



*Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston  
The San Jacinto Dispatch  
October 2008*



**President's Message**

As we approach the 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the DRT and that of our own chapter, I am reminded of the inspirational words Miss Betty Ballinger presented at the 1893 DRT convention held in Houston,

*. . . It is peculiarly appropriate that we should celebrate the first anniversary of our birth at this place, whose name, even amid the din of her traffic calls us aside to the recollections of the soldier and statesman to whom our commonwealth owes so great a debt, and with this chapter, bearing a name which has embalmed within it the story of a nation's birth, which means to us all that we are and the inspiration of all we yet shall be, Houston and San Jacinto! What Texan can hear those words and not feel his heart beat higher? . . .*

For our chapter, the name San Jacinto was chosen in honor of the most significant battle of the Western Hemisphere. It immediately became our mission to urge the state to purchase the San Jacinto Battleground and to erect a monument in commemoration of its heroes. The care of the battleground became our objective and the history of our chapter and the San Jacinto Battleground became so entwined during the first 50 years that it was impossible to separate the two. While the battleground did suffer damage during Hurricane Ike, the San Jacinto Monument with its star intact still stands as a beacon for liberty and independence.

As most of us were inconvenienced a little during the hurricane without electricity and/or water, it did give us a glimpse somewhat into the lives of our pioneer ancestors. We struggled each day to provide meals for our families without refrigeration and limited cooking facilities, clean drinking water, and fuel for our cars, among many others. We learned to be most appreciative and grateful for all those modern conveniences that we so take for granted.

During the hurricane aftermath, each morning as I lit the fireplace gas jet to heat the water to make instant coffee, I was thankful that I did not have to go to the creek or well to get the water. When I had my first hot meal from Church's Chicken after a week of cold ham sandwiches, I was grateful that I did not have to pluck the chicken and cook it myself.

All of us have our Hurricane Ike stories that we will tell for years to come, but we know that we are survivors, just like our ancestors before us. We also know that as we each gained a little more insight into the lives of our pioneer ancestors, our admiration for their courage and sacrifices grew even more. What a privilege it is for us to be descended from the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas! Be sure and join us at our November meeting as we focus on our objective to perpetuate the memory and spirit of our pioneer ancestors.

**"Texas, One and Indivisible"**



*Eron Brimberry Tynes, President*



## San Jacinto Battleground – Hurricane Ike Report

After being closed for 30 days, the San Jacinto Battleground and the Battleship TEXAS reopened to the public on Oct. 11th. We were all excited about the reopening of the park and getting back to a somewhat normal routine. Portions of the park still remain closed due to fallen debris. Grounds staff is still hard at work getting the park back in shape.

As with most of southeast Texas, Hurricane Ike had a profound effect on the San Jacinto Battleground and Battleship TEXAS. A few park staff arrived at the park to view the damage just after the storm raced north. While we fared better than some of our other parks, the park took quite a beating. Access to the battleground was cut off due to water covering the road to the monument.

After a few days, water receded on the monument side and damage assessments of the park began.

The park had 63 downed trees with another 84 heavily damaged. The sidewalk near De Zavala Plaza was damaged by an uprooted tree. The causeway to the Adams part of the park had some erosion damage and the marsh trail had heavy debris along its entire length. The park store and main restroom were completely flooded and the ship's boardwalk sustained damage, with dozens of boards missing or warped. The maintenance compound had slight roof damage to a carport along with downed fencing.

Fortunately, none of the battleship or San Jacinto Museum collections were compromised. When the power was restored, it was discovered that the monument elevator had some damaged fuses, and there was a minor amount of water in the elevator pit. While there is still a considerable amount of debris and work to be completed, the park has been able to re-open due to the diligent efforts of the park staff and many volunteers.

## Status of the Cradle and Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum Hurricane Ike Report

Ladies,

We have wonderful news. Apparently the Cradle did not sustain any water or wind damage to the building. Laura Lanigan has been inside and could find nothing wrong. She said there was a slight indentation where the two sides of the roof meet at the top, but found no evidence that the roof had leaked. One tree was blown down, but it did not hit the house. The electricity including the security system is back on. I can't believe we could be so lucky!

*Madge Roberts, President General*



We are very lucky that our Log House and Brooks Cottage did not have any damage to either building. There were no broken windows or water in the house. The chimney cap did blow off and we are scheduled to have it replaced. However, we did lose three large trees in the front yard and are most fortunate that none of the trees landed on the house. All of the trees have been cut and most of the debris removed from the yard.

During this time, several board members and chapter members went above and beyond the call of duty working on the Log House and the yard to prepare for the October chapter meeting while their own homes were without electricity and their yards filled with debris. A special thanks goes to Esther Simon, Colette Herzog and Gwen Kunz for working so diligently at the Log House. Also, thanks to Juan Nevarez for assisting with the debris clean up.

*Eron Tynes, President*

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**The Masonic monument sits as an island in the floodwaters**

**A split tree in the historic cemetery**



**With the land almost completely covered by water, the Battleship TEXAS still sits in her slip. Despite some concern, the monopiles worked as designed, riding up with the surge. On the brighter side, Ike's wind-driven rain gave her a good power washing.**

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- *The Battle Report, San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site*

## State Board of Management Nominations

The nomination forms for the state officer positions have been received from Mary Macke Walker, Nominations Chair, 2008. If you are interested in seeking nomination for an office on the State BOM, please let me know and I will mail you a copy of the nomination forms.

*Article VI, Board of Management*  
*Section 2. Qualifications and Eligibility for Office*

- (b) A member must have been active in DRT for at least (4) years to be eligible to run for an office on the BOM. She shall have previously served as Chapter President for one (1) term or for two (2) terms in an elective office(s).

More information can be located in the MOP or online at [www.drt-inc.org](http://www.drt-inc.org). You will also need to receive the chapter's endorsement at our next chapter meeting on November 6, 2008. Nomination forms are due to Mrs. Walker by December 1, 2008.

*Eron Brimberry Tynes*



### October Meeting

Bernard Forrester, TSU's archivist of special collections, piqued our interest in the TSU archives with his presentation on October 2, 2008! TSU's archives are the largest African archives in the world. He displayed and discussed one of Phyllis Wheatley's poetry books. Ms. Wheatley's intention in writing this poetry book 225 years ago was for mental exercise and leisure activity. TSU possesses newspapers from the 1750s. He also displayed a list of slaves owned by Texas' founders. We thoroughly enjoyed his talk which enlightened us on TSU archives. Anyone interested in visiting the archives? Let me know.

*Ann*



### November 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Nina Hendee, Texas historian and honorary member of the San Jacinto Chapter of the DRT, will present "Texian Legacy", on November 6, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. in the Pioneer Log House. Nina attributes her love of Texas history to her fourth grade social studies teacher. Her teacher's name was Suzanne Gilson.

At the time, she thought she was the meanest teacher alive because she had to write a two-page Texas history book report due on Friday. She was so strict, she counted off 10 points for a misplaced comma. She made a 30 on her first book report and it was a very long year --- 38 weeks. But guess what happened? She fell in love with this place that we call Texas. Her teacher, Suzanne Gilson, left a great legacy because she was amazing and she had a passion for our heritage.

Nina will also have many stories to impart to us about early Texas historical events. You will not want to miss this presentation with our own Nina Hendee presenting!

*Ann Bevil, Second Vice President*



## The Country Store

Texas Aesop's Fables, by David Davis is now available at the Country Store. David is the author of Texas Mother Goose, and his new book is a wonderful collection of these timeless fables. There are thirty-three unique and exciting adventures and Aesop's moral teaching legends are retold with a Texas twist to each lesson.

We also have the new *Keep Texas Beautiful* ornaments depicting a west Texas theme. You will want to add one to your collection. The state seal crystals are also a must have for those people who have everything.

The new 2008 Capitol Ornament is now available at the Country Store. It is number thirteen in the series and sells for \$25.00. Please see below for more information.

Stop by the store; you will find us in our cozy corner.

*Luanne Zacek, Country Store*



**New 2008 Capitol Ornament**

**This remarkably intricate Capitol Ornament replicates the central rotunda's impressive terrazzo floor design.** In celebration of the 1936 Texas Centennial, terrazzo flooring was installed throughout the first level of the Capitol. Positioned at the center of the immense rotunda floor is the Great Seal of the Republic of Texas, surrounded by the six seals of the sovereign nations that have governed all or part of Texas. It is breathtaking when viewed from the fourth floor Rotunda Gallery.



## Marion Pearson & Rosemary Thomas

Marion Ruth Pearson, #016538, passed away on September 25, 2008. Marion had been a member of the San Jacinto Chapter since 1989 and served as the Second Vice President, 1997-1999. Her ancestor was Ambrose Crain.

Rosemary Milam Lawrence Thomas, #4445, passed away on September 9, 2008. She has been a member of the San Jacinto Chapter since 1955 and her ancestor was Collin McKinney.



## 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 281-497-0528 or [bauld@comcast.net](mailto:bauld@comcast.net) regarding the availability of the Log House for **any** function and to schedule an event at the Log House.



### December Luncheon Date Change



Please note that the Christmas Luncheon will be **DECEMBER 11, at 11:30 a.m., the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of December**, at the Log House.

Since Thanksgiving falls so late this year, it was necessary to move the date of the Christmas Luncheon in order for the Log House to have all of its Christmas decorations in place.

Watch for more details in the November newsletter.

### Texas Honor Days

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#### Fly Your Flag

- November 3**     **Stephen F. Austin’s Birthday**  
“The Father of Texas” was born in Wythe Co., Virginia in 1793.
  
- November 6**     **DRT Founders Day**  
The Daughters of the Republic of Texas was founded this day in 1891.

### Christmas Open House



Come join the San Jacinto Chapter, the CRT, and the Texian Army for a Christmas Open House in the Republic of Texas. The Open House will be Sunday, December 14, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. Our Log House will be decorated in period style, with fresh greenery and a beautiful Christmas tree. There will be hot apple cider and plenty of cookies baked by the ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter. The CRT will once again 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.



### Attendance Award

The San Jacinto Chapter Board will award one year complimentary dues to a chapter member for 2009-2010.

How to enter - Attend every chapter meeting and sign the book. Those members who attend the most meetings will have their names entered in a drawing. The drawing will take place at our June Luncheon, 2009. Nancy Burch has volunteered to coordinate the drawing.

### New DRT-SJC Ornament



Inspired by the Texas State Capitol Ornaments and the Keep Texas Beautiful Ornaments, the San Jacinto Chapter is honored to present a “First Edition Ornament”. This beautiful tiered, metal ornament is *The Seal of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas*. The ornament rests in a lined blue box with a literature card explaining the seal and the history of the Daughters. We are deeply grateful to Luanne Zacek who not only proposed the idea, but has spent many hours making our “First Edition Ornament” a reality.

The DRT Seal Ornament was designed specifically for the San Jacinto Chapter. It sells for \$25.00 and will also be offered statewide. There is an order form attached to the newsletter. Please get your orders in as soon as possible.