



THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT

Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter # 57 Longview, Texas



Volume 12, Number 4

August 2, 2018

The President's Message

“The United States is Another Year Older”

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, an historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4 has been celebrated as the birth of American Independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

“When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed—that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

A portion of the writing of Thomas Jefferson

The 2018 National Congress hosted by the Texas Society in July was held in Houston. Due to scheduling conflicts, I was not able to attend. I do hope some of our members were able to represent our chapter and will be able to give us a brief report in August.

Those of you with a computer, Google “The playing of our National Anthem at sporting events” and compare the then to the now! Think of those who fought and died for our freedom and right to protest in any manner. It is also through their sacrifice that it is our right and obligation to our ancestors to voice our opinion on the removal of statues and monuments in our country. Volunteer to speak in a class on a part of history that is dear to your heart. Now is the time for Veterans to share some of your service experiences. Keep our History alive!



God bless America! See you at Casa Ole' on August 2 !!

Carl

Minutes and Treasurer's Report of June 7, 2018

The East Texas Chapter #57, TXSSAR, held its bimonthly meeting on June 7 at Casa Ole` Restaurant in Longview, Texas at 7 PM. The meeting was called to order by President, Carl Hedges. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain J.D. Denton. The pledges to the United States flag, the Texas flag and the SAR flag were given and guests Gene and Karen Pilgrim of Quitman were introduced. President Hedges presented Mickey Cole, Treasurer and Webmaster, an Outstanding Service Award for Website Development and Upkeep.

After dinner, the meeting resumed with the consideration of the Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter. Both were accepted as presented.

President Hedges asked once again for everyone to update their e-mail addresses. It was announced that we have two new members, Boone Coleman and Charles Stultz. Mr. Stultz will be transferring into our chapter and Mr. Coleman will be inducted at the library when possible.

The program was presented by Kimberly Funderburk instructor at Carthage High School. She is the UIL Coordinator and presented the program on the UIL and its activities and merits.

It was announced that the next meeting will be on August 2 at Casa Ole' Restaurant. The meeting was adjourned with the SAR Closing and the benediction by J. D. Denton.

John Bolton, Secretary

Treasurer's Report:

July 2018

Beginning Balance (5/1/2018)		\$1791.12
Deposits: Member's Donations	\$46.81	
D. Conner Donation	25.00	
Total Deposits:		\$71.81
Checks: C. Hedges – Chapter		
Awards, medals, etc.	\$307.50	
C. Hedges – SAR Cert.		
Folders, etc.	124.50	
J. Bolton – Newsletter stamps	50.00	
Total checks:		\$482.00
Ending Balance (6/30/18)		\$1380.93

Mickey Cole, Treasurer



Special Forces—The Minutemen

The Minutemen played a crucial role not only in the Revolutionary War, but in earlier conflicts as well. In the 18th century there was a decided difference between the militia and the minutemen. The Militia were men in arms formed to protect their towns from foreign invasion and ravages of war. Minutemen were a small hand-picked elite force which were required to be highly mobile and able to assemble quickly. They were selected from militia muster rolls by their commanding officers. Typically 25 years of age or younger, they were chosen for their enthusiasm, reliability, and physical strength. The Minutemen were the first armed militia to arrive or await a battle. They were different from the militia in the following ways: (1) Minutemen were volunteers; (2) Trained more frequently than the militia. Two or three times a week was common. Because of the serious commitment of time, they were paid. One shilling per drill was average; (3) Minutemen were expected to keep their arms and equipment with them at all times and be ready to march at a minute's warning.

Although Minutemen are thought of as connected to the Revolutionary War, their existence was conceived in Massachusetts during the mid-seventeenth century. As early as 1645, men were selected from the militia to be dressed with matchlocks or pikes and accoutrements within half an hour of being warned. In 1689 another type of Minuteman company came into existence. Called **Snowshoemen**, each was to "provide himself with a good pair of snowshoes, one pair of moggisons, and one hatchet" and to be ready to march on a moment's warning, with 3 days provision. They played a role in the French and Indian War in the 1750's.

By the time of the Revolution, Minutemen had been a well-trained force for six generations in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Every town had maintained its "training band". The adversity that this region faced—Native-American uprisings, war with France, and potential for local insurrections, social unrest, and rioting—provided ample reason to adhere to a sound organization. Author, David Hackett Fischer states "The muster of the Minutemen in 1775 was the product of many years of institutional development...It was also the result of careful planning and collective effort." By the time of the Revolution, Massachusetts had been training, drilling, and improving their militia for well over a hundred years.



Unfortunately, one thing the Minutemen lacked was central leadership. This disadvantage would lead to their dissolution. When a battle took place, Minutemen companies from several towns combined their units. After a few volleys were fired, the British light infantry retreated back to their common area. Lacking central leadership, with each company of Minutemen loyal to their own town, they did not pursue the redcoats. Although lacking central command, the Minutemen were still better organized and battle-tested than any other part-time military. They were a vital and necessary force, playing a crucial role in not only the Revolutionary War, but in earlier conflicts. Without these "ready in a minute" men, our history may have been written in a very different way.



Our program for August will be J.D.(Don) Boydstrun. He is a native of Burkburnett, Wichita County, Texas and a Vietnam Era veteran, serving as a Russian linguist for U.S. Army Intelligence Branch. For several years he has held active membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Descendants of Confederate Veterans where he is presently serving as President of the Board of Directors. His program will be on one of his specialties, the Battle of Pea Ridge/Elkhorn Tavern which took place on March 7 and 8, 1862.



Officers for Sons of the American Revolution, Chapter 57

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Bolton, Hedges, Boone Coleman, Cole and Conner

Robert Boone Coleman is the son of Darren & Cindy Coleman of Longview. He is a 2014 graduate of Pine Tree High School and is a May graduate of Texas Tech. Boone will begin a 2-year Masters in Biomedical Sciences degree at Texas Tech in August and plans to attend medical school. He says he is proud to become a member of SAR and is excited to learn more about his ancestors and this organization.

Welcome Boone!



Mickey Cole receiving Web Master Certificate



Carl and daughter, Kimberly Funderburk



Program for October will be presented on "Huguenots in the Revolution" given by John Bolton.

See you at Casa Ole' on August 2!!