

Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

The San Jacinto Dispatch

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November 2006

December Luncheon

We will have our San Jacinto Chapter Holiday Luncheon on **Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** at the **Log House**.

If you haven't yet made your reservation for our December holiday luncheon, send your check **today** to Sara Parr, 215 Whitehall Place, Stafford, Texas 77477. Your check is your reservation so don't delay, she needs to have it in her hand by **Nov. 25**. The cost is \$25 per person and guests are welcome. Come and enjoy a delicious catered lunch along with some wonderful Christmas music in our beautifully restored Log House. Several members will be sharing Christmas memories with us, either their own or their ancestor's. Nancy Burch

Letter to Santa from the Log House Museum

Dear Santa Claus,

I know your sleigh will be packed with toys for all the boys and girls, but I hope you can find room for a few things I really need. Here is my wish list: Please note that everything on it is really practical and will help ensure a beautiful and safe environment for San Jacinto Chapter members and visitors.

Thanks, Santa, and Merry Christmas from the Log House.

Note to members: This is your chance to play Santa Claus. Remember this is **your Log House**. Please put it on your gift list. All donations will be gratefully accepted and are fully tax deductible. Bring a check to the luncheon or send one if you can't attend. Nancy Burch

Log House Wish List

	Estimated Cost
Clean and check fireplace	\$ 250
Replace handicap ramp	\$ 250
Replace back door	\$1,000
Upgrade electrical system/improve lighting	\$5,000
New signage	\$ 500
Museum-quality framing for pictures and documents	TBD

Christmas Open House

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. Loretta Williams

SJC Registrar Report for November

The San Jacinto Chapter welcomes our newest member DRT # 26053 – **Hattie Gerine “Gerry” Rice Robbins**. Mrs. Robbins was approved on the 1st of November. Her ancestor is John Page of Caldwell Co., TX.

Two former members were reinstated: Ellen Louise Horr and Sylvia Carter Peebus. Six prospective members were voted on at the last meeting. Six new member applications are pending with either this registrar, or the Registrar General. Two supplemental applications are ready for signatures and will be forwarded to the Registrar General. Total membership is **352** at this time.

This registrar encourages all new members to attend the Christmas Luncheon on December 7th. New members approved since June 2, 2006 will be recognized and presented to the chapter at this time. Look for other information in this newsletter as to where to send your reservation. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you, Phyllis Vaughan Moody, Registrar, SJC-DRT.

Log House Docents

It is very important that we keep the Log House open to the public as much as possible on weekends, as this is one of the requirements for eligibility to qualify for grant money.

We are very thankful for those volunteers already helping as docents in the Log House, but we need more help! **CAN YOU GIVE ONE DAY IN 2007** to be a docent at the Log House? With a membership of over 350, we should have enough ladies volunteer to cover most Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Along with our regular docents, one day per year is not too much to ask. Ladies, this is **your** Log House, please support it.

Call one of us and we will schedule you for the day of your choice, along with another volunteer. Thank you in advance to help keep our chapter home running! Pat Craig 713-974-2729 or Ann Tanner 713-782-4055.

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 7, 2006 and again at the Christmas Open House on December 17, 2006.

During the fall, 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, I want to thank Phyllis Moody who has found two different styles of door hangers. One is “ God Bless Texas “ and the other “ Research Lineage Rocks “. They are metal with red and blue colors. They retail for \$12.00.

New Capital Christmas Ornament – It is time 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 approximately 50 Texas’ scattered around the scarf with the Six Flags on top of the Panhandle. Texas Stars are interspersed with the State. It retails for \$15.00

So make your Christmas list now. Call Eron at 713-851-0520 or e-mail me @ 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. Eron Brimberry Tynes

Dues Notice – Important

Dues for the 2006-2007 year must be paid by December 1st to remain a member in good standing. The amount of dues for the year is \$40. \$25 is forwarded to DRT in Austin. Please make your check out to San Jacinto Chapter DRT and mail to Kathy Fountain, 2014 Possum Creek, Houston, TX 77017.

District VI Workshop & Reception Donors

The San Jacinto Chapter would like to acknowledge the following contributors:

Teas Nursery

Great Western Growers

Workshop Door prize donors:

\$50 Certificate

The State Grille

Frankie B. Mandela

2925 Wesleyan

Houston, TX 77027

Dinner for Two

Steamboat House Restaurant

Charlie and Senie Fogarty

8045 North Sam Houston Parkway West

Houston, TX 77064

"Texas Historic Courthouses" DVD

Jim Bailey

Sunset Productions

417 Sue Street

Houston, TX 77009

"Flags of Texas" Book

Log House Country Store

Goodie Bags:

Keith Shaftel

Shaftel Diamond Co.

6222 Richmond Ave. Suite 150

Houston, Texas 77057

(713) 781-5300

James Parr along with **Cabot Oil & Gas**

Thank you all for supporting our organization!!!

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 II of IV

ORIGINS OF THE PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

All three Houston newspapers covered the Council meeting and reported the following day. This article appeared in the *Houston Press* on February 14, 1935:

DAUGHTERS OF TEXAS SEEK FUNDS FOR MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE, CITY GRANTS SITE

A drive for funds with which to construct a pioneer type log house as a memorial to the pioneer men and women of Texas has been begun by the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughter of the Republic of Texas.

A delegation from the chapter headed by Mrs. Erl R. Ramsey, president appeared before the City Council Wednesday and asked permission to locate the memorial on city property, either along Buffalo Drive or in Sam Houston Park. The council granted the request, the exact location to be fixed later by the council.

The delegation also presented the council with the proposed plans of the structure as drawn by Harry Weaver, architect. The plans show that the shrine will have one large room, 26 x 60 feet, a library 18 x 19 feet, and a kitchen, rest room and a porch.

Mrs. Ramsey said that the cost of the memorial would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 and that Robert B. Morris, president of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, has already agreed to donate the logs that will be used in the structure.

"The cabin will be a shrine to the pioneer men and women of Houston and the State," Mrs. Ramsey told the council. "Our organization intends to furnish the structure in Texas pioneer type furnishings and to place pioneer heirlooms in the building.

"We intend to have the memorial cabin completed in time for the celebration of Houston's one hundredth anniversary as well as for the Texas Centennial. Our organizations plans to keep open house at the shrine each day during the Centennial celebration and to serve refreshments and dispense true Southern hospitality to all visitors."

"We would rather have the shrine located in Sam Houston Park for it is in that location that early settlers of Houston lived and it is close to other spots of historical interest."

"I think that such a structure would be an asset to Houston and that we should allow it," Mayor Holcombe stated, "It is a very laudable undertaking and I make a motion that their request for a location be granted," Commissioner Walter Pierson said.

Other council members agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

It was explained that persons wishing to donate toward building the shrine may send their donations to Mrs. Hadley Jackson, treasurer of the organization, 2206 Park.

Ultimately, the City required that the women have all of the construction money in hand before donating the site.

To finance the project, the Daughters turned to their members--Mrs. H.H. Ueckert pledged the first \$100 -- and reached into the community--Mrs. Berlet's husband provided stationery for 500 letters sent to "patriotic citizens" asking for donations. Mrs. Ueckert and Mrs. Eugene Trust Harris were added to the Committee and Mrs. Berlet gave each member a responsibility.

Mrs. Ueckert became the building chairman. Mrs. White wrote historic stories about pioneer ancestors for the newspapers; Mrs. Hearne served as sub-chairman to “see that only furniture suitable of the period of the days of the Republic was accepted”; Mrs. Kemp visited the *Post*, Mrs. Pulliam visited the *Chronicle*, and Miss Todd visited the *Press*. Mrs. Berlet approached Judd Mortimer Lewis, associate editor of the *Post*, and Poet Laureate of Texas, to write a poem “dedicated to the Texas Pioneers. The pen of a poet saved “Old Iron-sides”, made Paul Revere famous, and we believe you can do even more in bringing to remembrance the deeds of our Texas Pioneers.” Mr. Mortimer obliged and penned “Pioneers of Texas”, a poem that appeared February 26, 1935 in the *Post*.

At every opportunity, the Chapter raised funds for the log house. They participated in bazaars, luncheons, sold flags, and baked cookies and candy.

They approached the City again to secure P.W.A. labor through the Texas Relief Commission but found that they would have to turn all of their funding for the project over to the City—something they were unwilling to do.

Raising money was a difficult task. The country was in economic disarray as the response of Anderson, Clayton & Company on March 27, 1935, indicates, “As you are fully aware, the Government has reduced cotton production to a point where all cotton merchants are now only handling a fraction of the cotton they are equipped and staffed to handle. Therefore, we are finding it impossible to keep our present employees fully occupied. It has become a question of letting a number of them go or reducing all other overhead expenses considerably, so as to keep more of these people on the payroll. We have chosen the latter course and have made it a fixed rule in this organization not to subscribe or donate to any but necessary trade organizations as long as this condition continues. We sincerely regret the necessity of advising you it is impossible at this time to make a contribution to your project...”

The Chapter was not deterred. By October 1935, the 250 pine logs had been cut and hauled to the National Creosoting Plant for wolmanizing treatment. The cheapest bid received, Mrs. Ueckert reported, was \$3,600.00 and “is for the large auditorium, rest rooms and kitchen, for it would be too impractical to build without restroom facilities, for what sort of hospitality could we extend to Centennial visitors without this feature and at that distance from town?” The Chapter had approximately \$2,400. To build from the architect’s blueprints would cost \$5,500.

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 III of IV will be in our next Newsletter.

Historical Dates

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| November 15, 1836 | Lorenzo de Zavala, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and first Vice-President of the Republic of Texas. |
| November 24, 1874 | In Illinois, J. F. Glidden patented barbed wire. |
| November 25, 1835 | The Texas Navy was formed. |

November 25, 1850	In the Compromise of 1850, Texas, hoping to pay its public debt, sold one-third of her territory to the United States for \$10 million.
November 30, 1837	Erastus "Deaf" Smith died at the age of 50.
December 2, 1832	Sam Houston came to Texas for the first time when he crossed the Red River near Clarksville.
December 4, 1835	Ben Milam and his men storm Bexar to drive out the Mexican Army.
December 7, 1835	Ben Milam was killed during the Siege of Bexar.
December 7, 1870	David G. Burnet died.
December 9, 184	Dr. Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas took the oath of office.
December 11, 1835	General Cos surrendered San Antonio to the Texas forces following the Siege of Bexar.

CRT**CHILDREN OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS**

Annual Convention

JUNE 22 – 23, 2007

Hosted by the Chapters of District VIII

Convention Site:

The John Newcombe Tennis Ranch – New Braunfels

Plan to attend our next CRT Convention in historic

New Braunfels!!

Enjoy the local sites, tube the Comal & Guadalupe Rivers.....And don't
forget

SCHLITTERBAHN!!

SPECIAL EVENTS BEING PLANNED FOR FRIDAY EVENING

!!!!STAY TUNED!!!!

Accommodations have been blocked for our Convention

2 BR Condo, 2 bath, kitchen/living area-\$120

1 BR Condo, 1 bath, kitchen/living area-\$85

Standard Courtside Room/2 queens/bath-\$60

Please make room reservations directly with

John Newcombe Tennis Ranch

325 Mission Valley Road

Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

1.800.444.6204 or 1.830.625.9105

(all major credit cards accepted)

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY

DECEMBER 1, 2006!!!!

