



*Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston
The San Jacinto Dispatch
March 2009*



President's Message

The last messenger leaves the Alamo on March 3 bearing several letters from Travis. Travis not knowing that Independence had been declared writes:

“...Let the convention go on and make a declaration of independence, and we will then understand, and the world will understand what we are fighting for. If independence is not declared, I shall lay down my arms and so will the men under my command. But under the flag of independence we are ready to peril our lives a hundred times a day and to drive away the monster who is fighting us under a blood-red flag, threatening to murder all prisoners and make Texas a waste desert. I shall have to fight the enemy on his own terms, yet I am ready to do it, and if my countrymen do not rally to my relief, I am determined to perish in the defense of this place, and my bones shall reproach my country for her neglect.”

The Alamo falls on March 6 and General Houston arrives in Gonzales on his way to assist those at the Alamo. All the bodies with the exception of one are burned the afternoon of March 6. Susanna Dickinson arrives on March 13 and tells General Houston about the fall and how 187 men died during the final battle.

General Houston orders the town of Gonzales burned and both the Texian Army and the civilians retreat East. March 2009 - As we reflect back 173 years ago on the struggles of our pioneer ancestors and their courage, we are reminded of the men who were meeting at Washington-on-the Brazos. They not only declared Independence for Texas on March 2, but continued to meet, to form a new government for the Republic of Texas.

Mid March -1836. The Alamo has fallen. Santa Anna is beginning to move his troops towards Washington-on-the Brazos, Goliad, find General Houston and end the rebellion once and for all. The Texian Army is in retreat and the people are fleeing East, burning their houses and taking their few possessions with them. It is a cold, wet, muddy Spring with all those swollen rivers to cross. It rains and rains.

It was truly heartwarming to see so many of you and your families at our own Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-off. I know it has been an extremely busy time for a number of us with so many events over the past two weeks. Special thanks to those of you who have done double and triple duty by attending the Chili Cook-off, March 2 - Texas Independence Day Celebration, and our recent field trip to the Fanthorp Inn. While it has been a hectic time, I have enjoyed being with so many of you as we work together to promote our Texas history.

“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



Fanthorp Inn Field Trip



March 5, 2009 was spent at the Fanthorp Inn absorbing Texas historical facts and dining at Martha's Bloomers. Our guides, John and Tom, were dressed in early 1830's Texas attire. This stagecoach stop and family home had been in the family until 1977 when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department acquired it.

Henry Fanthorp immigrated to the United States from England. He arrived in Grimes County, Texas when it was part of Mexico. Fanthorp petitioned Stephen F. Austin in 1832 for permission to settle in this original Austin Colony. He bought 1100 acres, camped on his land and slept in a corn crib for two years to save his money to purchase more land. He built his house in 1834 on the road that crossed his land. Within time, Fanthorp's Inn became a well-known stopping place for both travelers and the community. Henry saw the benefit of offering rooms, goods and services to his frequent visitors. Henry Fanthorp was appointed Postmaster by the Provisional Texas Government in 1835.

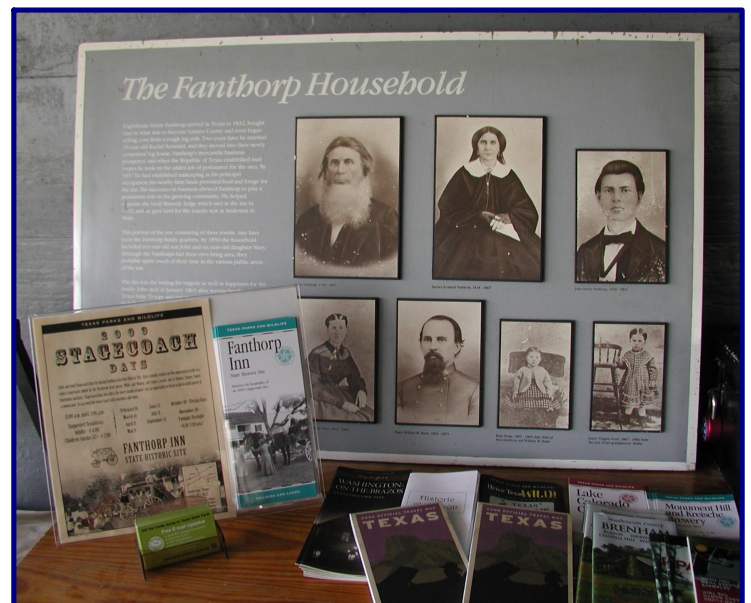
It was amazing to go through the rooms as they were quite small compared to our rooms today. Of course, people were smaller; the average woman's height was 4'10"-4'11" and the average man's height was 5'4"-5'5". Many of the belongings of the original owner, Henry Fanthorp, were in the home.

Martha's Bloomers was enjoyed by all. We were served hot ham and cheese quiche with spinach salad accompanied by tea or coffee. For dessert, we had a yummy, warm bread pudding with a caramel sauce. No calories! We concluded the day with shopping at Martha's Bloomers Garden Shop.

Ann Bevil, Third Vice President



**Tour Guides
Tom and John**



Fanthorp Inn Field Trip

Continued



SJC-DRT Executive Board 2009-2011

Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Board, San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas 2009-2011!

* President	Eron Tynes
* 1 st VP	Anita Cooper
* 2 nd VP	Ann Bevil
* 3 rd VP	Loretta Williams
* 4 th VP	Luanne Zacek
* 5 th VP	Esther Simons
* Chaplain	Mary Jane Harmon
* Recording Secretary	Ann Tanner
* Corresponding Secretary	Sally Whittington
* Treasurer	Tamara Kittleson
* Historian	Martha Haydel
* Registrar	Marje Harris
* CRT Registrar	Marilyn Chapman



Texas Independence Day Brunch

The Houston Club and the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground sponsored a brunch to celebrate Texas Independence Day. The brunch was held on Sunday, March 1, 2009.



Eron Tynes with the Texian Army at the Houston Club

San Jacinto Symposium

This year's San Jacinto Symposium will be on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel and Conference Center.

This year's program will feature a panel of speakers who will discuss the more than 1,000 newly discovered battle artifacts. The five panelists are: **Roger Moore**, founder of Moore Archeological Consulting, **Gregg Dimmick**, author of *Sea of Mud: the Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto*, **Douglas D. Scott**, a professor in anthropology at the University of Nebraska, **Douglas Mangum**, co-manager of the San Jacinto Battleground field work, and **Manuel Hinojosa**, an authority on the Mexican Army of the nineteenth century.

H. W. Brand, **Sam W. Haynes**, **James P. Bevill**, and **James E. Crisp** will also speak on specific topics at the Symposium.

The cost of the symposium is \$50, which includes lunch and free parking in the Hilton garage.

Registrations may be made by mailing a check to:

Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground
P.O. Box 940536,
Houston, TX 77094-7536

Payments should be made by April 10. After April 10, the registration fee will be \$55, based on availability.

For additional information, call (281) 558-5876, email sjba@usa.net, or visit the website at www.friendsofsanjacinto.org



Emory Kelley Bunting



EMORY KELLEY BUNTING passed away on the 2nd of March 2009, with her family by her side, following a courageous, nearly seven-year battle with a stroke and more recently cancer. She was born on the 7th of September 1937 in Houston, Texas, the only child of Emory Samuel Kelley and Daisy McConnell Kelley, both of whom preceded her in death. Emory was a 1955 graduate of Lamar High School in Houston, and remained active for many years with the alumni in planning their reunions. She graduated from The University of Texas in Austin where she was a member of Chi Omega Sorority, Iota Chapter. She then went on to teach Middle School in the Spring Branch School District, in Houston, for thirty years. She was particularly fond of helping to produce the middle school musicals, and, at one point, was named Teacher of The Year. She was a lifelong member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Daughters of The Republic of Texas, and The Junior League of Houston. Emory is survived by her husband of forty-five years, James Franklin Bunting; son, Stephen Andrew Bunting, daughter-in-law, Adrienne Barat Bunting; and two granddaughters, Sarah Gabrielle Bunting and Erica Kelley Bunting, all of Los Angeles, California; and by her daughter, Anne Emory Bunting of Houston, Texas. She is also survived by a large circle of close loving friends. The memorial service was conducted at two o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, the 6th of March, in the chapel of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston.

In lieu of usual remembrances, contributions in memory of Mrs. Bunting may be directed to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Post Office Box 22013, Houston, TX, 77227.



Kelly and her father, Clay Fisher, inside the Alamo

Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers in Texas



On **April 2**, Betty Chapman will return to the San Jacinto Chapter with a presentation on *The Journey of Women Lawyers in Texas*. We will imagine a time when married women could not buy or sell property or enter into contracts in their own names; a time before women were allowed to vote or to serve on juries; a time when women although making inroads into fields, for example, medicine and education, were considered too gentle and sympathetic to be capable of succeeding in the aggressive, competitive nature of courtrooms. We will discover through Betty how with seemingly insuperable legal and cultural barriers in their paths, women did make their way into the profession of law. I hope to see all of you on April 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pioneer Log House.

Ann Bevil, Third Vice-President

CRT News

Kelly Fisher, President, San Jacinto Chapter, CRT represented the Chapter on March 6, 2009 at "Dawn at the Alamo" in San Antonio. She attended the event with her father, L. Clay Fisher, President, San Jacinto Chapter, Sons of the Republic of Texas.



Kelly Fisher in front of the Alamo

The Country Store



The store has a new shipment of hand thrown/hand painted Lone Star mugs. We have Lone Star aprons, wine bottle covers and luggage tags that are new. The San Jacinto DRT ornaments are limited and if you have not received yours, don't miss out on it. Thank you to my regular shoppers...I love finding new things for you.

Luanne Zacek, Chair, Country Store



Texas Honor Day
 ~~Fly Your Flag~~



March 27~~Goliad Heroes Day

Historical Dates

March 19 1836	James Walker Fannin and his men lost the Battle of Coleto Creek.
March 20 1687	La Salle, a French explorer, landed in Texas instead of finding the mouth of the Mississippi.
March 25 1843	Seventeen Texans were executed in what became known as the Black Bean Episode, which resulted from the Mier Expedition, one of several raids by the Texans into Mexico.
March 27 1836	The Texas prisoners from Coleto Creek were massacred at Goliad.
March 29 1836	San Felipe was burned to prevent its falling into the hands of the Mexican army.
March 30 1870	After the Civil War, the United States Congress readmitted Texas into the Union.



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 school districts. The essay topic this year for 4th graders was "Jose Antonio Navarro", and for 7th graders, the topic was "The Angel of Goliad".

Our chapter received eight (8) 4th grade entries from five different schools. Fifty (50) 7th grade entries were received from seven different schools. Entries were received from Cy-Fair ISD, Klein ISD, Katy ISD, and Spring Branch ISD.

The first place SJC winner for 4th grade was Kelsey Vargas, Walker Elementary, Cy-Fair ISD. All four 7th grade winning essays were submitted by Memorial Middle School in Spring Branch ISD. The winners were:

1st place – Ben Graber; 2nd place – Christopher Boyd; 3rd place – Caroline Kelly; and Honorable Mention – Yae Jee Hong.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the San Jacinto Chapter will receive a check, trophy, and a certificate. The Honorable Mention winner will receive a certificate. All entries will receive participation certificates.

The *Marian Prestbo Beckham Texas History Teacher Award* fund is used to recognize an outstanding 4th and 7th grade Texas history teacher. This year the award will go to Sherry Bowersock, 4th grade teacher, Mittelstadt Elementary, (Klein ISD), and Cindy Balderach, 7th grade Texas history teacher, Memorial Middle School, (Spring Branch ISD).

Our chapter will honor all of the winners, their parents, and teachers on Saturday, May 2, at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House during the Texas History Essay Awards Reception. San Jacinto Chapter members are invited to attend this event. Please make a special effort to attend this reception as we honor these Texas students who have displayed such an interest in Texas history.

I would like to thank the members of the essay committee who helped me read all of the essays and select the winners. The members of the committee were Shirley Lightfoot, Martha Haydel, and Luanne Zacek.

*Linda Beverlin,
 Texas History Essay Committee Chair*

Texas Independence Day Celebration with Mayor Bill White

Once again, Tom Green, Knights of San Jacinto, did a superb job of organizing the March 2, Texas Independence Day Celebration held at Houston City Hall. The San Jacinto and Sam Houston Chapters, Sons of the Republic of Texas, and the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, co-sponsored the ceremony with the City of Houston. Members of other DRT and SRT chapters and the Texian Army were also in attendance.

Tom Green was the Master of Ceremonies with the Mayor of Houston, Bill White, beginning the program by welcoming everyone and reading a proclamation. Eron Brimberry Tynes, President, San Jacinto Chapter, spoke about our DRT history and Clay Fisher, President, San Jacinto Chapter, SRT spoke about the impact the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence had in shaping modern day Texas. Lynn Young, State Regent, DAR and SJC member, gave a welcome. Jan DeVault, President, Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, and Will Haddock, Vice-President, San Jacinto Descendants, also spoke. J. Richard Reese, KSJ, Past President General, Sons of the Republic of Texas, concluded the ceremony by leading everyone in a toast, with good old Texas water, to all those brave men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

After the ceremony, the San Jacinto Chapter, SRT hosted a luncheon for the DRT and other guests at the Heritage Tea Room. Eron Tynes presented Tom Green with a Texas State Seal crystal paperweight for all his efforts in organizing the Texas Independence Day Celebration. She also presented to the San Jacinto Chapter, SRT a set of the Six Flags of Texas in appreciation for hosting the Texas Independence Day Luncheon.



Eron Tynes and Tom Green

San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony

The Official State of Texas Battle of San Jacinto Commemorative Ceremony will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at the San Jacinto Monument. The program begins at 11:00 a.m. and will include a musical prelude. The event is free and open to the public.

The keynote speaker will be Archie P. McDonald, author and Regent's Professor of History, Stephen F. Austin State University. The San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Sons of the Republic of Texas will present scholarship awards. The San Jacinto Chapter, SRT will present the USS San Jacinto Enlisted Man of the Year award and the Sam Houston Chapter, SRT will present the USS Texas Enlisted Man of the Year award. There also will be a laying of the Memorial Wreath.

Come join us as we celebrate this most significant Honor Day commemorating the most decisive battle of the Western Hemisphere.

San Jacinto Battle Reenactment

On April 25, 2009 from 10-6, will be the San Jacinto Festival and Battle Reenactment. The festival is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games, and fun set amidst living history. The reenactment of the battle takes place on the San Jacinto Battleground at 3:00 p.m. The Battle Reenactment is one of the largest in the state, complete with cannons, muskets, horses, pyrotechnics and hundreds of reenactors dressed in uniforms that duplicate the real dress of the day.



