From the President

Today I feel so thankful for our San Jac members. In this special month devoted to remembering and honoring all the friends and family we are blessed to have, with heart-felt thanksgiving, I feel very thankful to be part of this group. The sweet hugs and cheek-kisses are so welcome at each meeting, smiling faces, the latest news of family and friends...so much to feel thankful for.

I hope the Thanksgiving Holiday finds each one of you surrounded by those you love, a bountiful table before you and a genuine feeling of thankfulness in your heart. May your November be one of blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Jamie Moran, President

HONOR and MEMORIAL DAYS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

January 26 * Mirabeau B. Lamar Day
Father of Education
February 19 * Texas Statehood Day (1846)
March 2 * Texas Independence Day (1836)
March 2 * Sam Houston's Birthday (1793)
March 6 * Alamo Heroes Day (1836)
March 27 * Goliad Heroes Day (1836)
April 21 * San Jacinto Day (1836)

December 1 Meeting

The December meeting will be our annual catered luncheon. The program will include a new member ceremony and music provided by members Martha Jorgensen, Laura-Hill Taylor along with Michael Wiese.

The menu and the luncheon reservation form can both be found on the last page of the newsletter. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS NOVEMBER 23.

Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends, meet new members and enjoy the ambiance of the beautifully decorated PMLH.

ANNUAL TOY DONATIONS

Each year the San Jacinto Chapter donates new, unwrapped children’s toys to a local charity. Please bring your toys to the PMLH on November 29 or to the luncheon on December 1. Toys can be put in CLEAR plastic gift bags or left unwrapped.
**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**December 1, 2016—Christmas Luncheon**
*Entertainment by Martha Jorgensen and Michael Wiese*
*New Member ceremony*

**January 5, 2017 — Dr. Carlos Hamilton, Jr.**
*A Rose Blooms in Texas—Coming of Age in the Civil War Era*

**February 2, 2017—Bayou Bend Speakers Bureau**
*“Dinner at 8:05 p.m.”*

**March 2, 2017—Field Trip**
*Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens*

**April 6, 2017—Nina Hendee**
*Texian Legacy*

**May 4, 2017—Memorial Service**
*Remembrances of San Jacinto from San Jacinto descendants Nancy Burch, Luanne Zacek and Gina Bouchard*

**June 1, 2017—June Luncheon**
*BraeBurn Country Club*
*Installation of Officers, State Convention report, and New Member ceremony*

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**PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE MUSEUM**

Contributions January 1 – October 31, 2016

**FRIENDS**

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<td>Marjorie Forster</td>
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<td>Margaret McGinty</td>
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<td>Sharolyn Wood, Betty</td>
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<td>Wood, and Laura Cox</td>
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<td>Liz Leifeste</td>
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<td>Dr. Lorena Maher</td>
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**Join Us for Decorating and A Baked Potato Lunch**

**November 29, 2016**

12:00 lunch
*12:30 decorating of the Log House and Tree*

Each year the Pioneer Memorial Log House glows and sparkles as the holiday season begins. Ornaments are hung, garland draped, and poinsettias adorn tables and mantels.

Liz Leifeste, who graciously takes on the job of baking all the potatoes, had sign-up sheets at the October and November meetings for bringing condiments for the luncheon and for helping to decorate the tree.

If you would like to participate in this festive event and missed the meetings, please contact Liz at liz.leifeste@sbcglobal.net or (713) 621-1754 so she will know how many to anticipate for the luncheon.

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**NOVEMBER MEETING**

The program for the November meeting was “Jane Everlasting: The Story of Jane Long on the Bolivar Peninsula”. The challenges and triumphs of the woman known as the Mother of Texas were shared through skits and songs.

The following members were elected by the chapter to serve on the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee:

Laura-Hill Taylor, Liz Leifeste, Luanne Zacek, Martha Haydel, and Susan Stormer.

Members were presented with ten motions from the Executive Board to be ratified by the Chapter. The membership approved all motions. These will be published in the December newsletter.
San Jacinto Members attend the District VI Workshop

On Saturday, October 22, nine members of the San Jacinto Chapter attended the DRT District VI Workshop held in Conroe. In attendance were, Agelina Acosta, Martha Haydel, Carolyn Lightfoot, Tamara Mailloux, Janice McNatt, Susan Stormer, Marilyn Van Way, Sally Whittington, and Luanne Zacek.

Several members went early for Friday night activities which included a tour of the Flag Park and a reception at the home of Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis Chapter member, Carol Hicks.

Saturday’s workshop included reports from several members of the Board of Management and DRT state committee reports. Marilyn Van Way presented an informative report on the involvement of DRT with Memorial Park and shared updates on what is happening with the park area. Carolyn Lightfoot, also a DRT member of the Memorial Park Conservancy added to Marilyn’s report.

CRT representatives gave a report on their activities and the President’s Project. Each chapter in District VI then gave a president’s report.

The meeting’s program was given by Larry L. Foerster, a Conroe attorney, and Chairman of the Montgomery County Historical Commission. Mr. Foerster shared the importance of Montgomery County in the history of Texas including being the birthplace of the Texas flag.

Need Ideas For Christmas Gifts?

What better place to find that perfect gift for a Texas relative or friend than our own Country Store!

You can find items from great Texas luggage tags to beautiful jackets and jewelry. Ornaments from the Capital and Keep Texas Beautiful make wonderful gifts for that person who “has everything”. Our chapter’s unique DRT Ornament and bluebonnet ornament can only be found at the Country Store.

The selection of Texas themed children’s books is recognized throughout the state and has previous purchasers anxiously waiting for any new additions.

There are gifts perfect for the men, women, and children on your list. Don’t miss this opportunity to get those special gifts.

The Country Store is open for every meeting and will be open for the December 1 Christmas luncheon and program and on December 4 for the PMLH Open House.

You can make your purchases using cash, checks, or credit cards.

San Jacinto Chapter members at the District VI Workshop. Front row from left- Carolyn Lightfoot, Martha Haydel, Angelina Acosta, Tamara Mailloux, Marilyn Van Way, Sally Whittington, Back row- Susan Stormer, Luanne Zacek. (missing: Janice McNatt)

PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE MUSEUM
Contributions January 1 – October 31, 2016

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
In Memory of Kae Theilen
Shell Oil Company Foundation Matching Gifts
Shell Oil Company Hero Program
Carol Theilen
In Memorials of Rosa Allen Williams
Francita Ulmer
In Memory of Carolyn Lightfoot’s mother
Ann Tanner
Luanne Zacek
In Memory of Amanda Morse Albright
Sharon Hanan
In Honor of Sally Whittington
Claire Deaver
Meg Sparks
In Memory of Judith Jones Calvin
Marilyn Chapman
In Honor of Marje Harris
San Jacinto Chapter, DRT
GRANTS
Heritage Historical Corporation
San Jacinto Chapter, DRT
A TEXAS STAR

Just as there are five points linked together to form a Texas Star, so was there a friendship during the days of the Republic of Texas between two men linked by five points in time. This friendship’s fifth and final event was the birth of a child, a girl, my paternal grandmother.

Thomas W. Cox was a generation older than John L.D. Blackburn but they both called Fayette County their home, and both had acres of land given them by the Republic when they arrived in or around 1839. Little did they know that five circumstances would join them in history as one of Texas’ family heritages.

Event one happened in December, 1842 when Thomas W. Cox and John L.D. Blackburn and twenty-five other Fayette County men joined the Somerville Expedition which evolved into the Mier Expedition. The purpose of the Expedition was to attack the Mexican army that had earlier in 1842 invaded Texas and captured or killed a number of defending Texans. After pushing the Mexican army across the Rio Grande, the Somerville Expedition was ended and some Texans returned home, but others decided to pursue the retreating Mexican army into Mexico, hence the Mier Expedition.

These Texans invaded Mexico and fought the Battle of Mier on December 25 and 26, 1842. After a hard fought battle, the Texans surrendered to a larger Mexican force. The prisoners were then marched south and imprisoned in Hacienda Salado. On February 11, 1843, the Texans escaped from prison and ran north into the mountains hoping to make it back to Texas. Most of the Texans were recaptured, or died of exposure. Those recaptured were forced to draw white and black beans. The seventeen Texans who drew the black beans were executed.

However, this fate was not to be for Thomas Cox and John Blackburn. A second binding circumstance occurred when they and three others thwarted this recapture and escaped on foot back to Texas. It took two months through harsh conditions. In fact, a third event probably saved John Blackburn’s life. Thomas Cox carried Blackburn on his back periodically due to the poor condition of Blackburn’s feet. A monument erected in 1936, located on Monument Hill in Fayette County, bears the names of all the brave men of the Dawson and Mier Expeditions.

Two months and two days after returning to LaGrange after their harrowing escape from Mexico, John Blackburn married Thomas Cox’s daughter, Emily Cox. This fourth link of their lives shows the bond formed between the two men was strong, and now linked the two families. In August 1845, two years hence, Thomas Cox, for love and affection for his daughter, Emily Blackburn, “gave the two the said Emily E” land on Rocky Creek about four miles east of LaGrange. John and Emily Blackburn had one daughter before Emily’s death in 1849 after almost six years of marriage.

One year later in 1850, John Blackburn married again to a Martha Hayden, a marriage which produced five more children, one of whom was a Samuel Gideon Blackburn? Who would have imagined that once again a fifth link would join the two families of Cox and Blackburn?

Emily Cox, first wife of John Blackburn and daughter of Thomas Cox, had a sister, Susan Cox. Susan married a Gregor Cole, whose marriage had a daughter, Kate Cole. Kate was the granddaughter of Thomas Cox. As circumstances would have it, this granddaughter married Samuel Blackburn, John’s son! From this marriage was born one child, Clare Blackburn, my paternal grandmother! A fifth point on the Texas Star is now complete! From the Battle of Mier through escapes back to Texas, these two men’s lives were joined. But, my grandmother was the ultimate link of these two lives, the great granddaughter of Thomas Cox, and granddaughter of John Blackburn. Five events culminated into a great Texas family heritage!
Friends of the Log House

Please help decorate our Christmas Tree in the Log House. Choose your level of giving from the decorations below with a check payable to The Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum and mail to:

Gwen Kunz, Treasurer
2001 Holcombe Blvd, #2901
Houston, TX 77030

- Yard Clean Up – 2X year $600
- Insurance - $370 monthly
- HVAC Maintenance - $290 quarterly
- Alarm System - $210 quarterly
- Pest Control - $150 quarterly
- Cleaning Service - $80 monthly
- Phone - $70 monthly
- Lawn Service - $60 weekly
- Texas Heritage Garden Plants - $40 each
- Water - $35 monthly
- Gas - $25 monthly

Thank you for your support of the Pioneer Memorial Log House and for sharing your Christmas with us.

Jamie Moran, President, San Jacinto DRT
Carolyn Lightfoot, Chair, Friends of the Log House

Welcome to our Newest Prospective Member

At the November meeting, members approved prospective membership for Sharron Ann Stephenson Wilson. Sharron’s ancestor is Thomas Bell Stephenson.

DRT 125th Anniversary Celebration

On November 5, over 500 DRT members and their friends and families gathered at the LBJ National Historical Park in Stonewall, Texas for the 125th Anniversary of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

On the grassy area between the Pedernales River and the “Texas White House”, those in attendance enjoyed a beautiful day while being entertained with skits and music.

San Jacinto Chapter members Luanne Zacek and Susan Stormer attended and helped with registration. Other chapter members in attendance were Angelina Acosta and Anita Cooper.

In honor of the monumental celebration, the state has created a pin. This pin can be worn on your ribbon with other official DRT pins but can only be purchased from headquarters for as long as they last.

125th Anniversary Pin - $25
Purchased from headquarters
San Jacinto Chapter DRT
Christmas Luncheon
Thursday, December 1, 2016
Pioneer Memorial Log House

Baked Ham
Sweet Potatoes
Green Bean Almandine
Congealed Salad
Rolls
Peach Crunch

Tea will be provided

Make your Christmas Luncheon Reservation by November 23rd

______ Number of Reservations @ $25.00 Per Person $_____

Make your check payable to:  
San Jacinto Chapter

Send to:  Martha Jorgensen  
702 Wycliffe Drive  
Houston, TX 77079-3510