



*The Daughters of the Republic of Texas
San Jacinto Chapter, Houston
The San Jacinto Dispatch
December 2009*



Christmas Open House 2009



**Front Row - Audrey McCleery, John, Kary, Jennifer and Kayla Searle
Back Row - Anita Cooper, Edwin Erwin, Mike Bailey, Larry Minks,
Charles Stewart and Eron Tynes**

San Jacinto Chapter, DRT, hosted our annual Christmas Open House at the Log House on Sunday, December 13, 2009. 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 smells of wassail, honey, and cloves permeated all throughout the old house. People mixed and mingled with members of the San Jacinto Chapter, the Texian Army, SRT, and many guests. Several members of the Harris County Historical Commission also attended.

Ann Tanner and Anita Cooper greeted our guests as they arrived. Loretta Williams along with her daughter Catarina were on hand to collect the toys for the CRT. Mary Jane Harmon entertained the children with making the clove studded oranges. Luanne Zacek and Brenda Auld were kept busy with the Country Store. One of our new members, Margaret Standard donated items for a raffle and also managed it. Martha Haydel was busy taking pictures of all our visitors in front of the Christmas tree.more *Open House* – page 2



... more Open House

Other San Jacinto Chapter members in attendance were Adrianna Wilcox, Carolyn Lightfoot, Phyllis Moody, Judy Rosenthal, Beverly Maurice and Mary Jo Brice. Kay and Bob Martin attended along with their great-grandson and CRT member, Reid Richter. Another new member Cindie Gruetzmacher was present with her husband and prospective member Carol Haddock along with her husband Will Haddock. Sandra Meier, District VI representative and Connie Surrency, Parliamentarian General attended along with Loretta Reynolds 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 at Ben Taub Hospital.

Wassail was served with cookies, cakes, candies, meats, fruit and nuts, which graced the beautifully appointed dining table and side tables. Kae Theilen, Marge Harris, Tamara Kittleson, and Sally Whittington were kept busy from the beginning to the end replenishing large trays of good food. Other members who also contributed were Ann Bevil, Nancy Burch and Eron Tynes.

The outside of the old 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, especially the Christmas tree, garland, poinsettias and the fresh greenery that adorned the house. Also, thanks to the ladies of the San Jacinto Chapter for providing the wonderful refreshments that everyone enjoyed.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Minks



DRT Hospitality – Marge Harris, Brenda Auld and Sally Whittington



Eron Tynes



Carl Hill, Tom Houston and Tom Green



Jennifer and Charlie Pesek, Luanne Zacek, Adrienne Zacek with Truitt Denman



Family Fun at the Log House



Charles Stewart and Anita Cooper



Sandra Meier, Anita Cooper, Connie Surrency



Christmas Luncheon

On December 10th, the San Jacinto Chapter held its annual Christmas luncheon at the Log House with over 60 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 niece, Electra Muse. A delicious lunch was catered by Sodexo.

Martha Haydel and Sally Whittington led us in the singing of Christmas Carols. A highlight of the luncheon was the New Member Service where nine new members were sworn in. Eron Tynes conducted a short business meeting. The CRT also collected toys for the Ben Taub Pediatric Unit. Margaret Standard donated for the raffle "Santa on the Reindeer" by Jim Shore, which was won by Dorothy Cagle. The chapter members who were present, along with several guests, enjoyed the festive atmosphere, the delightful lunch, and a special time spent with friends at this seasonal event.

Welcome New Members



**Standing: Marge Harris, Cheryl Nelson,
Mary Ann Howard, Margaret Standard, Alice
Calderon, Susan Allen, Eron Tynes
Kneeling: Annette Segura, Charlene Dwyer, Miki Norton,
Cindie Gruetzmacher**





Luanne Zacek in "Country Store Corner"



Jan Broadway and Ann Bevil



Eron Tynes



Esther Simon, Jessie and Barbara Traywick



Ann Tanner



Phyllis Moody and Betty Petty

Decorating the tree



Sally Whittington



Mary Jo Brice and Martha Haydel



Marje Harris, Ann Tanner and Marilyn Chapman



Sally Whittington, Brenda Auld, Mary Jo Brice and Marge Harris

On December 3, 2009 San Jacinto Chapter members gathered to decorate the Log House and the Christmas Tree. A pot luck lunch was served. Make plans to join us next year in early December to decorate the Log House for Christmas.

JANUARY 7, 2010 – SAN JACINTO CHAPTER MEETING
The Life and Times of Texas Flag Designer,
Dr. Charles B. Stewart and his wife, Julia Shepperd Stewart

Join us at the Pioneer Log House to hear Pat Spackey and Jack Shepperd's enthusiastic presentation of "The Life and Times of Texas Flag Designer, Dr. Charles B. Stewart and his wife, Julia Shepperd Stewart". Pat will portray Julia Shepperd Stewart and shares stories of the Stewart's family life, while Jack as Dr. Charles B. Stewart, tells of the Texas Flag Designer's life and role in Texas history.

Pat is the great, great, great granddaughter of Dr. Charles B. Stewart of Montgomery, and serves as President of the Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis DRT chapter, Vice Regent of the Heritage Trails DAR chapter and is Vice Chairman of the Texas Heritage Society and Montgomery County Genealogical and Historical Society.

Jack Shepperd is a retired pilot, who was an employee of Mitchell Energy. He also owned an antique shop in Montgomery. Since retirement, he has represented the Montgomery Historical Society in many presentations as Sam Houston and Charles B. Stewart. He has earned the title of "Volunteer of the Year" through his outstanding service to the Montgomery community through the years.

Allies For The Alamo

Save the Date - Launch of the Allies of The Alamo on February 23, 2010.

More information to be distributed soon.

San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board



Governor Rick Perry has appointed Jimmy Burke of Deer Park to the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board for a term to expire September 1, 2015. The board advises the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on the proper historical development of the San Jacinto Battleground.

Mr. Burke is a commissioner of the Port of Houston Authority and former mayor of Deer Park. He is past president of the Harris County Mayors and Councils Association and served on the association's National Legislative Committee. He is also former chair of the City of Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee, past member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and past president of the Texas Municipal League and National League of Cities' Small Cities Council. Mr. Burke received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.

Other members of this Board are Trey Strake, Chair, Risher Randall and Jan DeVault. Al Davis had recently resigned.



President's Message



At this time of year, our Log House is so charming and picturesque as it is all decorated for Christmas. Red poinsettias with the hand-hewn logs as a background create such a warm and homey atmosphere in the house. The Log House is filled with greenery and the Christmas tree is decorated with hand-made ornaments. Garland graces the fireplace and the front door.

There were over 60 San Jacinto Chapter members and guests at our annual Christmas Luncheon. During the Luncheon, it was my privilege to conduct the new member service along with Marje Harris and Mary Jane Harmon. How thrilling it was to have nine new members present at our Luncheon. To commemorate this occasion, it was my honor to present:

“two symbols, recognized worldwide, that are synonymous with the pride, joy, and beauty of our great State, Our State Flag, whose Lone Star once flew over the Republic from which you are descended, and our State flower, the Bluebonnet, whose azure blue beauty blankets our beloved State each spring.”

As Christmas approaches, I begin to count my blessings. We also had a wonderful attendance at our Christmas Open House – quite a few people were dressed in period style. Several of our new members are already taking an active role in the chapter. I feel so blessed to have such an active and dedicated San Jacinto Chapter Board and Log House Board.

At this time of year, I also feel a special bond with my Pioneer Ancestors and believe that by honoring many of their Christmas traditions, we will forever perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the Independence of Texas. May each of you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – See you in the New Year!

Eron Brimberry Tynes

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Bt.stover@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor,
Brenda Stover
Co-Editor,
Phyllis Moody