



Varina Howell Davis 2143
United Daughters of the Confederacy®
Chapter Newsletter



Volume 9 Issue 3

December 2013

2012-2014 Officers

President..... Cynthia Hardy
Vice President Lois Lowe
2nd Vice President..... April Bass
Recording Secretary..... Dona Worth
Corresponding Secretary..... Lollie Michael
Treasurer Ann Johnson
Assistant Treasurer..... Sandi Sprawls
Registrar Vanessa Burzynski
Historian..... Linda Moore
Recorder of Military Awards Barbara Slover
Chaplain Jo Helen Garcia
Custodian Cynthia Hardy
Parliamentarian Rachael Phillips

Newsletter Editor

Cynthia Hardy
5019 Foxdale Dr - Houston, Texas 77084
(281) 851-0525 cell
Email: cintex08@hotmail.com

Newsletter Co-Editors

Vanessa Burzynski / Barbara Slover

Chapter Website

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txvhdudc>

Division Website

<http://www.txudc.org>

General Website

<http://www.hqudc.org>



Upcoming Events

Dec 14, 2013 – Christmas Luncheon @ 11:30
Jan 18, 2014 – Chapter Meeting @ 2:00 pm
Jan 25, 2014 – Division Forum (Salado TX)
Feb 15, 2014 – Chapter Meeting @ 2:00 pm
Mar 1, 2014 – District I Workshop 9 am (Bayland)
Mar 22, 2014 – Texas Historical Marker Dedication
Confederate Women's Home (Austin)



December 11	Carol Burdette
December 17	Marcia Wasson
December 20	Judith Newman
January 4	Davine Hall
January 15	Mary Thorpe
January 26	Jamie Davis
January 29	Myrtle Smith





Chapter News

November saw 4 of our chapter members traveling to Tulsa for the General Convention. Another crazy road trip was enjoyed by 3 of the members. Lots of stops were made to view historical markers and monuments.



Sandi Sprawls,
Lois Lowe &
Cynthia Hardy at
the Magazine
Luncheon

Jamie Davis



Lois Lowe and
Sandi Sprawls

November also saw several chapter members helping out with the Veteran's Project spearheaded by Sherry Davis, VAVS Chairman. Sixty food boxes were packed with food and gift cards to purchase a Turkey were handed out at the Veteran's Thanksgiving Luncheon. The food boxes and gift cards were to enable them to prepare a Thanksgiving meal at home as part of their rehabilitation. Plans are in the works for the Christmas Luncheon on Dec 13th. They need help if you can spare the time.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Christmas in the Confederacy

Excerpts below were written by Varina Davis, the wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, describing Christmas of 1864 in the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia.

"For as Christmas season was ushered in under the darkest clouds, everyone felt the cataclysm which impended but the rosy, expectant faces of our little children were a constant reminder that self-sacrifice must be the personal offering of each member of the family."

Due to the blockades around Confederate states, families could not find certain types of food and merchandise for their holiday celebrations, and available items were outrageously priced. The Southerners had to substitute many of the ingredients in the favorite Christmas recipes, and they had to make most of their gifts and tree decorations.

In Richmond, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family lived, it was discovered that the orphans at the Episcopalian home had been previously promised a Christmas tree, toys, and candy. The excerpt below shows how the people of Richmond creatively worked together to bring Christmas to the orphans in spite of the war's shortages.

"The kind-hearted confectioner was interviewed by our committee of managers, and he promised a certain amount of his simpler kinds of candy, which he sold easily a dollar and a half a pound, but he drew the line at cornucopias to hold it, or sugared fruits to hang on the tree, and all the other vestiges of Christmas creations which had lain on his hands for years. The ladies dispersed in anxious squads of toy-hunters, and each one turned over the store of her children's treasures for a contribution to the orphan's tree, my little ones rushed over the great house looking up their treasure eyeless dolls, three-legged horses, tops with the upper peg broken off, rubber tops, monkeys with all the squeak gone silent and all the ruck of children's toys that gather in a nursery closet. Some small feathered chickens and parrots which nodded their heads in obedience to a weight beneath them were furnished with new tail feathers, lambs minus much of their wool were supplied with a cotton wool substitute, rag dolls were plumped out and recovered with clean cloth, and the young ladies painted their fat faces in bright colors and furnished them with beads for eyes."

When the orphans received their gifts, "the different gradations from joy to ecstasy which illuminated their faces was 'worth two years of peaceful life' to see."





Texas Division Forum

January 25, 2014

9:30 am (Registration Open at 8:30 am)

The Venue by Inn on the Creek

602 Center Circle

Salado, Texas 76571

(254) 947-5554

Registration: \$10.00

Mexican Buffet Lunch: \$16.00

Beef Enchilada w/Ranchero Sauce, Cheese

Enchilada w/Salsa Verde, Soft Beef Taco,

**Rice, Beans, Chocolate Cake, Chips & Salsa, Water
& Tea**

Rooms are available at the Inn on the Creek

Leave message and they will call you back.

Holiday Inn Express ~ Salado/Belton

1991 N. Stagecoach Rd.

Salado, Texas

254-947-4004

Special Price of \$99 for Queen or King

**Make Check payable to Treasurer, Texas Division
and mail to:**

Vickie L. Knuth

PO Box 6956

Granbury, TX 76049

Plan on attending...

We can have a crazy road trip adventure.



**Don't forget to bring the following items
to the Chapter Meetings:**



Can Goods & Pantry Items



REMINDERS:

Hostess for December Meeting

Barbara Slover

Speaker for December Meeting

Lois Lowe



**Please remember the following chapter
members in your prayers:**

Jamie Davis – fighting Lung Disease

Carol Burdette – Recovering from surgery



REMINDER

2013 – 2014 DUES are due

\$35.00 dues + \$15 Magazine

\$50 – payable to Varina Howell Davis 2143



**Don't Forget your Toys for Tots
New Unwrapped Toy**

