



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

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*President's Message*

This past Saturday, Anita Cooper and I were at Jesse Jones Park for their Pioneer Days. We had a table and our flags to promote Texas History and the Pioneer Memorial Log House Museum. Knowing that the day would be quite chilly, we dressed as warmly as possible.

We visited about our struggles during the time the Runaway Scrape. Grande on February 11 the Alamo began on meeting at Washington-of the Alamo on March 6, homes and head east



pioneer ancestors and their of the Texas Revolution and Santa Anna crossed the Rio and the thirteen day siege of February 23. Men began on-the-Brazos. After the fall the people began to flee their toward Louisiana.

As we tried to keep ourselves warm this past Saturday, it was easy to reflect back 174 years ago. As all of you know it was a cold, wet, Spring with all those muddy roads and swollen rivers to cross. What was it like to go days and weeks, struggling to keep warm and find a dry place to sleep? How long did they go without sufficient food or a hot meal? How many loved ones were buried along the way?

We are in the final planning stages for our own Texas Independence Day Celebration and Chili Cook-Off to be held on February 24. How fortunate we are to own our Log House built in 1936 by the members of the San Jacinto Chapter in honor of our pioneer ancestors. What a wonderful tribute to our pioneer ancestors when we gather with our Texas friends, the SRT, CRT and the Texian Army to commemorate Texas Independence.

This year we are sponsoring a Period Costume Contest and a Coloring Contest as we celebrate this significant Texas Honor Day. Children are asked to bring a picture of the Republic of Texas (cowboys and Indians, horses, log houses, flags, etc.). Coloring pages will also be available at the Celebration. We will decorate the Log House with these works of art! All children and adults are encouraged to wear period costumes as we honor our pioneer ancestors. A Children's Costume Contest will be held.

As is tradition, the children will conduct the Flag Retirement Ceremony and lead us in the U.S. Pledge and Texas Pledge along with singing *Texas Our Texas*. It is very important that we instill in our children and our grandchildren that *Spirit of Texas* that created a new Republic of Texas. Please make a special effort to attend with your children and grandchildren as we

***Perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who  
achieved and maintained the Independence of Texas***

*Eron Brimberry Tynes*



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### **More Dates to Remember**

The San Jacinto Museum of History's [San Jacinto Day Dinner](#) will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

The Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground's [Battle of San Jacinto 2010 Symposium](#) will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

The [Official State of Texas Ceremony commemorating the 174<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto](#) will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at the San Jacinto Memorial Monument in La Porte. San Jacinto Chapter #1 will be presenting its annual USS Texas "Sailor of the Year" Awards at the Ceremony.

The San Jacinto Museum of History and TPWD will hold the annual [San Jacinto Festival & Battle Re-enactment](#) on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

### **Log House Tour**

Join us for a tour of the Log House after the April 1 chapter meeting. A number of new members have expressed an interest in the history of the Log House and its collections. We will begin the tour @12:15p.m. It should last approximately 20 -30 minutes. Built in 1936, by the San Jacinto Chapter as a hospitality center for the Texas Centennial, the Log House is fast approaching her 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Log House was officially dedicated on March 2, 1936, in honor of one hundred years of Texas Independence.



## Texas Independence Day Houston City Hall

On March 2, 2010 at 11:00 a.m., the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Sam Houston Chapter, Sons of the Republic of Texas are co-sponsoring a ceremony on the steps of the Houston City Hall (901 Bagby, Houston, Texas) with the city of Houston, to commemorate the 174th anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

The Mayor of Houston, Annise Parker, will begin the program by welcoming everyone and reading a proclamation. Officials of the Sons and Daughters of the Republic of Texas will be speaking about the impact the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence had in shaping modern day Texas. Recognized by statute as an official state holiday, Texas Independence Day originally began with the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the 54 delegates to the Convention that met at Washington-on-the-Brazos beginning on March 1, 1836. We will conclude the ceremony by toasting those brave men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence with good old Texas water.



### Historical Dates in Texas

<b>February 23</b>	<b>The 13 Day siege of the Alamo begins.</b>
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Col. Travis writes his famous letter asking for aid for the Alamo</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Thirty-two men from Gonzales fight their way into the Alamo. No other volunteers come.</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>The Texas Declaration of Independence is adopted at Washington-on-the Brazos</b>
<b>March 4</b>	<b>Sam Houston is elected commander-in-chief of the Texas army.</b>
<b>March 6</b>	<b>The Alamo falls.</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>Sam Houston assumes command of the army at Gonzales</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Gonzales is burned as the Runaway Scrape begins.</b>

## March Field Trip to Liendo Plantation



Our Field trip in March will be to Liendo Plantation. The following excerpts are taken from *Legendary Texans, Vol. III* by Joe Tom Davis. Part II

. . . Jared Groce earned the titles of “Father of Texas Agriculture” and Cotton King” of Texas after producing the first cotton crop in 1822 and building the first cotton gin in 1828. He eventually owned hundreds of slaves and received an average of \$80,000.00 for his yearly cotton crop. Groce took his first two cotton crops to Mexico by mule caravan in 1824 and 1825. . . In 1827 the only Groce daughter, Sarah Ann, graduated from a finishing school in New York City and her oldest brother Leonard brought the “Princess”, her lifelong name in Texas, home to Bernardo.

. . .After dividing his estate among his two sons Leonard and Jared, Jr., Colonel Jared Groce took the three-league place in present Grimes County, naming it Groce’s Retreat . . . Since he was crippled in both hands, Groce could not fight in the Texas Revolution but did outfit many men for the cause. While on their way from Washington-on-the-Brazos, interim President David G. Burnett and his cabinet stayed at Groce’s Retreat from March 18 to March 21, 1836. Jared’s last home thus served briefly as the temporary capital of the Republic of Texas.

. . .Leonard Groce inherited Bernardo in 1835 and then purchased most of his father’s original grant. During the revolution, General Houston’s Texian army of 1,400 camped and drilled for twelve days on the west bank of the Brazos at Groce’s Landing. During this time, Leonard stripped Bernardo plantation for army use by providing beef and corn for Houston’s forces and offering the troops a hospital facility. The “Twin Sisters” two six-pound cannons sent as a gift by the people of Cincinnati, Ohio were mounted at Bernardo on April 11, 1836.

. . .Liendo is the only one of the five Groce family mansions that survives today. . . the plantation was purchased in 1849 by Leonard Groce. . . Liendo is located 5 miles southeast of present day Hempstead. He moved his family there in 1853 and built a sixteen room, two story mansion using Georgia longleaf pine hauled from Houston and red clay Brazos bricks made by his own slaves.

To hear the rest of the story about Liendo and the Groce's be sure and join us on our March Field Trip as we visit this historic plantation home. Elisabeth Ney and her husband, Dr. Edmund Montgomery purchased Liendo plantation from Leonard Groce in the early 1870's. Both Miss Ney and her husband are buried at Liendo.

Please note - Sarah Bertlet Groce, a granddaughter of Leonard Groce, conceived the idea of a log house being built as a tribute to those pioneer ancestors. In 1936, under her direction as Building Chairman for the San Jacinto Chapter, the Pioneer Memorial Log House was erected.

March 4 is the date of the trip to Liendo Plantation. The bus will leave from St. Luke's Methodist Church parking lot, 3471 Westheimer at 9:00 a. m. After our tour, we will have lunch on the grounds. For more information contact Luanne Zacek [lzacek@hotmail.com](mailto:lzacek@hotmail.com)



**ELIZABETH "DEEDIE" CARTER WILKINS EASTHAM**, 102 years old, passed away on January 15, 2010 at The Hallmark in Houston, TX. She was born in Houston on July 5, 1907 where she resided her entire life. She was a fourth generation Texan. Deedie was predeceased by parents, Margaret Bierbower Wilkins and John Asa Wilkins, her beloved husband of forty-six years, Arthur Jackson Eastham, grandson, Stephen Jackson Neff, sisters, Margaret Wilkins (Mrs. G.S) Parker, Mary Edna Wilkins (Mrs. C.S.) Wallace and Virginia Wilkins (Mrs. Malcolm) Cummings. Deedie attended Brenau College and S.M.U. where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. She was an original member of St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, where she devoted much of her time volunteering and serving the Lord. Deedie was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (San Jacinto Chapter), Daughters of the American Revolution (John McKnitt Alexander Chapter), Bayou Gardeners, River Oaks Country Club and was involved in other Houston civic and charitable organizations. Deedie, a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother is survived by daughters Anne Elizabeth Eastham Lewis of Round Top, TX and Margaret Tavenner Eastham of Houston, TX, granddaughter Linda Elizabeth Neff Sunde and her husband Douglas of Carmel, CA, grandsons, Thomas Eastham Dawkins of Houston, TX, David Eastham Dawkins and his wife Melissa Chambers Dawkins of Austin, TX and five great grandchildren: Samuel Martin and Joseph John Sunde, Jackson DeGregory Dawkins, Connor Eastham and Cullen Chambers Dawkins as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Family graveside services will held at 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at Forest Park Lawndale, Houston. Honorary Pallbearers are James B. Harder, Arthur R. Stark, Charles S. Wallace Jr., John W. Wallace, Stacey Eastham, James C. Boone Jr., Fred J. Boone, Philip A. Masquelette, David M. Johnson, John W. Johnson, Thomas E. Dawkins and David E. Dawkins. A Memorial Service with the Reverend Laurens A. Hall, officiating, will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 23, 2010 in the chapel of The Church of St. John the Divine, Houston. Memorials may be made to The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd., Houston, TX 77019 or the charity of your choice. The family of Elizabeth Eastham expresses their gratitude for the loving care provided by The Hallmark and Hospice Compassus.



News from the Country Store

As you may know the 2000 Capitol Ornament has been retired as have the ones prior to 2000. I have a few of the 1998 ornaments left. These are sure to be collector's items so you may want to purchase one for your collection. The Capitol ornaments and Keep Texas Beautiful ornaments are not just for Christmas. I display mine on a small metal tree and keep them out all year long. Think about a permanent display for yours. Please keep an eye out for new items for the store. I am always looking for new things to sell. I will see you in my corner at the Texas Independence Day Celebration and at meetings.

Luanne Zacek



The Daughters of The Republic of Texas

***STARS OF THE REPUBLIC***

119<sup>th</sup> Annual DRT Convention, May 13 – 15, 2010

M. P. Patti Atkins, President General

Sandra Meier, District VI Representative and Convention Chairman

Phone: 281-443-8179 email: [Meier6103@yahoo.com](mailto:Meier6103@yahoo.com)

Anita Cooper, Phone 281-286-4433 email: [ajcooper@cybergal.com](mailto:ajcooper@cybergal.com)

**HOTEL:** Crowne Plaza Hotel Reliant Arena, 8686 Kirby Drive at Loop 610, Houston, Texas.

Convention rates: \$109.00 night for 1 – 4 persons. Make your room reservations directly with the hotel by calling 713-748-3221 before April 27, 2010. **AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION NOT AVAILABLE.** Free Parking.

**REGISTRATION:** All members must register to attend any meeting or event. Guests and Associate Members do not pay registration fee and cannot attend business meetings. Deadline for early registration is April 14. All registrations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. No refunds after May 1<sup>st</sup>. The registration booth will open on Thursday morning. BOM will receive registration packet on Wednesday.

**CRT Attendees:** Coordinate your needs with 3<sup>rd</sup> VP General Teri Lee Roberts, email: [momtexascowgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:momtexascowgirl@yahoo.com).

**BOM Luncheon:** Wednesday, May 12 will be at hotel.

**BOM Dinner:** Wednesday, May 12 at the Log House, 1510 N. McGregor, home of the San Jacinto Chapter. The Log House is a short distance from the hotel. BOM, District VI Chapter Presidents, DRT Property Mangers, and State Committee Chairs are invited to register for a delightful evening.

BOM and Current State Committee Chairs Luncheon: Thursday, May 13 at the hotel.

**Thursday Tour:** Our tour will leave from the Crown Plaza Hotel at 1:00 pm and return by 4:00 pm. The tour will give members and guests the opportunity to see some of the sights that were part of the Republic of Texas. The tour will make a stop at Clayton Genealogical Library, where a tour will be given of the Library and the Family History Center. Contact Anita Cooper at [ajcooper@cybergal.com](mailto:ajcooper@cybergal.com) with any questions.

**Thursday Opening Ceremony Rehearsal:** In the Sam Houston Ballroom and includes current BOM, Past Presidents Generals, District VI Chapter Presidents, and CRT BOM and pages. Rehearsal starts at 4:00 pm. Be back for opening ceremony at 6:15 pm.

**Opening Ceremony:** Starts at 7:00 pm in the Sam Houston Ballroom. Reception following.

Opening Business Meeting: 9:00 am Friday.

**Friday Luncheon:** A salute to *Charles B. Stewart and the Texas Flag*. Hostesses are asking for members and guests to wear Red/White/Blue for the day.

**Friday Night Historical Dinner:** In honor of our *Texas Stars 2010* will begin at 7:00 pm in the Sam Houston Ballroom. Dressed in your evening attire, you will be greeted by our elegant black and white décor. The evening will honor our student essay winners and Teachers of the Year.

***Reserved seating\*. Please send reservations together if you wish to be seated together.***

**Saturday Officers General Breakfast:** 7:30 - Open to all current and former BOM.

**Saturday Awards Luncheon** is a salute to *Our DRT Stars*: Wear stars for the day. i.e.: Blouses, hats, vests etc. Best display of stars will be honored during the luncheon. **Door Prizes** during Saturday Luncheon. Please plan to stay.

**Sales Tables:** Due to the pre-reservations for sales table – a limited number of tables are available. Please contact Eron Tynes directly at [54texan@peoplepc.com](mailto:54texan@peoplepc.com) for availability. Tables are \$20.00 each. Sales start Thursday.

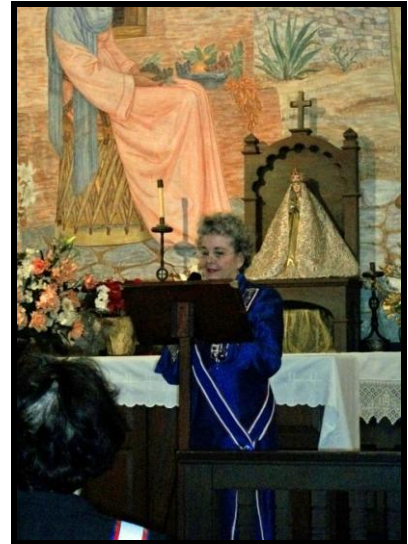


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Brenda Stover  
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### Newly Chartered Chapter in Goliad



BOM Members join President General Patti Atkins



Patti Atkins

### Our February Program



At our Chapter meeting in February, Dr. Carol McDavid and Ms. Debra Blacklock-Sloan presented an enlightening program on Houston's Freedman's Town. This is regarded to be the last African American "Freedman's Town" community existent in the United States that continues to be occupied, at least in part, by descendants of the original emancipated founders. Freedman's Town emerged post-Civil War when freed African Americans settled in the area known as the Fourth Ward after emancipation. Ms. Blacklock-Sloan and Dr. McDavid are pictured with Ann Bevil and Eron Tynes after their program.

*Brenda Stover*

