

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas



September 2020

Coming Up Next:

**October 1: History of the Battleship Texas -
Dr. Abbie Grubb, professor of History at San
Jacinto College**



**Our October Chapter meeting will be held virtually
via Zoom on October 1, 2020. The meeting will begin**

promptly at 10:30 and

**there will be no break between the speaker and our
General meeting. Log in instructions will be sent to you
via email a few days before our meeting.**

Hope to see you then!

October Program for our upcoming General Meeting

HISTORY OF THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS

Until it is safe for us to gather in groups of larger than 10, we will continue to hold our chapter meetings via Zoom. Our speaker for October is Abbie Salyers Grubb, professor of history at San Jacinto College. Dr. Grubb is a graduate of James Madison University and earned her PhD at Rice. While completing her studies, she worked at the San Jacinto Battleground as an Education/Interpretation Assistant on the Battleship Texas. She also spent time as the Assistant Director of the Houston Maritime Museum. Please join us to hear the incredible story of the most important remaining American dreadnought, U.S. history with Texas at the forefront.

-Nancy Burch

From the President:

Hello, Ladies! I hope you have had a restful summer. Members of our chapter have been busy this summer. In July, our Treasurer, Roni Thelen, had to resign due to a big change in her family situation. Luckily, new member, Carla Brown, had been serving as her Assistant and was willing to switch roles with Roni. So Carla is now our Acting Treasurer and Roni is our Assistant Treasurer. Welcome to the Board, Carla, and thank you for stepping up!

Our October Chapter meeting will be held via ZOOM. Our speaker will be Abby Grubb who will tell us the history of the Battleship Texas. Carla Brown will send you a link during the last week of September so you can join us online!

Eron Tynes and I have been working on the restoration of two of our 22 granite monuments: the Santa Ana Boulder in Santa Ana Park and the Vince's Bridge Boulder. We have met with Adrian Garcia, Harris County Commissioner, and his staff (via ZOOM) to get permission to update these monuments since they are on Harris County land; all is going forward.

Since one of our new members, Vanessa Flores, is the principal at Horn Elementary School in HISD, our Board has agreed to "adopt" this school and donate books to their library for the use of their 4th grade Texas History students and teachers. We look forward to a rewarding relationship with this group of dedicated teachers and staff!

Our District VI workshop is scheduled via ZOOM for Saturday, September 26, 2020. Please let us know if you are interested in attending!

We are looking forward to "seeing" you via Zoom on October 1, 2020, at 10:30 am.

-Beth Garrett McCarty

The San Jacinto Dispatch

We need your birthdays!

Our San Jacinto Chapter received an award over the summer!

September Birthdays

At this time, these are the only members who have shared their birthdate information so we can recognize them in the monthly newsletter. These are our September members to whom we wish a Happy Birthday!

September 1 – Diane Quast
September 5 – Lindsey Neuhaus
September 6 – Claire Seibert-Youngkin
September 10 – Mary Milby
September 21 – Cathy Duxtater

If we missed your birthday, please be sure and get that information to our database manager, Susan Stormer. Remember to send the Month, Day and YEAR.

susan@familyaggies.com



Please help the San Jacinto Museum of History!

SAN JACINTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY ~ SEPTEMBER 50% OFF MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

As most of you know, our chapter was instrumental in saving the San Jacinto Battleground. Years later, when the monument was constructed as a Texas Centennial project, an independent, non profit museum was created to house archival Texas history materials and provide a learning experience about our unique history for visitors. Among the five founding board members was our chapter member, Madge W. Hearne, who served from its creation until her death in 1956.

The past two years have been challenging for the museum. First, the catastrophic refinery fire in 2019 forced the closure of the park for several months, right during peak spring visiting times. Then came the pandemic and once again, everything had to be cancelled for the second time – the San Jacinto Ceremony on April 21st and the festival, which brings large crowds to the museum. Also, the museum's annual fund raising dinner at Houston Country Club had to be cancelled, and the fall dinner at the monument will not be held either.

All these cancellations have created a financial challenge. The board of trustees, of which I am a member, has addressed the situation with significant budget cuts, including staff furloughs and salary cuts for those remaining. We are working hard to solve these issues, continuing to apply for grants. For the month of September, a drive is being held to increase memberships. The number of members is an important factor in receiving grants, demonstrating the level of interest in the museum.

I encourage each of you to consider joining, at whatever level. Throughout September, the cost is half the usual price. You can do so online at https://www.sanjacinto-museum.org/Support_Us/ or print out the form and mail it, if you prefer. You also may call the museum at 281.479.2421 and request an application. If you already are a member, why not renew or purchase a gift membership for someone else? Let's meet the challenge.

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Did you know...

General Houston and his Flagbearer

Our Docent book states, "San Jacinto Chapter is privileged to have what our chapter believes to be the only copy on public display of a significant work of mural art honoring Texas Patriots." Our print, a reproduction of a drawing of the mural identified as "Sam Houston entering the city which bears his name," is one of the favorite framed prints in the early Texas history collection in the Pioneer Memorial Log House.

The mural depicts "General Sam Houston on horseback entering the newly founded City of Houston. He is surrounded by a group of pioneer settlers of the city engaged in appropriate occupations. The time of this scene is 1837. In the background, in relief, is a vision of the present-day City of Houston, with its towering skyscrapers, the Ship Channel, railroad trains and industrial plants."

The Houston Press, December 29, 1943.

The framed print is prominently featured on the wall facing the front doors, between the portraits of General Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin. The black and white print, framed in black, was removed this summer for cleaning and a new backing and is now rehung in better condition. The print is a copy of one of the murals painted in the waiting room of the Grand Central Station of the Southern Pacific Railroad on Franklin Avenue in 1930. A speaker at a recent chapter meeting identified the scene as the mural on the upper east wall of the waiting room of the passenger station.



General Sam Houston and His Flagbearer, hung in the Log House by Colin Costin after cleaning. From our Docents book, Mrs. Perkinson writes: An outstanding piece of work recently accomplished by this chapter was securing the official consent of the South Pacific Railroad to have placed on the walls of their main waiting room in their new passenger station in our city, two very beautiful murals depicting early Texas history.

A reproduction of the central figure (which happens to be that of General Sam Houston and his Flagbearer) of one of these murals, handsomely framed, has been presented to the San Jacinto Chapter by Mr. H. M. Lull, Executive Vice-President of the Southern Pacific Railroad. This picture will be hung in our log house, upon its completion.



The pictures were painted by John M. McQuarrie (1871-1944) a noted San Francisco sculptor and muralist. His best known works are McKinnon's statue in Golden Gate Park and murals in Southern Pacific Terminals. The Houston terminal contained a waiting room with a large, two-story chamber. "In large circle-headed panels at each end, decorative murals depict (sic) two early Texas historic events." Mr. MacQuarrie studied at the Mark Hopkins Art Institute and was a lifelong resident of San Francisco. The artist "mural study of Sam Houston" is posted on the internet site askART. Each of the paintings was approximately 17 feet wide and 16 feet in height, done on heavy canvas that was cemented to the wall during construction of the station.

The house in the General Houston mural is the capital building of the Republic of Texas as when Houston was the seat of government from 1837 to 1839.

The scene of the Austin mural from the west station wall is apparently lost. The Houston Press article from 1943, quoted above, describes the painting as Stephen F. Austin and Baron Bastrop with a group of Texas colonists. Austin is distributing land titles to those who have gathered around him and is explaining to those to whom they are given the terms by which they are granted. It represents a Texas historical scene of 1823. In the background the artist has effectively presented a vista of the present state capitol building in Austin.

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Did you know... (continued from page 3)

In our docent records, Mrs. Perkinson relates that "a reproduction of the murals were (sic) placed in the cornerstone of the San Jacinto Memorial in 1937." The two murals were removed when the railway station was torn down for the construction of a new post office. Reportedly, no museum would accept the murals due to their size, and they were stored. By 1976, the murals had crumbled into dust.



A picture of Grand Central Station in 1954 shows the mural. From the Dane Williams Collection. J.F. Curry, Photographer

Mrs. Perkinson states, "In 1976, according to Gen. Bob Ives of the Houston Light Guard, the murals that once adorned the lobby of the Grand Central have deteriorated and [are] no longer of any use."

Sharolyn Wood, 5th Vice President,

Chair, Pioneer Memorial Log House & Garden Committee

An opportunity to get involved!

Would you like to be part of history at the Log House?

Become a Docent. The Docents Committee is responsible for conveying to visitors the history of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Chapter, Pioneer Memorial Log House, and the chapter early Texas history collection.

Join our Log House committee to preserve history. The Pioneer Memorial Log House & Garden Committee has the responsibility to preserve, care for, and maintain the Pioneer Memorial Log House, the chapter early Texas history collection, Brooks Cottage, the gardens, and associated grounds.

If you would like to be a Docent or a member of The Log House Committee, please contact Sharolyn Wood, wood-sharolyn@aol.com or (713) 305-2750.

Donations needed!

We are looking for donations to help fund the following items:

New Chapter Flag

ZOOM extended time for six months

Items for the Log House including:

new covers for chair cushions

restoration and treatment of ends of logs

new lighting for dining room

new lighting for outdoor security

restoration of antique dolls

ladies' dresses

Paintings

photos of DRT Presidents General from our Chapter

and so much more!

The San Jacinto Dispatch

San Jacinto Chapter - Calendar of Events

(See yearbook for details)

2020

Texas Heroes Day	September 18
Texian Navy Day	September 19
District VI Fall Workshop via Zoom	September 26
Chapter Meeting (10:30 Meeting) via Zoom	October 1
Gonzales Day	October 2
Chapter Meeting (10:30 Meeting)	November 5
Holiday Luncheon (11:30 Tony's Restaurant)	December 3
Holiday Open House at the Log House	December 19

2021

Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting)	January 7
Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting)	February 4
Celebration of 85th Birthday of the Log House and 185th Birthday of Houston and of Texas	February 27
Texas Independence Day	March 2
Chapter Field Trip (TBA)	March 4
Texas History Pioneer Day	March 15
Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting)	April 1
San Jacinto Day Ceremony	April 21
"Come and Sip It" Fund Raiser	(TBA Spring)
Chapter Meeting (10:00 Social/10:30 Meeting)	May 6
DRT Annual Convention, San Antonio	May 13- May15
June Luncheon	June 3



Order your Texas Capitol ornament!

Texas Capitol Ornament
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the
Texas Ornament
Program



This special ornament is available from the Country Store at the Pioneer Memorial Log House for \$25. Order now from Luanne Zacek. [email lzack@hotmail.com; cell (713) 962-0398]

Watch for more news on how you can shop from the Country Store in compliance with current guidelines.

"This year's ornament design was inspired by the south façade of the statehouse and pays homage to the very first Texas Capitol Ornament designed in 1996. Finished in 24K gold, this three-dimensional keepsake features the Capitol dome and south entrance, colored in the same hue as the Texas Sunset Red granite used to build the Capitol. Above the south entrance are the six seals of Texas. The Capitol dome is complimented by the American flag and Texas flag, flying just as they do every day over Capitol Square. The doors open to reveal the statehouse south foyer, framed by the marble statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, which were sculpted by celebrated artist Elisabet Ney in her Hyde Park studio in Austin, Texas. Inside, you can see the circa 1936 terrazzo floor leading to the Capitol rotunda that showcases portraits of the Presidents of the Republic and Governors of the State of Texas."

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Let's support our San Jacinto Chapter when we buy groceries!!



Randalls

Kroger Community Rewards and Randalls grocery stores have given Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Pioneer Memorial Log House new numbers. Please check with your local Kroger to have your Kroger Plus Card updated for our new #RF149. Randalls donation card number is #14013 for the Pioneer Memorial Log House. You can request this number to be programmed onto your Randalls shopping card. Remember, you shop anyway, so this is a painless way for our chapter to receive a donation from Kroger and Randalls just because we shop. Every little bit helps!

Registrar information from Beth McCarty

Acting as Assistant Registrar, Debra Grigsby has been helping me with applications for new members. Two new members have been approved: Laura Davidson Fowell, ancestor William B. Twomey, and Clarlyn Brown Bhatti, ancestor Andrew Jackson Beard; and others are ready to be voted on as Prospective members at our October 1st Chapter meeting. Several members are working on supplemental lines as well. Welcome, Laura and Clarlyn!

**Next Chapter Meeting:
Via Zoom
October 1, 2020**

**Our annual yearbook is being printed
and will be available soon!**

Do you miss shopping at our Country Store? Luckily for you, we are planning a day to be announced in either October or early November where you can come by and pick up (curbside) things you have ordered: umbrellas, copies of The Ladies and the Battlefield, pins, and anything you would like to order from our Country Store. We have a nice supply of ornaments and Texas memorabilia. We will send out more information soon!

PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE

Become a "Friend of the Log House" for 2020-2021

to help preserve the house and grounds.

Membership levels

Texas Star.....\$ 25

Silver Star.....\$50

Shining Star.....\$ 100

Gold Star.....\$ 250

Lone Star.....\$ 500

Platinum Star.....\$1,000 and higher

A gift of any amount is appreciated and you will be recognized as a *Friend of the Log House*.

Name _____
(as you wish to be printed)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

General Contribution \$ _____

Contribution in memory / honor of _____ \$ _____

Send card to: _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Make check payable to:
San Jacinto Chapter DRT**

and mail donations to:

**Gwen Koch (4th Vice President – Ways and Means)
2015 Banks St., Houston, Texas 77098**

★★★★★★PMLH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES★★★★★★

How I can help:

- Restoration Projects
- Tours / Docents / Greet visitors at monthly Open House
- Assist with identifying craftsmen and professionals for maintenance projects
- Assist with opening log house for special events
- Texas Heritage Garden: Assist with maintenance and beautification of grounds.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. San Jacinto Chapter DRT is a 501 (c) (3) organization.