

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Carolyn Lightfoot, President

(713) 978-6527

November 2005

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Our December chapter meeting will be a festive holiday luncheon and program with musical entertainment. Plan now to join us at **10:00** am on **December 1st** at the **Log House**. Wallace Saage, curator at the Heritage Society will speak on "Christmas in Early Texas," drawing on his experience in decorating the buildings in Sam Houston Park for the annual Candlelight Tours. Our business meeting will begin at 10:30, followed by a delicious luncheon at 11:30, catered by Ronnie Berman (of the Maxim's Berman family) with musical entertainment provided by the Harris County Dulcimer Society. Cost for the luncheon is \$25 and guests are welcome. Send your checks to our treasurer, Kathy Fountain, at 2014 Possum Creek Road, Houston, Texas 77017-67079. Your check is your reservation so don't delay, she needs to have it in her hand by **Nov. 25**. That means you must mail it **BEFORE** Thanksgiving. Nancy Burch

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, December 11, 2005, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., the DRT and CRT will host their annual Christmas Open House at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum honoring Friends of the Log House Society. Fifth Vice President Esther Simon will once again donate a Christmas tree and will be decorating it along with the Log House in traditional pioneer period a few days before with members of the CRT and the DRT. If you would like to make a donation of refreshments or assist in the decorating please contact Esther Simon at 713-747-8034.

The CRT will also be making a donation of toys this same day to the Ben Taub Pediatric Ward. Last year, the CRT gave over 200 toys. If any of the DRT or CRT members are interested in donating a toy, please bring one to our December meeting, or you can bring it to the open house. Your generosity will be truly appreciated. Loretta Williams

SJC Website Update

A new website is forthcoming. The developer and I are working to get it up and running. We will notify you when it is ready. It will have all public information about San Jacinto Chapter. This website will be a good vehicle to “spread the word” about DRT and SJC and for prospective members. Anita Cooper

FIRST ANNUAL YOUNG CONSTRUCTORS FORUM GOLF TOURNAMENT

BENEFITING THE PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE MUSEUM RENOVATION PROJECT

On August 19, 2005 over 100 Golfers gathered at Herman Park Golf Course before the sun rose to participate in the tournament. The goal of the YCF was to raise \$5000.00 for the Log House Renovation Project. What a dedicated group of golfers - up before dawn and ready to play golf in 100 + degree heat to raise money for our Log House. And they were so successful...a check for \$5000.00 was presented to Carolyn Lightfoot, President at the Luncheon following the Golf Tournament. This same group just fell in love with our Log House and plans to return for a workday. Many of them really enjoyed the ambience of our Log House and a number of them spent the afternoon on the front porch.

The Luncheon was catered by Nina Hendee, Honorary Member of our Chapter and owner of Taste of Texas Restaurant. The Golfers dined on delicious Steak Kabobs, Wild rice, salad and some wonderful cheesecake and pecan pie. This Luncheon truly made the Golf Tournament a most memorable event. We received many compliments.

The San Jacinto Chapter deeply appreciates the support of the Young Constructors Forum and looks forward to working with them in the future. A special thanks to Carolyn Lightfoot, SJ President and Charlene Anthony, Associated General Contractors for their hard work and efforts that made the Golf Tournament such a success. Eron Brimberry Tynes

This chapter's registrar has been busy since the summer/spring newsletter was sent. We have had seven new members approved during June, July and August. Welcome to our membership:

Kristen Bair Robeson

Sue Ledbetter Bell and her daughter, Susan Bell Boykin

Kathy Garrett Haynes, and her aunt, Jerri Garrett Haynes

Doris Johnson Hoyt, and her daughter Debra Hoyt Shelton.

There were two supplementals approved for Suzanne Sanger Taylor and one supplemental approved for Jacqueline Shepperd Arp. Supplemental applications are not complicated, and the fee is only \$26.00 for the application. Won't you consider doing a supplemental application for you ancestor(s)? Computer software is readily available to make this job effortless, if you are computer literate. If not, then this chapter registrar will type your supplemental application, if you supply all the information and proofs, fill out a worksheet in pencil, and make a donation to the chapter. For any assistance needed with supplementals please call the registrar or e-mail at moodyphyll@pdq.net.

Wanda Edwards Smith has resigned from DRT. Dovie Tschirhart Hall has transferred into our membership from a San Antonio chapter. There have been no transfers out.

Our thoughts are with the families of:

Portia Garrett Waddell, DRT # 8858, died 23 September 2005. Mrs. Waddell had been a member since 1976.

Last year's death of DRT # 2729, Lucille Myers Mason *was reported this year* when her dues notice was returned, marked "deceased." She died in Georgetown, TX on 11 October 2004. She had been a member of SJC since December 4, 1941.

Mary Louise Healy Butcher Ober, passed away on the 1st of November 2005. She is survived by her husband, Edward C. Ober, plus several children. She joined SJC 4 April 1948. Her ancestors were William Brookfield and Charles Fordtran.

There are five original applications pending at this time. Our membership stands at **346**.

Phyllis Vaughan Moody

Dues Notice - Important!

Dues for the 2005-2006 year must be paid by December 1 to remain a member in good standing. The amount of dues for the year is \$40 of which \$25 is forwarded to DRT in Austin. I will be sending out dues notices to all that have not paid yet. Please make your check out to San Jacinto Chapter DRT and mail to: Kathy Fountain, Treasurer, 2014 Possum Creek, Houston, TX 77017

"Hands around the Alamo"

On October 5, 2005 the Daughters of the Republic of Texas hosted a 100th Anniversary Celebration to commemorate one hundred years of custodianship with the opening of the new exhibit of the Long Barracks. Daughters from all over the State came and the photo highlight was - we all joined hands and circled the Alamo. The Alamo has been "in good hands" for one hundred years.

The new exhibit is designed to present a broad overview for visitors to place the Texas Revolution and Battle of Alamo in historical context. It explains the evolution of the Alamo from mission to modern-day shrine. There was a special presentation by Charles Tate, co-owner of the Jose De La Pena Papers. He presented a copy of the papers to the Daughters. There are only six in existence with the original being placed at the Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin.

The keynote speaker was Jeff Wentworth, Texas State Senator. Nelma Wilkerson, President General and Mary M. Walker, Retiring President General presided at the Ribbon Cutting. Several members from San Jacinto Chapter attended this event.

Alamo Centennial Celebration

On October 29, 2005, the Daughters held a wonderful Gala in honor of the Alamo called "A Centennial Celebration". It was the 3rd year of the Gala and was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Riverwalk and across the street from the Alamo. A Live Auction was held with hunting trips, dinners at the Alamo, a Mexican Vacation, Fess Parker Vineyard Trip, along with Canyon Lake and New Braunfels Getaways and more. In addition, Houston's own, Max Lang, a famed artist designed and made exclusively for the Gala a one of a kind Western Belt Buckle, numbered "1" of "1". The base of the buckle, rope edge, stars, and Alamo are made from sterling silver and all lettering is made from solid 10 Kt. gold.

The Silent Auction had over 400 items. The San Jacinto Chapter donated a basket along with Mrs. Lila Smith who donated some of her paintings. The San Jacinto Chapter was well represented by a number of members who attended along with San Jacinto Descendants who were spread across four tables. Several of our chapter members served on the Gala Committee. The Alamo Gala was a worthwhile and most successful event that netted over \$100,000.00. Eron Brimberry Tynes

Second Annual Governor's Bar-B-Que & Silent Auction

The Second Annual Governor's Bar-B-Que & Silent Auction benefiting the Pioneer Memorial Log House was held on October 22, 2005. Those attending the event enjoyed wonderful Bar-B-Que and had a good time competing in the silent auction. The event raised approximately \$325 from the sale of Bar-B-Que and \$415 from the Silent Auction. However, due to the lack of interest by San Jacinto Chapter members, with only 10 members attending, the PMLHM Board will reevaluate continuing this event. Brenda Auld

PIONEER DAY-JESSE JONES PARK

On November 5, 2005, Martha Haydel and Eron Tynes hosted a table at the Pioneer Day Celebration. Approximately 3000 people attended, many of them girl scout and boy scout troops. We had the Texas Flag Coloring pages available for children along with a Texas Capitol Puzzle Page. In addition, we passed out hundreds of brochures for the Log House Museum encouraging parents and teachers to come visit and schedule programs at the Log House.

We had a small display of the Six Flags along with a number of the Battle Flags and Republic of Texas Flags with historical information. The biggest hit for the children was the Republic of Texas money (reproductions of course) that we had available for them to look at and touch. Several of them were disappointed that they could not have any, but next time we will have the "money" available to give to the children.

We have been invited back for Texas Heritage Day, February 18, 2006. Please mark your calendars and come join us as we are able to share our love and knowledge of Texas History to all the children. Eron Tynes

ASHBEL SMITH MARKER RE-DEDICATION

On Sunday afternoon, October 19, 2005 members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Knights of San Jacinto and other interested participants gathered at the Evergreen Golf Course for the Ashbel Smith Marker Re-Dedication. The original marker had been dedicated by the San Jacinto Chapter/DRT on May 15, 1931 and several members of the San Jacinto Chapter were present for the Re-Dedication.

Dr. Ashbel Smith came to Texas in the fall of 1836 and was appointed Surgeon General, Army of the Republic of Texas in June, 1837, by Sam Houston. He is known as the "father of Texas medicine" and the "father of the University of Texas". Dr. Smith served as Secretary of State under Anson Jones, last President of the Republic of Texas.

Smith rendered further military service to Texas during the Mexican and Civil wars. During the former he was on active duty with Gen. Zachary Taylor in the field. When the Civil War began he organized a company, the Bayland Guards, which he drilled and trained. While leading this company, a part of Company C, Second Texas Infantry, at Shiloh, he received a severe arm injury and was cited for bravery, along with the rest of his company. He was promoted to colonel and named commander of the Second Texas Infantry, which he led in several engagements in Mississippi.

Smith devoted much time and energy to the cause of education, and he often urged that Texas underwrite the education of every child in the state. He championed public education for blacks and women. Dr. Smith was one of two people who were the first "Knights of San Jacinto". He died on January 21, 1886 at his plantation home, Evergreen, on Galveston Bay and is buried in the State Cemetery in Austin.

Carolyn Lightfoot, San Jacinto Chapter, President presented the marker and Joe Goulding was the Keynote Speaker. He gave an account of the life of Dr. Ashbel Smith. The pledges to the US Flag and Texas Flag were led by Caterina Williams. Eron Brimberry Tynes

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE COUNTRY STORE

If your friends and family don't have enough Texana and need more for Christmas, items from the Country Store will be available at the Christmas Luncheon on December 1, 2005 and again at the Christmas Open House on December 11, 2005. Highlighting the items for sale is the new 2005 Christmas Ornament. Tenth in the Capitol Series, the 2005 Ornament highlights the distinctive Texas Capital dome, and features the six seals located on the north and south pediments. Each is made from a 1,200-pound slab of sandblasted granite and hand painted with a seal of a country whose flag has flown over Texas. The six countries are Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederacy and the United States. The Ornament is presented in a handsome velour-lined gift box.

Additionally, there is an ornament of the Bob Bullock Museum and the Alamo. If you need any of the previous year's ornaments they are also available. Please make note that I have been advised that the 1996 Capitol Ornament is being discontinued.

Native Texan License Plate Golf Shirts are available in men's and women's sizes. We also have Denim Shirts, scarves, men's ties, boxer shorts and Texas Novelty items. In addition, books on Texas History, especially for children, will be on sale and make great Christmas gifts. Please take a few minutes to browse the Country Store at the Christmas Luncheon or the Open House.

Remember all proceeds go to benefit the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. If you are unable to attend and have an interest in an item, please contact Eron Tynes at 281-820-0676 or email Eron at 54texan@ev1.net.

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used on a variety of occasions including San Jacinto Chapter activities, other DRT and CRT activities and fundraising rentals. Because of the growing popularity of the Log House and to avoid "double booking" it is important to coordinate **all use** of the Log House. Please contact Brenda Auld at 281-497-0528 or bauld@houston.rr.com to check the availability of the Log House for any function and to schedule an event at the Log House.

Bits and Pieces

Our new formatted newsletter will be emailed on the 15th of each month. **Please make sure we have your email address and that it is correct.**

Remember to keep us informed of what is going on in YOUR life. If you have an article for the newsletter, send it to: Sara Parr at 215 Whitehall Place, Stafford, Texas 77477, or e-mail s_parr1@msn.com. Please reference SJC DRT. Article deadline is the 12th of the month.

We need **Meeting Hostesses** for the following meetings:

January 5th, February 3rd, April 6th, and May 4th, 2006.

If you are interested, please contact: Mary Worrell at 713-464-5330.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

CORRECTIONS/CHANGES TO THE YEARBOOK

Pg. 45 Mrs. Dee Ann Gravenites, new address:

647 Wakerobin Lane, San Rafael, CA 94903-2420

Pg. 48 Mrs. Martha Hirsch, new address and telephone:

2420 B Nantucket Dr., Houston, TX 77057-4806

Home phone: 713-784-4462 Fax: 713-784-4253

Pg. 52: Mrs. Virginia Helen Ford Karuba, new address:

7216 Foxworth Drive, Dallas, TX 75248-3034

Pg. 58: Mrs. Cynthia C. Tally McDonald, new address:

P.O. Box 11315, Spring, TX 77391-1315

Pg. 68: Miss Chelsea Selle, new address:

210 Woodland Drive, Driftwood, TX 78619-4228

CRT Calendar

CRT members are encouraged to attend the "Chile Cook-Off" on February 26, 2006 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum, "Celebrating Texas Independence Day." CRT and DRT members are also encouraged to form cooking teams and enter in the chile cook-off. The past cook-offs have been festive, historic and well attended.

CRT members are planning a visit to the Sam Houston Home tentatively set for March of 2006. Please contact Third Vice President Loretta Williams at 713-673-1418 for details.

On April 22, 2006 at the annual San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Re-enactment CRT members are encouraged to wear pioneer dress and will be manning a coloring table at the DRT booth, provided that the elements are agreeable.

June 23 and 24, 2006 the CRT Convention will be held in historic San Antonio, Texas sponsored by District VII. CRT members are encouraged to view projects on line at

http://www.twward.org/CRT_Projects.htm

Please try to participate in the different categories. Feel free to call Loretta Williams at

713-673-1418 for more information.

Each year the San Jacinto Chapter CRT has made a strong showing at convention. Lets make our participation next year the best yet.