



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



### **President's Message**

How lucky I was to be at our Log House last week when it began snowing and what a beautiful sight it was! As we prepared for the luncheon and the open house, it was so easy to count all my blessings, especially that our beautiful Log House survived Hurricane Ike. I am also so fortunate to associate with such a talented group of ladies in the San Jacinto Chapter. So many of you worked so hard to prepare and decorate the Log House for the Christmas Luncheon and the Christmas Open House.

As we gathered on Sunday for the Christmas Open House with the SRT, the CRT, the Texian Army and other guests, we were reminded of our unique Texas heritage and legacy. We so deeply share the bonds of being descended from the men and women who achieved and maintained the Independence of the Republic of Texas. It is the tie that binds us all together and makes this time of year at Christmas so extra special.

So when we gather in our Log House, so beautifully decorated in early 1830's style for Christmas, we are reminded of 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? Did they string popcorn or cranberries to decorate the tree? Perhaps they made wassail or used fresh greenery and pinecones as decorations or read the Christmas Story from the Book of Luke in front of the fireplace with light from candles or oil lamps.

It is important that we as descendants remember our pioneer ancestors and pass on those Christmas traditions to our children and grandchildren. Where would we and our beloved state of Texas be today were it not for our pioneer ancestors, the men and women of the Texas Revolution?

May each of you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – See you in the New Year!

**“Texas, One and Indivisible”**



*Eron Brimberry Tynes, President*



### Christmas Luncheon



On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the San Jacinto Chapter held its annual Christmas Luncheon at the Log House. The Log House was decorated with fresh greenery and lovely poinsettias and the huge Christmas tree dazzled everyone with period decorations. The tables were beautifully decorated by Esther Simon and her niece, Electra Muse. A delicious lunch was catered by Sedeko.

Becky Lee (on keyboard) and Noah Lee (on saxophone) entertained us with many of our favorite Christmas songs and Martha Haydel led us in the singing of Christmas Carols. A highlight of the luncheon was the drawing for door prizes donated by Luanne Zacek. Eron Tynes conducted a short business meeting, Marje Harris presented the December Registrar's Report and prospective members were voted on by the membership. During the meeting, Gwen Kunz was elected to the Log House Board. The CRT also collected toys for the Ben Taub Hospital Pediatric Unit. The chapter members, who were present, along with several guests, enjoyed the festive atmosphere, the delightful lunch, and a special time spent with friends at this seasonal event.



**Suzy Smith and Gerry Robbins**



**Martha Haydel, Luanne Zacek, Anita Cooper,  
Betty Petty**

**Christmas Luncheon**



**Linda Beverlin, Sue Montgomery, and Maxine Brimberry**



**Becky and Noah Lee**



**Jesse Trawick, Esther Simon, and Barbara Trawick**



**May Jane Harmon**



**Luanne Zacek, Ann Tanner, and Sally Whittington**



**Candace Sawyer and Kay Martin**



**Christmas Open House**



Once again, the Log House was filled with many of our Texas friends during our annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 14, 2008. Despite having snow on Wednesday, we had our usual warm Texas December weather which made it a pleasant afternoon to celebrate the Christmas season. Our beautiful Log House was decorated and trimmed with garlands, poinsettias, red and green ribbons, and oranges studded with cloves. The old house permeated all throughout with the smells of wassail, honey, and cloves.

The outside of the Log House was decorated with green garlands, red bows, and boughs of holly. Members of the Texian Army greeted our guests as they entered through the front doors. This was a glorious occasion for our chapter to show off the old house, and to share its rich heritage with family and friends. People mixed and mingled with San Jacinto Chapter members, the Texian Army, SRT members, prospective members and many guests.

The CRT was busy collecting toys for their annual toy drive which benefits the Pediatric Unit at Ben Taub Hospital. CRT members in attendance were Kelly Fisher, Reid Richter, and Helen and Katrina Williams. Special piano music was provided by Samuel and Con Kelly Harmon, grandsons of Mary Jane Harmon.

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. San Jacinto Chapter ladies who provided the refreshments were Mary Jo Brice, Martha Haydel, Luanne Zacek, Kae Theilen, Margaret Standard, Esther Simon, Tamara Kittleson, Sally Whittington, Brenda Auld, Ann Tanner, Colette Herzog and Loretta Williams. Eron Tynes and her mother, Maxine Brimberry, also assisted.

Once again, 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. She was assisted by Gwen Kunz and Colette Herzog who spend many hours each week taking care of our Log House.

*Eron Tynes, President*



**Reid Richter and Lily Taylor**



**Maxine Brimberry,  
Helen Williams,  
and Gwen Kunz**



**Carl Hill, Tom Green,  
Dick Reese,  
Mike Bailey and Ron Brown**

**The Country Store**

The big item in the store is our new DRT ornament. Be sure to get your first edition as there will be more to follow. The ornaments are \$25.

We have a new group of Texas quarter flatware bracelets that make perfect Christmas gifts at \$40. New pottery mugs from Martinez Pottery are in. They have the lone star on the front. These are hand thrown and hand painted in Marshall, Texas. The mugs are \$6. Please keep your eyes open for new items for the store. See you in my corner...

*Luanne Zacek, Chair, Country Store*

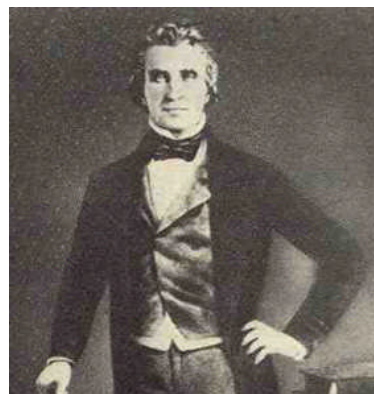


**First Edition SJC-DRT Ornament**

**January Meeting  
January 8, 2009**

Dale Williamson will present the colorful and spirited "Three-Legged Willie" on January 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pioneer Log House. This presentation will be very special as Dale is a direct descendant of Judge Robert "Three-Legged Willie" Williamson. Dale is an active genealogist of the Williamson family. Join us to discover his county's namesake, his nickname's basis, his participation at the Battle of San Jacinto, and his other important roles in early Texas history.

*Ann Bevil, Second Vice President*



**"Three-Legged Willie"**

**Friends of the Log House**

The recent chilly days remind us that the holidays and the new year are fast approaching. Everyone is making her list and checking it twice to make sure that no one is left out in the cold. Please remember to put our dear Pioneer Memorial Log House on your list, along with all your other recipients.

As you have heard so many times, the house needs a constant supply of funds to keep the doors open and the lights turned on. We enjoy the warm ambience of this chapter home of ours, so we must all work together to support the house in order for us to have access to its gracious hospitality.

Many of our members have contributed to the *Friends of the Log House* in honor or in memory of friends and family. What a wonderful way to mark an occasion and to help the Log House at the same time! Keep the pioneer spirit alive as you make your tax-free donations. What more can I say?

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

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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS YA'LL and Happy New Year!**  
*Martha Haydel, Chair, Friends of the Log House*



## Registrar's Report 11 December 2008



### Prospective Members

Jennifer Anderson Head	Ancestor:	Lt. Ludwig von Roeder
	Sponsors:	Marje Harris
Gwen Koch	Ancestor:	Micajah Byrd
	Sponsors:	Kay Martin Marje Harris
Gloria Martinez	Ancestor:	
	Sponsors:	

### Membership Changes

#### ***Request for Transfer OUT OF San Jacinto Chapter***

#026153 Carolyn Weber Schwartz **to** Fort Brown Chapter in Brownsville, Texas

### New Members

#26883	Ellie N. Darling	Approved 12 August 2008
#26882	Jane Tallichet Darling	Approved 12 August 2008
#26974	Lindsey Elizabeth Fatheree Neuhaus	Approved 15 October 2008
#26951	Jordan Lynn Shelton	Approved 08 October 2008

### Pending Applications

#### From CRT to DRT

Dabaghi, Camille Elizabeth	Ancestor: George Washington Keefer
	Sponsors: Marje Harris Phyllis V. Moody
Petty, Betty Jo	Ancestor: Zack Hassell
	Sponsors: Claire Jean Clapp Marje Harris
Spencer, Mary Ann McNeel	Ancestor: D. S. McNeel
	Sponsors: Phyllis V. Moody Karen M. Penley

To Date:            Total Membership    **358**

*Marje Harris, Registrar*

## Deadline Extension Board of Management



Please note that the deadline has been extended until January 24, 2009 for nominations for state officer positions. If you are interested in seeking nomination for an office on the State BOM, please contact Eron Tynes to obtain a nomination form. You will also need to receive the chapter's endorsement at our next chapter meeting on January 8, 2009.

*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 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 found in the MOP or online at [www.drt-inc.org](http://www.drt-inc.org).

Nomination forms are due to Mary Walker, Nominations Chair, by January 24, 2009.



### 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.



# Merry Christmas



Editor:

Linda Beverlin

[lbeverlin@comcast.net](mailto:lbeverlin@comcast.net)

### The Soldier's Night Before Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
And to see just who in the home did live.  
Looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought came through my mind.  
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.  
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?  
I realized the families that I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, the children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
Because of the soldiers, like this one lying here.  
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this is my choice.  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is My God, My Country, My Corps."  
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.  
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "Carry on Santa, all is secure."  
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,  
Merry Christmas My Friend, and to All a Good Night!

### The Mamie Wynne Cox Award

This award was created to encourage members of the Daughters of Texas (the DRT) to research Texas history. The essay contest is open only to DRT and awarded annually at the Historical Dinner at State Convention. A wall plaque is displayed in the DRT Republic of Texas Museum that contains the winners' names since 2005. (Previous winners' names appear on two engraved silver trays also displayed at the Museum.)

Entrants should submit an unpublished monograph or essay of merit in the field of Texas history, preferably during or before the period of the Republic. Any subject may be addressed. If no essay of sufficient merit is submitted, an award will not be made that year. A member may submit more than one entry.

Entries will be judged by a group of qualified historians who are not members of DRT. The Historian General shall place the original of the winning paper in the DRT Library at the Alamo in San Antonio within thirty days after Convention. Submission of entries for the Mamie Wynne Cox Award gives DRT the right to publish winning essays.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Essays must be in scholarly form and must be based for the most part upon the use of source material, properly documented. Explicit notations as to sources must accompany important statements, and a complete bibliography shall be appended. Essays are to consist of no less than 1,000 words, typed (word-processed), double-spaced, with a 1.5 inch margin on the left side of all pages for binding. In making the award, the judges will consider the effectiveness of research, originality of thought, accuracy of statements, excellence of style, and value of the contribution to Texas.

A sealed envelope must be attached to each entry containing the author's real name, address and title of entry, with the entrant's nom de plume and title of essay on the outside of the envelope.

Contestants should retain duplicate copies of their manuscripts.

The deadline for entries is the thirty-first of March, and all essays must be in the hands of the Historian General by that date. Entrants will be notified of competition results before the first of May.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MARCH 31, 2009**

**SEND ESSAYS TO:**

**Sylvia B. Kennedy, Historian General 2008-2009**

**P O Box 733**

**Scottsville, Texas 75688**

Questions? [4bark@shreve.net](mailto:4bark@shreve.net)