



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



*The San Jacinto Dispatch
January 2009*



President's Message

New Year's Day morning found me in Colorado with its beautiful mountains, snow, and cold temperatures. As we flew back to Texas that evening and to our unique winter weather, I felt so blessed to have been born a Texan.

It was with a huge sigh of relief the next day, when I closed out my 2008 calendar and opened a brand new one for 2009. For many of us, 2008 has been a difficult and challenging year and it is with a strong feeling of hope and renewed promise that I began to plan for 2009.

First on our agenda will be the Museum Educator's Workshop on January 24th and then the Harris County Hospital District Fun Run on January 31st at our Log House. We will also be hosting on that date in the afternoon, a book review with Ben Durr, author of Miss Emily Morgan, The Yellow Rose of Texas. The biggest event for the Log House will be on February 22nd as we hold our annual Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-off. The CRT will also be celebrating its 80th anniversary since its founding, during the Chili Cook-off. Our field trip will be on March 5th to the Fanthorp Inn. April 18th is the San Jacinto Symposium, April 21st is San Jacinto Day, and April 25th is the San Jacinto Battle Re-enactment.

As our ancestors before us, there was a sense of peace in Texas in January, 1836. The Mexican Army had retreated south across the Rio Grande having been defeated by the Texians at Gonzales, the Grass fights, and the Siege of Bexar, among others. In early 1836, our ancestors were faced with numerous challenges: how to declare independence from Mexico and form a new government, how to defend against Mexico, and how to survive on the frontier. The difficulties we face today do not seem as insurmountable when we compare them with the struggles of our pioneer ancestors. We should always keep in mind the bravery, courage and sacrifice of our ancestors as they confronted those challenges and established a new Republic of Texas.



As we begin this new year of 2009, it is important that we focus on our heritage as Daughters, to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.

"Texas, One and Indivisible"



Eron Brimberry Tynes, President

Friends of the Log House



The Log House was pleased to receive several December donations - a very welcome Christmas gift! The following donors renewed their membership to Friends of the Log House in December: Sharlet Warner, Penny Remick, Gwen Kunz, Dorothy Cagle, Gayle Doleva, Cheryl Hack, Candace Sawyer, William and Al Davis, Sally Whittington, and Luanne Zacek. A great big pioneer thanks to all of you!

Martha L. Haydel, Chair FLH

Texas Independence Day Celebration & Chili Cook-off



Once again we are hosting our annual Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-off. Come join the San Jacinto Chapter DRT and CRT as we celebrate Texas Independence Day with the Texian Army on Sunday, **February 22, 2009**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House. This year's celebration will also include a proclamation for the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Children of the Republic of Texas. A Living History Festival along with a Flag Retirement Ceremony will be part of the festivities. Last year, the Flag Retirement Ceremony was held and a number of the children participated. This year, we are inviting all children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., to participate in this moving patriotic ceremony. We will hold a rehearsal on **February 22nd** at 1:30 pm. This will allow the children to become familiar with the ceremony.

Tom Green, Sons of the Republic of Texas, will be there to display his Texas flags, along with Larry Hoff, blacksmith, and Edwin Erwin, who will be on hand to sign land grants. The Texian Army in conjunction with the Sons of the Republic of Texas will present the reading of William Barrett Travis' famous letter. We will also be holding a Silent Auction to raise money for our Log House. If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact Luanne Zacek: lzacek@hotmail.com

For the Chili Cook-off, it is time to begin perfecting your favorite chili recipe! Prizes will be given for: Best Authentic Texian Chili, Best Deer Meat Chili, Best Armadillo Style Chili, Best Roadkill Chili, Best Trailriders' Chili, Best Rattlesnake Rattle Chili, Best Red Hot Pepper Chili, Best Possum Chili, Best Squirrel Chili and more. Come see how many prizes you can win. If you are interested in having a chili team, please contact Eron Tynes @ 281-820-0676.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 per child under age 16. Please feel free to come in period dress or your favorite Texana attire. Marje Harris is in charge of registration and Ann Tanner will be coordinating desserts. In addition, we need assistance with judging the Chili Cook-off and with setting up and cleaning up. If you can help out, please call Eron Tynes at 281-820-0676 or email: 54texan@peoplepc.com

Registrar's Report 08 January 2009



Membership Changes

*Dropped from Membership ~ 14 ~
(non payment of dues)*

Resignation from Membership ~ 3 ~

#024874 Anita Billingsley
#015458 Dorothy Greer
#022148 Georgia Smith

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 343



Yearbook Supplement Date Correction



Please note on page 14 of the Yearbook Supplement that the correct date for the Texas History Essay Contest Winners' and Parents' Reception is May 2, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

January Meeting Presentation "Three Legged Willie"

Dale Williamson, a descendant of "Three-Legged Willie", respectively, Judge Robert McAlpin Williamson, presented a delightful, colorful, and most interesting presentation on his life as a Texas patriot. We were mesmerized on January 8, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. when Dale spoke to SJC members and guests.

"Three-Legged Willie" demonstrated spirit, courage, initiative, honesty, responsibility, a sense of adventure, and pride of attainment. Robert McAlpin Williamson was born circa 1804 in Washington, Georgia. At the young age of 15, he was struck with an illness which was polio. This illness left him with a withered right leg which, at the knee, was twisted back at an almost ninety degree angle.

Amazingly, Robert adapted to his disability and at the age of 19 was admitted to the Georgia Bar and began to practice law. He eventually left home and headed for Stephen F. Austin's Colony to settle in San Felipe. There he practiced law, but also became a surveyor and edited a series of newspapers including the *Texas Gazette*, (sometimes called the *Cotton Plant*), and the *Mexican Citizen*. It was said he could out dance, (on a crowded floor you really had to watch out for that extra leg), most men on the frontier and could "pat juba" (keep the rhythm by clapping hands and slapping various portions of the body) as well as any.

At about 30 years of age, "Three-Legged Willie" received a commission as a major in the Texas Militia. He and his men fought at San Jacinto. In December, 1836, the first Congress of the Republic of Texas elected him as judge of the Third Judicial District. He also served in both houses of the legislature. He married and was the father of seven children.

Ann Bevil, Third Vice-President



Dale Williamson

February 5th Meeting

"Land Grants of Texas through Spain, Mexico, Republic of Texas, and State of Texas"

by

Darrell Shine and Nedra Foster



Darrell Shine and Nedra Foster will present an interesting program on land grants and their rich history for Texas. Nedra Foster is the first licensed woman land surveyor in Texas and she has authored several articles featured in surveying magazines. Darrell Shine was named Surveyor of the Year (1984); he has also published numerous papers on surveying. Nedra and Darrell have presented many seminars across the state of Texas...so don't miss this rare opportunity to meet them in person and gain from their experiences. Join us on February 5, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. to discover what Nedra and Darrell may present about your ancestor's land grant.

Ann Bevil, Third Vice-President



March Field Trip Destination – Fanthorp Inn

The San Jacinto Chapter's destination on March 5, 2009 is the Fanthorp Inn in Anderson County, Texas. The inn was acquired from a Fanthorp descendant and was a 19th century early Texas stagecoach stop and family home. Fanthorp, an early English immigrant, petitioned Stephen F. Austin in 1832 for permission to settle in the original Austin Colony.

After touring the inn, we will drive to Martha's Bloomers Garden Store and Tea Room in Navasota for lunch. Martha's Bloomers has plants and gardening items for those of you who have an interest in gardening.

More information on the March field trip will be sent out at a later date.

Ann Bevil, Third Vice-President

Children of the Republic of Texas

Special thanks to Nancy Burch and Ms. Gwen Kunz for their assistance in collecting toys for the Ben Taub Pediatric Clinic for Christmas. Their Sunday School class at St. Paul's United Methodist Church held their Christmas party at the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum and generously donated to the project. Also, thank you to all the DRT and special guests who generously donated gifts at the CRT/DRT Christmas annual Open House. This is a CRT project that has been an annual event for the past five years and it could not have been possible without the assistance of the DRT. The Daughters have unselfishly supported this program every year and remember those in need. I was very pleased when I delivered the gifts to the Social Work Department of Ben Taub and the receptionist stated that they were in need of more gifts this year, as they did not have enough and these would be very much appreciated.

This year the Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-Off will be held on February 22, 2009 at the PMLHM. All CRT members and their families are invited to participate. Once again, chili teams will be formed and delicious chili will be served. Also, we will have a Flag Retirement Ceremony and all CRT members are encouraged to attend.

During the DRT General Convention of 1928, Mrs. Clara Driscoll Sevier, President General, asked the members of the DRT to bring young people into the organization to take an active part. This marked the beginning of the CRT.

To commemorate its founding, a City of Houston Official Proclamation recognizing the 80th anniversary of the founding of CRT will be presented by our CRT San Jacinto Chapter President, Miss Kelly Fisher. The CRT was officially organized on March 3, 1928.

We have chartered two (2) chapters during this program year of 2008 – 2009: *Heart of Texas* and *Seven Flags Chapters*, the latter of which was chartered this past January 3, 2009. San Jacinto CRT Sponsor, Loretta Williams, and Helen Williams, Parliamentarian General of the CRT, and CRT San Jacinto Chapter member Catarina Williams attended the Seven Flags Chapter Chartering Ceremony which was held at The Alamo, Alamo Hall in San Antonio, Texas. There were over one hundred (100) in attendance and twenty-four (24) new CRT members were sworn in by Faye Chism, Third Vice President General. DRT President General Madge Roberts gave an eloquent welcome at the ceremony. Past DRT President General Virginia Van Cleave spoke of the contacts and progress that the DRT chapter, Villa de San Agustin de Laredo, made in its formation of *Seven Flags Chapter*.

Ms. Van Cleave also recognized the work and assistance of Marilyn Chapman, our CRT San Jacinto Chapter Registrar, who was then the Registrar General for the DRT.

According to Mrs. Chism, there will be two more chapters that will be chartered in March, *San Gabriel* and *Wee Chi Tah Chapters*. Mrs. Chism has also recently received a request to assist San Marcos in forming a CRT chapter. Currently, there are over fifteen hundred CRT members in good standing.

Aaron Lee Evan Noack's CRT President General's Project is the grave marking of the one hundred forty-eight (148) Real Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Currently, he has three grave marking ceremonies planned. The CRT is raising money for this project by selling raffle tickets (prizes are a Waterford Texas shaped paper weight and a \$400 VISA card).

Thank you to All for your support.

In DRT friendship,
Loretta Williams, CRT Sponsor



Loretta Williams with donated toys
for Ben Taub Pediatric Unit



The Country Store



Chapter Members, don't forget to buy our chapter DRT ornament. It will surely be a collector's item. "God Bless Texas" small pillows are new and only \$8.00. The Lone Star hand thrown pottery mugs keep your coffee hot longer and are \$6. We have a new David Davis children's book, Texas Zeke and the Longhorn. You will want to add this to your collection. New items are always arriving so meet me in the corner and shop till you drop...

Luanne Zacek, Chair, Country Store

Historical Dates

Honor Day



Lamar Day - January 26



~~ Fly Your Texas Flag ~~



1821	January 17	The Mexican government gives Austin permission to settle 300 families in Texas.
1822	January 24	Jared E. Groce arrives on the banks of the Brazos to set up a home. Among his belongings is a supply of cottonseed - the first in Texas.
1839	January 25	The Republic of Texas adopts its new flag.
1901	January 14	Clara Driscoll writes the San Antonio Express in a plea to save the Alamo.
1925	January 20	Miriam Amanda "Ma" Ferguson becomes the first woman governor in Texas history.
1927	January 31	The mockingbird is named the official state bird

**District VI Workshop
February 14, 2009**



The District VI Workshop hosted by New Kentucky Chapter will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at Cypress Creek Christian Church and Community Center, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, Texas, 77379. Cypress Creek Christian Church is located just 2 miles north of FM 1960, on Cypresswood Dr., nestled between the Harris County Courthouse Annex and the new Barbara Bush Library. Registration fee: \$5.00 (The room is not free). Catered-Box-Lunch--\$15.00.

Workshop reservation deadline: Monday, February 9, 2009. Please call LaNell Allee at 281-435-1225 if you have last minute registration requests.

Schedule:

Registration and Sales Tables: 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.
Workshop begins at 9:00 a.m.--- Lunch: 12:00 noon

Mail registration form to: Billie Hinze
12938 Lentando Lane Cypress, TX 77429-3502.
Make checks payable to New Kentucky Chapter of DRT. Please send questions and late registration requests to LaNell Allee at 281 435-1225 or email: allee123@att.net

Note: SJCDRT members should have received the registration form on 1/6/09 with the SJC Calendar.



If you are a member of SJCDRT, (especially a new member), and you need a nametag, please email me at lbeverlin@comcast.net.

Linda Beverlin, Newsletter Editor



7th Annual Texas Med 5k

The Harris County Hospital District's Texas Med 5K Fun Run will be held on January 31, 2009 at our Log House. The proceeds will benefit the Hospital District's Mammography Services.

Texas History Essay Contest



The deadline of February 9, 2009 is drawing near for entering the Texas History Essay Contest. Every year, the Daughters sponsor an essay contest for 4th and 7th graders. Each chapter sends out information on the essay contest to local schools. The essay topic this year for 4th graders is "Jose Antonio Navarro" and for 7th graders, the topic is "The Angel of Goliad."

The first, second and third place winners from the San Jacinto Chapter will be presented with a check, trophy, and a certificate. All winners will be offered an opportunity to read their essays during the Texas History Essay Awards reception on May 2, 2009 at the Log House. First place winners will have their essays forwarded to the District level.

For more information, please contact Linda Beverlin. lbeverlin@comcast.net



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 regarding the availability of the Log House for **any** function and to schedule an event at the Log House.

Marian Prestbo Beckham Texas History Teacher Award

In 1991, the Fondren Foundation authorized a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to the San Jacinto Chapter. This grant is to be used for a teaching excellence awards program. Since that time, the interest from the grant has been used to present an award to an outstanding Texas history teacher each year. The principle of this Fondren Foundation grant is still intact. The San Jacinto Chapter has continued over the years to award numerous teachers for their passionate dedication to teaching Texas history to their students.

In July, 2008 this award was named in honor of Marian Prestbo Beckham. Anyone wishing to nominate an outstanding Texas history teacher for this award needs to contact Linda Beverlin at lbeverlin@comcast.net The deadline for submitting nomination forms is February 9, 2009.

Should you desire to make a donation in Marian's honor, please send your check payable to:

**San Jacinto Chapter
c/o Chapter Treasurer, Pat Craig
845 Augusta #17A
Houston, Texas 77057**

All donations in Marian's name will be deposited into the *Marian Beckham Texas History Teacher Award* fund. Please mark the memo on your check with "Teacher Award."





DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS SAN JACINTO CHAPTER

Thelma Maresh Scholarship 2009

The goal of the Thelma Maresh Scholarship Program is to recognize and award scholarships to graduating students in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Houston who are extraordinary leaders, outstanding scholars and responsible citizens. Three scholarships in the amounts of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 will be awarded. Awards will be presented on April 21, 2009 during the San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony at the San Jacinto Monument, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site.

Criteria for Selection

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

1. leadership
2. scholarship
3. responsible citizenship

In addition to these criteria, the scholarship committee is interested in the applicant's educational and career plans, life philosophy and volunteerism, motivation and determination.

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 Grade Point Average of 3.0**.
5. Must exemplify achievement, leadership, and college and career potential.

Application Procedures

1. Complete the application form with a photograph attached and **return on or before March 21, 2009** to:

Ms. Mary Jo Brice, 5507 Maybrook Park Lane, Katy, TX 77450-8091.

2. Provide official high school transcript(s) and a copy of SAT/ACT Official Test Results. Transcript(s) should show final grades for all courses taken from 9th grade to most recently completed semester in high school. *Unofficial transcripts are not acceptable.*
3. Provide 2 letters of recommendation: one recommendation of academic and one of nonacademic, supporting academic achievements, leadership skills, and college potential.
4. Submit a typed narrative supporting your life goals and experiences. See application instructions.
5. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to April 14, 2009.
6. The scholarship committee reserves the right to interview applicants as part of the application process.

Scholarship Award Checks will be issued upon proof of registration at college or university.

For Scholarship Applications, contact:

Mrs. Mary Jo Brice
5507 Maybrook Park Lane
Katy, TX 77450-8091
281-828-0878

Ms. Luanne Zacek
6521 Patricia Lane
Katy, TX 77493-1818
281-391-8464