



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



*Eron Brimberry Tynes, President*

*May 2008*

*Linda Beverlin, Editor*

**President's Message**



**"The sun was sinking in the horizon as the battle commenced, but at the close of the conflict, the sun of liberty and independence rose in Texas, never, it is to be hoped, to be obscured by the clouds of despotism."  
Thomas J. Rusk**

As we gathered to honor the 172<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, we were again reminded of the courage and bravery of our pioneer ancestors. Before the ceremony even began, it became apparent that there were not enough chairs. When I asked for all DRT members to stand, what a proud moment it was to realize that our numbers were approximately half of the people in attendance.

It was a privilege to be included on the program and to remind everyone about all the contributions that have been made to the San Jacinto Battleground by the San Jacinto Chapter. It is widely acknowledged that were it not for our chapter, the San Jacinto Battleground would most likely not exist as it does today.

As I am nearing the end of my first year as President of the San Jacinto Chapter, I reflect on what an honor it has been to serve. It truly has been an exciting, marvelous year and I have had many wonderful experiences. The most heart warming experience to date was the Texas Essay Awards Reception held May 1<sup>st</sup> at our Log House. There were approximately 50 people in attendance and our Log House was filled with proud parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and cousins. What a treat it was to hear these children, the future of Texas, read their essays that they had so diligently written.

As I write this, we are in the midst of preparing to go to State Convention, which is always held near to the date of May 14, when the Treaty of Velasco was signed. All of us who will be attending look forward to working with other DRT members and making new friends as we strive together in our objective to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.

**"TEXAS, ONE and INDIVISIBLE"**



*Eron Tynes, President*

**San Jacinto Day  
Commemorative Ceremony**

The official San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony was held on Monday, April 21, 2008. Approximately 300 people attended the ceremony to celebrate the 172<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the most significant battle in the Western Hemisphere. This year's ceremony was held in memory of our own Lila Gordon Prestbo Smith, a 70 year member of the San Jacinto Chapter DRT and a San Jacinto Descendant. Lila Smith was descended from Capt. Jesse Billingsley who fought at San Jacinto.

Ron Stone Jr. was the Master of Ceremonies and Jesus F. de la Teja, PhD., Texas State Historian, was the keynote speaker. Albert Sidney Johnston Canton #11, Patriarchs Militant, and the Odd Fellows presented the colors. Anne Darby Kennett, Chaplain General of San Jacinto Descendants, and a 20 year member of the San Jacinto Chapter, gave the invocation. Catarina Williams, President, San Jacinto Chapter CRT, and Helen Williams, CRT Chaplain General, led the pledges to the United States flag and the Texas flag.

Other speakers for the ceremony were Gene Green, U.S. Congressman, Sylvia Garcia, Harris County Commissioner, and Risher Randall, Chairman, San Jacinto Museum of History. Sam Houston IV, Knight of San Jacinto, read the battle report from the Battle of San Jacinto, written by his great grandfather, General Sam Houston. The Texas Army Fife and Drum Corp played "Will You Come to the Bower?" A memorial wreath was laid at the base of the San Jacinto Monument and a salute to Texas patriots was conducted by the Texas Army and SRT Texian Volunteers.

Madge Roberts, President General, DRT, and Eron Brimberry Tynes, President, San Jacinto Chapter, recognized the Thelma Maresh scholarship winners. A total of \$6000 was presented to high school seniors Lauren Decker, Kelsy Anderson, and Katlyn McCoy. All of the scholarship recipients were present along with their families.

**2008 San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony continued....**

A special presentation was made by Eron Tynes on behalf of the San Jacinto Chapter to the San Jacinto Museum. During the presentation, Ms. Tynes stated that the San Jacinto Chapter holds a special interest in the San Jacinto Battleground, explaining that one of its original purposes was "to acquire and mark the battlegrounds of San Jacinto, where our Republic was born." Ms. Tynes also noted that the Texas Veterans had bequeathed their deeds and memories to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to be held in trust forever.

In 1904, the San Jacinto Chapter was made the trustee of the Texas Veterans fund (\$1501.20). These funds were later used to erect the Sundial that was built at the Texian Army Camp to honor the nine men who died in battle, giving their lives for liberty and independence. The original bank draft and bank book were in the San Jacinto Chapter archives and are being loaned to the San Jacinto Museum where they can be displayed in a secure environment.

During the presentation Ms. Tynes said, "We are entrusting these documents to the care of the San Jacinto Museum as the Texas Veterans entrusted us with their deeds and memories." In closing, she also added, "As Daughters, we have given 116 years of service to the people of the state of Texas. We are honored and humbled to be entrusted with the sacred duty of preserving the historic sites of the Texas Revolution so dear to every Texan's heart. We are proud to be Custodians of the Alamo and proud of our heritage here at the San Jacinto Battleground."

Larry Spasic, President, San Jacinto Museum of History, gratefully acknowledged our lending of these documents and spoke about the contributions of the San Jacinto Chapter to the San Jacinto Battleground. As Mr. Spasic said, "Without the efforts of the San Jacinto Chapter and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the San Jacinto Battleground would not exist like it does today."

The ceremony was organized under the auspices of the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board, with Al Davis and Gina Bouchard serving as Co-Chairs for the planning committee. Other San Jacinto Chapter members serving on the planning committee were Marian Beckham, Nancy Burch, Jan DeVault and Eron Tynes.

After the ceremony, many attendees met at the Monument Inn Restaurant for a celebratory lunch. The restaurant was filled with Daughters and Sons of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Descendants, the Texian Army members and many others as we celebrated this most significant of our Texas honor days.

*Eron Tynes*



**Madge Roberts, Eron Tynes, Kelsy Anderson, Katlyn McCoy, Lauren Decker**



**Larry Spasic acknowledging presentation from Eron Tynes**



**DRT members at San Jacinto Day**

### 2008 San Jacinto Festival & Battle Re-enactment

The San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Re-enactment were held on Saturday, April 26 with approximately 25,000 in attendance. Once again, cannon shots boomed across the prairie and shouts of "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" marked this historic event. Before the re-enactment began at 3:00 p.m., festival guests were able to participate in a nature walk and a mock archaeological dig.

Vendors were on hand selling food, gifts, and commemorative items. Our SJC-DRT Country Store retained a booth at this event. The booth was staffed by Luanne Zacek, Sally Whittington, Anita Cooper, Phyllis Moody, and Eron Tynes.



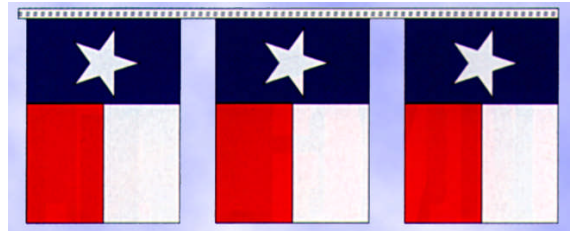
### April Meeting

Larry D. Thomas, 2008 Texas Poet Laureate, has been writing authentic Texas poetry for 35 years, intertwining nature in all of his works. He began his readings with "Wind." As he reflected on his poetry, Larry told his own stories about life. His comments on his writing of "Neches River," "Primary Colors," and "Bluing" were most enlightening.

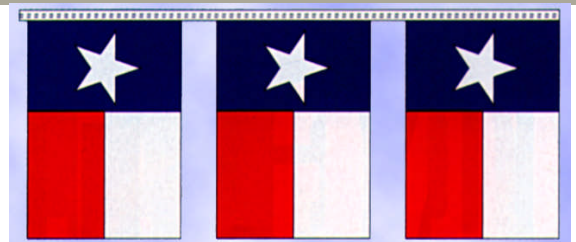
*Ann Bevil, Second Vice President*



### Historical Dates



1541	May 23	Coronado gave thanks for having found friendly Indians in the Palo Duro Canyon; Texas had a Thanksgiving 79 years before the Pilgrims.
1690	May 24	The Mission San Francisco de los Tejas was founded in east Texas.
1835	May 17	A. B. Dodson married Sarah Bradley. She later gave him a flag - a red, white and blue banner with a lone star for his army company.
1836	May 14	Santa Anna and President David Burnet signed the Treaty of Velasco.
1836	May 19	Nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker was captured by Indians; it would be 24 years before her rescue.
1888	May 16	The state capitol was dedicated.
1912	May 18	The battleship "Texas" was commissioned.
1929	May 28	The state song, "Texas Our Texas" was adopted.



### The Country Store



The store has a new patterned tie and scarf. These would be great Mothers' or Fathers' Day gifts. The silver flatware quarters will be on sale at the luncheon for \$40. They are unique and very pretty. Button bracelets are an exquisite collection of antique buttons and sell for \$75. More genuine lead crystal items are arriving; these are really beautiful when placed on the lighted stand. We will hit the road for Convention but will see you at Bells & Whistles for the luncheon. Keep an eye out for things to sell in the store.

*Luanne and Sally*



**Texas Seal crystal on lighted base**  
**Light is refracted in a myriad of colors**

### Texas Essay Awards Reception

Last Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately 50 persons attended the Essay Awards Reception at our Log House. The program began with Aljay Tan, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, leading the pledge to the United States flag and Jes Chauviere, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, leading the pledge to the Texas flag.

Both Aljay and Jes read their essays and were presented with a check, trophy, and certificate. Ryan Lancaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, also read his essay and was presented with a check, trophy, and certificate. Some of the children who received Honorable Mentions attended and read their essays. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Kiana Mills, Felimari Pacheco and Clare Hoelscher. These students were also presented with a certificate.

Shirley Lightfoot, Chair, Patriotic Education, attended and Mary Jo Brice was in charge of refreshments. Linda Beverlin and Eron Tynes assisted Shirley Lightfoot with judging the essays. Many thanks to all of you ladies for your efforts, especially Mary Jo Brice for hosting such a wonderful reception.

*Eron Tynes*

**Eron Tynes with Essay Contest Winners**



### Registrar's Report 01 May 2008

#### Prospective Members

##### **Francia Susan Cagle**

Ancestor: Benjamin Cromwell Franklin  
Sponsors: Caroline Kemp Gregory  
Beverly Kemp Kraft

##### **Cynthia Marie Cagle Hawkins**

Ancestor: Benjamin Cromwell Franklin  
Sponsors: Caroline Kemp Gregory  
Beverly Kemp Kraft

##### **Marilyn Ralls Johnson**

Ancestor:  
Sponsors: Jan Dunham, Phyllis V. Moody

##### **Betty Jo Petty**

Ancestor: Zack Hassell  
Sponsors: Claire Jean Clapp, Marje Harris

##### **Sharolyn Wood**

Ancestor: Zack Hassell  
Sponsors: Claire Jean Clapp, Marje Harris

##### **Laura Elizabeth Wood**

Ancestor: Zack Hassell  
Sponsors: Claire Jean Clapp, Marje Harris

##### **Gaines Clore Wynn**

Ancestors: Thomas Menefee  
Maj. George Sutherland  
Sponsors: Phyllis V. Moody, Marje Harris

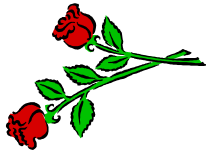
**To Date:                      Total Membership                      363**

*Marje Harris, Registrar*



**SJC Memorial**  
**Marje Harris, Eron Tynes, Mary Jane Harmon**

## Lila Smith Memorial Rose Garden Dedication



On Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, we gathered to dedicate Miss Lila's rose garden. As all of you know, Miss Lila loved flowers and it was Marian Beckham's wish that there be a rose garden in her memory. Jan DeVault read a poem and gave the invocation. Gina Bouchard read a psalm and Carolyn Lightfoot gave the closing prayer. Melanie Bagley, Miss Lila's granddaughter, joined me in uncovering the marker.

During the ceremony, we all spoke of Miss Lila's love and dedication to the San Jacinto Chapter and to the Log House. Her willingness to devote so much of her time and energy to the Chapter is an inspiration to all of us. She was in charge of the Log House for many years and we will always treasure her bluebonnet paintings.

From the ceremony:

*"As we dedicate this rose garden in her memory, we are honoring all that she represented, a deep abiding love for Texas and the Daughters, and a deep passionate love and unwavering loyalty for the San Jacinto Chapter, our Log House and the Texas Heritage Garden.*

*Every time we look at one of her bluebonnet paintings, and every time we see her rose garden, we know that she lives forever in our hearts."*

After the ceremony, a lunch was served using our silver coffee service and trays in her honor. We are deeply grateful to Esther Simon and Gwen Kunz for the planning and creation of Miss Lila's rose garden. Special thanks to those of you who gave contributions in Miss Lila's memory that made this beautiful rose garden possible. The hostesses for the lunch were Marje Harris, Sally Whittington, Esther Simon, Luanne Zacek and Phyllis Moody.

*Eron Brimberry Tynes*

## Rose Garden Dedication Pictures



Seated left to right: Jan DeVault, Carolyn Lightfoot, Gina Bouchard, Marian Beckham, Melanie Bagley, Marian's sister-in-law



Gina Bouchard, Jan DeVault, Carolyn Lightfoot, Marian Beckham, Eron Tynes, Melanie Bagley



## Friends of the Log House



Our San Jacinto Chapter is blessed with a permanent home where we can meet, educate groups, and entertain guests. The original chapter members who sacrificed to bring this house to a reality in 1936 are depending on us to continue the legacy of our heritage.

The Log House Museum functions separately from the chapter. We have a separate board, bank account, fundraisers, etc., even though we are closely aligned with the chapter. We are all aware of the necessity of maintaining our own homes. The Log House has the same needs. It costs about \$1000 per month to keep the house open and functioning.

Where do the funds come from? We use funds from grants, the sale of Country Store items, rentals by outside groups, tax-free donations from our members, and other non-member supporters. Current membership expires June 30, so it is time again to help pay our bills. Membership levels are as follows:

**\$25 Texas Star**  
**\$50 Silver Star**  
**\$100 Shining Star**  
**\$250 Gold Star**  
**\$500 Lone Star**  
**\$1000 Platinum Star**

We have about 360 members. If we can get 200 of our members to donate the \$25 minimum, we would reap \$5000, enough to maintain the house for five months. If those 200 members donate \$50, then we could stay open for 10 months. Our home needs a steady supply of funds every year to continue to remain open.

When you have out-of town guests this summer, or throughout the year, bring them to tour our Log House and gardens. It's a lovely oasis in the middle of urban Houston. Call the house for a special tour, or to get the hours that it is open for the public (713-371-7845).

All those who love Texas history are eligible to become a *Friend*. Please consider this when you get ready to renew your membership dues to the chapter, and encourage your family and friends to join us. We want to see that "star quality" from all of you!

The SJC Dues form is being sent as a separate attachment.

*Martha Haydel, Chair of FLH*

## June Meeting & Luncheon



Please join us for our end of the year luncheon and chapter meeting at **Bells & Whistles Café** on Thursday, **June 5**, at **11:00 a.m.** The restaurant is located one block west of Minute Maid Park at 1501 Texas Ave. There will be door prizes and the raffle drawing for the quilted table runner and 12 napkins.

Bus transportation will be provided to the restaurant from St. Luke's Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer. If you are planning on riding the bus, you must reserve your seat.

The bus will leave promptly at **10:30 a.m.** and will be parked at the back of St. Luke's parking lot, on church property, near the corner of Edloe and Alabama.

Make checks payable to: **SJC-DRT**  
Cost: **\$20** per person.

Mail the reservation form and your check to:

**Luanne Zacek**  
**6521 Patricia Ln.**  
**Katy, TX 77493-1818**

**Your reservation form and check must be received no later than May 30, 2008.**

**\* Any reservation made after May 30 will incur a \$5 late fee.**



***The reservation form is included at the end of this newsletter.***



Email: [lbeverlin@comcast.net](mailto:lbeverlin@comcast.net)  
Linda Beverlin, Editor

<b>Reservation Form</b>	
<b>SJC-DRT June Luncheon/Meeting</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b># attending</b>	<b>Member(s)</b> _____ <b>Guest(s)</b> _____
<b>Total attending:</b> _____	
<b>Bus Reservation – Riding the bus: YES or NO</b>	
<b># riding bus from St. Luke’s Church</b> _____	
<b>Leaves promptly at 10:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Enclose your check with this reservation form and mail to:</b>	
<b>Luanne Zacek</b> <b>6521 Patricia Ln.</b> <b>Katy, TX 77493-1818</b>	
<b>Reservation form must be received no later than: MAY 30, 2008</b>	
<b>Any reservation made after May 30 will incur a \$5 late fee.</b>	