

Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

Carolyn Lightfoot, President  
(713) 978-6527

Sara Parr, Editor

May 2006

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## June Meeting

Please join us for our last chapter meeting for the 2005/2006 year on **June 1, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** This will be a luncheon at the **Steamboat House Restaurant**, 8045 North Sam Houston Parkway West, on the access road just north of the Gessner intersection, close to Sam Houston Race Park. The restaurant, which opened a few months ago, is filled with Texas historical artifacts. Our meeting will be in the Log Cabin Room and there will be a report on the DRT State Convention. Cost for the luncheon is \$25 and guests are welcome. To reserve your place, mail your check to Kathy Fountain, 2014 Possum Creek Road, Houston, TX 77077017-6709 by May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy Burch

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## Positions To Fill

We need two members to step in and fill the positions of **Treasurer** and **Recording Secretary** for the remaining year left in this term. New elections will take place in the spring of 2007. Anyone who is interested in either of these jobs may contact Carolyn Lightfoot at 713-856-5612 or Brenda Auld at 281-497-0528.

We appreciate the service of Kathy Fountain and Patricia Bacot, who are unable to fulfill the obligations of these positions at this time. We are grateful for their contributions to the chapter.

Additionally, we need a **Log House Docent Chair** to replace Martha Haydel. She is retiring from this position as of June 2006, and will gladly help initiate the new chair. It is an interesting and fun job where you will meet many who are interested in Texas history and in the Log House. Please call Martha at 936-756-6941, or Esther Simon at 713-747-8034.

Martha Haydel

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## Update on the Log House

If you missed the May meeting and the Book Review, you are in for a real treat the next time you visit the Log House. The Log House has recently been re-

chinked and old wood replaced around the house. We have new back stairs and the ramp at the front porch was replaced.

Our own "Merry Maids" headed by Esther Simon, worked several days to clean and polish the Log House before the May meeting. All the pictures were rehung, furniture dusted and put back in place, the floors cleaned and waxed, rugs unrolled and vacuumed, etc. Organizing your own home after it has been painted is a piece of cake compared to being re-chinked. At the May meeting, Marion Beckman, Brenda Auld, Pat Craig, Gwen Kuntz, Martha Haydel, Eron Tynes and Esther Simon were presented with feather dusters in recognition of their contributions.

We received many compliments at the May meeting from members who admired all the work and the "new" look of our Log House. Thank you to Carolyn Lightfoot who has spent many, many hours working with contractors to restore the Log House and raising money for the work. Her knowledge and expertise in restoration is invaluable. The work continues. Eron Brimberry Tynes

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**MEMORIAL ARBOR**

Last year the Friends of Hermann Park replaced the grapevines around the Memorial Arbor. This special landscape feature on our grounds has now become a beautiful focal point with the installation of an "Arbor Trail." A curving granite gravel path leads from the arched bridge to the Arbor where lavender and white azaleas, shell ginger, autumn fern and ardesia are planted on either side of the arbor. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dudley and Sharlet Warner, owners of Landscape Depot in Spring, Texas, who designed and supervised the installation of the path and plantings. They donated the cost of the gravel, weed control mat, steel edging, azalea soil, mulch, and moss rock. The Warners have some wonderful suggestions for further enhancements, such as a path around the south side of the house and refurbishing of the "wetlands" area. If you would like to write a note of thanks to the Warners, their address is: 17831 English Ivy Lane, Spring, Texas 77379. We also thank Lila Smith for her joyful donation toward the cost of the landscaping and hope you'll join her in contributing to the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum for this beautification project.

Please make a point to visit our Log House and the Texas Heritage Garden.

Gwen Kunz and Ester Simon

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**Log House Docent Update**

A great big **THANK YOU** to all the docents who serve the Log House all year long. Through your efforts we are able to share out chapter home with the

public, generate interest in our mission and encourage an appreciation of our heritage.

The executive board wants to recognize both the regular and substitute docents who so generously give of their time at the June 1 luncheon meeting. Please make an effort to attend.  
Martha Haydel

### **JAMES HALEY - BOOK REVIEW**

Special thanks to all who helped with the book review held on May 7. It was well attended and raised significant funds for the Log House. Author James Haley gave a fascinating talk on some of the lesser known figures in Texas history that are included in his new book, *Passionate Nation, The Epic History of Texas*. He graciously donated a significant portion of the proceeds from sales of the book and signed them for the purchasers. For those of you who were not able to attend, Eron Tynes has a few copies available. Contact her at 713-851-0520 or [54texan@ev1.net](mailto:54texan@ev1.net) if you are interested.  
Nancy Burch

### **SJC Registrar Report for May**

It is with great pleasure we welcome seven new members into our chapter.

Three sisters were approved 7 April 2006. Their mother is chapter member, Carole Margaret Gregory Lawson. They are the granddaughters of member, and former chapter president, Caroline Kemp Gregory. Their patriot ancestor is Benjamin Cromwell Franklin.

Laura Margaret Lawson, DRT # 25741  
Hayden Elizabeth Lawson, DRT # 25742  
and Mary Caroline Lawson, DRT # 25743

The four new members below are all descendants of patriot ancestor John L.D. Blackburn. Sally Whittington is the sister of Margaret Clare Smith. Margaret Faye is the daughter of Margaret Clare Smith, and Juliet is the niece of both Sally and Margaret Clare. These ladies were approved on the 10th of April 2006. Sally attended the April meeting.

Sally Logan Smith Whittington DRT # 25747  
Margaret Clare Smith Deaver DRT # 25748  
Margaret Faye Deaver DRT # 25749  
and Juliet Logan Smith Feichtinger DRT # 25750

One new Associate Member has been voted on and approved - Lanora Hill of El Lago, TX. Lanora is a member of the city council of El Lago, TX, and the Harris County Historical Commission. She and her husband, Charles R. Hill,

attended the PMLHM Christmas Open House, and were introduced to several members by Nancy Burch, 2nd VP of SJC.

There are several applications pending in the office of the Registrar General. We hope to have these approved very soon. Total membership as of today is 342.

### **Heartfelt Condolences**

We are sad to report the death of member, Alice Pearl Stephenson Moyer, DRT # 007133, on the 1st of March 2006 in Jackson, Mississippi. Her ancestor was John Allen Stephenson. She has been a member of our chapter since the 8th of February, 1971, and was sponsored by Mrs. H.M. Amsler and Mrs. Georgia B. Edman. She was married to the Reverend C. Osborne Moyer.  
Chapter Registrar, Phyllis Vaughan Moody

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### **170<sup>th</sup> SAN JACINTO DAY**

The official San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony was held on Friday, April 21. Between 300-400 people attended to celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the most significant Battle in the Western Hemisphere. The ceremony featured the Honorable Gene Green, 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, as the keynote speaker and Ron Stone, Knight of San Jacinto, served once again as Master of Ceremonies. Albert Sidney Johnston Canton #11, Patriarchs Militant, Odd Fellows, provided the presentation of colors, followed by an invocation by Nan Morris, San Jacinto Descendants.

Mary Ellen Townsend, Vice President General of the Children of the Republic of Texas led the Pledges to the US Flag and Texas Flags. Kimberly Erwin led the assembly in singing the National Anthem and Texas, Our Texas. Several local representatives welcomed the assembly, including John Manlove, Mayor, Pasadena; Mario Gallegos, Texas State Senator, Senate District #6; and Robert Eckels, County Judge, Harris County.

Louise Hall, First Vice President General of the DRT and Carolyn Lightfoot, President of San Jacinto Chapter recognized the Thelma Maresh scholarship winners. A total of \$6000.00 was presented to high school seniors, Ryan Allen Kresta, Ira Joseph Ray, and Renee Mona Chu. All of the scholarship recipients were present along with their families.

Carolyn Lightfoot recognized all members of the San Jacinto Chapter along with the other DRT members present. She noted that the San Jacinto Chapter holds a special interest in the San Jacinto Battlefield, explaining that one of its original purposes was "to acquire and mark the Battlegrounds of San Jacinto, where our Republic was born". The San Jacinto Chapter petitioned the Legislature to purchase 327 acres in the 1890's and donated its treasury to complete the purchase. Were it not for the San Jacinto Chapter, the Battlefield would probably not exist.

Dick Reese, KSJ, President General, SRT and Kameron Searle, SRT Education Committee Chairman presented the recipients of the State SRT Essay Scholarships.

Sam Houston IV, Knight of San Jacinto, and great grandson of General Sam Houston presented the Battle report from San Jacinto. Ron Stone recognized the San Jacinto Descendants and other dignitaries on the stage. Will Haddock, President, San Jacinto Chapter, SRT gave the Benediction. The traditional Laying of the Memorial Wreath followed. The ceremony closed with a salute to the Texas Patriots by the Texian Army and the SRT Texian Volunteers.

The ceremony was followed by Goode Co. barbeque served under the trees. Committee co-chairs Al Davis and Gina Bouchard planned this event. A busload of San Jacinto Daughters made the trip. Eron Brimberry Tynes

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**BITS AND PIECES**

Congratulations to the following members!!!!!!

**50 Year Certificates**

Marian Beckham

Rosemary Thomas

**25 Year Certificates**

Marilyn Chapman  
Anne Irish  
Beverly Maurice  
Jerry Saxer

Flora Von Roeder  
Sarah Von Rosenberg  
Jimmie Wootten

For those who do not attend convention, your certificate will be awarded at the June Luncheon.

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Ladies, change your records to show that word came from Garnett K. Noser :

Mrs. Jane Elayne Ross Perkinson has moved (See page 63 yearbook.)  
8810 Walther Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21234

If you all know of a new phone number, Mrs. Noser would like to have it. Mrs. Noser has had a heart attack, a stint inserted, and is home resting.

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We collected \$65.00 at the SJC-DRT monthly meeting for the Marje Harris gift, (laptop computer) which was greatly accepted and appreciated. Phyllis Moody

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This is the last Newsletter you will receive until September 2006. Have a great summer!!!! Sara Parr

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## PLANNED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### 115th State Convention

District II Chapters will be hosting the DRT State Convention, "Texas, Land of New Beginnings" at the Wyndham Arlington, **May 17-20, 2006**. You may access the forms and more information through the Convention Website" - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txdrtd2/index.htm> .

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San Jacinto Chapter is scheduled to be hostess for our Fall 2006 District VI Workshop meeting, **October 14, 2006**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sara Parr at 281-242-4415 or Brenda Auld at 281-497-0528.

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The Alamo Committee has set the date for the next Alamo Gala to be **Oct 28, 2006**. Mark your calendars!

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## Texas Historical Dates

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|--------------|---|
| May 13, 1856 | The first camels arrive in Texas for army use in the West in 1856.  |
| May 14, 1836 | President Burnet negotiated the Treaty of Velasco with the captured President of Mexico, Santa Anna.  |
| May 16, 1888 | The pink granite State Capitol was dedicated by Senator Temple Houston.   |
| May 18, 1912 | The Battleship "Texas" was commissioned on this day in 1912.  |
| May 24, 1690 | The Mission San Francisco de los Tejas was founded in East Texas.   |
| May 28, 1929 | The State Song, "Texas our Texas" is adopted.   |
| June, 1867   | This time period was the start of the worst epidemic of yellow fever ever seen in Texas. The port city of Indianola was the first town to experience the disease.               |
| June 1, 1836 | Santa Anna was placed on board a Texas schooner, but Texian Army malcontents seized the prisoner and placed him under guard at Velasco.   |
| June 8, 1819 | Dr. James Long's Expedition crossed the Sabine River into Texas. A government was set up and Texas Independence was declared. Soon after the Spaniards drove them out of Texas. |
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## CRT

The CRT end of the year luncheon and induction of new members will be held at Cici's Pizza, 8366 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77063 at 11:00 a.m. on Sat.

**May 27, 2006** (713) 789-0004. We hope you can make it. Please call Loretta Williams to R.S.V.P. at 713-673-1418.

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The CRT 46th Annual Convention will be held June 23 and June 24, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas downtown at the Comfort Suites Hotel at 1002 South Laredo St. San Antonio, 78204 - (210) 472-1002. The CRT Convention will be held also on the grounds of the Alamo. A hot dog party, a night time scavenger hunt, a river boat ride and an Imax movie are the scheduled fun activities for the CRT.

The CRT Registration form is currently printed in the Daughters' Reflections. Deadline for payment is May 15, 2006. After the deadline, discounted rates do not apply. For more information regarding registration contact Patty Galindo, CRT Convention, 8618 Magdalena Run, Helotes, TX 780213 (210) 372-0293.

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The CRT recently toured the Battleship Texas State Historic Site, on April 30, 2006. The tour was organized by Mrs. Jan DeVault, Past DRT President San Jacinto Chapter. The CRT was also joined by a group of very inquisitive Cub Scouts.

Rusty Bloxum and John Ferguson of the Texas Parks and Wildlife conducted the tours and fascinated the attendees with the history of the historic Battleship Texas. From the beginning of the tour, it was evident that both men enjoyed their jobs, had extensive knowledge of the history and the ability to bring it to life. They entertained all questions, were very patient and gave a thorough tour. A few brave members were also given a tour below of the boiler room. Of special interest were the ship's silver, the soda fountain, canteen, the barbershop, the brig, the U.S. Marine Corps Compartment, the anti-aircraft guns, the kitchen and the post office.

Those attending were Mrs. Jan DeVault, President, Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground and Texans for State Park Board member, Mrs. Anita Cooper, DRT District VI Representative, Mr. Wilcox, SRT member and Mrs. Donna Wilcox, daughter, Erica Wilcox, CRT San Jacinto Chapter Chaplain, Mrs. Loretta Williams, 3rd V.P. CRT Sponsor, San Jacinto Chapter, Helen Williams, Parliamentarian General, Catarina Williams, President, CRT San Jacinto Chapter, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weber with their family. Mrs. Mollie Weber, serves as the 3rd V.P. CRT Sponsor and also the DRT Chapter Secretary from the Conroe Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis Chapter. Christina Weber, President CRT Chapter, Nathaniel Weber, Secretary, CRT Chapter and Sharon Weber, Historical Scrapbook, CRT Chapter, and Charles B. Stuart also attended.

The day was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mrs. Jan DeVault, Rusty Bloxum and John Ferguson of Texas Parks and Wildlife for organizing a most informative tour.  
Loretta Williams

## **FRIENDS OF THE LOG HOUSE SOCIETY**

Our San Jacinto Chapter is blessed with a permanent home where we can meet, educate groups and entertain guests. The original chapter members who sacrificed to bring this house to a reality in 1936 are depending on us to continue the legacy of our heritage.

The Log House Museum functions separately from the chapter. We have a separate board, separate bank account, separate fundraisers, etc. We are all aware of the necessity of maintaining our own homes. The Log House has the same needs. It costs about \$1200 per month to keep the house open and functioning.

Where do the funds come from? We use funds from grants, the sale of Country Store items, rentals by outside groups, donations from you, our members and other non-member supporters. Anyone who makes a \$25 donation or more to the Log House Museum is designated a FRIEND OF THE LOG HOUSE.

San Jacinto Chapter has 342 members. If we can get 200 of our members to donate the \$25 minimum, we would reap \$5000, enough to maintain the house for five months. If those 200 members donate \$50, then we could stay open 10 months. Our home needs a steady supply of funds every year to continue to remain open.

All those who love Texas History are eligible to become a Friend. Please consider this when you get ready to renew your membership dues to the chapter, and encourage your family and friends to join us. Martha Haydel

**Keep reading** .....

**Your Annual Dues Form is on the next page** .....



## Annual Dues are Due. . . . .

The San Jacinto Chapter and DRT fiscal year begins June 1. Please remit this slip with your \$40 dues. Only \$15 of your dues remain with the San Jacinto Chapter. Both the chapter and the Log House Museum need your support. The San Jacinto Chapter funds scholarships, essay contest winners, and San Jacinto Day. The mission of the Log House museum is to collect and preserve documents and relics relating to the early history of Texas, Texians, and Houston, and to encourage the study of Texas history through literature, exhibits and educational program. The Log House Museum funds are used for the "Teaching Texas" programs and to maintain the Log House Museum, which has minimum yearly expenses of \$12,000.00. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

The following information is used to update the yearbook **and must be received by August 1, 2006 to be included.** PLEASE PRINT

Name _____	Marital Status-Check one
Address _____ _____	Single ___ Widowed ___
	Married ___ Divorced ___
City/State/Zip _____	Husband's Name _____
Home Phone _____	
Work Phone _____ Phone _____	Fax _____
E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____	Cell _____
<i>The newsletter is now being sent monthly by e-mail. E-mail enables chapter members to be notified on a monthly basis and limits the printing costs.</i>	

My dues for 2005-2006 (\$40).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

My donation to San Jacinto Chapter DRT.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total to Chapter.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to San Jacinto Chapter DRT and  
Return this portion of the form with your check to:  
Martha Haydel  
12437 Longmire Cove  
Conroe, Texas 77304-1099

Date \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
*Cut here*

I would like to support the Log House Museum...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, I would like to make a contribution in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My total donation to the Log House Museum.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum (PMLHM)  
Return this portion of the form with your check to:  
Brenda Auld  
1241 Country Place Circle  
Houston, Texas 77079-3143

Yes, I would like to help with. . . .

Please check any Chapter committees or activities you might be interested in helping with (please check one or more and return with your dues):

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessions                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic Education      | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CRT                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Program                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways and Means              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations         | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flag                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Relics and Preservation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking & Log House Inquiry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social                   | <input type="checkbox"/> French Legation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                   | <input type="checkbox"/> San Jacinto Battleground | <input type="checkbox"/> Houston Memorial Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Heritage Garden    | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Marker             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tellers                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Educator's Open House |   |  |

Other- I would like to help with

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the next Docent Training  
Prefer  Weekday  Weekend

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

**DOCENTS** - Over the past few months the Log House has undergone major restoration, such as re-chinking of the logs, new steps for the front and back, and replacement of some of the wood framing. Restoration projects will be ongoing. In the Texas Heritage Garden, a new path has been constructed over the bridge to the grape arbor along with new flowerbeds.

The Log House Museum would not exist today without the generous grants and donations given by various Foundations and groups, from you, our members and other non-member supporters. A recent grant from the Native Texas License Plate Fund along with money raised from the Young Constructors Forum 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament enabled us to re-chink the Log House. In order to continue to receive these generous gifts, it is important that the Log House Museum be open to the public on a regular basis.

Currently we are open most weekends for two hours each day. If you want to be a docent, please contact Martha Haydel at 936-756-6941. Docents serve one weekend day a month. If you are unable to make this time commitment, please consider being a docent once or twice a year. We offer docent training and you will be paired with an experienced docent. This will enable us to expand our docent program and be open all weekend days during the month, which is one of the key elements to qualify for grant money.