Meier



the Sidney Sherman Chapter joined Founder's Day Luncheon at our Log the presence of three DRT Board of President General, Karen Clogston, our District VI Representative.

With the First Vice President of Cooper's help, a lovely Founder's Day ceremony was held during which the founding members of each chapter were honored. A candle was lit as a tribute to the first two chapters formed, Sidney Sherman in Galveston on Nov. 8, 1891, followed by the San Jacinto chapter on Nov 9, 1981. As each of the founders' biographies were read, a yellow rose was placed in a vase in their memory. Linda Cooper presented information on the founders of the Sidney Sherman Chapter. Several San Jacinto Chapter members participated in honoring the chapter's founders: Kay Martin presented Mary Smith (Mrs. Anson) Jones' life sketch; Kay Theilen talked about Mary Jane (Mrs. Andrew) Briscoe and her daughter, Adele Briscoe (Mrs. M.) Looscan; Carolyn Shimek presented information about Rebecca Williams (Mrs. J. R) Fenn and her daughters, May Fenn (Mrs. J. J.) McKeever and Miss Belle Fenn; Linda Beverlin gave information on Minnie Phelps (Mrs. E. H.) Vasmer and Miss Annie Hume. Patti Atkins, President General, lit the third candle in honor of all DRT chapters.

All members present recited our pledge and reaffirmed our commitment to The Daughters of the Republic of Texas. We remembered 119 years ago the ladies who met together and formed our organization that is so unique in its heritage and its responsibilities to the people of Texas. These ladies had the foresight and vision to define the mission of perpetuating the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas. We are so fortunate to be the beneficiaries of this heritage and legacy that was bequeathed to us by our pioneer ancestors.

Our chapter president, Eron Tynes, was on a trip to Italy and was missed by all. During the abbreviated business meeting, Maxine Brimberry was named an Honorary Member of our chapter. We are proud to recognize her because she has given many volunteer hours to the chapter and the Log House which is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Esther Simon, Ann Tanner, Marje Harris, Luanne Zacek and many others, a delightful lunch was served of chicken cacciatore, salad, punch and desserts on beautifully decorated tables. We are so grateful to have many good cooks and willing workers in our chapter. Many thanks and appreciation to all who helped your President Pro Tem with this meeting, lunch and ceremony.

Anita Cooper, First Vice President

### Founder's Day Album



Anita Cooper and Linda Cooper



Karen Clogston, Linda Cooper, Sandra Meier,  
Anita Cooper, Patti Atkins and Joanna Wilson



Patti Atkins, President General



Visitors from Sidney Sherman Chapter



Sidney Sherman Chapter Members



Fall Mums Brighten the Day

**BEHIND THE SCENES**



**Brenda, Luanne, Ann, Kae, and Esther**



**Esther and Ann Serving Punch**



**Kae Theilen honoring the Founders**



**Lighting the Candles**



**Joanna Wilson, President, Sidney Sherman**



**The Yellow Roses**



### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Come join the San Jacinto Chapter, the CRT, SRT and the Texian Army for a Christmas Open House in the Republic of Texas. The Open House will be Sunday, December 13, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. Our Log House will be decorated in 1830's period style, with fresh greenery and a beautiful Christmas tree. There will be hot apple cider and plenty of cookies baked by the ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter.

The CRT will have their annual toy drive to deliver gifts in the spirit of Christmas to our neighbor, Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. We plan to collect toys at the Christmas Open House. Please do not gift wrap them so the staff at Ben Taub can properly distribute the gifts to the children.



### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We will have our San Jacinto Chapter Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, **December 10, 2009, at 11:30 a.m.** (Please note date change - Second Thursday) at the Log House. Please make your reservation for our December Christmas luncheon today by sending your check to Luanne Zacek.

Your check is your reservation, so don't delay. Send your money for the luncheon by December 3. The cost is \$25 per person and guests are welcome. Come and enjoy a delicious catered lunch by Sedexo along with some wonderful Christmas music in our beautifully restored Log House. Back by popular demand, Becky Lee (on keyboard) and Noah Lee (on saxophone) will entertain us with many of our favorite Christmas songs. If you are unable to attend the Open House, The CRT will also collect toys at the Luncheon for the Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. Please do not gift wrap them so the staff at Ben Taub can properly distribute the gifts to the children.

Mail checks to:

**Luanne Zacek  
6521 Patricia Lane  
Katy, Texas 77493**



### CRT Pumpkin Decorating

On October 25, 2009 at the Log House several members of the CRT along with family members gathered to decorate pumpkins. Each decorated pumpkin was a true work of art.

The pictures tell the story. If you have children or grandchildren who are not yet in the CRT, please contact our CRT registrar Marilyn Chapman.



**Ariette DeVault, Marcus DeVault and Jan DeVault**



**Eron Tynes, Megan Woodford hugging Riley Robertson, Kay Martin & Reid Richter**

### CRT Pumpkin Decorating

#### Cute Pumpkins!



**Our CRT—Future Artists**



**Nicholas and Jacqueline DeVault with Eron, Megan, Riley, Kay and Reid**



**Jan DeVault, Jacqueline DeVault and Mrs. Miller, Jan's Mother**



### Pioneer Memorial Log House

At this time of year, we want to acknowledge all of you who keep the Log House running. We have the best chapter members in the world! Thank you for your past support; we wouldn't be here without **YOU**.

These are the contributions we received in September, October and November 2009. Please let us know if you have not been recognized, and remember, it is not too late to make an end-of year donation to the Friends of the Log House.

Kay K. Martin  
Al Davis IV  
A.S. Baldwin  
Brenda Auld

Elizabeth W. Eastham  
Luanne Zacek  
Sylvia Peebus  
San Jacinto Chapter (in memory of benefactor John Teas)

Esther Simon  
Brenda Stover  
Gwen Kunz

Once again, a great big "Texas Gracias" and Merry Christmas to all.

Martha Haydel, Chair FLH



### Country Store Shopping

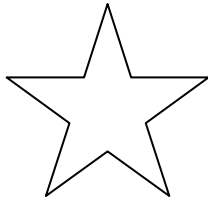
As you are planning your Christmas shopping list please include the Log House country store. We have the quarter bracelets that are loved by all that wear them. The 2009 Capitol and Keep Texas Beautiful ornaments are in and would look lovely on your tree. Children's books are always a hit as are the Texas flag aprons, flags and wine bags. Plan your shopping at the Christmas Luncheon and Open House. See you in my corner...Luanne

**bt.stover@sbcglobal.net**  
**Brenda Stover, Newsletter Editor**  
**Phyllis Moody, Co-Editor**

**At the George Ranch**



**Anita Cooper and Eron Tynes at Texian Market Days Promoting Texas History**



**Table at Clayton Library Fair**

San Jacinto Chapter participated in the Clayton Library Lineage Day Fair on October 17, 2009. Anita Cooper and Phyllis Moody decorated a table for SJC. Information on membership, DRT, and the Log House was handed out to many attendees. Nine prospective DRT members signed up for more information and assistance with their application papers. The fair was deemed a success.

**REMEMBERING . . .**

**EMMA CLAIRE VESTAL EMMOTT**

EMMA CLAIRE VESTAL EMMOTT, passed over to spend eternity with Jesus on October 21, 2009. She was born on February 21, 1917 in Whitewright, Texas, the middle child of 14. She was a loving and devoted wife to E. Pat Emmott for 60 years. She worked as a dedicated church secretary at Richmond Plaza Baptist Church. In her retirement years, she enjoyed a rich life of travel and devoted countless hours to her Arts and Crafts. She was a wonderful example to all of her family. She is survived by her children, Claire Watkins of Wales, Sandra Sellars of Houston, Patrick Emmott of Houston and Martha Chandler of San Antonio, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be remembered fondly and dearly missed by all



DRT lost two great ladies on October 19. Betty Burr, Past President General and Laura Lanigan, Previous Chair, The Cradle will both be missed by our organization. Betty Burr, Stone Fort Chapter, Nacogdoches, was President General from 1991 to 1993. Laura Lanigan, Sidney Sherman Chapter, Galveston, was a past District IX Representative.

*Rededication of Lorenzo de Zavala Marker*



**Rededication of deZavala Marker**

**Loretta Williams joins HISD, Harris County Historical Commission and the Magnolia Park Historical Preservation Association to rededicate the official Texas Historical Commission Marker for Lorenzo de Zavala on October 6, 2009 at Lorenzo de Zavala Elementary School. 7521 Avenue H, Houston, Texas 77012.**



**Audrey Barrett Cook and Anita Cooper**



**A Thank You from Ann Bevil**

### **The Program Presented by Audrey Barrett Cook**

Audrey Barrett Cook, our presenter on November 5, 2009, discovered Obedience Smith during her research for the Winlow Place Civic Club. Obedience Smith had inherited from the Republic of Texas days 3,368 acres in the inner city of Houston. In fact, the property where Lanier Middle School now stands was a part of the land grant. Obedience Smith died in 1847 during the second year of Texas' statehood on a parcel now included in Tranquility Park in downtown Houston.

Obedience Smith was born in Edgecomb County, North Carolina in 1771 where her grandfather was a member of the House of Burgesses before the American Revolution. Twenty years later, her father Elias Fortt, led a pioneer group to the Tennessee-Kentucky border from Edgecombe County, North Carolina. The trip covered 560 arduous miles over seven weeks. They needed guards to protect them against the Indians as far as Nashville. They met Andrew Jackson along the way and he became one of the guard. Another guard of particular interest was David Smith, a tall, handsome Scotsman. Elias Fort and his children bought large tracts of land in Robertson County, Tennessee.

Obedience became the wife of Major David Smith who fought in the American Revolution. Her 11 children were born on the Kentucky frontier. Here, at their "Soldier's Rest" she finished raising her children and several grandchildren, while her husband bought and sold large tracts of land.

Newly widowed, she bravely ventured into the Mexican province of Coahuila y Texas in 1836. She resided in Harris County for 11 years. She became known as the "Mother of Houston" and a "Land Queen." According to sources this is stretching the facts rather extensively.

Obedience Smith had 32 grandchildren, many eventually inheriting much of her Republic of Texas land grant. Three of the 254 Texas counties (Terry, Lubbock, and Runnels) are named in honor of her family members. Smith County, Mississippi is named in honor of her husband, Major David Smith, an Indian fighter and Revolutionary War Patriot. Smith Street in downtown Houston is probably named after Colonel Benjamin Fort Smith, hero of the Battle of San Jacinto and among the founders of the city of Houston. We are so grateful for the contributions Obedience Smith made to Texas and to Houston.

## New Members

**Stephanie Frances Lusk**  
**Robert Orville Lusk, Ancestor**

**Dana Joyce Stover**  
**Casper James Habermacher, Ancestor**

**Margaret Charlotte Standard**  
**Henry Hensley, Ancestor**

**Julie Elaine Standard St. Martin**  
**Henry Hensley, Ancestor**

**Amelia Ann Standard Sopchak**  
**Henry Hensley, Ancestor**

**Amanda Marie Sopchak**  
**Henry Hensley, Ancestor**



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*Margaret Standard donated a Jim Shore pumpkin diorama as a fundraiser for the Log House. Mary Jane Harmon was the lucky winner at the Founder's Day Luncheon*

### *The President's Message*

During the first two weeks of November, I traveled to Italy to visit my niece who is currently studying there for the fall semester. Some of our ancestors initially came from Italy several generations ago. As I traveled around seeing the homeland of my ancestors, I always marvel at the courage it took to leave family, friends, a known way of life that had existed for centuries, for the promise of the New World.

What was it like to board a small ship and spend weeks crossing the Atlantic, knowing you would never see your homeland and the family you left behind again. As Americans, all of us have ancestors who were willing to sacrifice so much to travel thousands of miles to begin a new life. Many left for economic reasons, religious freedom, and where any man could achieve his highest dreams. This was truly the land of opportunity and therefore worth all the sacrifices.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this coming Thursday, gathering with our family and friends along with our bountiful tables, we each should take some time to honor and remember those ancestors. Those ancestors who came to a New World, without speaking the language and knowing the customs or culture. Some came to a frontier and endured hardships we only read about. They all shared the common goal - to have a new life for themselves and their descendants.

I was sorry to have missed our Founder's Day Luncheon and am truly grateful to Anita Cooper, First Vice President, who so capably handled things in my absence. Special thanks also go to Ann Tanner, Esther Simon, Luanne Zacek, Marge Harris and others who were hostesses for the Founder's Day Luncheon.

On November 19, I was the speaker at the Fort Bend Settlement Chapter and spoke about our DRT Founders, those ladies who had the vision and foresight to begin our organization. While we do have a formal mission, I believe that the address given by Miss Betty Ballinger presented at the Second Annual Meeting, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, held in Houston, April 20 and 21, 1893, so eloquently states our objectives;

*"...Let us seek out the graves of our heroes and having found them, let us care for them with grateful reverence. Be ours the duty to visit it and mark the spot where Texas was won for us, Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad, San Jacinto-milestones along the bloodstained path to freedom. Let us celebrate the great days in Texas history not by a holiday simply, but by a recital of the great deeds they commemorate. All that we have, all that we are, we owe to these men and women. . .*

*. . . A great work lies before us, work that must be done now or never. It has begun, but only begun, and to carry it forward our wisest and bravest efforts are necessary. We must not only pray with Moses on the mountain top, but we must fight with Joshua in the valley bearing ever as our watchword,*

### *Texas, One and Indivisible*

May each of you and your family have a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe holiday.

*Eren Brimberry Tynes*