



# East Fork-Trinity Chapter Newsletter Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



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Drake Peddie, born and raised in Houston, was graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Houston and has lived in the Richardson/Garland area ever since. He has an MBA from Amberton University in Garland and has worked primarily in defense communication and electronics in this area for over 30 years.

He joined the SAR in the fall of 2003 with Past President General Nathan White as his sponsor.

He was the president of the Plano Chapter of the SAR in 2009 and again in 2010. During that time, the chapter won the National Americanism Award and the President Generals Award - each for the second time making them one of the top chapters in the country.

He is currently the President of the Denton Chapter and is the Chairman of the Council of Chapter Presidents for the Texas Society.

For the last 4 years, he has averaged about 60-70 SAR related activities per year, many in uniform. In addition to the SAR, he is a member of the Dutch Colonial Society, the Order of Descendants



Drake Peddie as Sure Shot Tim Murphy

[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

of Pirates and Privateers and is the current Senior Vice-Commander for the E.E. Ellsworth Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Drake came to us as Sure Shot Tim Murphy of Morgan's Riflemen.

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*In this issue, we have a sixth article by Compatriot Frank Roberts;*

*“Colonial and State Navies”*

*Frank's article begins on page 9.*

**Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on October 11, 2012. Compatriot Frank Roberts is scheduled to speak; See p. 8 for details. Come early and join us for dinner**

## **Minutes from the September 13, 2012 Meeting of the East Fork-Trinity Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution**

The September 13, 2012 meeting of the East Fork-Trinity Chapter of the SAR was called to order at 7:00 by President Walt Thomas, at the Texas Land and Cattle Steak House in Garland.

Ten members and ten guests were in attendance:

Members; Allen Christian, Frank Roberts, Montie Monzingo, Walt Thomas, Tom Whitelock, Robert Vickers, Allen Christian, Paul Ridenour, Harmon Adair, and David Powell; and guests Jane Christian, Jane Roberts, Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, Barbara Thomas, Della Vickers, Barbara Powell, Glenn & Peggy Atterberry, Frederick Hawkins (inducted during the meeting), and our guest speaker Drake Peddie.

In the absence of Chaplain Bill Bellomy, Gary Snowden opened the meeting with a prayer.

Compatriot Frank Roberts led the pledge of allegiance to the US flag, Compatriot Bob Vickers led the pledge to the Texas flag, and Compatriot Montie Monzingo led the pledge to the SAR.

President Walt Thomas acknowledged and welcomed the guests present.

Secretary Montie Monzingo presented the minutes from the special meeting and the minutes from the June meeting, which were approved as posted.

President Walt Thomas announced the coming Color Guard Events:

Dallas DAR Regents Luncheon on September 22nd [Editor's note: see p. 7 for photos]

Rockwall DAR National Defense Luncheon on November 3rd

Rockwall Christmas Parade on December 1<sup>st</sup>

### Reports

Rockwall New Citizens' Reception at the Rockwall County Library

Rockwall 4th of July Parade

Flag presentation at the Rockwall First Baptist Church

Chapter display at the Rockwall County Library

[Editor's note: See the last newsletter for pictures taken at these four events.]

The state spring meeting of the TXSSAR, to be held at the Windham Hotel in Dallas April 4th-7th, was discussed. The Dallas Chapter has requested that our chapter handle the registration. The primary work would entail preparing the packets and manning the registration desk. The Dallas Chapter has agreed to handle the registration on Thursday. The expected number is 100-120 delegates and 70 guests. Harmon Adair made a motion, seconded by Bob Vickers, that our chapter agree to handle the registration. The motion was carried.

Also discussed was scheduling an event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our chapter.

Frederick Hawkins was sworn in by District 6 VP Harmon Adair. Compatriot Hawkins patriot ancestor was Stephen Pickton, 1757-1840. Stephen Pickton had six sons, all becoming Methodist ministers.

Frederick Hawkins being sworn in by District 6 VP Harmon Adair.

[Photo by Tom Whitelock]



Compatriot David Powell received a Supplemental Lines Certificate based on his 8th great-grandfather Jesse Boone's service. In the research, it was confirmed that Compatriot Powell is related to Daniel Boone.

David Powell receiving his supplemental ancestor certificate based on his patriot ancestor, Jesse Boone.

[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

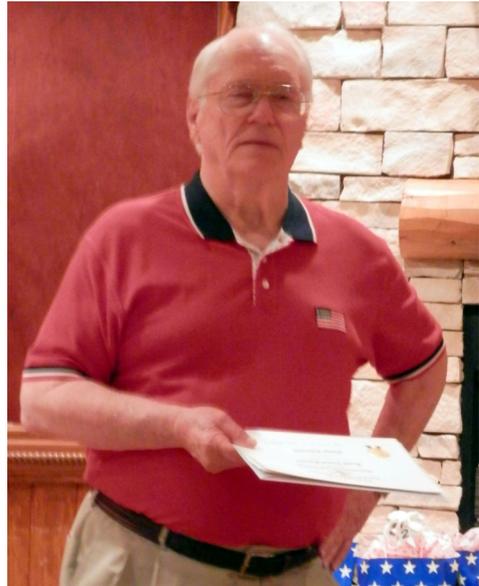


Compatriot Frank Roberts received a Supplemental Lines Certificate based on his patriot ancestor Curtis Alderson, who supplied flour, served on a county grand jury, and served in the militia.

Frank Roberts receiving his supplemental ancestor certificate based on his patriot ancestor, Curtis Alderson.  
[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

Vice President Paul Ridenour introduced the speakers; Compatriot Frank Roberts, who did the Americanism: Constitution Day, and Drake Peddie, our guest speaker.

Compatriot Frank Roberts testing the chapter members on their knowledge of the Constitution.  
[Photo by Tom Whitelock]



Drake Peddie, in costume, told us of the exploits of Sure Shot Tim Murphy. As a member of Morgan's Riflemen, Murphy achieved immortality. During the 2nd Battle of Saratoga, General Morgan called on Murphy to take out General Fraser. Murphy climbed a nearby tree and shot General Fraser off his horse. When Office Sir Francis Clerke rode up to where Fraser lay on the ground, he too was shot by Murphy. Murphy's actions turned the battle in favor of the continentals.



In 1913, a marker honoring Murphy was placed at the Saratoga Battlefield, and in 1929, a state marker was added; at the dedication, NY Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt said:

This country has been made by Timothy Murphys, the men in the ranks. Conditions here called for the qualities of the heart and head that Tim Murphy had in abundance. Our histories should tell us more of the men in the ranks, for it was to them, more than to the generals, that we were indebted for our military victories.

Drake Peddie portraying  
Sure Shot Tim Murphy.  
[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

Compatriot Tom Whitelock thanked those who brought donations for the veterans.

Compatriot Tom Whitelock, repeating his sly fox act, had the raffle prizes in identical bags, which he delivered, in order, to the raffle winners.

The raffle winners, in order, were: David Powell, Frank Roberts, Drake Peddie, Bob Vickers, Della Vickers, Glenn Atterberry, Barbara Powell, Montie Monzingo, and Paul Ridenour.

In the absence of Chaplain Bill Bellomy, Gary Snowden closed the meeting with a prayer, and President Walt Thomas led the closing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Montie Monzingo, Secretary

East Fork-Trinity Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

# Nationalization Ceremony, September 22nd



Tom Whitelock, et al, at the Nationalization Ceremony

# Dallas DAR Regents Luncheon on September 22nd



The Colors have been posted.

The East-Fork  
Trinity  
Chapter  
Color Guard

Montie  
Monzingo

Harmon  
Adair

Tom  
Whitelock

Walt  
Thomas

[Photos by  
Vivian Dennis]



# Americanism, Main Program Presentations

Our next meeting will be October 11th at 7 p.m..

Frank Roberts will give a PowerPoint presentation based on one of his books, "The American Foreign Legion", a history of the 93d Division in WWI in France. The 93d consisted of National Guard and draftee black enlisted personnel and black and white officers which served under French command. The 93d earned two Congressional Medals of Honor, over 75 Distinguished Service Crosses, and over 600 French decorations including four unit citations.

November 8th meeting: Either Paul Ridenour will speak, or we will meet with the DAR.

December 13th meeting: Christmas Party

## Colonial and State Navies

By Frank E. Roberts

The approach of dawn on May 29, 1776, finds seas running high many miles east of the Grand Banks in the North Atlantic. Two heavily laden British armed merchant men, their sails reduced, slam hard into the high, green, icy cold waves, pushing on towards the coast of King George III's Massachusetts Colony in the Americas. Several weeks out of Glasgow, Scotland and bound for the port of Boston, the ships carry on board over two hundred Scottish Highlander troops, along with their arms and equipment, and a few of the soldier's wives and children. The Highlanders, combat hardened professional soldiers, are under orders to join besieged General William Howe and his British Army in Boston. Their orders: to assist Howe in quelling a rapidly escalating rebellion in the King's North American colonies. That the ship captains' are sailing against the prevailing winds and tides of the northern route gives mute testimony to the urgency of Howe's need for these reinforcements. The captains would have much preferred the calmer and warmer southern route following the Canary Tides down to the Azores, then on to the

West Indies, and up the Gulf Tide of the east coast of the Americas to Boston.



The Continental Navy Brig *Andrea Doria*  
Fighting a British Warship

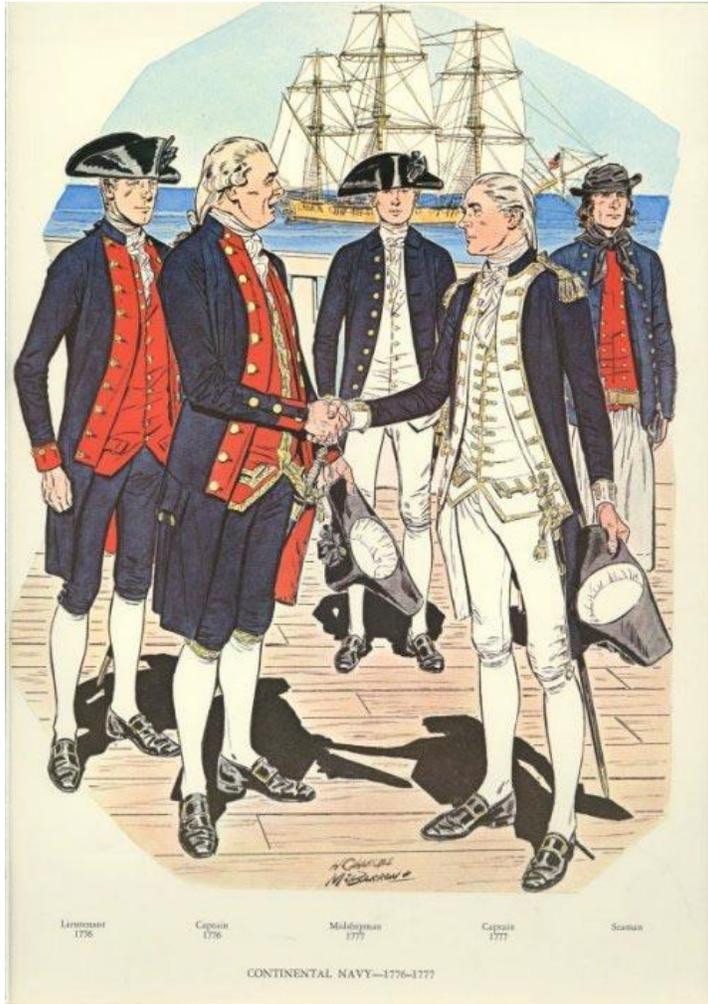
A lookout in the crow's nest atop the main mast of the larger vessel shouts down the sighting of a sail, not a welcomed message in these waters. Further reports from above indicate that the stranger is changing course and bearing down on the small convoy. The sighted sail belongs to the

fourteen-gun brig *Andrea Doria*, a warship of the newly minted Continental Navy, Captain Nicholas Biddle, commanding. Biddle brings his warship within signal range, orders the merchant vessels to heave to, and their captains to report aboard his vessel to receive new sailing orders. The merchant captains choose not to fight and, though concerned about maneuvering small craft in the dangerously high waves, call away their gigs. Biddle returns the captains to their vessels with orders to transport all of the small

arms on the two merchantmen to the *Andrea Doria*, and consolidate all two hundred of the Highlanders, with wives and children, onto the larger merchant vessel, the *Oxford*, a task of no small feat in the angry seas. Upon completing the required transfers, Biddle places prize crews aboard the British vessels, confines the British crews and Scottish Highlanders below decks, and sets his small convoy on a course for Cape Cod, and once there, to turn north to Rebel friendly ports on the Massachusetts shore.

Four days into the new course, five sails appear to the northwest bearing down on the convoy. Bad news for Biddle, the rapidly approaching strangers are soon identified as warships of the Royal Navy. Now outnumbered and outgunned, Biddle signals his prize crews to disperse their vessels and elude the British warships as best they can.

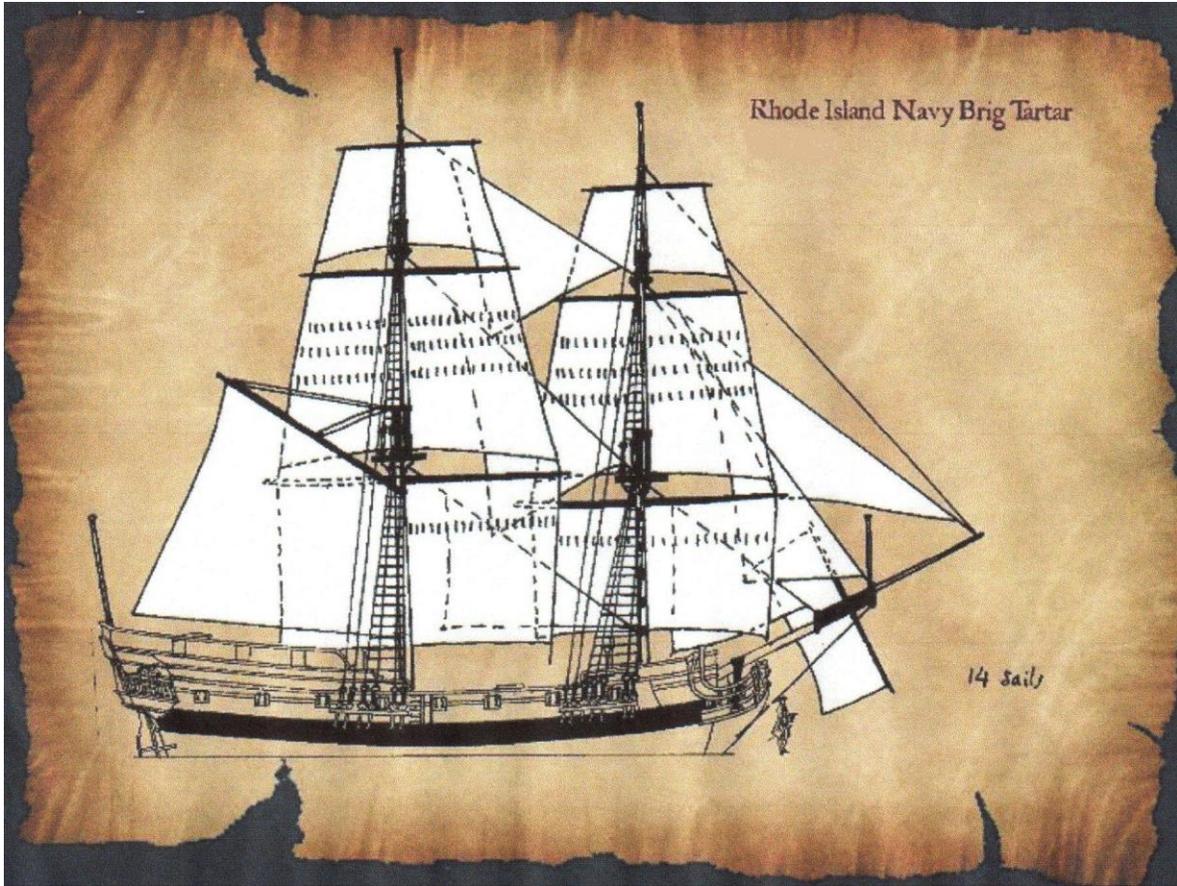
The prize crew sailing the *Oxford*, though woefully short of hands, maneuvers the cumbersome merchant ship with skill in the heavy sea, and are successful in evading the British warships. The *Oxford's* British captain, allowed to remain on deck, is cognizant of the short handed prize crew and its efforts just to keep the ship under control. Now that the ship no longer enjoys the protective guns of the *Andrea*



Officers and Seamen of the Continental Navy

*Doria*, he rallies his crew and, enlisting the help of the Highlanders, overpowers the Americans and takes back his ship. Now wary of Northern Colonial waters that might contain other hostile ships of war, he sets a course for the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, intending to join with Royal Governor Lord Dunmore who is attempting to perform his administrative duties over the colony of Virginia from a warship anchored somewhere at the mouth of those waters.

The *Oxford* beats its way south along the coast and as it arrives in Virginia waters another sail comes into sight, and another armed warship, again a small brig similar to the *Andrea Doria*, approaches the merchantman. The captain of the stranger vessel is



Colonial Navy Ship Similar to the Ship of Captain James Barron

James Barron, a cautious type, who takes no chances with this larger antagonist. When in range and in position, he attempts to intimidate the captain of the *Oxford* into striking his colors by delivering a full broadside of the brig's seven starboard guns.

Perhaps embolden by the successful recapture of his ship, but in any case obviously in no mood to surrender, the *Oxford's* captain orders his own well trained gun crews to reply with their small but well aimed version of a broadside. Then, wanting to take full advantage of the infantry force on board, the *Oxford's* captain attempts to maneuver his ship to close on Barron, intent on boarding the rebel with an overpowering, if nonetheless unarmed, mass of very angry, very hostile Scottish Highlanders.

Barron's crew is only seventy and, realizing his enemy's intent to close, he veers away his nimbler vessel, and circles the larger vessel while preparing his guns to deliver another broadside. This time he holds his volley until a wave heaves up the side of his ship towards the *Oxford*, then looses a full load of chain shot into the enemy's sails. The *Oxford's* main mast drops, tearing away canvas and rigging and leaving the vessel unable to maneuver.

For the second time in the span of only a few days the captain of the *Oxford* is forced to strike his colors. Barron reinforces the *Andrea Dorea's* prize crew with men from his ship, makes repairs sufficient to get the *Oxford* underway, and accompanies the captured vessel into the rebel port of Jamestown, Virginia.

This type of sea action, particularly in the early years of the war, was becoming a commonplace occurrence between Rebel and British ships. American men-of-war were capturing British merchant vessels bringing supplies and materials to support the British Army in the American colonies, and diverting such bounty to the Rebel cause.

There is, however, an unusual nature in this particular incident with Barron and his ship: this warship happened not to be a vessel of the fresh, and relatively untried, untested, and as yet to-be fully equipped Continental Navy. This ship, which may have been the *Liberty*, though records do not confirm the actual name, belonged to the Colony of Virginia, and Captain James Barron was in fact commissioned as an officer in the Virginia Navy. .

Ten others of the thirteen colonies, like Virginia, operated various sized armed vessels on lakes, rivers, estuaries, and on the open seas, with only Delaware and New Jersey not operating their own navies in the Revolutionary War. Of those eleven, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Pennsylvania were the most active with their navies consisting of every type of vessel from single gun row galleys to thirty-two gun seagoing brigs.

At the beginning of the war there was no Continental Navy and the Continental Congress, realizing that time was needed to organize, build, equip, and man seagoing vessels, resolved the following in June of 1775:

*“That each colony, at their own expense, make such provision by armed Vessels or otherwise, as their respective Assemblies, Conventions or Committees of Safety shall judge expedient and suitable to their Circumstances and situations, for the protection of their Harbours (sic) and Navigation on their Sea Coasts, against all unlawful invasions, attacks, and depredations from Cutters and Ships of War.”*

These navies of the colonies would be the major coastal, estuary, and river defense force and to some lesser extent the



Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Flags of the South Carolina State Navy

seagoing power of the Rebel cause during 1776 and into 1777, the first years of the war. Their presence allowed the Continental Navy time to get established, organized, and to build and equip warships and auxiliary vessels of its own. As the war continued and the

Continental Navy grew in strength, the navies of the colonies continued to be active though playing a lesser role, mostly in river and close coastal operations.

Several of the more successful officers in the state navies contributed to the manning of the Continental Navy by accepting commissions, though several chose to captain privateer vessels. Through these avenues, the navies of the colonies, or state navies as they were later to be called, played an important, though generally little known, part in the conduct of the naval aspects of the Revolutionary War.



Later, in the history of this country, state navies would again be organized and re-activated as state naval militias, and play significant supporting roles in future wars of the United States of America, until the Naval Reserve, under direct U. S. Navy control, came into being in the early twentieth century. Even then, some state navies continued in various supporting roles.

Still today, the State of New York has an active navy, including a marine force, with a mission and/or missions as directed by the governor. Other states are establishing, or re-establishing state naval militias to

New York State Naval Militia Harbor Patrol Boat

act in support of the Coast Guard and with law enforcement agencies as one more line of defense against the growing threat of terrorism and drug smuggling by guarding ports, harbors, and coast lines of the United States.

#### References and suggested readings:

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Stewart, Robert A. "The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution", Mitchell and Hotchkiss, Richmond, Virginia, 1934.

Frank E. Roberts