



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

The President's Message

It was so wonderful to see many of you at our October meeting. As our November meeting approaches we focus on Founder's Day, to remember those ladies, who formed our organization 118 years ago. This organization has been so instrumental in preserving those historic sites so dear to every Texan's heart.

This year at our November meeting we will be joined by members of the Sidney Sherman Chapter, Galveston who so graciously hosted us last year for Founder's Day. The Sidney Sherman Chapter is the oldest chapter in the State and we are second. Of the seventeen founding members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, nine ladies were from Sidney Sherman chapter and eight were from San Jacinto chapter.

Last month, I presented a program at the Lone Star College, "*The Treacherous Road to Victory-From the Alamo to San Jacinto.*" Most of you remember that this began as a series of Texas moments a few years ago. It is an account of the Texas Revolution and the Runaway Scrape during the Spring of 1836.

All of us are so knowledgeable about the Spring of 1836, yet the first Battle of the Texas Revolution was October 2, 1835 at Gonzales – one of the Texas Honor Days. In doing the research on the battles during the fall of 1835, what intrigued me were the Texian men who were involved in the Battle of Concepcion and the Grass Fight.

On October 11, 1836 volunteers gathered around Gonzales and elected Stephen F. Austin as their commanding general. The next day, the newly created Texian Army marched off towards San Antonio and was joined by Captain Ben Milam with additional forces. The main force reached the outskirts of San Antonio on October 19 and General Austin decided the only way to take the town was by siege. He organized a search party commanded by Jim Bowie and James Fannin to find a suitable base of operations.

Another addition to this group was a well-known scout, Erastus Smith, also known as "Deaf" Smith. Bowie's old friend Juan Seguin arrived with news that the citizens of San Antonio supported the Texans. Austin made Seguin a captain and ordered him to raise a company of mounted troops. He gave the same order to Lieutenant William B. Travis. Bowie's ninety man search party chose the Mission Concepcion as a base of operations. Before Austin and Bowie could unite their forces, General Cos of Mexico learned of the separation of the Texians and led 300 dragoons, 100 infantry and two cannons to attack Bowie's forces.

The Texians took cover in a horseshoe-shaped gully; their good defensive position, longer firing range, and better ammunition helped them to repel several Mexican attacks, and the Mexican soldiers retreated just 30 minutes before the remainder of the Texian Army arrived. Travis and his mounted company gave chase to the fleeing Mexican soldiers as they headed back to San Antonio.

On November 26, 1835 Deaf Smith observed a slow moving pack train with about 150 Mexican soldiers about five miles from San Antonio. Edward Burleson, Texan commander, sent Bowie and Fannin with about forty cavalry to engage the pack train. The Texans attacked the Mexicans at Alazan creek bed with Bowie leading a mounted

charge. The Mexicans fired volleys and discharged their cannons as they retreated to San Antonio. The Texans pursued but were halted by cannon fire from Mexican cannon batteries within San Antonio.

Stephen F. Austin, Jim Bowie, Deaf Smith, William Travis, Edward Burleson, James Fannin, Juan Seguin and Ben Milam all together during the fall of 1835, fighting for Texas. These men, and many others gave their service and lives for liberty and independence during the Texas Revolution. Those who survived the victory at San Jacinto, established a new Republic of Texas, for themselves and their descendants in this raw rough frontier.

Eron B. Tynes



Attendance Award

The San Jacinto Chapter Board will award one year complimentary dues to a chapter member for 2010-2011. How to enter-attend every chapter meeting and sign the book. The members who attend the most meetings will have their names entered in a drawing. The drawing will take place at our luncheon, June 3, 2010.

Pledge for Members

“Realizing that the heritage to eligibility in the society of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas is a sacred honor to be cherished, as a member of San Jacinto Chapter, I pledge myself to be faithful to its lofty ideals, and to guard its interests and achievements.”

NEW MEMBERS

**Cheryl Lynn Ross Nelson
Victory Glen, Ancestor**

**Carrie Fae Russ Grimmestad
Bradley Neal, Ancestor**

**Susan Ann Russ Allen
Bradley Neal, Ancestor**

WELCOME!

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Brenda Stover, Newsletter Editor
Phyllis Moody, Co-editor



DATES TO REMEMBER 2009

- CRT Pumpkin Decorating Contest October 25
- Executive Board Meeting October 29
- Chapter meeting..... November 5
- Executive Board Meeting December 3
- Chapter Christmas luncheon..... December 10
- PMLHM Christmas Open House December 13

2010

- Chapter Meeting. January 7
- Executive Board Meeting
 (after chapter meeting) January 7
- Executive Board Meeting January 28
- Chapter Hosts Fun Run January 30
- Chapter meeting..... February 4
- Executive Board Meeting February 25
- Texas Independence Day Celebration February 28
- Chapter Field trip..... March 4
- Executive Board Meeting March 25
- Chapter meeting..... April 1
- San Jacinto Symposium..... April 17
- San Jacinto Day Ceremony April 21
- San Jacinto Festival and Battle Reenactment April 24
- Executive Board Meeting April 29
- Reception for Texas History Essay Winners.....May 1
- Chapter meeting.....May 6
- DRT Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Houston..... May 12-15
- Executive Board MeetingMay 27
- Chapter End-of-Year LuncheonJune 3
- CRT New Member Ceremony.....June 6
- CRT Convention..... June 20-21





The November program will be presented by Audrey Barrett Cook, author of the fascinating life of a true frontierswoman:

OBEDIENCE SMITH (1771-1847)
PIONEER OF THREE AMERICAN FRONTIERS
 - Her Ancestors and Descendants -
By Audrey Barrett Cook

4 Books in 1 Book - about a courageous pioneer, her ancestors and her descendants from the 1600s to the 1900s -- their accomplishments and defeats, their loves and their losses, as well as several murders and a disappearance!

The life of grandson Col. Frank Terry of the famous Terry's Texas Rangers is included, along with that of grandson Judge David Smith Terry of California who had a habit of slapping his adversaries and using his Bowie knife! Short-tempered son-in-law Gov. Hiram G. Runnels of Mississippi, who was not averse to caning *his* opponents, receives a wide report; and the life of Col. Benj. Fort Smith, the visionary spearhead of the family, is fully explored.

“As Mrs. Smith migrated from frontier to frontier, little did she know that her life would be so thoroughly recorded so many years later. And this book is a *really* outstanding chronicle of that journey.”

Will Howard, publisher of *Will's Texana Monthly* and
 past Director, Texas Room, Julia Ideson Library – Houston

“Reading this book makes historical events come alive, and it makes us appreciate the courage of our forefathers even more. Do be ready to jot down ideas for further study!”

Barbara Friedrich Lowery, former Executive Director
 Center for Continuing Careers – Houston

“Carefully annotated, the consecutively numbered endnotes read as exciting as the main text. And I can *always* quickly find the one I need!”

Paula Beth Harman, Student – International Studies
 Texas A&M University – College Station

Included are 2 – 6x9 maps, 2 – 11x11 folded maps, and a Reconciliation of the 3,368 acres of now prime, downtown Houston real estate originally granted to the widow Smith by the Republic of Texas in 1838. As a result, deeds now worth millions of dollars continue to bear the designation of being “**Out of the Obedience Smith Survey**”. Numerous family charts and photographs add to the broad story of this fascinating family, while the extensive endnotes and the author's casual and charming style of writing completes the picture.

\$39.95 – Texas Residents add 8.25% tax

Order from: Early Publishing Co. – 1745 Marshall – Houston, TX 77098

or <http://www.obediencsmith.com> 713-522-9398



Texian Navy Day



The annual observance of Texian Navy Day was held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at the Founder’s Memorial Cemetery. Members of the SRT, DRT, CRT, Texian Army and the Texas Navy Association gathered to commemorate this Texas Honor Day. The keynote speaker was Swede Anderson. The Texas Navy Association laid a wreath to honor Commodore Henry Livingston Thompson and all of the men of the Republic of Texas Navy.



Melody Townsend, 4th VP General, State CRT and Audrey Hudson, San Jacinto Chapter CRT. David Hanover, Chairman, Texas Navy Committee and Kelly Fisher, President, San Jacinto Chapter, CRT.

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DRT and SJC Bylaws

The DRT proposed bylaw changes will be voted on at our convention in May 2010. DRT bylaws and Manual of Procedure (MOP) are both on the DRT website at www.drt-inc.org/members. The user name is Alamo and the password is 100YearS (both case sensitive). The deadline for submitting a proposed bylaw change to the DRT Bylaws Committee is November 15. Contact me or send your bylaw change to Carolyn Orlebeke at Orlebeke@hppc.org. This is your opportunity for input to the organization that we all hold so dear.

The San Jacinto Chapter Bylaws Committee will be meeting soon. Please read both the DRT and SJC bylaws. Email any suggestions and/or concerns to me at ajcooper@cybergal.com.

Anita Cooper, Chairman

SJC Bylaws Committee



Lineage Fair at Clayton Library

Mark your calendar – October 17, 2009!

The San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, will be represented at the Clayton Library Lineage Fair this month. The fair will be at Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston. Hours for the fair are 9 am to 4 pm. Anyone can attend.

Anita Cooper and Phyllis Moody are the representatives from our chapter. There will be a table full of information about our chapter and how to become a DRT member. Brochures about DRT and the Log House will be handed out to attendees. Plan to be there! It is an exciting day for lineage research, information, and fellowship. Come help the chapter spread the news about membership. Bring a prospective member. Actual research can be done during the fair.

Over 25 lineage societies will be represented. Browse all the tables filled with their information.

All throughout the day, there will be mini-seminars about genealogy and different lineage societies. A sign-in sheet for those will be available at the front desk of Clayton Library. Seating for the seminars is limited. Be sure to sign in as you enter the building. Come out and support our chapter, the library, as well as other lineage societies.

See you at Clayton Library.



Eron Tynes & Larry Spasic

Speaker for the SJC October Meeting





Please note that the Christmas Luncheon will be **DECEMBER 10, at 11:30a.m., the 2nd Thursday of December**, at the Log House.

Since Thanksgiving falls so late this year, it was necessary to move the date of the Christmas Luncheon in order for the Log House to have all of its Christmas decorations in place. Watch for more details in the November newsletter.

CHRISTMAS DURING THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Come join the San Jacinto Chapter, the CRT, and the Texian Army for a Christmas Open House during 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 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 once again 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.



Lone Star College

On September 29, 2009, as part of the Truly Texans series at the Woodlands campus, Eron Tynes presented *The Treacherous Road to Victory-From the Alamo to San Jacinto*. This is a stirring account of our pioneer ancestors and the sacrifices they made for Texas during the struggle for Independence. Other presenters in this series were Kameron Searle-*Sam Houston Rode a Gray Horse*, David Martin – *Origins of the Lone Star Flag* and Hewitt Clark, *Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar*. Plans are underway to have some of these programs also presented at the Tomball Campus.



2009 Capitol Ornament



Number fourteen in the series, this year's ornament is a replica of the bold and distinctive bronze door knobs that are featured prominently on the stately doors found throughout the Capitol. Capitol hardware, including the elaborate door knobs and escutcheon plate featured as the 2009 holiday ornament, are decorated with incised designs of geometric and stylized floral motifs. This style of decoration, highly fashionable in the late nineteenth century, reflects the Arts and Crafts and Art

In the center of each door knob is the venerable Lone Star of Texas. As bold and distinctive as Texas, it continues to symbolize the independent spirit of our state and its inhabitants. Visit Luanne Zacek in her cozy corner at the Log House.



**Honor the Texas flag;
I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas,
one state under God, one and indivisible.**

A Fall Injures SJC Member

Pat Craig, former Chapter Treasurer, was seriously injured when she fell in her home.

She has spent several weeks at the hospital, after neck surgery. She is now in a nursing home receiving daily therapy.

Pat has a wonderful attitude about her injury, and says “this is just a bump in the road” of life. She expects to fully recover, but knows it will take several months to get back on her feet. Your “cards are extremely appreciated,” says Pat.

Please **no visitors or flowers**. Please, keep Pat in your thoughts and prayers. If you so desire, send a note or card to her home address listed in the yearbook. One of her sisters will see that Pat receives her mail.

REMEMBERING . . .

Joyce Maxine Turner Moroney



JOYCE MAXINE TURNER MORONEY passed from this life on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at her home. Joyce was born on January 3, 1932 in San Antonio to Mary Josephine Galney Turner and Lee Robert Turner.

She became a member of the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas on April 30, 1985, DRT #013385. Her ancestor was Charles Stephanes. She was a graduate of Incarnate Word Academy and a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. The funeral service was conducted at ten o'clock in the morning on Friday, the 7th of August in the Chapel at Pat H. Foley & Co. with Fr. Clint Ressler officiating. Interment followed at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

REMEMBERING . . .



Josephine Alice McDonald Wehner

JOSEPHINE ALICE MCDONALD WEHNER, 86, passed peacefully away on Sunday evening, the 13th of September 2009. Jo Alice was born on the 9th of October 1922 in Del Rio, Texas, daughter of John Arthur McDonald and Alice Elizabeth Geib. She grew up in Del Rio, graduating from Del Rio High School as salutatorian in 1939. Jo Alice married Ernest Lee (Pete) Wehner on Valentine's Day, 1942.

She became a member of the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas on March 31, 1988. Her membership number was 015706, and she was a descendant of Murdoch Mc Donald. Mrs. Wehner was a National Flower Show Judge and a member of The Blue Bird Circle, Daughters of the American Revolution and the First Methodist Church of Houston. She was a member of the Houston Racquet Club and River Oaks Country Club.

She is survived by her son Dr. Arthur Lee (Skip) Wehner and wife Susan of Boise, Idaho, daughters Diane Weigle and husband Bob of Houston and Molly Marks and husband Miles of College Station along with several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral services were on Thursday, the 17th of September, at the First Methodist Church of Houston, 1320 Main Street in Houston. The graveside service and interment followed at Memorial Oaks Cemetery in Houston.



The Log House Needs your Help

Our Log House is an old structure, and as with all older houses, the upkeep comes more often and is usually more costly. Last year we had difficulty with the heater, and come spring the A/C was an issue. All this required a larger amount of funds than was budgeted. Thankfully we could cover the bill, but we would like to rebuild that cushion, because another crisis will happen, it always does with ownership, and we need to be ready. Our monthly expenses with insurance, gas, water, telephone and lawn care amount to approximately \$850. With your donations, memorials, Juan's rent and support from the country store we are able to pay the bills, but we are barely able to cover expenses, much less build a cushion.

There are at least two ways you can help. First you can contribute more than once a year, and when you do consider donating a percentage more than you did the last time, for instance if you usually give \$50, up that 10%, and your gift would be a mere \$5 more. A second way is by using your Kroger card and having the PMLHM as your Neighbor to Neighbor designation. Then Kroger will send us a percentage of the sale as a donation. Attached to this newsletter are the instructions for making the PMLHM your choice for Kroger's donation. Remember every little bit helps.

Kae Theilen, Treasurer, PMLHM

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used for a variety of occasions including San Jacinto Chapter activities, and fundraising rentals. Because of the growing popularity of the Log House and in order to avoid "double booking," it is important to coordinate all use of the Log House. Please contact Brenda Auld at bauld@comcast.net regarding the availability of the Log House for any function and to schedule an event at the Log House.

If you are interested in becoming a docent at the Log House contact Ann Tanner. Her email address is tanner1801@sbcglobal.net. Docents serve as guides on one weekend day a month for two hours in the afternoon. You'll have the opportunity to experience the fun of the Log House and acquaint yourself with some of the activities which happen there. You'll be glad you did!