

Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Carolyn Lightfoot, President
(713) 978-6527

Sara Parr, Editor

February 2007

Happy Valentines to all of you Texas Sweeties!

March Field Trip

On **March 1st**, we will visit the Hilltop Herb Farm Restaurant near Cleveland, Texas, for our annual field trip. The 39-passenger bus will depart at **9:00 am** from the parking lot behind St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Our trip will include a tour of the herb gardens and a gourmet lunch. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests are welcome. Please send your check for \$35 per person, to Sara Parr, 215 Whitehall Place, Stafford, Texas 77477, by Friday, February 23rd. Nancy Burch

SJC Registrar Report for February 2007

Twelve prospective members were voted on at our February general meeting. We will not be voting in March due to our Field Trip. Members may sponsor a potential new member by sending a letter of endorsement to the chapter Registrar. After the letter is received, your prospect will be put on the "vote list," as a new "prospective member". Please encourage your friends and other family members to consider becoming a Daughter of the Republic of Texas, and a member of the San Jacinto Chapter.

I am proud to introduce you to the following three (3) new SJC members:

Mary Beth Fisher, DRT # 26177, was sponsored by Jan DeVault, and approved on the 18th of January 2007. Beth's ancestor is Samuel Rhoads Fisher who was Secretary of the Navy during the Republic of Texas and resided in Matagorda. Beth is a very active officer in the Texas Navy today.

DRT # 26187, belongs to Patricia Aline Fitzgerald Kirk, who was approved on the 27th of January, 2007. Pat's ancestor is Frederick Olio Bertrand who was a Colonist of 1829, and a member of the Convention to form the Constitution of the Republic of Texas. He resided in Brazoria County. Carolyn Shimeck, and new member Gerry Robbins sponsored Pat.

Our most recent new member is Tamara Lee Phillips Kittleston, DRT # 26262, approved on the 3rd of February. Tamara's ancestor is Joseph Dunman, who came from Louisiana to the Humble area of Harris County, and lived in Dunman's Prairie near what is known today as Liberty. Tamara also presented two supplemental applications, Delina Dunman, daughter of Joseph Dunman, and Delina's husband, Peter Dykeman. This couple married December 21, 1841 in Harris County, Republic of Texas. Allison Moody Ball and Phyllis Vaughan Moody sponsored Tamara.

One of our new members, Barbara Lovelady Curtin Pace, DRT # 25930, has decided to transfer out of SJC and join a Kerrville chapter, where she resides. Barbara is the sister of member Jane Curtin Reed.

Three applications and three supplemental applications are pending with the Registrar General. \$160 was generated for the chapter by typing applications for new applicants. We now have a total membership of 352 members, 4 associate members, and 3 honorary members

Heartfelt Condolences

Our condolences are sent to the family of Thelma Beatrice Burnett Maresh, DRT # 001853. She was born May 5, 1905 in Sipe Springs, Texas and died on 17 January 2007, at the age of 101. Her ancestor was James Farmer.

Mrs. Maresh joined SJC the 20th of January 1934. During her 73-year membership, she was extremely generous with our chapter and served our chapter as president in 1942-1943, and as DRT President General from 1947 to 1949. At the time of her death, Mrs. Maresh was the oldest living past President General of DRT.

She was the widow of Dr. Henry R. Maresh. They are both buried at Forest Park Lawndale in Houston. SJC members Eron Tynes, Anita Cooper, and Shirley Lightfoot, accompanied by her husband, Jack attended the funeral service.

See you on the bus for the March meeting. Phyllis Vaughan Moody, Registrar, SJC

From District VI Representative

Notes from the Board of Management meeting:

Essays are due to me by March 1.

District II Representative Faye Chism has Children’s Activity Books, 15 pages, for sale for 45 cents each plus postage.

A decal and bumper sticker for sale by S. F. Austin Chapter was approved.

Details proposing a change to our Texas Pledge in House Bill 1034. The majority of those who have emailed are opposed to change. Ann Collins, Legislative Chairman, sent letter to Rep. Riddle.

French Legation website has been revamped, please have a look at: <http://www.frenchlegationmuseum.org/>.

The Real Daughters Book will be available for sale at our state convention for \$35 through Sept 1, and \$40 after that (plus postage if mailed). To preorder/pay, contact Janet Massey at janetmassey@verizon.net.

Two new chapters will be installed at convention: Frontier Chapter in Abilene and John Berry Chapter in Georgetown.

If you are interested in judging yearbooks at our state convention, please notify Madge Roberts, mtr1929@sbcglobal.net. Anita Cooper, District VI Representative

Essay Contest

The **Mamie Wynne Cox Award** was created for the purpose of encouraging research by DRT members in Texas History. The essay contest is open only to Daughters and is awarded yearly at the Historical Dinner of the State Convention where she will be presented with a framed official DRT certificate of the award. The winner's name is engraved on a plaque kept on display at DRT Headquarters in Austin. DRT reserves the right to publish winning essays.

Entrants should submit an unpublished monograph or essay in the field of Texas history preferably during or before the period of the Republic. Any subject may be addressed. The essay must in scholarly form and must be based for the most part upon the use of source material, properly documented. Entries will be judged by a group of qualified historians who are not members of DRT.

RULES FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES:

1. Essays are to consist of no less than 1,000 words.
2. Important statements must be accompanied by explicit notations as to sources.
3. A bibliography must be included.
4. All entries must be typed double spaced.
5. The left side margin must be one and one half (1 1/2) inches for binding.

6. A sealed envelope must be attached to each entry containing the author's real name, address and the title of the entry.
7. On the outside of the attached sealed envelope there must be the entrant's nom de plume with the title of the essay.
8. The deadline for entries is **March 31, 2007**. All entries must be in the hands of the Historian General by that date. They are to be sent to Madge Roberts, 3702 Morning Mist, San Antonio, TX 78230-2129
9. The entrant should retain duplicate copies of their manuscripts.

San Jacinto Chapter Donation

From time to time, we have members who want to honor their family and friends with a donation to our chapter. We recently received a donation from Margaret C. Standard in the name of Kay Theilan. Thank you for your contribution.

Texas Independence Day Celebration & Chili Cook-Off

Come join the San Jacinto Chapter, DRT and CRT as we celebrate Texas Independence Day with the Texian Army. It will be a Living History Festival, along with a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Tom Green will provide his Texas Flag display, Larry Hoff, Blacksmith will be on hand, and Edwin Erwin will sign Land Grants. The Texian Army along with the Sons of the Republic of Texas will present the reading of Travis' letter.

The Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 2:00 p.m at the Log House. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 per child under 16. This includes chili, dessert and drink. Please feel free to come in period dress or your favorite Texana.

If you are interested in having a Chili Team please contact Eron Brimberry Tynes @ 713-851-0520. It is time to dig out Uncle Bob's old chili recipe and start chopping those red-hot chili peppers. Prizes will be given for the: Best Authentic Texian Chili, Best Deer Meat Chili, Best Armadillo Style Chili, Best Roadkill Chili, Best Trailriders' Chile, Best Rattlesnake Rattle Chili, Best Red Hot Pepper Chili, Best Possum Chili, Best Squirrel Chili and more. Last year we had to add two new categories - Best Buffalo Meat Chili and Best Chocolate Chili. Come see how many you can win.

Flag Retirement Ceremony - Last year a Flag Retirement Ceremony was held and a number of the children present participated. This year we are inviting all children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, etc., to participate in this moving patriotic ceremony. We will hold a rehearsal on February 25 at 1:30 pm. This will allow the children an opportunity to become familiar with the ceremony itself. Last year Marilyn Chapman donated the Texas Flag used in the

Ceremony. If you have a used Texas Flag that needs to be properly disposed of, please let me know.

Last year a number of Chapter members provided desserts. This year Marilyn Chapman has volunteered to coordinate those interested in bringing a dessert, please call Marilyn at 713-522-1876.

Call Eron Brimberry Tynes at 281-820-0676 or Email 54texan@ev1.net for more information.

Bits and Pieces

In December, our red tablecloths at the Log House disappeared. Does anyone have them or know where they are? Hopefully, someone has taken them home to wash. If you have information, please contact Esther Simon at 713-747-8034.

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Ladies, we need to hear from you.....

Nelma Wilkinson, President General and Ann Collins, Legislative Chairman, have asked that this article from the American Statesman be forwarded to you.

Please respond with your opinion on the proposed change to the pledge to our Texas flag. You may email Ann at banati1@msn.com or call her at (830) 606-0255.

Lawmaker wants to tweak state pledge

Legislation would add "under God"

By [Jason Embry](#)

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Friday, February 02, 2007

God is on a roll at the Texas Legislature.

A Houston-area lawmaker proposed Thursday putting "under God" in the 74-year-old pledge to the Texas flag, which Texas students recite each day.

That followed earlier votes by the House and Senate — with almost no opposition from either party — to put the phrase "in God we trust" on the electronic message boards at the heads of each chamber. The Senate went an extra step and asked the State Preservation Board to install the words in gold letters on the frieze above the Senate lectern.

The pledge to the Texas flag now reads, "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible."

Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Tomball, proposed Thursday to change the last clause to "Texas, one state under God and indivisible." Riddle said she thought something was missing from the Texas pledge when she recited it with the national pledge, which mentions God.

"Our Judeo-Christian heritage, our religious heritage, is woven throughout the fabric of our history," she said.

The Legislature established the state pledge in 1933. It's only been changed once: The original pledge referred to "the Texas flag of 1836." That was removed in 1965 because it did not refer to the current Lone Star flag.

Since 2003, state law has required pledges to the Texas and American flags in school, as well as a moment of silence.

Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, was one of two House members who voted against displaying "in God we trust."

"I think of the House of Representatives as being a place where we should respect and honor those we represent, regardless of their religious traditions," she said. She added that the best way to show respect to constituents was to focus on the most important issues.

Our History Needs Your Help,

Judson Watkins (Camp 2107 Sons of Confederate Veterans) has asked that we give the following information:

The president of U.T. University at Austin is considering removal of the Confederate statues from the university lawn. This is a statue that honors our Texas ancestors. These statues are not depicting racism or supporting slavery. We descendants are trying to honor our ancestors.

If you would like to help, please send a letter expressing your disgust of the idea of removal to:

The University of Texas at Austin
President's Office
PO Box T
Austin, TX 78713

Vote: Should the U.T. of Texas remove its statues of Confederate leaders?
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16382232/from/ET/>

PETITION AT

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/HelpSaveTheStatues/signatures.html>

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THE PETITION! Once you sign and click submit, your signature is in, it requires no donation. IGNORE THE DONATION PAGE!

Ladies, Much is happening here at the library! Please click on the website to view the library's most recent newsletter -- Volume 4, No. 1, January 2007 -- at <http://www.drtil.org/Newsletters/index.asp> . Elaine B. Davis, Library Director
Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library at the Alamo

If you are interesting in submitting an article for the newsletter, please 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

Planned Events and Activities

DISTRICT VI – MID YEAR WORKSHOP

President Houston Chapter and District VI Representative, Anita Cooper Cordially invites you to attend our Mid Year 2007 District VI Workshop

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2007

Place: Sam Houston Memorial Museum Walker Education Building

1402 19th Street

Huntsville, Texas

Agenda: Registration 9:00 a.m.

Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Sales tables available at \$5.00 per table.

The topics to be discussed include:

Parliamentary Procedures – Louise Hall

Genealogy – Barbara Stevens

Chapter Presidents:

Please mail or email this form to all your chapter members. Please encourage your members

to attend and invite prospective members in your community.

Anita Cooper, District VI Representative

ajcooper@cybergal.com

Checks should be made payable to President Houston DRT Chapter by February 16, 2007

Mail registration form and check to:

1177 Elkins Lake

Huntsville, Tx 77340

Driving Instructions to Sam Houston Memorial Museum:

Go North on I-45 exit 116, stay straight to go to I-45 S turn right on 19th Street.

[Click for Mapquest](#)

MID YEAR WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION FORM

Mail your workshop registration and check payable to

President Houston DRT Chapter to:**Ms. Gwen Hardy****1177 Elkins Lake****Huntsville, TX 77340****By February 16, 2007 Deadline****Enclosed is Registration and Lunch @ \$25 per person (including guest) \$****Name:****Mailing Address:** _____ **City, State, Zip:****Telephone (_____) _____ e-mail address:****DRT Chapter:** _____ **Chapter Position Held:****BOM/Committee Chair or Member:** _____ **Name of Guest:**

There will be limited space for Sales Tables, therefore, maximum one (1) table per request.

(Chapters, BOM Officers, BOM Committee Chairmen, etc. must submit a request for a table.)

The Museum will provide the tables. **Will you need a Sales Table? Yes** _____

No _____

If you have any questions, please contact

Gwen Hardy: 936.295.6427 or mailto:ghardy6427@yahoo.com

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Special day planned to commemorate the beginning of the Siege of the Alamo February 23

Commemorate the anniversary of the beginning of the thirteen-day siege of the Alamo by spending the day on the grounds of the Alamo. Begin the morning with historians at the 19th Texas History Forum, tour the grounds and surrounding area in the afternoon, and return in the evening for an after-hours tour with living historians in a museum gallery presentation of events surrounding the Battle of the Alamo.

The 19th Texas History Forum begins at 9 a.m. in Alamo Hall. Speakers include free lance writer Paula Allen, San Antonio: Then and Now; Dr. Ron Tyler, Texas Bird's-Eye Views; and James Bevill, A Paper Trail across the Republic of Texas. This forum is funded in part by a generous grant from The Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation, Dallas. Call the library at (210) 225-1071 for more information or send your check for \$15 to the DRT Library Committee, P. O. Box 1401, San Antonio, Texas 78295-1401. Forum reservations will remain open as long as seating is available.

The public is invited to view a museum gallery presentation entitled "To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World: The Alamo under Siege" which begins at 7 p.m. and tickets, \$8.50 per person, are required. Visitors will be escorted through the grounds to view a series of historical vignettes designed to

tell the story of the Siege of the Alamo. Due to the nature of the event, however, the audience will be limited to the first 500 who purchase tickets.

Tickets must be purchased by February 19, 2007.

After 2/19/07, please call for ticket availability.

***For ticket information, Ernesto Rodriguez, 210-225-1391, ext. 28;
erodriguez@thealamo.org.***

***For press information, Dr. Bruce Winders, 210-255-1391, ext. 27;
bwinders@thealamo.org.***

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Texas Independence Day Celebration to be Held at the New Harris County Civil Courthouse

On March 2, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. the San Jacinto and Sam Houston Chapters of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas are sponsoring a ceremony on the steps of the New Harris County Civil Courthouse (201 Caroline, Houston, Texas) to commemorate the 171st anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

The program will feature Ron Stone, and he will be speaking about the impact the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence had in shaping modern day Texas.

Recognized by statute as an official state holiday, Texas Independence Day is observed on March 2 of every year.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by the delegates to the Convention of 1836, which met Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1, 1836. On the first day, Convention President, Richard Ellis, appointed a committee composed of George C. Childress, James Gaines, Edward Conrad, Collin McKinney, and Bailey Hardeman to draft a declaration of independence.

George Childress, the committee chairman, is generally accepted as the author of the Texas Declaration of Independence, with little help from the other committee members. Since the six-page document was submitted for a vote of the whole convention on the following day, Childress probably already had a draft version of the document with him when he arrived. As the delegates worked, they received regular reports on the ongoing siege on the Alamo by the forces of Santa Anna's troops.

A free and independent Republic of Texas was officially declared March 2, 1836, when the 54 delegates—each representing one of the settlements in Texas—

approved the Texas Declaration of Independence. After the delegates signed the original declaration, 5 copies were made and dispatched to the designated Texas towns of Bexar, Goliad, Nacogdoches, Brazoria, and San Felipe, and 1,000 copies were ordered printed in handbill form.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas are 501(c)(3) organizations whose missions are to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the people who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas and to encourage historical research into the earliest records of Texas, especially those relating to the revolutionary and republic periods. The SORT and DRT encourage the preservation of documents and relics, the publication of historical records and narratives, and the celebration of important days in the state's history. They also encourage the teaching of Texas history in schools and sponsor numerous scholarships.

TEXAS HONOR DAYS~~~~FLY YOUR TEXAS FLAG

FEBRUARY 19~~~TEXAS STATEHOOD DAY

On this day is 1846, President Anson Jones lowers the Lone Star Flag with his famous words; ". . .The Republic of Texas is no more."

MARCH 2~~~~~TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed at Washington-on-the-Brazos by members of the Convention of 1836.

MARCH 6~~~~~ALAMO HEROES DAY

Texian Forces under command of Colonel William Travis were defeated. Approximately 187 men, all of the men there, died in the Battle before dawn.

Historical Dates

February 8, 1836	David Crockett and his Tennessee Mounted Volunteers arrive at the Alamo.
February 11, 1836	Colonel William Barrett Travis takes command of the Alamo.
February 23, 1836	This day marks the beginning of the thirteen day siege of the Alamo.
February 24, 1836	Col. Travis wrote his famous message to the people of Texas, ". . . asking for all men to come to their aid. . . I will never Surrender or Retreat. . ." and signs the letter, "VICTORY OR DEATH".
March 1, 1837	The United States Senate voted to recommend legal recognition of Texas Independence.
March 3, 1836	Col. Travis sends out his last impassioned cry for help.
March 4, 1836	General Sam Houston was named Commander of the Texas Army.

March 5, 1842	Mexican Forces briefly occupied San Antonio.
March 7, 1901	The Bluebonnet was named the State Flower.
March 9, 1731	San Antonio became the home for 56 settlers from the Canary Islands.
March 11, 1836	General Houston learns about the massacre at the Alamo while in Gonzales. General Houston retreats eastward and orders Gonzales burned.

CRT

If any CRT members would like to participate in the Glenwood Cemetery Project at 10am on Saturday, March 24th, please contact Loretta Williams at 713-673-1418 or email: latejana@houston.rr.com so she can give an accurate count to Peggy Townsend.

The events are planned as follows:

10:00 am - Glenwood Cemetery to place flags on the graves that will be marked with a medallion. There are approximately 107 potential graves to be marked, so lots of flags to put out. Casual dress.

1:15 pm - Trinity Lutheran Church – corner of Houston and Washington, be available to assist with program distribution and or assistance as needed for other CRT members and guests. We ask that everyone dress nicely.

2:00 pm - District VI is hosting a program to honor those in the Glenwood Cemetery.

If the weather is not great, there is a gym nearby that we will have access to. We can use it to wait in after the 10:00 am activities, have lunch and change clothes as needed.

Other CRT chapters in the district are being invited to help as well.