



The Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston
The San Jacinto Dispatch
March, 2011



THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS-1836-1845

On March 11, General Houston arrived in Gonzales with the Texian Army as they were on their way to aid those at the Alamo. Susana Dickinson arrived two days later and brought news of the Alamo. She told how the women and children were placed in the chapel. Before dawn on March 6, the battle began. During the battle, the Mexican bands struck up *The Deguello*, a traditional Spanish march dating back to the battles against the Moors. It signified a no-quarter, throat-cutting, merciless death. Mrs. Dickinson told General Houston that attempt after attempt had been made by the Mexican infantry to scale the walls. However, they were initially thwarted by the Alamo cannon and the riflemen.

Mrs. Dickinson related that the battle lasted until approximately 8:30 or 9:00 in the morning and all the defenders were dead. Only the women and the children survived the assault along with William Travis' slave, Joe. After the battle, General Santa Anna had Susana Dickinson brought to him and she was sent to deliver this account to General Houston.

On March 14, knowing he did not have enough men to fight, General Houston ordered the army to retreat to the banks of the Colorado River. General Houston also knew that he could not abandon the families of Gonzales to Santa Anna. This town of Gonzales - that had sent 32 men to the Alamo - left with so many

widows and orphans. General Houston ordered everyone to leave Gonzales and then ordered the town burned. The Texian Army and the civilians retreated east to the flooded Colorado River and finally crossed on March 20.

At Washington-on-the-Brazos, even though word had been received about the fall of the Alamo and Santa Anna’s approach, the men there continued their meeting to form a new government, a new government for the Republic of Texas. On March 17, with the arrival of the Mexican Army becoming more of a reality, the new government left to make its way to Harrisburg.

On February 27, General Urrea surprised Colonel Frank Johnson and his troops at the Battle of San Patricio, winning this battle. On March 2, General Urrea's forces defeated a small Texian force at the Battle of Agua Dulce Creek. General Urrea then led his troops toward Goliad, where Colonel James Fannin commanded 450 of the only Texian Army troops outside the Alamo. Fannin divided his forces, by sending out 148 Texians with Amon B. King and William Ward to Refugio. The Texians were again defeated at the Battle of Refugio.



Presidio at La Bahia

Source: Wikipedia, The Texas Revolution

Colonel Fannin delayed his retreat, and on March 19, his army of about 300 men were caught on the open prairie at a slight depression near Coletto Creek. The Texian Army then made three charges at a heavy cost in Mexican casualties. Overnight, General Urrea's forces surrounded the Texians, brought up cannon and reinforcements, and induced Fannin's surrender under terms the next day. On March 20, the men began their march back to the Presidio where they were kept prisoner.

On Palm Sunday, March 27, at Goliad, Fannin had surrendered with the understanding that his soldiers were prisoners of war. The men were divided into three groups, and marched out of Goliad. While a few escaped, approximately 350 men were executed.

And like at the Alamo, the bodies of the soldiers were burned. During March, 1836, over 800 Texian soldiers died, fighting for liberty and independence. Most were denied a Christian burial.

The Texian Army retreated eastward. Some men left the Texian Army to help assist their families to safety and others who were en route to the Alamo or Goliad went to join General Houston. The people themselves fled eastward towards Louisiana in what later became known as the Runaway Scrape.

It was a cold, wet, muddy spring. The rivers were flooded and difficult to cross. Food was scarce, towns and homes were burned, loved ones were buried along the way. It rained and rained - - and rained some more.

*Eron Brimberry Tynes
President, San Jacinto Chapter*



DAWN at ALAMO...

I stood in Alamo Plaza with Martha Haydel and Cindie Gruetzmacher before dawn on March 6, on the sacred ground where our Texian men fought and died 175 years ago. It was a very chilly morning as hundreds gathered to commemorate 175 years of the fall of the Alamo. The sky was clear on this past March 6 and a star twinkled brightly above the Alamo. People were gathered in Alamo Plaza for the Dawn at Alamo ceremony sponsored by the San Antonio Living History Association. Members of the DRT and SRT generally stand to the left of the chapel. We laid a wreath of 12 roses (to commemorate the 12 days of the siege) and one white rose for the final and last day in memory of those who died during the battle.

Eron B. Tynes



Martha Haydel, Eron Tynes and Cindie Gruetzmacher



Kelly Fisher, President, CRT, SJC



Kelly Fisher with her father, Clay, Past President, San Jacinto Chapter, SRT



MARCH 2, 2011 Texas Independence Day Houston City Hall

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 the Sam Houston Chapters, Sons of the Republic of Texas, co-sponsored the ceremony with the City of Houston. Members of DRT and SRT chapters and the Texian Army were also in attendance.

Tom Green was the Master of Ceremonies with a representative from the Mayor of Houston, Annise Parker, beginning the program by welcoming everyone and reading a proclamation. Sam Clark, President General, SRT spoke about the impact the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence had in shaping modern day Texas. The ceremony was concluded by 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.



San Jacinto Battle Re-enactment



The San Jacinto Festival and Battle Re-enactment will be held on April 16, 2011 from 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. The festival is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games, and fun set amidst living history. The re-enactment of the battle takes place on the San Jacinto Battleground at 3:00 p.m. The Battle Re-enactment is one of the largest in the state, complete with cannons, muskets, horses, pyrotechnics and hundreds of re-enactors dressed in uniforms that duplicate the real dress of the day.



SAN JACINTO DAY



The Official State of Texas Ceremony commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto will be Wednesday, April 21, 2011 at the San Jacinto Monument. The program begins at 11:00 a.m. and will include a musical prelude by the Sam Houston State University Orchestra. The event is free and open to the public.

The Master of Ceremonies for the day is Ron Stone, Jr. and the welcome will be given by Trey Strake, Chairman, San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board. Bob Hixon, Chairman, San Jacinto Museum of History will introduce the keynote speaker, The Honorable Mark White, Former Governor of Texas.

Eron Brimberry Tynes, President, San Jacinto Chapter, assisted by Patti Atkins, President General, Daughters of the Republic of Texas will present the Thelma Maresh Scholarship Awards. Sam Clark, President General and Denton Bryant, Education Committee Chairman, Sons of the Republic of Texas, will also present scholarship awards. The San Jacinto Chapter, SRT, will honor the USS Texas Enlisted Man of the Year with an 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.

There will be a bus leaving from St. Luke's Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer, on April 21, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. After the ceremony we will go to the Monument Inn for a dutch treat lunch. Please e-mail Luanne Zacek lzacek@hotmail.com by April 18, 2011, if you plan to ride the bus.



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
San Jacinto Chapter, DRT
February 24, 2011

The nominating committee, consisting of Brenda Auld, Ann Bevil, Nancy Burch, Marilyn Chapman and Sally Whittington, proposes the following slate of officers for 2011- 2013, to be voted on by the chapter membership at the April 7th meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted for those offices for which the committee was unable to secure candidates, as well as the remainder of the slate.

President	Luanne Zacek
First Vice-President	Cindie Gruetzmacher
Second Vice-President	Nancy Burch
Third Vice-President	No candidate
Fourth Vice-President	No candidate
Fifth Vice-President	No candidate
Recording Secretary	Sharolyn Wood
Corresponding Secretary	Sally Whittington
Treasurer	Tamara Kittleson
Registrar	Marje Harris
CRT Registrar	Marilyn Chapman
Historian	Linda Beverlin
Chaplain	Kae Theilen

Mid-year District VI Workshop
“Meet the Candidates”

April 2, 2011
1:00 p.m-3:00 p.m.
Sam Houston Regional Library
Liberty, Texas

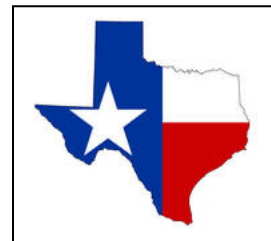
*There will be no charge
and no refreshments*

Newsletter Editor

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Brenda Stover

Co-Editor Phyllis Moody



The Country Store

The beautiful Pioneer Memorial Log House ornaments are here! This very special keepsake was designed to honor our beloved log house on her 75th birthday. You'll surely want one in your collection and as gifts for your DRT friends!

See you in my corner, Luanne



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.





La Bahia Mission



Mural in the Loreto Chapel



Courthouse on the Square

Day Trip to Goliad

March 16, 2011

Members of the San Jacinto Chapter travelled to Goliad, Texas, on March 16, 2011, to visit La Bahia Mission and fort. The first stop was for lunch at the Blue Quail Deli, located on the old town square. After lunch there was time to shop in the restored area and to take a quick look at the County Courthouse. Then, back in the bus and a short ride to La Bahia.

The mission guide gave a very informative history of the mission and the different eras it has witnessed. La Bahia was built in 1721 by the Spanish government to protect the port of Copano Bay.

Our interest, of course, was the fight and massacre of the Texian troops who had been ordered to move to Victoria in an effort to consolidate the army. Unfortunately, Colonel James Fannin's unit was surrounded and eventually chose to surrender. Orders from Santa Anna to execute the prisoners were carried out and approximately 350 soldiers died that day. Twenty-eight men survived, therefore providing an accurate account of the event. A monument was erected in 1936 to honor these men and at that time they were given a military burial.

The day was perfect for a tour. We all enjoyed La Bahia and learning about the historical significance of the Goliad Massacre. Thanks to Ann Bevil for arranging all the details of this day trip for our group.

Brenda Stover





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 “Fall of the Alamo” and for 7th graders, the topic was “Fall of the Alamo – as seen through the eyes of David Crockett.”

The 1st place winner for 4th grade was Braden Beard, Mittelstadt Elementary, Klein ISD; 2nd place – Emily Cole, Mittelstadt Elementary, Klein ISD; and 3rd place – Jordan Hennig, Mittelstadt Elementary, Klein ISD. The three 7th grade winners were: 1st place – Logan Baird, Kleb Intermediate, Klein ISD; 2nd place - Noah Kenner, Memorial Middle School, Spring Branch ISD and 3rd place – Scott Kennedy, Memorial Middle School, Spring Branch ISD.

Our chapter will honor all of the winners, their parents, and teachers on Saturday, May 1, at 2:00 p.m. at the Log House during the Texas History Essay Awards Reception. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the San Jacinto Chapter will receive a check, trophy, and a certificate. 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.

Special thanks to the members of the essay committee who assisted with reading all of the essays and selecting the winners. The members of the committee were Jan Broadway, Libbie Hill, Rose Slatton, Bette Shumate, Marje Harris and Linda Beverlin.

Outstanding Texas History Teacher of the Year And District VI Winner

The winner of the Outstanding Texas History Teacher of the Year for fourth grade is Mr. Steven Baird. Mr. Baird has also been selected as the District VI winner and his application has been forwarded to the State DRT completion. He teaches fourth grade social studies at Middlestadt Elementary in the Klein ISD.

Mr. Baird will be invited to attend our June Luncheon to receive his certificate. We wish him the best of luck at the State competition level.



April SJC Chapter Program
“A Handful of This and Sackful of That”
Presented by Sharon Hanan, Chapter Member

The San Jacinto Chapter of the DRT has such an interesting and unique group of ladies. Sharon Hanan is just one of these exceptional ladies who will be making this presentation. You won't want to miss this presentation as a few recipes are on the agenda. Families, cultures, cooking, and conservation are Sharon Hanan's main interests. These interests have evolved over the years through talking with her grandparents and parents and through studying these different areas, too.

She will be introducing many native Texas plants new and old which include greens, fruits, wild onions, and nuts. Another exciting interest of Sharon's is their land near Bastrop where they are trying to help nature along to its natural habitat to attract wildlife with the help of the National Wildlife Federation. She will also tell about the Habitat Highways. Pique your interest! Do join us on April 7, 2011, at 10:00 A. M. at the Pioneer Log House.

Ann Bevil, Second Vice President



San Jacinto Chapter Scrapbook

Martha Haydel has done a wonderful job gathering all the pictures, programs, and newsletters for the scrapbook. The theme for the scrapbook is “175 years of Texas Independence”. Please take the time to let us know about you and your ancestor by writing a short bio on your ancestor(s). The article needs to be written in Times New Roman – 14 font.

You may also send a picture of your ancestor(s) along with you and your family to go with it. No larger than 4”x6”. Please identify persons in the pictures. We have an April 27th deadline so it will be complete for convention. Thank you for helping us get this done.

Please email to gjohn@aol.com or send to:
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