



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



Volume 10 Issue 4

December 2014

2014-2015 Officers

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Vice President Lois Lowe
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Ann Johnson / Barbara Slover

Chapter Website

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

Division Website

<http://www.txudc.org>

General Website

<http://www.hqudc.org>



Upcoming Events

Dec 13 – Chapter Christmas Luncheon @ **2:00 pm**
Jan 31, 2015 – Forum Bryan, Texas 9:30 am
Mar 7, 2015 – Dist I Workshop – Bayland Center



December 11
December 17
December 20

Carol Burdette
Marcia Wasson
Judith Newman

January: 4:
January 15
January 26
January 29

Davine Hall
Mary Thorpe
Jamie Davis
Myrtle Smith

February 1
February 5
February 13
February 15
February 17
February 28

Dona Worth
Linda Moore
Dara Broussard
Janie Barendscheer
Janice Langford
Harold Sprawls





Editorial by Chapter President Ann Johnson

It was General Convention time and four members made their way to Richmond, VA to attend the General Convention joining the rest of the Texas delegation.



Barbara Slover,
Cynthia Hardy &
Lois Lowe

Thanks go to
Cynthia Hardy,
Lois Lowe and

Barbara Slover for representing Varina Howell Davis 2143 with a complete delegation and to 2nd Vice President Jamie Davis who was the "Texas Star". The Texas Delegation was able to spend a lot of time together outside of the meetings. It was a fun time had by all. President Kathy Hillman and 2VP Sue Hardy gave Jamie a ticket for driving without a license. Then they presented her with a license plate for her scooter.

Kathy Hillman, Jamie Davis
& Sue Hardy



This month we will gather at Barbara Slover's house for our annual Christmas Luncheon on December 13th. Don't forget the time has changed to 2 p.m. Barbara is treating us so you do not need to bring anything. A small donation to defer the costs will be appreciated. Also we will have our annual gift exchange so please bring a \$10 gift for the exchange.

This Christmas Season please remember those who are less fortunate than us. Benevolence is one of the five objectives of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Please keep track of your benevolent activities and donations so we can list them in our achievements for the year. This year the chapter will donate toys to children who are in need. Don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy for a gift that we will give to Toys for Tots.

I hope to see all of you at our meeting

Ann Johnson

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Christmas and War

Many of today's American Christmas customs are rooted in the early 19th century. Perhaps ironically many of these customs came into maturity during the Civil War, when violence, chaos, and staggering personal losses seemed likely to drown out the choruses of "Peace on Earth." Christmas was celebrated in both the United States and the Confederate States, although the day did not become an official holiday until five years after the war ended. For a nation torn by civil war, Christmas was observed with conflicting emotions. Nineteenth century Americans had embraced all the trappings of Victorian English Christmas that had moved the holiday from the private and religious realms to a public celebration. Christmas, however, also made the heartache for lost loved ones more acute. As the Civil War dragged on, deprivation replaced bounteous meals and familiar faces were missing from the family dinner table. Soldiers used to "bringing in the tree" and caroling in church were instead scavenging for firewood and singing drinking songs around the campfire. So, the holiday celebration most associated with family and home became a contradiction—joyful, sad, religious, boisterous and subdued..

Many holiday traditions we enjoy today, including Christmas trees, Santa Claus, gift-giving, caroling, and holiday feasting became commonplace during the Civil War. Christmas trees had become popular in the decade before the Civil War, and in the early 1860s, many families were beginning to decorate them. Illustrators working for the national weekly publications helped to popularize the practice by putting decorated table-top Christmas trees in their drawings. On the home front, the homes were mostly decorated with different kinds of pines, holly, ivy and mistletoe. Most trees were small and sat on a table. The decorations were mostly home-made, such as strings of dried fruit, popcorn, and pine cones.

It was only a matter of time before the Christmas tree made its way into military camps. It is said.. "In order to make it look as much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc."

Thomas Nast created a famous illustration for *Harper's Weekly* in which he portrayed a wife separated from her soldier husband on Christmas Eve 1862. The wife is at the window, on her knees in earnest prayer, looking up at the night sky, obviously distressed about the absence of her husband. In the background can be seen a small bed with her two children in it. On the wall, a picture of the woman's husband can be seen hanging. On the inset image on the right, the woman's husband can be seen sitting with his rifle around a lonely campfire. In his hand is a small album with photographs of his wife and children. He is

obviously lonesome, missing his wife and kids on a cold winter night. Surrounding these two main images are a variety of scenes. In the upper left corner, an image



of Santa Claus can be seen. Santa is crawling into a chimney. In the lower left is an image of soldiers marching in the snow. The upper right corner has another image of Santa, in a sleigh, being pulled by reindeer. This is one of the earliest images of this popular tradition of Christmas. The lower right corner shows a ship being tossed in the sea. The lower center shows an image of the graves of soldiers lost in the war.

Merry Christmas



Please join the Varina Howell Davis
Chapter 2143 for our

Annual Holiday Luncheon

December 13th, 2014

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

6235 Queensloch
Houston, Texas 77096-3796

Hosted by Barbara Slover & Marcia Wasson

RSVP - yhoies6742@att.net or 713-772-5396

Bring a gift \$10 or less for exchanging

Bring \$\$ to pay for the luncheon as it is not a potluck.

Remember to bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots

Copy and Paste this link in your browser for a map

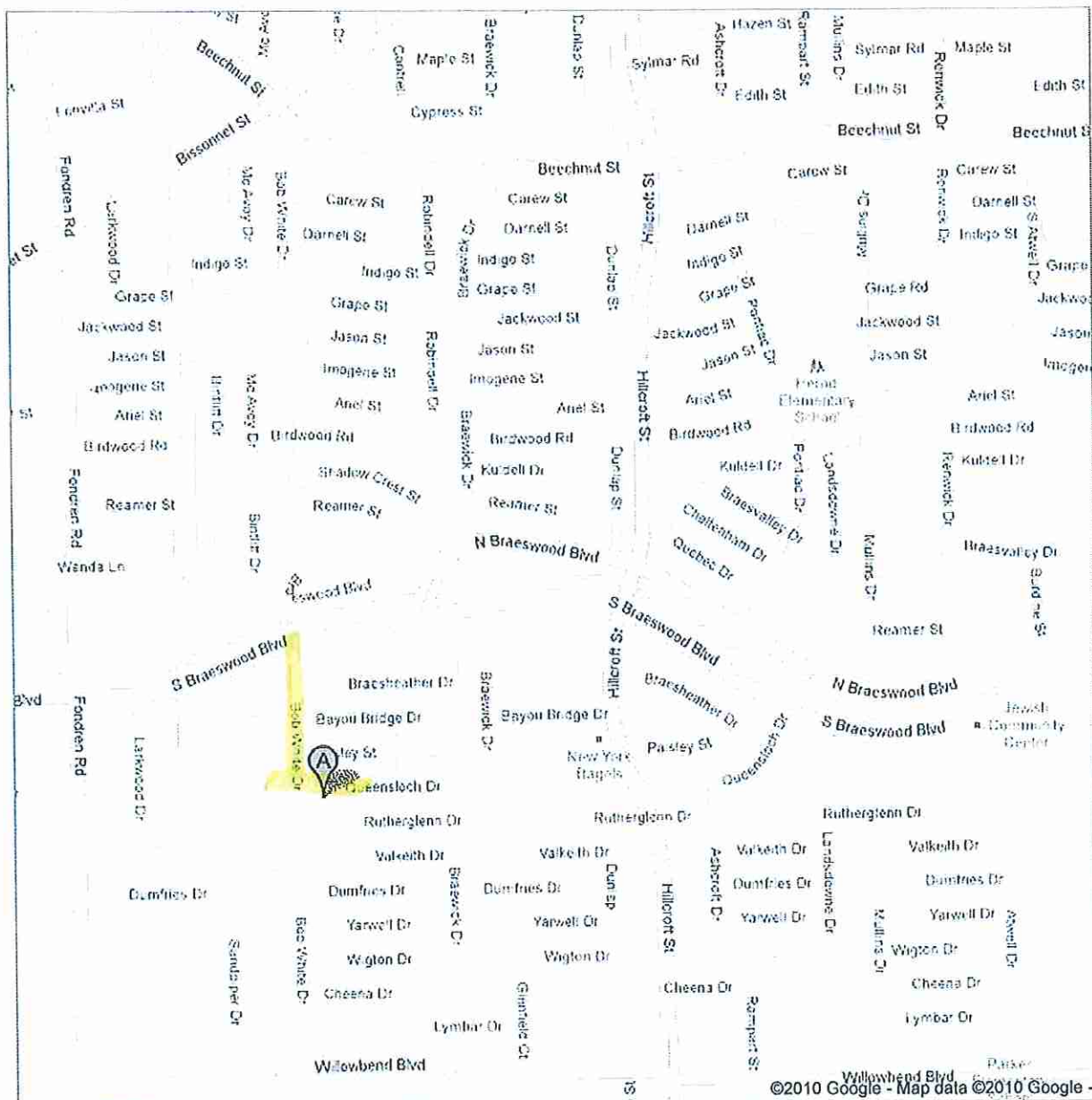
http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=6235+Queensloch+Houston,+TX+77096-3796&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=48.641855,78.662109&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=6235+Queensloch+Dr,+Houston,+Harris,+Texas+77096&ll=29.666203,-95.47102&spn=0.052505,0.076818&z=14

Exit Loop 610 S on S Braeswood, go West on S Braeswood. Turn Lf on Bob White Dr, Then Lf on Queensloch.

Google maps

Address 6235 Queensloch Dr
Houston, TX 77096

Notes Barbara Slover's House



Turn on to Bob White Dr off of So. Braeswood Blvd. Then take a left on Queensloch Dr. The house is on your right.



The Texas Division

United Daughters of the Confederacy®

2015 Annual Forum Meeting

Saturday, January 31, 2015

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

Phillips Event Center
(Formerly Briarcrest Country Club)
1929 Country Club Drive
Bryan, Texas

Registration: \$ 10.00

Lunch: \$ 21.00 cut-off date Jan.27

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



Can Goods & Pantry Items

Clothing Donations

Christmas Gift Exchange

**Unwrapped toy for
TOYS FOR TOTS**

REMINDERS:

Hostess for December Meeting

Barbara Slover & Marcia Wasson
6235 Queensloch, Houston 77096

Speaker for December Meeting

Jamie Davis

"Religion among the Troops"



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

Jamie Davis – fighting Lung Disease

Davine Hall – ill

Margaret Taylor – ill

Anne Rossi – Seriously ill

REMINDER

2014 – 2015 DUES are due

\$35.00 dues + \$15 Magazine

\$50 – payable to Varina Howell Davis 2143