



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



## THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS-1836-1845

*It is February, 1836 . . .* General Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande on February 12, 1836, with an army and marched north toward San Antonio to quell the rebellion. Men who will serve as delegates are headed toward a Constitutional Convention meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos and others are heading west toward San Antonio or to join Colonel Fannin at Goliad.

General Santa Anna arrives in San Antonio on February 23rd and the 13-day siege of the Alamo begins. At the Alamo there is Davy Crockett and his Tennessee Mounted Volunteers along with Colonel Travis and Colonel Bowie. Colonel Bowie, ill with pneumonia, relinquished command to Colonel Travis, who assumed command of all the men at the Alamo on February 11th.

Susanna Dickinson and her little daughter Angelina, age 2, are also in the Alamo. Juan Seguin left the Alamo, slipping through the Mexican lines to seek aid. On February 24, Colonel Travis, penned his famous "I shall never surrender or retreat" - "Victory or Death" letter. Colonel Fannin, after several pleas for assistance from Travis, left Goliad on February 26, but a wagon broke down and he returned to Goliad. On March 1, thirty-two men arrived from Gonzales to defend the Alamo.

The Alamo was bombarded daily and not one defender was lost. The last messenger left the Alamo on March 3rd, bearing several letters from Colonel Travis (Travis does not know that independence has been declared) in which he asserted in this letter to the convention meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos:

*"If independence is not declared, I shall lay down my arms and so will the men under my command. But under the Flag of Independence, we are ready to peril our lives 100 times a day."*

In early March most Texans knew that Santa Anna was at the Alamo and under siege--thousands of soldiers in the Mexican Army against a small band of the Texian Army. The people of Texas also knew that delegates were meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos. On March 2, 1836, the Texas Declaration of Independence for the Republic of Texas was signed by the Convention.

At Washington-on-the-Brazos, General Sam Houston insisted that the Texans form a coherent government. He argued that the Alamo was besieged and in danger because there had been no government in Texas. General Houston, whose birthday is March 2nd, will be named Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army on March 4th. He will leave Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 6th to head west toward Gonzales and then on to assist those at the Alamo.

As General Houston rode toward San Antonio, other men joined him as they rushed to aid those at the Alamo. These Texian men knew there was no other course for them except to ride to the aid of their brothers at the Alamo in the struggle for liberty and independence. Praying and hoping against hope that they would not be too late . . .

*Eron Brimberry Tynes*  
President, San Jacinto Chapter



The Alamo—Under Siege for 13 days



In the center of Alamo Plaza, stands a [cenotaph](#), designed by [Pompeo Coppini](#), which commemorates the *Texians* and *Tejanos* who died during the battle.

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Two Storms Passing Photo 1 of 2

**MARCH 2, 2011**  
**Texas Independence Day--Houston City Hall**

On Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the San Jacinto Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, along with the city of Houston, are co-sponsoring a ceremony to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. The ceremony will be held on the west side of Houston City Hall.

The Mayor of Houston, Annise Parker, will begin the program by welcoming everyone and reading a proclamation. Texas Independence Day is recognized by statute as an official state holiday and 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. The ceremony will conclude with a toast to those brave signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence with good old Texas water.

**More Dates to Remember**

The San Jacinto Museum of History and TPWD will hold the annual [San Jacinto Festival & Battle Re-enactment](#) on Saturday, April 16, 2011.

The Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground's [Battle of San Jacinto 2011 Symposium](#) will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011.

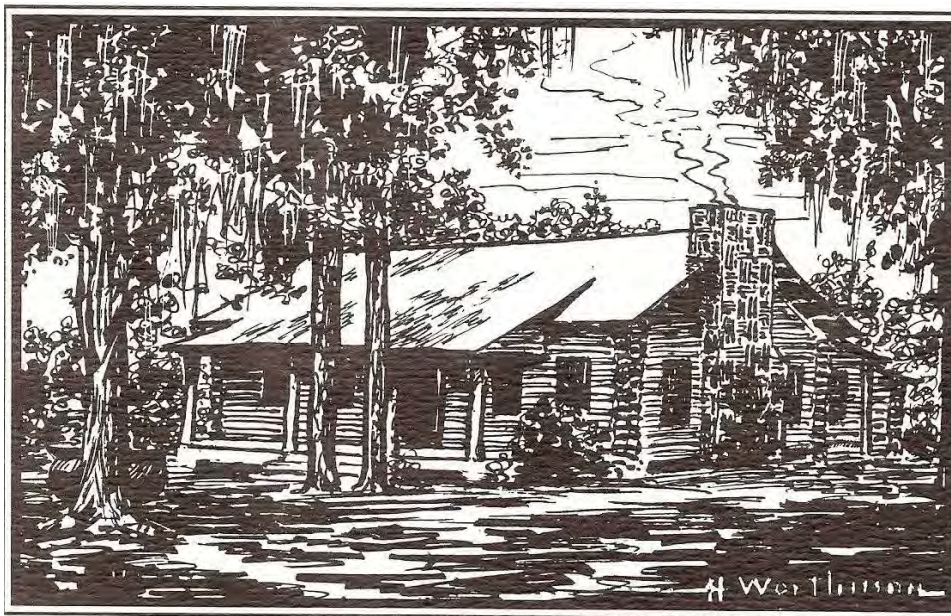
The [Official State of Texas Ceremony commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto](#) will be held at on Thursday, April 21, 2011, at the San Jacinto Memorial Monument in La Porte. The San Jacinto Chapter will be presenting the Thelma Maresh Scholarship awards.

**Mid-year District VI Workshop**  
**"Meet the Candidates"**

April 2, 2011  
 1:00 p.m-3:00 p.m.  
 Price Daniel House  
 Liberty, Texas  
 Details will be announced later

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**PIONEER MEMORIAL LOG HOUSE MUSEUM**  
Houston, Texas

February 3, 2011 Program

“How the Pioneer Log House  
Came To Be”

Nancy Burch, Chapter Member

The San Jacinto Chapter was fortunate to have Nancy Burch speak about the history of the Pioneer Memorial Log House. Nancy’s grandmother, Madge W. Hearne, was a member of the original Pioneer Memorial Building Committee.

Since we are celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Log House this year it was interesting to revisit the process that the “first ladies” followed to make the Log House a reality.

This was just a small meeting because of the really cold Houston weather! Those of us who attended were reminded of the hardiness and tenacity of our pioneer ancestors!

**The Country Store**

The Pioneer Memorial Log House ornaments are here and are beautiful. This is a very special keepsake honoring our beloved log house as she celebrates her 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The ornaments are **\$20.00** and **you’ll want to** add them to your collection.

See you in my corner,  
Luanne



Actual Size of Ornament



1936 PHOTO OF SAN JACINTO CHAPTER MEMBERS IN FRONT OF LOG HOUSE

**FEBRUARY 27, 2011**

**Come celebrate the  
75th Anniversary  
of the  
Pioneer Memorial Log House**

**Brenda Stover and Luanne Zacek, Co-chairs  
along with Committee Members  
Linda Beverlin, Phyllis Moody, Kae Theilen,  
Dana Stover, Cindie Gruetzmacher, Betty  
Petty, Margaret Standard, Jennifer Pesek,  
Esther Simon, Gwen Kunz, Marje Harris,  
Ann Tanner and Beth McCarthy look  
forward to seeing you at the Log House on  
this special occasion!**

**Be there for the picture of all San Jacinto  
Chapter members to be taken in front of the  
Log House around 3:00 p.m.**

**Don't miss the re-christening of the Log  
House with Brazos River Water!**

**MARCH 2, 2011**

**Come celebrate the  
75th Anniversary  
of the  
Pioneer Memorial Log House**

**Nancy Burch and Charlotte Taylor  
Co-Chairs**

**Committee Members  
Carolyn Hamilton, Nina Hendee, Dorothy  
Knox Houghton, Anne Kennett and  
Francita Ulmer**

**Cocktail Reception 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner 7:00 p.m.**

**Program  
"The Texas Centennial"  
James L. Haley  
Award-winning author of  
"Passionate Nation" and "Sam Houston"**



**REMEMBERING . . .**

**Frances Lewis Goff Bivins**, of Bellaire, Texas, passed away on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. She was 91. Frances was born in Willis, Texas and grew up in Lometa, Texas. In 1936, her family moved to Houston, where she lived for the rest of her life. Frances was a dedicated Christian, a faithful church member and tireless student of the Bible.

As a young child, she memorized and often recited the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson for the entertainment of her family. While in grade school, Frances wrote a report about French artist Rosa Bonheur and for many years thereafter Frances enjoyed painting landscapes with oils as a hobby. Frances loved working with ceramics and she was an accomplished seamstress. She sewed small pillows and ponies to give to patients and children in the hospital. She was an excellent gardener and planted wildflower seeds in her backyard. Frances had an insatiable curiosity and would constantly consult the encyclopedia, go to the library and research topics of interest. She was highly interested in current affairs. She had many friends in the Bellaire community and participated in an early morning swimming club at Bellaire's Evergreen Pool until she was 90. In 1940, she married Ralph N. Bivins and they enjoyed more than 50 years together and raised a happy family. Frances was a long-time member of Southwest Central Church of Christ and Central Church of Christ. She taught Sunday School classes for children for many years. As a volunteer for Braes Interfaith Ministries, she distributed clothing and food to the poor.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents, Vera Bowyer Leslie Goff and Marion Lafayette Goff. Survivors include three children, Kathleen Bateman, Susan Buerger and Ralph Bivins; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and many others whom she loved deeply. Frances and her family appreciated the recent support of her church and caregiver Earlene Duplechine.

A visitation will be held Friday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Southwest Central Church of Christ in Houston. Services will be held Saturday, 1 p.m. on January 29, 2011 at Southwest Central Church of Christ, 4011 West Bellfort in Houston, 77025. Donations may be given to Braes Interfaith Ministries. Arrangements by Miller Funeral Home.

She became a member of the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, on March 15, 1980, DRT #10418. Her Texas ancestor was John McClanahan Lewis.

**REMEMBERING . . .**

**Lillie Belle Milliman Helton** was born 3/30/1914 in Riesel, Texas, to Hervey E. Milliman and Nora Mae Northington Milliman; died January 21, 2011 at the age of 96.

Lillie achieved her registered nursing degree at Breckenridge Hospital in Austin. She married Homer Harvey Helton and they raised their family in West University during the 40's and 50's. They had two sons; Homer Harvey (Sonny) Helton, Jr., and Ronald Thomas Helton. On May 13, 1955, they lost their first-born son, Sonny to a sudden and tragic accident. She is also preceded in death by her husband, Homer, and siblings, JD, Bob, and Corolla.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and the Daughters of the Confederacy. Lillie is survived by her son Ronald, grand-daughter Lana Christine Helton Hirtz and her husband Stewart Cochran Hirtz, great-grandson Helton Hirtz, and another great-grandson, expected date of birth the first week of March.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 until 11:00 am with funeral services at 11 AM, Thursday, January 27, 2011 at Woodlawn Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Woodlawn Garden of Memories.

Lillie became a member of the San Jacinto Chapter on July 2, 1986, DRT #014242. Her ancestor was Ira Milliman. Mrs. Helton's granddaughter, Lana Christine Helton Hirtz is also a member of our chapter.



## San Jacinto Museum of History Annual Membership Luncheon

On Saturday, February 12, 2011, approximately 70 Museum members and guests boarded the *M/V Sam Houston* for a leisurely cruise along the Houston Ship Channel. Jim Bevill was the historical guide and speaker. The major historical marker sites noted were the Harris home, Vince's Bridge and the Santa Anna Capture site. Bob Martin and Bob Gruetzmacher were the photographers.



Dorothy Knox Houghton, Kay Martin, Cindie Gruetzmacher and Eron Tynes



Santa Anna Capture Site

# 175th Anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo

## “Remembering the Alamo” Weekend on Alamo Plaza

Saturday March 5, 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Sunday March 6, 12:00PM -5:00PM

For God and Texas; Dios y Libertad - FREE in Alamo Plaza. This event is a dramatization of the events concerning the final two days of the 13 day Alamo siege by General Santa Anna's Army of Operations, played out in Alamo Plaza. And, a special added vignette, the arrival of the Gonzales Thirty-two.

### Dawn at the Alamo

Sunday, March 6, 6-7AM, in Alamo Plaza.

A pre-dawn commemorative ceremony that honors the fallen on both sides of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, which began in darkness and ended in early morning light. It has a very solemn tone, as thirteen candles are lit to remember the 13-day siege and battle. A reconciliation peace prayer, recited in both English and Spanish, honors 189 Texian defenders and about 600 Mexican troops either killed or wounded in the battle. Eyewitness accounts of the battle are read and followed by flintlock musket volleys that echo the sounds of gunfire against the Alamo walls. You'll get a good sense of what the Mexican soldiers and Texians went through as the end came to the defenders.

San Antonio Living History Association

# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



## BUILT IN HONOR OF THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL

As members of the San Jacinto Chapter, we are blessed to own this beautiful Log House built in 1936 as a tribute to our Pioneer Ancestors. Several members in our chapter today are descended from some of the Memorial Log House Building committee members.

**Virginia Turley Baldwin**

Great-granddaughter  
Beth McCarty

**Mary Belle Smith Harris**

Grandaughter  
Marje Harris

**Madge Williams Hearn**

Grandaughter  
Nancy Lea Thornall Burch

**Carrie Wilmot Franklin Kemp**

Grandaughters  
Dorothy Cagle, Beverly Kemp Kraft and Caroline Kemp Gregory. Dorothy Cagle's two daughters, Cynthia Cagle Hawkins and Francia Susan Cagle, and her granddaughter, Danielle Elizabeth Cagle. Caroline Gregory's daughter, Carole Margaret Gregory and her two daughters, Hayden Lawson and Laura Lawson.



Beth McCarty, Marje Harris, Nancy Burch and Dorothy Cagle each submitted a brief bio and photos of their grandmothers and great-grandmother. Please see the next page for their articles



**CARRIE WILMOT FRANKLIN KEMP**  
**February 8, 1868 – March 6, 1953**

My grandmother, Carrie Wilmot Franklin Kemp, was born in Galveston on February 8, 1868. Carrie was the oldest of 5 children, all born in Galveston. Her parents were Sarah Frances Shields and Robert Morris Franklin. Robert Morris was one of two sons born to Benjamin Cromwell Franklin, Judge of the First District of Texas. Benjamin Cromwell Franklin came from Georgia to fight for the Republic of Texas and was at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Carrie married Charles Milton Kemp in Galveston in June of 1890. She lived in Galveston until she was widowed in 1905. She and her three young children remained in Galveston living with her parents in their home, 1925 Avenue M. In approximately 1915 she moved to Houston for a better job opportunity. Her oldest son, Franklin, was my father.

Carrie was a founding member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and was an active member on the committee to build the Log Cabin. Carrie served as President General, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, replacing someone who was unable to serve from 1935-1937. Her daughter, Sarah Frances Kemp Jackson, served as President of the San Jacinto Chapter in 1945-1947 and her granddaughter, Caroline Kemp Gregory also served as San Jacinto Chapter President from 1981-1983.

By Dorothy Cagle

Dorothy Cagle writes;

*I am very proud of such a wonderful heritage of Texas women.*



Beth McCarty pictured with her great-grandmother, Virginia Turley Baldwin

**VIRGINIA TURLEY BALDWIN**

She was an officer of the San Jacinto Chapter DRT and on the building committee in 1936. Her name is on the plaque in the Log House and a coin from her French grandfather, Samuel Valcient Lamothe, is somewhere in the chimney! Lamothe's sister married Moses Austin Bryan (nephew of Stephen F. Austin), and his first cousin was Courtney Ann Fulton who married Leonard Groce and built Liendo Plantation. So Virginia was raised as a proud Texan. Not only was she a member and officer of DRT, but also of the DAR and the UDC, and she was one of the first 20 members of South Main Baptist Church.

Virginia Turley was born in Houston on Oct. 21, 1978. Her first marriage was to Robert Coons, and my grandmother, Lucile, was their only child. Her second marriage was to widower George W. Baldwin, a linotype operator for the *Houston Post*. She raised his two young sons, Harry and Arthur, as her own. She died at the age of 76 in 1955.

Virginia was a fourth generation Houstonian and loved this city. She also loved our Log House and she loved me, her oldest great-grandchild!

By Beth McCarty



Madge Houston Williams Hearne, 1904

### MADGE HOUSTON WILLIAMS HEARNE

Madge Hearne, granddaughter of Sam and Margaret Houston, was born August 8, 1872, in Independence, Texas, in the Houston family home. She attended Baylor Female Academy there as a child, and went on to graduate from Baylor University in Waco. There, she met Roy White Hearne and the two were married in the Independence Baptist Church in a ceremony performed by the Reverend Rufus Burleson, president of Baylor and the man who baptized Sam Houston in Rocky Creek.

In 1892, while a Baylor coed, Mrs. Hearne was chosen to christen the original Battleship Texas at Newport News, Virginia. The battleship saw heavy action in the Spanish American War where Roy Hearne served as one of Teddy Roosevelt's officers during the Battle of San Juan Hill. The Hearnes settled in San Antonio where Roy rose to the rank of Brigadier General and was appointed commandant of Fort Sam Houston. Their home on French Place, the first one in the city with electricity, still stands today.

Following General Hearne's death in 1917, Mrs. Hearne moved to Houston and joined San Jacinto Chapter where she remained active until her death in 1956. She served as chapter president twice, 1932-34 and again in 1936-37. She was elected President General of the DRT in 1937. She was one of the five original members of the Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Museum of History, and the lone woman. She continued to serve in this role for the remainder of her life. She also was instrumental in the creation of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, and she campaigned actively for Big Bend to become a national park.

### Mary Belle Smith Harris

Mary Belle Smith was born in Throckmorton, Texas to Major Wilson Smith and Jennie Davis Buchanan. Mary married Eugene Truett Harris, Sr. Her Texas ancestor was Eliza Brooks Davis, a female who received a headright certificate in Shelby County.

Mary was admitted to the DRT on November 21, 1931, and served on the Log House Building Committee. Her granddaughter, Marje Harris, has been a member of the San Jacinto Chapter since 1975. Marje currently serves as the Chapter's registrar.

A picture of Mary taken sometime in the 1930's is pictured on the right

