



Order Of Eastern Star Gives Back
The members of Loretta's Pride No. 62 Order of Eastern Star are giving back to the community. The especially like to give to those who would not have a hot meal during the Christmas Holiday. Pictured are Annie Dancy, Janie Garcia and Georgelyn Hemphill.

Shropshire-Upton Chapter Of UDC Reports on Meetings

The Shropshire-Upton Chapter 361, United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) met on November 12, at 2 p.m. at the home of Sarah Uzzi.

There were sixteen members and one guest present. Members present were: Sabra Allen, Evelyn Barrett, Katherine Benson, Donna Bridwell, Nancy Christenberry, Dorothy Cooper, Millycent Cordes, Joan Dreahn, Fay Elliott, Carolyn Hastedt, Joye Johnson, Joyce Stancik, Joy Thompson, Arliss Treybig, Sarah Uzzi and Ann Warner.

A Memorial Service was presented in honor of the deceased members of 2009.

Participating in the impressive program were: Evelyn Barrett, Carolyn Hastedt and Millycent Cordes. Candles were lit in memory of Dorothy Albrecht, Carol Key, Mary Jane Mckinzie, Jean Thornton, Elizabeth Waddell and Alice McKissick.

The Third Vice President Millie Cordes reported that the Children of the Confederacy had done some yard around the Museum. They are planning a meeting during the Christmas holidays.

Sarah Uzzi and Milly Cordes served as hostesses. They presented the program for the afternoon.

Sarah discussed the food that the soldiers ate while serving in the Confederate Army.

Millie served various dried fruits, biscuits, nuts and drinks that were similar to the soldiers' daily rations. It was a very interesting program.

The Shropshire-Upton Chapter 361, United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) met on December 10, at 11 a.m. at the home of Joyce Stancik in Eagle Lake.

There were eight members present and one guest, Darlene Stancik Argo, daughter of Joyce Stancik. Members present were: Nancy Christenberry, Dorothy Cooper, Millycent Cordes, Joyce Gordy, Carolyn Hastedt, Joyce Stancik, Arliss Treybig and Sarah Uzzi.

A covered dish Christmas luncheon was served at 11:30 a.m. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food.

Wonderful desserts and coffee were enjoyed with much conversation about the Christmas season.

Guests also enjoyed a guided tour through the festively appointed home, which featured a collection of Nativities.

Sarah Uzzi presented a very interesting program on the legend of "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

She displayed twelve Fenton plates depicting the symbols of each of the "Twelve Days of Christmas".

Sarah spoke of each of the plates and explained the history of the symbols.

Following the program, President Carolyn Hastedt, called the meeting to order for a short business meeting.

The meeting adjourned with members wishing each other a "Very Merry Christmas".

'Do Well, Be Well' Diabetes Education Series Scheduled

Diabetes is a serious illness. But the good news is that it does not have to be a life-threatening one.

Early diagnosis and treatment and good management practices are the keys to a long healthy life for persons with diabetes.

Starting on January 14, the Colorado Fayette Medical Center in Weimar, is sponsoring a "Do Well, Be Well" with diabetes program for people with Type 2 diabetes.

This 5 part series will be held every Thursday, beginning January 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colorado Fayette Medical Center Meeting Room.

This series, which was designed by specialists at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will provide quality information on taking care of yourself and how to eat delicious foods that are good for you.

Participants will learn to take control of diabetes and live the kind of life they want to live.

Co-sponsors for the program are the Colorado Fayette Medical Center and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

To register, or for further information, call Shannon Holland at 979-725-9144.

The registration fee is \$10. The registration deadline is January 7.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Co-operating.

THC Archeologists Examine Historic Bernardo Site

The site of the first and largest plantation in the Republic of Texas that once served as a staging area for Gen. Sam Houston's troops before the Battle of San Jacinto is again a hub of activity.

Archeologists with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the Community Archaeology Research Institute, Inc. of Houston, the Houston Archeological Society and several volunteer groups are working to determine the plantation's exact layout, unearthing exciting results.

The 1822 Bernardo Plantation was the home of Jared E. Groce, one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred settlers. The 1,500 acre site sits on private property owned by Houston television station owner Greg Brown, who is also the publisher of Cowboys and Indians magazine.

Earlier radar and magnetic detection investigations revealed what appear to be intact remains of the plantation's main house and evidence of brick and sandstone chimneys.

Remains of an old cistern provide a visible hint of part of the plantation's layout.

The historic site was discovered by Wharton pediatrician Gregg Dimmick with the aid of fellow avocational archeologist Jim Woodrick, who together gained access to the private property after researching the topic.

"If you've read any of the early documents about the fight for Texas independence, this plantation site figured prominently in that," said Jim Bruseth, director of the THC Archeology Division. "Anybody of any importance came through here."

Ten days before the Battle of San Jacinto, Bernardo provided the facilities, services and a strategic location for Sam Houston and his Texian soldiers to prepare for the Mexican army.

The Twin Sisters cannons arrived from Ohio sympathizers and nearby, the steamboat Yellow Stone waited to ferry soldiers across the Brazos River.

Large groups of people fleeing the approaching Gen. Santa Anna and his troops passed through as part of what became known as the Runaway Scrape.

The collection of structures including the main house, stand-alone kitchen, slaves' quarters, traveler's hostel and cabin for the resident doctor was where more than 100 people once lived and worked along the banks of the Brazos River.

Bernardo, believed to be named after the Mexican governor of Texas at the time, is considered the South's last major cotton plantation as well as the nation's farthest westward cotton plantation.

"With regards to Texas early history, its location in the Brazos Valley is where the South became the West," says Texas State Historian Light Cummins.

"Bernardo was where plantation history began in our state with the planting of the first cotton crop in the Austin colony, and in terms of slave numbers remained the largest plantation in the Republic of Texas."

Previous investigations in the summer and early fall yielded portions of hand-held tools, wagon and harness pieces, fragments of ceramic vessels and other household items.

"As we began to recover artifacts we were presented with some of the most poignant experiences an archeologist can have," said Robert Marcom, a principal investigator with the Houston-based nonprofit Community Archaeology Research Institute, Inc. (CARI).

"For instance, finding a heavy hoe blade that's more than 170 years old is a reminder of both the economic possibilities that the early settlers hoped to exploit as well as the terrible human cost that enslavement exacted on those who were forced to labor under the hot Texas sun."

CARI will continue to manage the Bernardo Plantation Archeology Project with the assistance of the THC and volunteers from the Texas, Houston, Fort Bend and Brazosport archeology societies. Long term plans include partial excavation of the site, leaving some areas for future experts to explore with techniques not yet available.

The goal is to eventually use the site as a learning tool for archeology classes and field schools. Researchers also hope to learn more about descendants of the slaves who once worked the plantation, many of whom are believed to live in and around the Hempstead area.

For more information about the Bernardo Plantation contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512.463.6096 or www.thc.state.tx.us.

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