

Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Carolyn Lightfoot, President
(713) 978-6527

Sara Parr, Editor

October 2006

November Meeting

Our speaker for the November 2nd meeting will be James Bevill, vice president of the Texas Numismatic Association. His topic is "A Paper Trail Across the Republic of Texas," a look at the paper money used from 1836-1845, and how it relates to political events and key personalities of the period. This is a preview of the "Money of the Republic of Texas" exhibit that will be on display at the Alamo next year.

Nancy Burch

SJC Registrar Report for October

This chapter Registrar recognized 9 new members at the most recent regular SJC meeting. For those that are not in your yearbook, you will be able to pick up a "sticky label" to apply to your yearbook at the next meeting. You may also send me a 'Self Addressed Stamp Envelop' and I will return to you, the new member labels for your yearbook.

We have a total of 351 members to date. Sheila Killebrew has asked for a transfer out of SJC so that she may join the Edna chapter where her mother is now a member. Upon completion of the forms, that request will be granted. We have 2 re-instatements, which were approved at the last meeting. Welcome Ellen Horr and Sylvia Peebus back into the chapter. Ask these ladies to get involved with your committee.

A workshop held after the last meeting was very successful. Fourteen prospects attended, and are enthused about preparing their applications. I will consider conducting another workshop next Spring if there is interest.

One bit of information about proofs: I heard this week that the Fannin County, TX Clerk's office of marriage records is giving to family members the older original marriage license. If you have ancestors who married or took out a license in that county, you should contact them to see if a license of interest to you is there. What a wonderful piece of paper, and proof, you would have in your possession!!

Be sure to contact this registrar if you need assistance with your DRT application, or a supplemental application. Phyllis Vaughan Moody, SJC Registrar

From Your District VI Representative

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! I cannot say it enough. Sara Parr and her Committee did a FANTASTIC job hosting our District Workshop and the BOM evening was superb. The Board is very impressed with our Log House and your hospitality. Ladies, you did yourself proud! I heard so many compliments. To quote one, "best I've attended in the last four years." It is DRT members like you that make me love my job as District Rep. Betty Edwards of Texas Star Chapter, Houston, was elected your new District VI Representative, 2007-2009, with Laura Dahlberg, New Kentucky Chapter, Spring-Tomball, as the alternate. Betty will assume her office at Convention.

Saturday, February 24, 2007 will be our Mid-year Workshop in Huntsville. Plan to attend to meet your Board of Management Candidates chosen by the Nominating Committee. Your vote at Convention in May will determine who will be our DRT leaders for the next two years.

Saturday, March 24, 2007 is another important date to mark on your calendar. District VI, in connection with Glenwood Cemetery, will place DRT medallions on some 40+ graves of Republic of Texas Citizens and Defenders. This project is generating more interest all the time! We have found some of the living descendants of the persons we wish to honor with a DRT medallion. They are excited about our project and getting the word out to their relatives. This could mean many new DRT members. Houston Firefighters will honor the men from the first Houston Fire Protection Company. Gray Masonic Lodge will honor their namesake Peter Gray and his family. The Alamo Heroes Chapter is chartering a bus from San Antonio to attend our ceremony.

Anita Cooper, District VI Representative

Stephen F. Austin Flag Ceremony

Stephen F. Austin, "Father of Texas", will be remembered with a flag ceremony on his birthday, Friday, November 3, 2006, 1:00 PM. The ceremony, conducted by the Daughters of The Republic of Texas, is open to the public and there is no admission fee. The event will be held in West Columbia, Brazoria County, on the hallowed ground where Austin died December 27, 1836. Take Highway 36 to Brazoria County Road 467, north of West Columbia WalMart. There are brown and white SFA historic site signs on Highway 36. The celebration is about three-quarters of a mile from the turn-off, and there is adequate parking.

There will be the posting of colors by Boy Scouts, the raising and rededication of the commemorative Texas flag and a Black Powder Salute by members of the Texas Militia. Pledges of Allegiances to the flags will be recited, the National Anthem sung and an Intermediate School Choir will sing patriotic songs. Distinguished guests, including descendants of Moses Austin, father of Stephen F. Austin, will be introduced. Daughters of the Republic of Texas President General Nelma Wilkinson and a student will place a wreath at Austin's death site. Those present may interact and ask questions of re-enactors, "Texas Women and Few Good Men" and The Texas Militia, at their encampment. Fourth graders will sing "Texas is My Name." This annual event to recognize "The Father of Texas", designed especially for children, will conclude with birthday cake and "Texas Our Texas."

The site was the home of Austin's friend, George McKinstry. A monument was placed on the property by the State of Texas in the Centennial Year, 1936. The area became neglected, overgrown with vines and weeds, littered with abandoned oil field equipment, and impossible to recognize as an important historic location. In 1994 Billy and Janie Price purchased, reclaimed and maintain the five-acre tract. A Texas flag flies continuously at the location. Come help to commemorate the life of Stephen Fuller Austin, "The Father of Texas." For additional information contact Daughters of the Republic of Texas District IX Representative Frances Faulkner, at 979-265-9525 or DRT Publicity emjtanner@hotmail.com.

Following the ceremony, Historian Elizabeth Griggs will conduct tours of the replica of the First Capitol of Texas, West Columbia. Mrs. Griggs is a member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Bits and Pieces

We have had several San Jacinto Chapter members, who have asked about the origins of the Log House. To that end, there will be an excerpt each month to tell the story.

Part I

ORIGINS OF THE PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

In October 1934, the San Jacinto Chapter Scrapbook Committee met at the home of Mrs. Madge Houston Hearne. One of the topics of conversation among the twenty-five Daughters that attended was Chapter membership. Housing space for the expanding organization was a problem. Very few members had homes large enough to accommodate meetings. Mrs. Erl Ramsey, then Chapter President, asked Mrs. George (Sarah Groce) Berlet "to tell the others of an idea" which Mrs. Berlet had recently expressed to Mrs. Ramsey.

Mrs. Berlet, while calling the idea "just a day dream...", possibly too idealistic to ever come true", explained that she wanted to erect a log house. It would be "a simple house on property donated by the City of Houston, ..To furnish it in pioneer style and use it for a chapter home, as well as a

hospitality house for the many Centennial visitors in 1936. The foundation and chimney were to be built of rocks, sand, old bricks, etc., from the ruins of the homes of our pioneer ancestors and the place dedicated to their memory.”

From the discussions that afternoon, the women formed a group composed of Mrs. Berlet, Mrs. Hearne, Mrs. Carrie F. Kemp, and Mary Todd to approach Mayor Oscar Holcombe to see if the City might in fact be interested in donating property to such a project.

To their delight, the mayor was receptive and agreed to support the women in their endeavors after upcoming elections were concluded.

The women reported these events at the next regular chapter meeting in November and the Pioneer Memorial Log House Committee was formed. Mrs. Berlet became General Chairman with Mrs. Hearne, Mrs. Kemp, Miss Todd, and Mrs. T.F. White as members and Mrs. Ramsey as an ex officio member.

(Mrs. Berlet carefully kept the minutes of the Committee meetings, pertinent correspondence, and news clippings and compiled a scrapbook that is preserved in the San Jacinto Chapter Archives in the Texas Room at the Houston Public Library.)

During November and December of 1934, the Log House Committee lobbied several city council members and also received the support of Robert Morris, State President of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, who pledged to donate the logs for the building.

A special called meeting was held in January 1935 to determine the actual plan of the building. “...A black board was used by Mrs. Berlet to illustrate several pioneer homes. She first drew one large room 20 by 20 feet then 16 feet over, she drew another room 20 by 20 feet. This style of house was called a double log house with a run-way or “dog trot” between. The pioneers in time boarded up the open passage, and another room was the result. As members recommended omissions and additions, she erased and drew with chalk, until all seemed satisfied with the result.

One member suggested saving green stamps to purchase silver flatware for the kitchen.

On February 3, Mrs. Berlet wrote the mayor enclosing tentative plans for the Log House. She stated, “it is larger than most of the pioneer homes, but is drawn from descriptions and pictures of the true pioneer type, with the addition of the modern kitchen and restrooms, which will not be under the main room, but an old fashioned “lean-to.”

At the regular Chapter meeting held February 7, 1935, Mrs. Berlet read Mayor Holcombe’s response, which was an invitation to the Log House Committee to appear before the City Council between 11 and 12 o’clock on Wednesday, February 13. Harry Weaver, an architect, was present at the meeting and asked to draw the log house plans that would be presented to the Council. Mrs. H.A. Pulliam, Mrs. Frank Andrews, and Mrs. John M. Nagle were added to the Committee.

On the appointed day, Mrs. Ramsey proposed to the City Council, the construction of a pioneer shrine “as a land mark for all time and a mecca for Centennial visitors and celebrants in 1936.”

Furthermore, she said,

In as much as our Texas forefathers had as their only available building materials hand hewn logs, there being no saw mills in our sovereign state until about 1830, it seems entirely fitting and proper that a log cabin be constructed, using logs to be secured from and donated by patriotic land owners of wooded sections in the immediate vicinity of the city of Houston.....

The log cabin shrine, it is suggested is to be furnished in the manner and style of

early pioneer days and would house heirlooms and objects of historical interest of that period.

We suggest that ladies of San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, serve in alternate relays as hostesses, during the Centennial, to extend traditional southern hospitality and a cup of coffee or tea to all Centennial visitors, and be prepared to answer questions concerning Texas history.

As a final factor in its favor, unemployed carpenters and others in allied trades necessary to such a project may be gainfully employed.

Sources: Donor and Chapter Records, San Jacinto Chapter DRT; Daughters of the Republic of Texas Annual Proceedings, 1935, 1936; Letter dated August 11, 1980 from Sarah Kemp Jackson; Various articles, The Houston Press, February 28, 1936; "Texas Daughters Dedicate Pioneer Log Cabin," The Houston Press, March 3, 1936; "D.R.T. Group to be honored," The Houston Post, October 29, 1946; "Conception of the Pioneer Memorial Log House..." compiled by Sarah Groce Berlet.

To be continued. Part II will be in our next Newsletter.

+++++

For a VIDEO OF COMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR SUB TEXAS please click on this link:

<http://origin.eastbaymedia.com/~webcast/asx/texas/player-hi.html>

+++++

ALAMO GALA

It is not to late to make plans to attend the Fourth Annual Alamo Gala. This year's theme is "A Lone Star Celebration" and will honor the Kleberg Family. The DRT Lone Star Celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m on Saturday, October 28, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Riverwalk at Paseo del Alamo, 123 Losoya Street. Individual tickets are \$125.

For more information, please call 210-225-1391, ext 34 or you may contact Gala Chairman, Melinda Navarro at telephone: 210-859-2481. Email:

mlndnvr@aol.com

+++++

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 email s_parr1@msn.com. Please reference SJC DRT. Article deadline is the 10th of the month. Sara Parr

Country Store

As we start off our new season, the buyers for the Country Store have been busy, busy, busy. We have several new items to offer:

Waterford Texas-shaped Paperweight – Yes, that is right **WATERFORD**. Many thanks to Sara Parr who obtained these gorgeous paperweights for the Country Store. In fact, Sara was able to negotiate such a good price that we are able to offer them at \$75.00. They normally retail for \$119.00. However there is a limited number, so please call or e-mail me at 54texan@ev1.net. First Come, First Served!!!

New Door Hangers –Additionally, thanks also goes to Phyllis Moody who has found two different styles of door hangers. One is >> God Bless Texas << and the other >> Lineage Rocks <<. They are metal with red and blue colors. They retail for \$12.00.

New Capital Christmas Ornament – It is time again for the new Capitol Ornament. Eleventh in the series of annual collectible ornaments, the 2006 Texas Capitol Ornament features the Goddess of Liberty that graces the top of the Capitol. Layered in 24k gold and presented in a velour-lined gift box. \$25.00

Texas Scarf (100% silk) – We have a new scarf!!!! The scarf is 100% silk and is 26" square. It is a very pale yellow and is designed with the State of Texas in royal blue. There are about 50 royal blue Texas' scattered around with the Six Flags on top of the Panhandle. Also there are about 50 Texas Stars interspersed with the State. It retails for \$15.00

So start your Christmas Shopping early. Call me at 713-851-0520 or e-mail @54Texan.ev1.net for one of the Paperweights. We have a limited supply. Also let me know if you want any of the Capital Christmas Ornaments-we want to make sure you have them in plenty of time before Christmas.

Remember all proceeds benefit the Log House Museum.

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used for 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.

TEXAS HONOR DAYS~~~~FLY YOUR TEXAS FLAG

NOVEMBER 3 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S BIRTHDAY.
 Stephen F. Austin, "Father of Texas" was born in Wythe County, Virginia.

NOVEMBER 6 DRT FOUNDERS DAY
 The Daughters of the Republic of Texas was founded this day in 1891.

Historical Dates

October 17, 1835	The Texas Rangers were created to guard the Texas Frontier.
October 20, 1788	Benjamin Rush Milam was born in Frankfort, Kentucky.
October 22, 1836	Sam Houston took the oath of office as the first elected President of the Republic of Texas.
October 27, 1902	Galveston begins construction on the Seawall.
October 28, 1806	Juan Seguin was born in San Antonio.
October 28, 1835	Texans won the Battle of Concepcion.
November, 1839	The First Texas Congress meets in the frontier town of Austin, chosen as the Capital of the Republic of Texas.
November 2, 1949	The Daughters of the Republic of Texas became the Custodians of the French Legation.
November 6, 1528	Texas was discovered when the barge of Cabeza de Vaca washed up on Galveston Island.
November 8, 1835	The Grass Fight was won by the Texans forces led by Jim Bowie and Ed Burleson.
November 10, 1836	The State Seal was adopted and modified in 1839.

CRT

Mrs. Jan DeVault is organizing a VIP tour of the San Jacinto Museum of History for the CRT San Jacinto Chapter. The date and time regarding the tour will soon be released and all CRT members will be contacted.

++++
 On Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. the Daughters of the Republic of Texas - San Jacinto Chapter will have a Christmas Open House at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. 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 them to the children. Please support this worthy cause.

CRT members and parents, if you have questions or have an article to submit for publication in the DRT newsletter please contact the CRT sponsor Loretta Williams at 713-673-1418 or by email at latejana@houston.rr.com

++++
 The following history was submitted by CRT members James Antal, Brian Antal and DRT member Mrs. Laurie Antal. Special thanks to DRT member Mrs. Becky Lee for supplying more detailed information.

My ancestor was James Wales Jones who was one of the first Texas Rangers and an Indian Scout. He was born in Columbia County, Georgia on January, 13, 1797. His parents were Thomas and Sarah Jones. James Wales Jones, his wife Hetty Stiles Jones, Hetty's sister, Nancy Jones and her husband Henry Jones all came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin's Old 300. James Wales Jones, brother Randal Jones also came with Stephen F. Austin.

According to our family history they came to Texas in 1820 and crossed the creek in Brenham called New Year's Creek and made their way to Fort Settlement. In January of 1822 they were living in Fort Settlement which was the old name of Richmond and what is now in Fort Bend County.

The brothers were very brave and rescued Jane Long on Bolivar Peninsula who had been awaiting her husband (she had been brought news that he was deceased) to return from Mexico. She was alone on Bolivar Peninsula with her Negro slave, Kian, her baby and also a newborn child. She survived the winter by firing a cannon and raised a red petticoat to scare away the Indians. She was able to go on the ice and survived by fishing for fish and oysters. Randal Jones was a long time friend of Dr. Long and Jane Long. She requested the Jones' brother's aid to they take her back to San Antonio. It was said that Randal Jones was smitten by her striking beauty as well as Ben Milam and Mirabeau Lamar. She promised that she would pay them and had friends in San Antonio, but letters written by her long after the rescues stated that since the Jones Brothers had taken her husband's watch and gun that was payment enough.

Randal Jones had fought with Dr. Long in the war of 1812. He had been sent from Nacogdoches by Dr. Long to fetch Jane Long from her sister's and brother in law's home in Mississippi. So the Jones brothers because of their friendship agreed to take her to San Antonio and walked the way back. They had Jane Long, Kian her slave girl, and her children ride on the horses. They almost were massacred on the way to San Antonio. Jane Long advised the brothers not to camp near a river bank. They had met up with Anglo hunters who were setting up camp for the night. She advised them to camp at a higher ground and they later found the Anglo hunters massacred by the Indians. She was a smart woman as she survived a very cold winter and saved her family, herself and the Jones brothers from the Indians. James Wales Jones and Randal Jones rescued Jane Long, called the Mother of Texas for bravely giving birth of her child on Bolivar Peninsula on December 21, 1821.

James Wales Jones would often leave his wife at times to guard the frontier with the Early Texas Rangers and protect the homesteaders from raiding parties. James gave his wife, Hetty a gun to protect herself and always carried it with her. She could shoot a gun as well as a man. Hetty Stiles Jones and James Wales Jones would raise seven sons and three daughters.

On August 10, 1824 James Wales Jones received a league and labor of land in what is now Fort Bend County. His neighbor was his brother-in-law Henry Jones, whose wife, Mrs. Henry Jones was the sister of Hetty Stiles Jones. James Wales Jones served in the Texas Army under Captain Wyly Martin from March 7, 1836 to June 7, 1836.

His wife Hetty would take part in the runaway scrape and according to family history she left with two slaves and three children. The youngest child Randal died from diphtheria and was buried near the San Jacinto Battlefield. One can only imagine the anguish that she felt burying her youngest child. This gravesite would never be found by the family.

James Wales Jones was sent with Captain Wyly Martin to guard Thompson Ferry which was on the Brazos River and was run by Jesse Thompson. This location, Thompson's Ferry was also

the site where the Texans and the Mexican army commanded by Antonio López de Santa Anna engaged in fighting in early April of 1836. I can only imagine my ancestor there fighting against Santa Anna's men. After this he would also head towards Harrisburg.

James Wales Jones was given a bounty for a certificate of 1280 acres of land in 1839 in the Atascosa County. This was for his services in the army and for serving in the early Texas Rangers as a spy. Jones served in 1840 on a committee to check fraudulent land claims in Fort Bend County. He was living at Richmond in December 1845 and died at Prairie Lea on Sept. 29, 1847.

Jones and his wife were moved from Prairie Lea Cemetery in 1953. They were reburied at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas. James Wales Jones and Hetty Stiles Jones were brave Texas Pioneers. They would make many sacrifices settling in Texas. James Wales Jones fought for Texas Independence so we could have freedom and a better place to live. His loved his family and he loved Texas.