

The San Jacinto Dispatch

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

April 2012

Lines from Luanne

San Jacinto Chapter DRT President



Denton Florian's program on the documentary, "Sam Houston," was interesting and informational. He shared with us the problems and the issues of being historically accurate while filming. "Sam," Scott Griffin, a retired Katy ISD Texas History teacher, added funny stories about playing the famous Texan. Ladies enjoyed being photographed with "Sam."



Sam (Scott Griffin), Nancy Burch,
Denton Florian, Luanne Zacek

I had the honor of attending the Moss-Ragsdale Historic Cemetery Dedication on the Young Ranch near Rockdale. I read the biography of James Campbell Ragsdale, veteran of the War for Texas Independence, while a wreath was placed on his grave. Steve and Lynn Young, member of SJC, hosted the dedication for 150 descendents, friends, and relatives who were humbled by the ceremony. The highlight for me was sitting on the hill with the flags blowing in the wind and hearing the bag pipes playing "Amazing Grace." I hope Lynn will share her pictures with us.

The second cloisonné ornament has arrived and is lovely. This one features DRT and has the San Jacinto Monument, Alamo, and state of Texas adorned with bluebonnets. We will be selling it at convention so you may want to purchase yours at the May chapter meeting or order by mail. The cost is \$30 (plus postage if you have it mailed to you).

Many of our chapter members will be attending the DRT State Convention in Austin May 17-19, 2012. This year bylaws will be the focus of the convention. Please study the changes that will be voted on and let me know how you feel about the issues. You have a voice whether you are there or not. We will report back to you at the June Luncheon.

Luanne Zacek, President

Texas History Essay and Teacher Contest



This year, seventh grade students wrote essays on the Battle of San Jacinto. The fourth grade essay topic was Bigfoot Wallace or Susanna Dickinson.

The San Jacinto Chapter DRT winners for seventh grade are:

1st place, Claire Collier, Seabrook Middle School

2nd place, Grace Winburne, Memorial Middle School

3rd place, Andrew Dawson, Memorial Middle School

The SJC winners for fourth grade are:

1st place, Spencer McGown, Hamilton Elementary, CyFair ISD

2nd place, Luke Steward, Sacred Heart Academy, Conroe

3rd place, Will Hand, Sacred Heart Academy, Conroe

Essay winners will be honored at the Log House Saturday, May 5, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend the reception to honor these students who entered the DRT Texas History Essay Contest.

The San Jacinto Chapter 4th grade teacher of the year is Kendra Wyche from Lee Elementary in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. She will be honored at our June Luncheon.

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Thelma Maresh Scholarship Winners



This was a blockbuster year for scholarship applications with 75 students submitting applications. The winners will be recognized on San Jacinto Day, April 21st, during the San Jacinto Day Celebration at the Monument.

The scholarship winners are:

1st place, \$4000, Austin Stephens, Stratford High School

2nd place, \$3000, Michael Mortensen, Clear Springs High School

3rd place, \$2000, Jacob Dwyer, son of SJC member Sharyn Baker, Bellaire High School

Honorable Mention winners:

Samantha Duffey, \$500, Memorial High School

Melissa Barron, \$500, George Sanchez Charter School

Special thanks to Angela Mamahrian for opening and organizing the applications.



May 3rd Meeting

Ramona Davis

10:00 a.m.

Ramona Davis, our speaker for the May chapter meeting, is the Executive Director of Preservation Houston, until recently known as the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance.

She is an active volunteer in the community. Her many contributions include serving on the board of Multi-ethnic Counseling in the Arts (MECA), the Advisory Council for the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin, the Mayor's Committee for Preservation of City Hall, the Mayor's History Task Force, selection committees for the redevelopment of several city-owned historic buildings, Phase II of the Texas Avenue Project, the Historic Resources Committee of the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Advisory Board for the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, the San Jacinto Museum of History Board of Trustees, the Gulf Coast Journal Board of Directors, Vice President of the Houston Club Board of Directors, Advisory Board for the Hobby Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston, the Texas Southern University Mural Restoration Committee, and the Steering Committee for the Houston Metropolitan Survey.

Ramona is a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas and the Houston Philosophical Society. She and her son, Ben, enjoy fly fishing, biking and reading novels aloud together. She is a prospective member of San Jacinto Chapter, DRT.

Preservation Houston is a citywide historic preservation advocacy organization whose mission is to promote the preservation and appreciation of Houston's architectural and cultural historic resources through education, advocacy and committed action, thereby creating economic value and developing a stronger sense of community.

When it was incorporated in 1978 as the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, historic preservation was largely the work of individuals scattered throughout the city's older neighborhoods. The organization provided an umbrella organization for like-minded people to come together to affect change.

Since its founding, Preservation Houston has earned a well-deserved reputation for professionalism and achievement, gaining prominence through serious, behind-the-scenes advocacy and positive public programming. The organization played a pivotal role in convincing the Harris County/Houston Sports Authority to preserve Union Station as part of Minute Maid Park. In 1995, Preservation Houston partnered with neighborhood representatives to convince Mayor Bob Lanier that the city needed to protect its historic resources, resulting in the passage of Houston's first historic preservation ordinance.

Nancy Burch, Second Vice President



Registrar's Report

SJC currently has fifteen prospective members who were voted on at the April meeting. The total membership to date is 322.

These new members were most recently approved for membership in SJC DRT. Welcome Linda, Pauline, and Laura!

29251 Barnes, Linda Darnell Cooper

29247 Bolton, Pauline Helen Wells

29366 Stover, Laura Adams Stover

Marje Harris, Registrar



June Luncheon



June 7th is the date for our June Luncheon. The Pine Lake Room at Lakeside Country Club will be the lovely setting once again this year. The cost is \$27.00 and checks need to be made out to *San Jacinto Chapter*. Mail checks to Brenda Stover, 13515 Kimberley Lane, Houston, TX 77079. The deadline for making your reservation is June 1st.

Proposed Bylaw Changes



From the Bylaws Committee:

Two proposed bylaws will be discussed and voted on at our May chapter meeting. Both proposed bylaws have been published in the recent past newsletters and both were read at the April chapter meeting. Plan to be at this next chapter meeting so your voice can be heard.

Anita Cooper, Chair



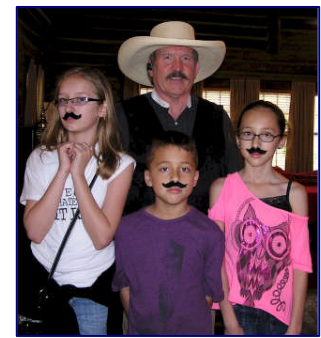
San Jacinto Day

The San Jacinto Day Celebration will be on Saturday, April 21st at 10:00 am on the steps of the San Jacinto Monument. Our scholarship recipients will be honored and our chapter will have a sales table if you would like to help or stop by for a visit. The reenactment will be the same day so you will want to arrive early to avoid the crowds.

Pioneer Days - March 12-16

Texas Pioneer Days was a tremendous success. With the help of seventeen members, an honorary member, and an associate member, we were able to meet, greet, and educate visitors about our Log House. Four tables were set up with craft and educational activities for the children. Eight hundred guests registered at the door and enjoyed cookies and lemonade. I am sure that when the children returned to school after spring break that they shared with their classes about the Log House. Volunteers agreed that we do it again next year with some wonderful suggestions on making it even better. Thank you to those who helped out as docents and those who baked cookies. Mission accomplished!

Luanne Zacek, President



Yearbook Update



Please make a change in your Chapter Yearbook, page 10, PMLHM section, next to last paragraph: Mail checks to the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum treasurer,

Ms. Gwen Kunz, 2001 Holcombe, #2901,
Houston, TX 77030-4231.



Spring is here at the Log House!

Log House's Red-Tailed Hawk Family

Article and Photo by Cindie Gruetzmacher

Ree-eee-errr..... Ree-eee-errr. Listen for the cry and view the nest of the red-tailed hawk family living high in a tree above the Log House. Movement within the nest and the sighting of two adult red-tails was first reported during DRT SJC's Texas Pioneer Week 2012.

The red-tailed hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*, nests high in wooded areas and hunts in open country where it can circle overhead and steeply drop upon its prey of small mammals. The 2-4 ft adult has a wingspan 3 ½ to 6 ft. It builds its nest in late January or early February, hatching 2 or 3 eggs in 30 days. Within 45 days, hatchlings are able to fly, so based on the mid-March sighting, watch for the juvenile red-tails to take their first flights mid-to-late April. Immature red-tails will have yellow eyes, not turning dark reddish-brown until 3-4 years old.

This red-tailed hawk family may have a long ancestral hold on the Log House's little ecosystem, as the monogamous adult pair will defend its nesting territory for years. Come late November, watch for the possibility of a great horned owl taking over the nest, but be ready to welcome the Log House red-tails back next year as they begin a new family!



SJC Fundraiser

For the Love of Texas

Washington County Landscape
Photographs & Commemorative Book

This coffee table style book, a generous 12" x 18" size, contains a series of spectacular spring landscapes photographed in Washington County, Texas, by noted Smithsonian photographer Timothy Wolcott. Each photograph is accompanied by a personal comment from one of 36 Texas celebrities stating his or her love for the state.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the May chapter meeting and at the DRT State Convention in May. The drawing will be on May 19th at the Convention.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. All proceeds benefit our Log House.



Memorial Ceremony



As part of our May meeting, we will be conducting our annual Memorial Service in loving memory of our Daughters who have passed away during the year.

Harmon, Mary Jane Murphey

021008 Ancestors: Phoebe Deborah Jackson
Curlin, Jeritha Jane Curlin Ford, Hugh Curlin,
Samuel C.T. Ford
Date of Death – 01 July 2011

Wynn, Mary Ann "Gaines" Clore

029022 Ancestor: *Susan Lewis Menefee*
Date of Death – 27 Oct 2011

Olsen, Mary Love Parks

018966 Ancestor: *Ruben D. Wood*
Date of Death – 03 Jan 2012

Wheaton, Jane Ellen Groneman

013711 Ancestor: *Reece Price*
Date of Death – 03 Feb 2012

Kasperek, Edith Marie Habermacher

028192 Ancestor: *Caspar James Habermacher*
Date of Death – 20 Feb 2012