

Pineywoods Pine Shavings

News of the Pineywoods Chapter of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Volume VIII- Issue #1

April 3, 2000

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DRAFT NOTICE: Pursuant to

Article IV, Section 1, Sub-Section 1, of the By-Laws of Pineywoods Chapter #51; the Chapter President did at a lawfully convened Chapter Board meeting on or about March 23 of this year cause to be created the new position of "Assistant to the First Vice President." Subsequent to Board approval of this action, the First Vice President did serve official notice that the responsibilities outlined in Article IV, Section 2, Sub-Section 1, of the aforementioned By-Laws would be immediately delegated to said "Assistant." The Board then, pursuant to Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Pineywoods Chapter, did appoint Compatriot John Oliver Albright to fill said position.

♦ TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE: ♦

An emeritus Chapter President - I won't mention any names but his initials are Thomas Milton Green - saw a "Christmas Newsletter" I assembled, liked it, and convinced the Board to draft me into putting out the Chapter newsletter (weren't "press gangs" one of the things our ancestors fought to eliminate?) Seriously though, I do believe that an informative newsletter is crucial to the effectiveness and growth of our Chapter and I will do what I can with OUR newsletter. BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP! First of all I will need material to print: items of concern to the members of our Chapter, milestone events in the lives of our members, notices of upcoming meetings and any noteworthy items from meetings you've attended, and interesting articles you may have come across in other newsletters, newspapers, etc. I also will need your feedback as to the effectiveness of OUR newsletter. If there's something you found particularly useful/interesting let me or someone on the Board know. LIKEWISE if there is something you don't like let us know that too, we are striving to improve the newsletter. BUT BE FOREWARNED, if you complain too much YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE NAMED AS MY REPLACEMENT! Since I recently moved to Houston, I am still fighting with my computer and the service provider to get my internet link up and going. Until I can reliably send and receive E-mail please contact me by one of the following:

MAIL: John Oliver Albright
16211 Waiting Spring Cr
Houston, TX 77095-4547

PHONE: (281) 856 - 7478 (has answering machine)

FAX: (281) 856 - 7547 ("on" most of the time)

E-MAIL: ((still being worked on, will let you know once it is "viable"))

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETING:

A meeting was held on 23 MAR 2000 of the Pineywoods Chapter Board at the Randall's Grocery Store (once again the Chapter is grateful to Randall's for allowing us use of their facilities). Thirteen (13) members were present including current officers, past presidents, and one draftee (see related article in column one). Key items of discussion and/or action at the meeting included:

- 1) The creation of a standing finance committee to work with the chapter treasurer to deal with expenditures that either are not covered by the budget or significantly exceed the budgeted amount.
- 2) Options concerning the certificate of deposit holding the Chapter's capital basis for a scholarship fund. Some discussion was also held regarding the anticipated future format of Chapter scholarships.
- 3) Assignment of an editor for the Chapter newsletter (again, see the article in column one).
- 4) That our own Tom Green has been elected to the position of District Vice President by the state SAR society (district 8 includes the Freedom (Conroe), Independence, Capt. John Mc Adams (Huntsville), Washington, and Pineywoods chapters of the TxSSAR). Congratulations Tom!
- 5) That the April "Members Only" meeting would be moved up a week so as not to fall on the Maundy Thursday holiday.
- 6) And that the next board meeting would be held in early June wherein the tentative meeting schedule for next year would be laid out.

CENSUS FEVER HITS PINEYWOODS

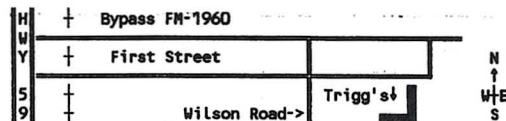
OK, so you've all had it up to here (imagine my hand just over my head) with all the hoopla over the Y2K Federal census (I assume you've all been good citizens and filled out your forms?) Well a number of the points they make about the federal census makes sense for our organization as well. In particular with regards to communicating with the members of the Chapter! In order to expedite the distribution of Chapter notices and the newsletter we need to verify the USPS mail addresses and telephone numbers we have on file. And for those of you who actually trust that pile of wires and diodes on your desk, we'd like to have E-Mail addresses so we can continue exploring electronic communication of Chapter information. So when you find the Pineywoods census form included with a future newsletter, please take a few minutes to verify the information we already have and fill in missing blanks.

PATRIOTIC TRIVIA QUESTION:

Where was the Battle of Bunker Hill fought? (The surprising answer in the next issue of Shavings!)

NOTICE OF MEETING: "Members Only" Dinner Meeting - 13 APR

On April 13, 2000, the Pineywoods Chapter - TxSSAR will hold a "Members Only" dinner meeting at Triggs Restaurant located on bypass FM-1960 East in Humble, Texas (see the map below). A social gathering will start at 6:30 PM followed by a dinner of Bar-B-Que beef with "fixin's" at 7:00. The dinner will be followed by a discussion of chapter business and activities. The cost is \$16.50 per person. Please respond ASAP either by E-Mail to Genmorton@usa.net or by returning the enclosed card.



PROVE YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE

by John Oliver Albright
Any one of us who has completed an original OR a supplemental membership application for the Sons of the American Revolution will recognize that there are two distinct parts: 1) proving that the individual in question was in fact our ancestor (i.e. "establishing the SAR bloodline") and 2) proving that that same individual had "rendered active service in the cause of American Independence" (as per NSSAR Constitution, Article III; eligibility for membership). Now what may not be general knowledge is that in the time between our country's centennial celebration (July 4, 1876) and the start of World War I, there was a considerable surge in patriotism throughout this country combined with an interest in the participation of one's ancestors in key events in our nation's history. As a result of this surge, a number of states commissioned compilations to be assembled to document as many individuals as possible who had served in the Revolutionary War. And since these books were typically put together by an official agency of the state and based upon the original records in the state's archives, entries therein are typically readily accepted by the SAR as proof of an individual's patriotic service! So with the thought that these books may well be of interest to those of you filling out applications (for example supplementals) the purpose of this (and future related columns) is to identify these books for your potential use.

♦ MASSACHUSETTS: So far, the state of Massachusetts has to take first prize in its efforts to document its patriot ancestors. In 1896 the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prepared and published seventeen (yes, 17!) large volumes called "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War" (as compiled from the state archives). This series is available at the Clayton Library here in Houston (call # GEN 974.4 M14 - MASS) and contains a wealth of information about the military service (continued - next column)

(continuation from last column) vice of individuals. For example, the entry for Mr. Alden, Ebenezer, reports that he "...enlisted into Continental Army from Col. David Field's (5th. Hampshire County Regiment)..." and that his name appears on "Continental Army pay accounts for service from March 1, 1777, to Dec. 31, 1779..." (see book volume I, page 106). And beyond the military service, the books sometimes give interesting personal information about the individual, for example Mr. Prince, Samuel: "...age, 16 yrs.; stature, 5 ft.; complexion, light; occupation, farmer; ..." The series itself is conveniently organized in alphabetical order by name of the individual. And since the home town of the individual is given in most of the entries, it is a straightforward process to locate an ancestor in the book.

♦ NEW YORK: For the state of New York, a smaller two volume set of books exists: "New York in the Revolution as Colony and State - Volumes I & II," a compilation of documents from the Office of the State Comptroller published in 1904 (also available at Clayton Library, call # GEN 974.7 N532 NY). However instead of focusing on the individual (as with the Massachusetts series) these volumes are organized by military units and by events - for example the awarding of bounties for those who served in the war. It is well indexed so you should be able to readily find your ancestor if he is in it. This book has an advantage, though, in that it also lists many individuals who served the cause other than in the military. It lists members of many governmental organizations, and in my case it lists the subscribers to various bonds issued by the state during the war (from Vol. II, page 194, subscription roll of May 30th, 1780, included in the list was my ancestor, Barnabus Beech). Being aware of other such compilations in the New England states, but out of space here, I will continue this in the next newsletter. If any of you are aware of similar tomes in the southern states, please let me know about them and I'll include them in future installments.