



THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT

Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter # 57 Longview, Texas



Volume 10, Number 3

June 2, 2016

President's Message

It is that time of year where we think of the magical and long-awaited "VACATION." Where are we going? Let me suggest two places that are relatively close to each other.

One is Point Pleasant, West Virginia site of the battle that some believe was the first encounter of the American Revolution. Located on the point where the mighty Ohio River meets the Kanawha River. There is a state historical site where the battle took place. Several monuments are there in honor of those that fought and the grave of the leader of the Indian opposition chief "Cornstalk." A restored three story log cabin is on the site filled with antiques & artifacts of the period. Some of the compatriots that fought here became the leaders in the Revolution for example; seven officers rose to the rank of general & six captains led regiments. Many of these veterans were present at Cornwallis' surrender. Look at many names of towns & counties in various states that are in honor of these veterans of Point Pleasant. Lewisburg, West Virginia is named for General Andrew Lewis, Campbell County, Virginia for William Campbell, Mathews County, Virginia for George Matthews, & Harrisonburg, Virginia for Benjamin Harrison. Isaac Shelby (first governor of Kentucky) has about 20 towns and counties named for him. Shelby and his good friend Valentine Sevier disobeyed orders to hunt for food, discovered the Indian war raiding party and warned the others. Their act of insubordination saved countless lives. Isaac Shelby, Valentine Sevier (4th great-grandfather of my wife Liz) and John Sevier (first governor of Tennessee and older brother of Valentine) went on to lead units during the Revolution. They are credited for planning the Battle of King's Mountain, a turning point of the Revolution. Also while at Point Pleasant do check out the "Mothman." Though he's not of the Revolutionary War period, he's still very interesting.

Take a relatively short scenic drive across West Virginia to Lexington, Virginia home of VMI (Virginia Military Institute) and Washington & Lee University. It is possible to stand with one foot on each campus at the same time. The uniqueness of the community is that Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson taught at VMI prior to the Civil War and Robert E. Lee became President of Washington University at the War conclusion. Both Southern leaders are now at rest in the same town in Virginia. Walk the parade grounds of VMI and visit its' great history, especially learn about the field of shoes. Lee's Chapel is a must visit for the history of the school and the Lee family. General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee III, a Revolutionary War hero and father of Robert Edward Lee, along with several other noted Lee family members are buried in a crypt beneath the Chapel.

Thank you for the change collected in my Easter Bucket. It totaled \$36.98. Bring a pocketful to the next meeting.

Do you remember Roy Rogers and Dale Evans? *Happy Trails to you, until we meet again....Keep smiling until then. Who cares about the clouds when we're together? Just sing a song & bring the sunny weather. Happy Trails to you, 'til we meet again.* (Casa Ole, Thursday, June 2 at 6:00 pm.)

Later, Carl

TXSSAR State Registrar to Speak

Mike Radcliff, **Texas State President of the SAR** will speak to members and guests at the meeting on June 2. His goal this year is to “gain and retain” SAR membership. Mike has made enormous contributions to both Texas and National Societies of SAR. He is a member of the Plano Chapter of SAR where he has held many offices—from Chaplain to President. Don’t miss this inspiring program. We want to wish him good luck in this new state office!



Sarah Funderburk, granddaughter of President Hedges will also speak on her duties as President General of the Children of the Republic of Texas. Sarah is a senior at Carthage High School and participates in many activities. She plans to attend Panola College next year and major in Theatre.



Minutes and Treasurer’s Report for April 7, 2016

The East Texas Chapter #57, TXSSAR met on April 7, 2016 at the Casa Ole’ Restaurant in Longview. The meeting was called to order by President, Carl Hedges. The opening prayer was given by John Bolton, Registrar. The pledges to the United States Flag, the Texas Flag, and the SAR Flag were given. President Hedges welcomed all guests.

After dinner, the meeting resumed with the Secretary and Treasurer’s reports being accepted as printed in the Newsletter. The President spoke about the ROTC program to be held on May 10 at the Longview High School. President Hedges, John Bolton, and Mickey Cole will attend to represent the SAR. A new SAR brochure was discussed. John Bolton announced that Gregg County Museum will be sponsoring a Confederate History display. The Battle of San Jacinto will be remembered on April 21.

Members were reminded to go to the website for information concerning Chapter #57. Mickey Cole was complimented for taking on the project of the website. A new member, Mickey has stepped up to take on this responsibility and the office of Vice President of Chapter #57.

The speaker, Nancy Williams Langford, was introduced by the President. She spoke on the flags of the American Revolution. Some of the flags discussed in her program were the Guilford Courthouse, Bunker Hill, Cowpens, and the Gadsden Flag know by its “Don’t Tread on Me” wording.

The meeting was adjourned with the SAR Closing and a Benediction by John Bolton.

Treasurer’s report The current balance: \$1,836.78

Gary Fletcher
Secretary/Treasurer



The Real Meaning of the Fourth of July

Pat Boone

It is time for the Fourth of July and we are supposed to be celebrating Independence Day. But what makes this day special?

What gives this holiday its significance is that our Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1776. It was in Philadelphia, and the signers of that document, composed by Thomas Jefferson, knew that this declaration of independence from the rule of Great Britain might also be—literally—their death sentence.

They knew that the wrath and might of the British army would be sailing across the Atlantic to descend on the relatively defenseless colonies. They knew their scattered “states” didn’t have the numbers or arms or training to stand against the British, much less defeat them militarily. Yet they put their signatures, and their lives, their families, their destiny, on that parchment. And so, against all odds, and even against reason, that Declaration told the world that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states.”...

Most of the people living in those colonies had simply had enough of British domination

and of working and virtually existing at the pleasure of a king they didn’t know and who obviously considered them his indentured servants. They wanted to be free, to make their own decisions, to govern themselves and to breathe the sweet air of liberty.

The first celebration of American Independence took place four days later in Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress was still meeting. The ceremony began with a public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Then from the tower of the State House, now called Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell rang out.

The coat of arms of the king of England was taken down and there was a parade. Cannons Boomed. The people, though aware of what lay ahead, cheered! A new nation sprang to life.

John Adams in a letter to his wife, Abigail, wrote “it ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.” And so it began...



SAR Chapter 57 Officers

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**Sons of the American Revolution
J ROTC Award**

Longview High School
May 10, 2016

Chapter # 57
President, Carl Hedges
Presented the JROTC Award
to
Elijah Thomas



Remember—We meet at Casa Ole’ (Spur 63) on June 2, 2016!!