

Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston

# The San Jacinto Dispatch

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## March Meeting

Barry Moore will present "A Postcard Glimpse of Houston's History" at our **April 5th** chapter meeting. Barry is a senior associate with Gensler Architects where he specializes in the design of theaters, historic preservation, non-profit and educational facilities. He led the restoration of the Willow Street Pump Station for UH-Downtown, directed the design team of the Moores School of Music along with Moores Opera House and the renovation of Cullen Performance Hall, all on the University of Houston main campus. He is an adjunct associate professor at the University of Houston, the founding director of the Workshop for Historic Architecture, a former president of the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and is presently on the board of the Rice Design Alliance. He also serves as chair of the CITE Magazine editorial board and chair of The Heritage Building Society.

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## From District VI Representative

### Saturday, March 24: District VI Glenwood Project Ceremony

**San Jacinto Chapter members – please plan to attend!!!** All District VI chapters are expected to attend in large numbers. I sincerely hope that our chapter, the largest in the district, will be well represented complete with ribbons and pins.

This project has statewide support, and with the help of many DRT members from our District and others, much has been done to prepare for this impressive endeavor.

Our chapter has been responsible for the publicity. New Kentucky Chapter is providing the refreshments. CRT members, with the help of Judge N H Davis and Miss Ima Hogg Chapters, will place Texas flags on the 80 graves we are honoring. Additionally, Miss Ima Hogg and other chapters will be helping attendees find their way to the meeting room and around the cemetery. SRT, Masons and other historical organizations will be represented. One of the San Antonio Chapter plans on coming with at least 30 members.

I look forward to seeing each of you on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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Thanks to everyone who attended the mid year meeting. You made it a success. Our host chapters, President Houston and Seth Hurin Bates, did an outstanding job. We met some of the nominating committee's slate of officers that we will vote on at convention. Lots of information was shared, including parliamentary procedure from Louise Hall and DRT applications from Barbara Stevens.

Laura Beavers had exciting news from the Library. The Antiques Roadshow has contacted them to do a piece on the Library when they are in San Antonio.

I hope these workshops will continue. I think they are very useful. Every other year, we have bylaws to discuss and the even years, we have prospective new Board members to meet. I'm not through with my District VI Representative duties just yet, but I want to encourage you to support your new District Rep. elect, Betty Edwards.

Thanks again to everyone who attended the mid year meeting. We really appreciate the special effort to attend made by Madge Roberts, Billie Beth Moore, Laura Beavers and Delitha Guenzel.

Here is a break down of attendees:  
 Guests = 4  
 Brenham Dr R F Brenham Chapter = 0  
 Coldspring William Cochran Chapter = 3  
 Columbus Dilue Rose Harris Chapter = 0  
 Bluebonnet Branch Chapter = 3  
 Houston Miss Ima Hogg Chapter = 9  
 Houston Texas Star Chapter = 0  
 Houston San Jacinto Chapter = 2  
 Huntsville President Houston Chapter = 14  
 Kingwood Seth Hurin Bates Chapter = 5  
 Montgomery Judge N H Davis Chapter = 4  
 Spring-Tomball New Kentucky Chapter = 6

The fall District VI meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 2007, in Montgomery. Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis Chapter will be hosting.

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The slate of BOM nominees for 2007-2009 are now online.

Members Only site is: <http://drt-inc.org/members/>.

The Committee Application form is also online. It is located right under the heading Forms on Members Only. I encourage all chapter members to apply for a position on a State committee.

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## District Essay Winners

I am pleased to announce the following essay contest District winners:

**Fourth grade:** Adam Lehtola of Friendswood, Bluebonnet Branch Chapter

**Seventh grade:** Autumn Simpson of Conroe, New Kentucky Chapter

**Teacher:** Joseph Ferguson of Wells Middle School, Houston, New Kentucky Chapter.

I will mail the essays to Claire Lilly, 5th Vice President General.

Anita Cooper, District VI Representative

## SJC Registrar Report

It is spring! Well almost, and as we spring forward with the clocks, I hope to spring forward with more approved applications during the last few months of this administration. Just as spring rains pepper the ground, there is a steady shower of applications presented each week. As rain is needed for our spring growth of grass, plants, and beautiful flowers, so is the development of new applications for our chapter to flourish. Ladies, I am here to assist you with those applications and proofs, if assistance is needed. You may contact me at by phone 713-621-1884 or e-mail [moodyphyll@pdq.net](mailto:moodyphyll@pdq.net). Thanks to the many members who endorse prospective members for our chapter.

Welcome Miss **Lesley Nicole Vaughan**, DRT # 26226, approved 17 February 2007. Lesley lives in Oklahoma City, where she is a professional Event Planner, and travels all over the USA for big conventions. Her ancestor is Nathaniel Smith Middleton, who arrived in Anderson County about 1841 as an infant with his parents from Alabama. Nathaniel is buried in Broyles Chapter Cemetery, outside Palestine, Texas. Allison Moody Ball sponsored her first cousin for membership.

The chapter's newest member is **Mary Jo Cappleman Brice**, DRT # 26250, approved 09 March 2007. Mary Jo lives in Katy and has attended many of our meetings and special events. Mary Jo, and her husband Don, made a trip to Bonham, Texas to find the final estate papers of her ancestor Jabez Fitzgerald. Jabez arrived in 1838 from Tennessee when he received a Republic of Texas land grant in Fannin County. It has also been noted that Jabez ran a ferry shuttling passengers and goods across the Red River from Fannin County prior to his death in 1843. It took over 10 years to probate his will and settle his estate. Mary Jane Harmon endorsed Mary Jo for membership. We welcome this doting grandmother to our chapter and DRT.

Two supplemental applications have been approved on the ancestor Nathaniel Smith Middleton for my daughter, Allison Moody Ball and myself. Additionally, Mary Jane Harmon has two supplemental applications ready to present for approval. Ladies, don't forget we accept supplemental applications.

I have several prospective members for you to vote on at the April meeting. We look forward to seeing you at **10:30** o'clock on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Log House.

There are no deaths to report this month. With our latest additions to San Jacinto Chapter, this brings the total membership to 354.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Vaughan Moody, Chapter Registrar

For the seventh year, the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground will bring you the premier Texas symposium of the year! Don't miss it! Register early! This is also an opportunity to visit with book dealers (bring your \$\$\$) and visit exhibits, as well as visiting with old friends.

<http://www.friendsofsanjacinto.com/site/>

## **2007 BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO SYMPOSIUM**

### *Date, theme and speakers set*

The seventh annual Battle of San Jacinto Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, University of Houston.

“Contending Factions Within the Texas Revolution” is the theme of the 2007 meeting. Speakers will focus on differing perspectives of such groups as Indians, Texas Rangers, Tejanos, African-Americans, Anglos and women during the 1830s.

The Symposium is sponsored by the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, a non-profit group whose mission is to support, preserve and honor the site of the 1836 battle where Sam Houston's Texan troops were victorious over the forces of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, dictator of Mexico.

Measured by its results, the Battle of San Jacinto, which lasted just 18 minutes, was one of the decisive battles in world history. The victory first created the Republic of Texas and ultimately accelerated the western expansion of the United States to the Pacific coast.

Since its inception in 2001, the Battle of San Jacinto Symposium has attracted the nation's leading Texas history scholars to speak on many aspects of the Texas Revolution and the Texas Republic.

The Symposium has been approved by the State Board for Educator Certification as a Certified Professional Education (CPE) Provider.

**James E. Crisp, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history at North Carolina State University, returns as moderator for the fifth consecutive year. His book, *Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the*

*Texas Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2004), won the T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award in 2006 for original research and publication in Texas history.

**Gary Clayton Anderson, Ph.D.**, professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, will discuss the Texan/Indian relationship. His book, *The Conquest of Texas: Ethnic Cleansing in the Promised Land, 1820-1875* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2005), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History.

**Fred L. McGhee, Ph.D.**, a maritime archaeologist and historical anthropologist, will re-consider the role land speculation and slavery played in the Texas Revolution in 1836. McGhee's area of expertise covers the maritime dimension of the African Diaspora, particularly the role of slave trading in the conquest and colonization of the Americas.

**Paula M. Marks, Ph.D.**, professor of American Studies at St. Edward's University in Austin, will talk about Texas women who were often unwitting participants in the Revolution. She will explore how their experiences and perceptions were affected by the political, economic and social controversies of the era.

Author **Stephen L. Moore** will speak on Texas Rangers and the early Indian wars. He has written four books on Texas history, including *Savage Frontier: Rangers, Riflemen and Indian Wars in Texas, Vols. I & II* and *Eighteen Minutes: The Battle of San Jacinto and the Texas Independence Campaign*. His "day job" is in advertising and marketing in the Dallas area.

**C. David Pomeroy, Jr.**, whose next book will trace the route of the Texan Army from Gonzales to San Jacinto, will discuss the current academic contention over the location of Vince's Bridge. Both armies crossed this bridge prior to engaging in battle, and Santa Anna was captured nearby the following day. Pomeroy earlier wrote *Pasadena, The Early Years*.

Finally, **Jan DeVault**, president of the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, will commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and cover the key role played by the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in its creation and preservation.

For additional information, write The Friends of San Jacinto, P.O. Box 940536, Houston TX 77094-7536; call 281 496 1488; or visit <http://www.friendsofsanjacinto.com/site/>

### Planned Events and Activities

**MARCH 24** – District VI Glenwood Cemetery Project Ceremony. As a District VI member, you must be there!

**APRIL 21** – San Jacinto Day Ceremony and re-enactment. The Ceremony starts at 10 am. It would be great to have MANY District VI members there!

**MAY 18-20** – DRT Convention in Dallas. Make your hotel reservations now! We will elect new officers on Sunday morning. Forms are on the members only website: <http://drt-inc.org/members/>.

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## **Bits and Pieces**

### **Thelma Maresh Scholarship**

The goal of the San Jacinto Thelma Maresh Scholarship is to recognize and award scholarships to outstanding graduating students who are extraordinary leaders, scholars and citizens in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Houston. First place winner will receive \$3,000, second place winner will receive @2,000 and third place winner will receive \$1,000. Awards will presented during the ceremonies at the San Jacinto Battleground on April 21.

### **Criteria For Selection**

The scholarship committee will seek the most promising student leaders with potential for providing exceptional contributions to the college or university to which he/she will attend and to the world at large. The selection will be based on:

1. Leadership
2. Scholarship
3. Responsible citizenship

### **Eligibility**

1. Must be a high school senior who will graduate before June 30 of the current school year.
2. Must be qualified, upon graduation, to enroll at an accredited four-year college or university.
3. Must be a citizen of the United States.
4. Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0
5. Must exemplify achievement, leadership, and college and career potential.
6. Must provide 2 letters of recommendation, one recommendation of academic and one of nonacademic, supporting academic achievement, leadership skill and college potential.
7. Must write an essay (500 words or less doubled-spaced and typed). The essay should include the following: a personal description, family life, interests, goals and plans for accomplishing them.
8. Must provide a transcript from the current high school and SAT scores.
9. Complete the application with a photograph attached and return on or before March 27.
10. Enclose self-addressed post card to be notified of scholarship winners.

### **Interview**

Members of the Scholarship Committee may interview candidates.

### Scholarship Awards

Scholarship awards will be sent to the Financial Aid Office of the college or university of the winner's choice.

### Mail Application

Shirley Lightfoot  
15109 Lakeview Drive  
Houston, Texas 77040-1328  
Telephone: 713-466-8242

### Contact Persons:

Shirley Lightfoot  
15109 Lakeview Drive  
Houston, Texas 77040-1328  
Telephone: 713-466-8242

Marian Beckham  
10206 Huntington Dale  
Houston, Texas 77099  
Telephone: 281-495-1350

\* Applications available upon request

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San Jacinto DRT member Martha Haydel takes delight in her Texas ancestry. Some of her ancestors founded San Antonio, signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and survived the battle of the Alamo.

Through genealogy, Martha traced her ancestors back to Juan Leal Goras, one of the 56 settlers of Villa de San Fernando de Bexar in 1731. Goras was the city's first mayor, which would later become known as San Antonio.

King Philip V wanted to protect Spanish territory in Texas from French encroachment through Louisiana. The families were promised free land, livestock and money to develop the area.

As Texas continued to grow, so did Martha's connection with its history. The Navarro family settled in Texas from Corsica, and eventually became instrumental in promoting Texas' independence from Mexico.

Her lateral ancestor, Jose Antonio Navarro, close friend and collaborator of Stephen F. Austin, was one of three Hispanic Texans to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. Signing that document was an act of courage for all the signers; it marked them as traitors to the Mexican government. Martha thinks of him with respect, especially on March 2 of every year.

As hostilities increased between Texas and Mexico, Martha's 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother, Juana Navarro Alsbury took her infant son, Alejo Perez, into the Alamo for safety. They were under the care of Juana's brother-in-law, James Bowie, since her husband, Horace Alsbury, was recruiting volunteers for the Alamo fortress.

Juana protected and comforted little Alejo throughout the terrifying siege and battle as best that she could. When the Alamo fell, Juana and Alejo, the youngest survivor of the battle, were interviewed by Santa Ana and allowed to leave.

Alejo continued to live in and around San Antonio. He joined the Confederate Army at age 26, and then became a civil servant for the city of San Antonio. A few years ago, Martha joined other descendants at the grave of her great-great grandfather Alejo when the Bejar County Historical Society placed a plaque on his gravestone identifying him as the youngest and longest living survivor of the battle of the Alamo. He died in 1918 at age 83.

Martha is fascinated to learn about her genealogy and the role of her family in early Texas history. She takes pride in their contributions to our state, and hopes we can all follow in their footsteps.

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Here are some little known, very interesting facts about Texas.

1. Beaumont to El Paso : 742 miles
2. Beaumont to Chicago : 770 miles
3. El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas.
4. World's first rodeo was in Pecos , July 4, 1883.
5. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water.
6. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach for Rice University in Houston.
7. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
8. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America ' s only remaining flock of whooping cranes.
9. Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.
10. The worst natural disaster in U.S. history was in 1900 caused by a hurricane in which over 8000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.
11. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was " Houston".
12. King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island.
13. Tropical Storm Claudette brought a US rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in

and around Alvin in July 1979.

14. Texas is the only state to enter the U.S. by TREATY (known as Constitution of 1845 by Republic of Texas to enter the union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas flag to fly at the same height as the US flag, and may divide into 5 States.

15. A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.

16. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.

17. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period after Dr in Dr Pepper.

18. Texas has had six capital cities:

Washington-on-the-Brazos  
Harrisburg  
Galveston  
Velasco  
West Columbia  
Austin

19. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the U.S which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington DC (by 7 feet).

20. The name Texas comes from the Hasini Indian word "tejas" meaning friends. Tejas is not Spanish for Texas.

21. The State animal is the Armadillo. (An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies! They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females.

22. The first domed stadium in the U.S. was the Astrodome in Houston.

## **TEXAS HONOR DAYS~~~~FLY YOUR TEXAS FLAG**

### **MARCH 27~~~~GOLIAD HEROES DAY**

On a Palm Sunday, nearly 400 Texians captured at Coletto Creek were slain by the Mexican Forces at Goliad under orders from Santa Anna.

### **Historical Dates**

March 17	David G. Burnett and Lorenzo de Zavala were named the President and Vice President of the ad-interim government of the Republic of Texas.
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- March 19 Fannin and his men are surrounded and defeated at the Battle of Coleto Creek. An honorable surrender is sought, but dawn brings an unconditional surrender.
- March 25 In 1843, the prisoners of the ill fated Meir Expedition draw white and black beans from a pot; the seventeen who draw black beans are executed by the Mexicans.
- March 29 The town of San Felipe was burned to the ground in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the Mexican Army.
- March 30 In 1870, after the Civil War, the United States Congress readmitted Texas into the Union.
- April 12 and 13 Using the steamship "Yellowstone", Gen. Houston ferried his troops across the swollen Brazos River and marched to the site of present day Hempstead. Two cannons awaited them. The cannons would become known as the "Twin Sisters" and were donated by the people of Cincinnati.
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