



The Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston
The San Jacinto Dispatch
December, 2010



It's the most wonderful time of the year . . .

The Log House was special Yuletide garlands of fresh Christmas tree and green poinsettias. San Jacinto Chapter holiday meal on Open House was December 12th. Esther Simon for House so beautiful, Texas in the also to Electra Koplan, who helped in providing such a gorgeous setting.



decorated for this season with greenery, a giant beautiful red and Members of the shared a delicious December 9th. An held on Sunday, Thanks go to making the Log reminiscent of 1830's. Thanks Muse and Debbie their Aunt Esther





President's Message



On Tuesday, December 7, the Harris County Historical Commission held their annual Christmas Party at our Log House. Several members and guests who were in attendance commented on how beautiful the Log House looked and how fortunate that we, the San Jacinto Chapter, are to own such an historic building.

As I research our Archives each month in preparing the special section for the Log House History, I am always impressed by the dedication and commitment the ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter displayed in their efforts to construct the Log House in honor of the Texas Centennial and their pioneer ancestors. Building the Log House was truly a labor of love. Times were hard and money was not easy to come by.

How fortunate that we today, own the Log House, the home of the San Jacinto Chapter. We are unique among other historical groups and even among most other DRT chapters, that we possess this wonderful tribute. Maintaining and preserving an historic structure is challenging, but the honor and privilege of owning this beautiful Log House makes all the efforts quite rewarding. It is so much fun to show off the Log House to visitors especially during the Christmas season.

As we approach 2011 and the 75th anniversary celebration of the Log House along with 175 years of Texas Independence, we realize how blessed we are – the beneficiaries of this marvelous heritage. Take a few moments this Christmas season and remind your family, especially the children about the bravery, courage and sacrifice of our pioneer ancestors. Where would we and our beloved state of Texas be today were it not for those pioneer ancestors, the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas?

Warmest wishes to each of you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Eron Brimberry Tynes
President*



Newsletter Editor
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Brenda Stover
Co-Editor Phyllis Moody

Annual Proceedings & Year Book
Are now bound and at
The Log House
For viewing

January 6, 2011 Program
“The Critical Importance of Rotting Papers” presented by the
Honorable Mark Davidson

The San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, is honored to have retired Judge Mark Davidson speak on January 6, 2011 at 10:00 AM. Because of his dedication to the courts and the county, he was honored as the Best Civil Court Judge in 2003.

As you can imagine from the title, **“Rotting Papers,”** he will be addressing a concern close to his heart with creativity and humor. Join us to discover just what he means by **“Rotting Papers”** and how important they are! Is there something you can do to help?

Ann Bevil
Second Vice President

Friends of the Log House

If you haven't visited the Log House this holiday season, you have missed out on a real treat! The old house has never looked better, thanks to the many man-hours of Esther Simon and Gwen Kunz, assisted by Colette Herzog. They do a tremendous job of keeping up with the demands of the house and gardens. Hats off to you ladies!!

We have other Christmas angels who have also helped in our constant effort to provide funds for our monthly expenses. The following angels have stepped up since our last newsletter. We sincerely thank them for their generosity.

Our Log House Christmas Angels:

Amy Sopchack	Marje Harris	Francita Ulmer
Sharylon Wood	Nancy Burch	Kay Martin
Sally Whittington	Anita Cooper	Marion Hargrove
Kae Theilen	Al Davis	



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum!

Martha Haydel, Chair, Friends of the Log House

Log House Rental

The Pioneer Memorial Log House is currently used for a variety of occasions including San Jacinto Chapter 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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

NEW MEMBERS



President Eron Tynes with new members, Shannon Work and Marie Kasperek (seated) and Registrar Marje Harris

LADIES IN RED



Martha Haydel, Ann Tanner and Marje Harris

On December 9th, the San Jacinto Chapter held its annual Christmas Luncheon at the Log House with over 40 members in attendance. 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 nieces, Electra Muse and Debbie Koplan. A delicious lunch was served by Absolutely Divine Catering.

Cindie Gruetzmacher and her husband, Bob demonstrated their musical talents by playing various Christmas songs on their guitars. As Cindie later said "This was our first gig." As usual, Martha Haydel and Sally Whittington led us in the sing-a-long. A highlight of the luncheon was the New Member Service where two new members were sworn in. Eron Tynes conducted a short business meeting. The CRT also collected toys for the Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. Luanne Zacek graciously made the party favors "Red and green M and M's" with a special message:

*As you hold these candies in your hand, and turn them, you will see.
The M becomes a W, an E, and then a 3. They tell the Christmas story,
It's one I'm sure you know. It took place in a stable, a long, long time ago.
The E is for the East, Where the star shone so bright.
The M is for the Manger, Where Baby Jesus slept that night.
The 3 is for the Wise men, Bearing gifts, they say they came.
W is for the Worship, Hallelujah, Praise His Name.
So as you eat these candies, or share them with a friend.
Remember the meaning of Christmas,
It's a Love story that never ends.*

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON PICTURES



Hattie Robbins



Cindie Gruetzmacher, with her mom, Beverly Jones and sister Sue Fitzpatrick



Betty Petty and Gwen Kunz



Sharolyn Wood, Judith Trammel and Carolyn Shimek enjoying lunch



Cindi and Bob Gruetzmacher playing for DRT Sing-a-Long



Margaret's Madness for Log House



Rose Slatton at the Luncheon Buffet



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Martha Haydel and Santa Claus



Santa and the Searles' family

San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, hosted our annual Christmas Open House at the Log House on Sunday, December 12, 2010. Cooler weather made it a pleasant afternoon to celebrate the Christmas season. Our beautiful Log House was decorated and trimmed with garland, poinsettias, and red and green ribbons. The old house permeated all throughout with the smells of wassail, honey, and cloves. People mixed and mingled with San Jacinto chapter members, members of the Texian Army, SRT, and many guests.

This year we were honored with the presence of Santa Claus, who gave the children tickets to the San Jacinto Museum. Special thanks to Bob Gruetzmacher for arranging for Santa to make this special visit and to his wife Cindi, for decorating Santa's Chair. We are grateful to Larry Spasic, San Jacinto Museum for providing the tickets for the children.

Luanne Zacek was kept busy with the County Store. One of our members, Margaret Standard donated items for Margaret's madness and also managed it. Other San Jacinto Chapter members in attendance were Marilyn Chapman with her granddaughter, Katherine Wallace and Tina Shelton with her husband Kent and their daughter Roseanne. Also present was Connie Surrency, Parliamentarian General and Patsy Teas, Miss Ima Hogg Chapter.

The gigantic Christmas tree was hung with old Christmas ornaments, strung cranberries, and popcorn balls. Antique toys circled the big tree. Music surrounded all who entered the front doors of the Log House. Those attending brought an unwrapped gift for our CRT members to give to the children hospitalized at Ben Taub.

Wassail was served with cookies, cakes, candies, meats, fruit and nuts, which graced the beautifully appointed dining table and side tables. Ladies from the San Jacinto Chapter who provided the Christmas goodies were Esther Simon, Ann Tanner, Marilyn Chapman, Marje Harris, Brenda Auld, Luanne Zacek, Sally Whittington, Anita Cooper, Martha Haydel, Kae Theilen, Brenda Stover, Margaret Standard and Eron Tynes.

The outside of the Log House was hung with green garlands, red bows, and boughs of holly. This was a glorious occasion for our Chapter to show off the old house, and to share its rich heritage with family and friends. Once again, a special thanks to Esther Simon and Gwen Kunz for ensuring that everything looked absolutely beautiful.



Gwen Kunz, Anita Cooper, David Martin and Charles Stirling



David Martin and Kameron Searle



Nancy Burch and Eron Tynes



Roseanne, Tina and Kent Shelton



THE COUNTRY STORE

An ornament is in production for the 75th anniversary of the Log House. It will be made in pewter and have a design of the Log House on the front. The price will be \$20.00 and only 100 are being made. This is something you will be sure to want to commemorate this special time for San Jacinto Chapter.

See you in my corner, Luanne Zacek



Remembering . . .

MURNEZ SMYTH BLADES passed away on the 3rd of November, 2010. She was born in Austin, Texas to Inez Mills Smyth and Murray Greene Smyth on the 1st of May, 1925. Mrs. Blades became a member of the San Jacinto Chapter on October 17, 1972, DRT #007828. Her ancestor was George Washington Smyth.

Mrs. Blades is survived by her husband, Dr. J. Duncan Blades; daughter, Murnez Blades; son, Brian Chilton Blades; daughter, Medrith Blades Filley and her husband Randy Filley; son, John Smyth Blades and his wife Kristy M. Blades; grandchildren, Dr. Michelle Molina, Joshua Huey, Heather Filley, Christopher Filley, Ashley Blades, Andrew Blades and Caroline Blades; great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Molina and Nicholas Molina. The Blades family gathered for a private interment service on Friday afternoon, the 5th of November, at Woodlawn Garden of Memories in Houston.

MARY GRACE HORLOCK passed away peacefully on November 17, 2010, at Christus Spohn Hospital Shoreline in Corpus Christi, Texas. She became a member of the San Jacinto Chapter on July 23, 1962, DRT #005044. Her ancestor was William Psychick Zuber.

She was born on October 1, 1924 in Houston, Texas. She was an interior decorator, and top model, as well as a charity and community

leader. Mary Grace was a co-founder of the Kleberg, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research, Cattle Barons Ball and hosted the first one at their once owned Rio Paisano Ranch in Riviera. She was co-founder of the South Texas Charity Weekend, an event that has raised well over \$6 million to help support Christus Spohn Hospital Institute, Kleberg Ranch Management Institute, and Halo Flight.

She served on the boards of Spohn Kleberg Memorial Hospital, Metro Ministries, Texas Children's Hospital and Houston Baptist University, and was a past president of the Edna Gladney Auxiliary and St. Martin's Women's Guild. Mary Grace is survived by her loving husband of 68 years, Frank P. Horlock, one son, Christopher Shannon Horlock (Patricia) of Riviera, son-in-law, Casey Taub of Houston, and one granddaughter, Cathryn H."Cate" Taub of Kingsville, Texas and nephew, Shannon Zuber of Sacramento, California.

She was preceded in death by her son, Frank Prescott "Pres" Horlock, and her daughter, Cathryn "Cissy" Horlock Taub. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, November 22, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Kingsville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Cissy Horlock Taub Women's Center at Christus Spohn Hospital Kleberg, 1311 General Cavazos Blvd., Suite 202, Kingsville, Texas 78363.



Decorating the Tree



FROM THIS TO ...



...THIS ~~~ WOW!!!



Marje Harris and Sally Whittington



Esther Simon, Ann Tanner and Anita Cooper



Mantle aglow with poinsettias



Luanne Zacek

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



BUILT IN HONOR OF THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL

Continuing our history of the Log House ...

The Ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter begin to write letters soliciting donations, materials and the use of P. W. A. labor to construct the Log House. Over 500 letters were written.

"... The number of letters written by Mrs. Ramsey and Mrs. Berlet were not recorded. They made many trips to town, and walking from one business to another, asked personally for donations..."

San Jacinto Chapter Archives

Copy

February 23, 1935.

To
The Honorable Mayor and City Council,
Houston, Texas.

Gentlemen:-

In our first discussion of the plans for the construction of the Pioneer Log House, which we intend using as a Hospitality Center during the Centennial, it was contemplated to endeavor to secure P. W. A. labor.

We have today discussed the matter of building our pioneer log house on property which the City of Houston so graciously has donated to us with Mr. Perry Moore. He explained that his activity is confined to organizations of political subdivisions; however, he suggested that, with the permission of the City Council, he could furnish labor for our enterprise the same as was done in the case of the Florence Crittenden Home matter.

We hereby respectfully ask and petition the City Council to assist us in any way necessary to the erection of this log house, which will be only the matter of using the City's name in asking for the ~~appointment~~ labor from the Texas Relief Commission.

As we have already advised, logs for the contemplated structure have been donated by Mr. Robert B. Morris, and our Chapter has in its treasury the necessary money it will take to furnish other material and supplies for the construction. It is, of course, understood that this will not cost the City of Houston any money.

Thanking you sincerely for past kindnesses, and hoping you will grant this request, in order that we may start this work as soon as possible, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

San Jacinto Chapter,
Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Mrs. Ed Ramsey President.
Mrs. George Berlet Chairman.

COMMITTEE.

Mrs. George Berlet,
Ed R. Ramsey
" Midge W. Hearne
" *Carrie Franklin Kemp*

Mrs. Thos. F. White
Mrs. J. M. Nagle

Records were meticulously kept of all donations received along with receipts for expenditures and bank statements. No amount received or expended was too small to be recorded. Bank statements and receipts are still maintained in the San Jacinto Archives.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Itemized list of expenditures incident to the erection of the Log House

San Jacinto Chapter - Change for Jubilee	5.00
Harry Weaver - Architect - Sign for Jubilee	2.75
Mrs. Eugene Harris - Weiners - jubilee	5.10
Cocox Cola Bot. Wks - Jubilee	3.24
Waddells - Rental on chairs card party - Sanitary dairy	1.80
Mrs. Dallas' check returned	25.00
Harry Weaver - architects fee in full	80.00
Isaac Bracey - Log cutting	190.00
Eugene Harris - overseeing log cutting	10.00
S.W. Bell Tel Co check returned a/c endorsement	15.00
Refunds from San Jacinto Memorial Fund	46.91
West End Lbr. Co - rough lumber log house	368.00
Automobile plates	50.00
Houston Underwriter agency - Compensation ins. A.W. Larkin	55.00
G.E. Bustin - Foundation	265.00
Sam Hawkins - hauling logs from creosote plant to site	45.00
John McKay - Contract \$650.00 plus \$2.00 Miscellaneous	652.00
Poden Iron & Steel Co. - rough hardware	121.54
Fred. Mathers - hauling dirt for porch	7.50
E. Mulcahy & Co - millwork	383.00
Mrs. E.T. Harris - 1 centennial memb. m/c deposit made to wrong account	1.00
Mrs. H.H. Ueckert - cleaning yard log house	5.00
Walter Morgan - stain jobs	30.00
Plumbing service Co. - Log house	275.00
W. Wright - finishing floors	55.00
Jacobe Bros. elec wiring	216.40
Bustin Mays - step stones	3.00
E.J. Burnet - fire extinguishers	6.00
TOTAL	3,553.04

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

Total receipts	\$3,660.41	submitted
Disbursements	<u>3,553.04</u>	
Cash on hand in bank, April, 30, 1936	107.37	

Treasurer, San Jacinto Ch.

Treasurer, San Jacinto Ch. D. B. T.

SAVE THE DATE

75TH ANNIVERSARY TEA

PIONEER MEMORIAL
LOG HOUSE

FEBRUARY 27, 2011

75th FUNDRAISING DINNER

PIONEER MEMORIAL
LOG HOUSE

March 2, 2011

Nominating Committee

Are you interested in becoming an officer of SJC for 2011-2013 or do you have someone you would like to recommend? If so, the members of the Nominating Committee are interested in hearing from you. Please contact:

Brenda Auld - bauld@comcast.net
Ann Bevil - abevil@aol.com
Nancy Burch - nburch2@juno.com
Marilyn Chapman - marilyn_chapman@yahoo.com
Sally Whittington - whitsend@swbell.net

Texas Med 5K Fun Run

The Log House is a sponsor for the 5K Fun Run on Saturday, February 12, 2011. It is a GREAT run! You can either run or walk. Anyone wanting to participate will need to register soon at www.TexasMed5k.com. Each participant receives a T-shirt. This year's run benefits Mammography services at the Harris County Hospital District.

*Have a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

