



*Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston
The San Jacinto Dispatch*



Eron Brimberry Tynes, President

December 2007

Linda Beverlin, Editor



President's Message



At this time of year, our Log House is so charming and picturesque as she is all decorated for Christmas. Everyone agrees the Log House wears "red" as its color best of all. The red tablecloths and red poinsettias with the hand-hewn logs as a background create such a warm and homey atmosphere in the house. The house is filled with greenery and the Christmas tree is decorated with hand-made ornaments. Garland graces the fireplace and the front door.

At our December Luncheon, it was my privilege to conduct my first new member service along with Marje Harris and Mary Jane Harmon, for one of our new members, Parr Jeko. To commemorate this occasion, it was my honor to present to Ms. Jeko "two symbols, recognized worldwide, that are synonymous with the pride, joy, and beauty of our great State, Our State Flag, whose Lone Star once flew over the Republic from which you are descended, and our State flower, the Bluebonnet, whose azure blue beauty blankets our beloved State each spring."

As 2007 winds down and we are now caught up in the "Christmas Rush", please take a little time this season to reflect on our Pioneer Ancestors and how Christmas was celebrated in the days of the Republic of Texas. What were some of our Pioneer Ancestors' Christmas traditions? Perhaps they strung popcorn or cranberries, made wassail, used fresh greenery and pinecones as decorations, and read the Christmas Story from the book of Luke in front of the fireplace with only light from candles or oil lamps. Many of you have Christmas family traditions like these that are passed on from generation to generation.

At this time of year I feel a special bond with my Pioneer Ancestors and believe that by honoring many of their Christmas traditions, we will forever perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the Independence of Texas. May each of you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year— See you in the New Year!

Eron Tynes, President



December Luncheon



On Thursday, December 6, our Log House was filled with San Jacinto Chapter members and their guests for our Annual Christmas Luncheon. The Log House was beautifully decorated with greenery and poinsettias. There were forty-six persons in attendance and everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Sedeko.

Music was provided by Becky and her husband, Noah Lee. Becky played the key board and Noah alternated between the saxophone and the clarinet. They entertained us with a number of Christmas songs and included some old favorites like "Tea for Two". After the luncheon, Martha Haydel led us in singing several favorite Christmas songs and everyone enthusiastically joined in.

A Texas Trivia game was played and while everyone enjoyed it, only three people got 8 out of 10 correct. Here are some of the questions; see how well you do.

1. When was the first Foley's Thanksgiving Day Parade?
A. 1947 B. 1948 C. 1949 D. 1950
2. William L. Foley opened his first dry goods store in
A. 1877 B. 1887 C. 1897 D. 1907
3. In December, 1936, the San Jacinto Chapter Christmas Luncheon was held at
A. Rice Hotel B. San Jacinto Inn
C. Log House D. The Houston Club
4. What was the coldest Christmas?
A. 1853 B. 1903 C. 1943 D. 1983

Answers at the end of the newsletter

Pictures from the December Luncheon



January 3rd Meeting



Betty Chapman will be speaking on January 3, 2008 at our first meeting of the new year. Do come to enjoy this noted historian's inspiring talk on "Historic Photos of Houston" which is also the title of her latest book. She has been a docent with the Harris County Heritage Society since 1976. She is currently chairwoman of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission. She recently helped found the Houston History Association, of which she is a board member. This book, Historic Photos of Houston, might inspire you to walk down memory lane as to remember what you once enjoyed and places that are no more. These photos made the city the place it is today.

Ann Bevil, Second Vice President



A Few Docents Needed

The schedule for Log House docents is almost full. However, two docents for the third Saturday of each month are needed. Training will be provided. This is a great way to serve the San Jacinto Chapter. If interested, please contact Pat Craig at 713-974-2729 or Ann Tanner at 713-782-4055.

Ann Tanner, Docent Coordinator



**Registrar's Report
06 December 2007**

Registrar Marje Harris presented at the last meeting five prospective members who were voted on by all the chapter members present. Marje looks forward to working with these ladies. They are:

| Prospective Member | Ancestor |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Jennifer R. Kister | |
| Brunelle Kirtley | |
| Jeanette Kirtley Brooks | |
| Laura Ann Farris | Asa Hoxey |
| Shirley Ann Sicola | Asa Hoxey |

Total Membership to Date: 371





Christmas Open House

San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, hosted our **Christmas Open House** at the Log House on Sunday, December 9, 2007. Warm Texas December weather made it a pleasant afternoon to celebrate the Christmas season. Our beautiful Log House was decorated and trimmed with garland, poinsettias, red and green ribbons, and clove-studded oranges. The old house permeated all throughout with the smells of wassail, honey, and cloves. People mixed and mingled with San Jacinto members, members of the Texian Army, SRT, and many guests. Several members of the Harris County Historical Commission also attended.

The gigantic Christmas tree was hung with old Christmas ornaments, strung cranberries, and popcorn balls. Antique toys circled the big tree. Music surrounded all who entered the front doors of the old Log House. This year we were entertained by the Next Level Singers from Second Baptist Church. This was a very delightful group of young ladies who were all in the fifth grade. They sang several Christmas melodies and everyone was impressed with their singing talent.

Wassail and Christmas punch were served with cookies, cakes, candies, meats, fruit and nuts, which graced the beautifully appointed dining table and side table. Members in the kitchen were kept busy from beginning to the end replenishing large trays of good food. The wassail pot was kept warm on the big stove, and the red fruit punch was kept on ice for a refreshing drink for our guests. Those attending brought an unwrapped gift for our CRT members to give to the children hospitalized at Ben Taub.

The outside of the old house was hung with green garlands, red bows, and boughs of holly. Fresh fallen yellow and green leaves carpeted the yard. This was a glorious occasion for our Chapter to show off the old house, and to share its rich heritage with family and friends.

Once again, a special thanks to Esther Simon for ensuring that everything looked absolutely beautiful, especially the Christmas tree, garland, poinsettias and the fresh greenery that adorned the house. Also, thanks to the ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter for providing the wonderful refreshments that everyone enjoyed.



Historical Dates

- December 19, 1859** Mirabeau B. Lamar died. He served as vice-president and president of the Republic and is called the Father of Texas Education.
- December 21, 1821** Jane Long gave birth to the first Anglo child born in Texas, a girl named Mary James.
- December 23, 1820** Moses Austin sought permission to colonize a part of Mexican Texas.
- December 27, 1836** Stephen F. Austin died.
- December 29, 1845** Texas entered the union as the 28th state.
- December 31, 1842** The Archives War: Austin citizens kept the state's papers from being moved to Houston.



The Country Store

The country store is doing well...Please keep your eye out for things that would sell in the store, especially at convention. If you like something, others probably will too. Bring it to us and let us see about ordering it. The luggage tags were a great find.

Thanks to Phyllis for bringing in some gently used books on Texas that her children were finished with -They all sold at the Christmas Luncheon. Remember, we still have items from Luanne's "Blue Light Special". Come and shop!
Luanne Zacek, Co-chair, Country Store



'Twas The Night Before Christmas (Texas Style)



'Twas the night before Christmas, in Texas, you know.
Way out on the prairie, without any snow.
Asleep in their cabin, were Buddy and Sue,
A dreamin' of Christmas, like me and you.

Not stockings, but boots, at the foot of their bed,
For this was Texas, what more need be said,
When all of a sudden, from out of the still night,
There came such a ruckus, it gave me a fright.

And I saw 'cross the prairie, like a shot from a gun,
A loaded up buckboard, come on at a run,
The driver was "Geein" and "Hawin", with a will,
The horses (not reindeer) he drove with such skill.

"Come on there Buck, Poncho, & Prince, to the right,
There'll be plenty of travelin' for you all tonight."
The driver in Levi's and a shirt that was red,
Had a ten-gallon Stetson on top of his head.

As he stepped from the buckboard, he was really a sight,
With his beard and moustache, so curly and white.
As he burst in the cabin, the children awoke,
And were so astonished, that neither one spoke.

And he filled up their boots with such presents galore,
That neither could think of a single thing more.
When Buddy recovered the use of his jaws,
He asked in a whisper, "Are you really Santa Claus?"

"Am I the real Santa? Well, what do you think?"
And he smiled as he gave a mysterious wink.
Then he leaped in his buckboard, and called back in his drawl,
"To all the children in Texas, Merry Christmas, You-all"





Friends of the Log House

Holiday greetings to everyone from the Log House! May your new year be filled with many blessings and opportunities to do good for others. The Friends of the Log House was begun a few years ago to enable anyone who loves this unique Texas teaching center to support us. You do not have to be a DRT member; we encourage your family members and friends to join us in this effort.

Our membership year follows the same as our chapter fiscal year — from June to June. An annual contribution is a great help in maintaining the house and grounds. As with your own home, our chapter home needs continuous funds to meet monthly and yearly expenses. It takes about \$1000 a month to keep things in good repair. The country store is a great source of income for us, so we hope you will continue to patronize the Texana items there.

Although we accept and appreciate all donations, the donation levels for Friends are as follows:

- Texas Star \$25
- Silver Star \$75
- Shining Star \$100
- Lone Star \$500
- Platinum Star \$1000 and higher

An exhibit at the Log House acknowledges the Friends for 2006/2007.

If you are not sure if you are up to date, you may check the exhibit, or call Martha Haydel or email her.
Phone: 936-756-6941
Email: qjohn@aol.com.

PS.....On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This act contains the new IRA Charitable Rollover which may benefit both you and certain charitable organizations. People 70 1/2 or older may make qualified charitable distributions totaling up to \$100,000 per year in 2006 and 2007 directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualifying charity. These charitable contributions will count toward your minimum required distribution and, as such, will not be included in your income. However, you may not take an allowable deduction on your taxes. If you have questions about how to maximize your giving through the new IRA Charitable Rollover, please consult your legal, tax and/or financial advisor.

Martha Haydel, Chair, Friends of the Log House



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 in order to avoid "double booking," it is important to coordinate **all use** of the Log House.

Please contact Brenda Auld at bauld@comcast.net or 281-497-0528 regarding the availability of the Log House for **any** function and to schedule an event at the Log House.



Roadrunner Email Accounts

Do you have a Road Runner e-mail account? If you have a RR account, and your e-mail address is changing, please send your new e-mail address to our "records administrator", Tina Shelton at tina.shelton@skynethouston.com



Randalls/Kroger Cards



Link your Randalls and/or Kroger cards to donations for The Log House. You can link the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum to your Remarkable Card by completing the Randalls Good Neighbor Program form and turning it in to any Randalls Courtesy Booth. Good Neighbor Program forms are available at The Log House.

Kroger will donate a percentage of your grocery purchases to help support our PMLHM activities and projects. Kroger Share Cards are also available at The Log House.

*Remember to keep us informed of special events in your life. If you have an article for the newsletter, you may send it to me by email by the 8th of the month.
(Please reference SJC DRT.)*

Also, if you are in need of a nametag, please email me.

Email: lbeverlin@comcast.net

Linda Beverlin



Answers to Texas Trivia

1. C. 2. A. 3. A. 4. D. (11 degrees)