

# PineyWoods Pine Shavings

News of the PineyWoods Chapter #51, of the Texas  
Society of The Sons of the American Revolution



Volume IX, Issue #8, Copyright April 5, 2002; PineyWoods Chapter  
#51, TXSSAR, P.O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325-6524; All Rights Reserved

The next meeting will be held April 18, 2002 at the Holiday Inn located at 15222 JFK Boulevard near Intercontinental Airport at the intersection of Beltway 8 and John F. Kennedy Boulevard. Social time begins at 6:15 PM and with dinner served at 7:00 PM.

Our speaker will be Compatriot Jim Robertson President of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has been a member of the SAR since 1988. He has since proved twelve ancestors.

He served the Dallas Chapter as Treasurer from 1988 to 1991, Historian from 1991 to 1992 and chaired the audit committee from 1992 until 1993. He was the founding Secretary of the Athens Chapter during 1994-1995 and served as chapter President from 1995 until 1997.

He was Secretary of the Council of Chapter Presidents 1995-1997, served as District 10 Vice President 1997-1998, served as Society Corresponding Secretary 1998-2000, Vice President for Expansion 2000-2001, President Elect 2001-2002 and presently is serving as Society President.

In recognition of his outstanding service to his community, Compatriot Robertson received in 1995 the DAR Excellence in Community Service Award from the Sarah Maples Chapter, NSDAR. He also received the NSSAR Liberty Medal in 1997 and an Oak Leaf Cluster in 2000. The Meritorious Service Medal from the Athens Chapter in January 1998 and from the Texas Society in March 1998, the Patriot Medal in March 1999 and Texas Service Medal in March 2000 and the Texas Chapter Service Medal in November 2000 and the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal in 2002.

Compatriot Robertson has attended eight TXSSAR state conventions, all but one Board of Managers meetings during that time period and has attended four National Congresses; San Antonio 1996, Orlando 1998, Boston 2000 and Louisville 2001.

In addition to the SAR, Jim is a member of eight other lineage organizations, founding President of the genealogical society in the Cedar Creek Lake area, a volunteer, and a church officer.

Jim is an IBM Corporation retiree.

Office/Title	Name	Telephone #	Email Address
President	Cannon Pritchard	936-327-2695	<a href="mailto:cannon@livingston.net">cannon@livingston.net</a>
Vice President(1st)	James Jones	713-956-6837	<a href="mailto:jtjones@hal-pc.org">jtjones@hal-pc.org</a>
Vice President(2nd)	John Albright	281-856-7478	<a href="mailto:ncc1861@aol.com">ncc1861@aol.com</a>
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw	281-894-8084	<a href="mailto:henshaw@flash.net">henshaw@flash.net</a>
Chaplain	Bernie Balser	281-360-7041	<a href="mailto:bbalser@aol.com">bbalser@aol.com</a>
Genealogist	Kim Morton	281-358-5429	<a href="mailto:genmorton@usa.net">genmorton@usa.net</a>
Historian	Clinton Fleming	713-695-6594	<a href="mailto:flem3clj@aol.com">flem3clj@aol.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Mike Culbertson	281-469-8734	<a href="mailto:mculby@yahoo.com">mculby@yahoo.com</a>
Registrar	Richard Shanks	281-493-4581	<a href="mailto:rgvpshanks@msn.com">rgvpshanks@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Ken Fleming	281-358-5839	<a href="mailto:kfle532460@aol.com">kfle532460@aol.com</a>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jim Richards	281-358-7959	
Treasurer	Tom Lawrence	281-893-5450	<a href="mailto:tlawrence@Houston.rr.com">tlawrence@Houston.rr.com</a>
Web Master	Ray Cox	281-454-6074	<a href="mailto:coxsw@flash.net">coxsw@flash.net</a>



As a continuing series in the newsletter we will look at the chronology of the revolution beginning with the:

### **Battle of Lexington and Concord**

On April 18, 1775 the British Army was ordered to seize arms held by the colonists in Concord and to capture John Hancock and Samuel Adams. The commander of the British forces was Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith. To keep their movements secret, the force of approximately 700 British regulars left Boston at midnight on the 19th. However, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety had learned of the army's plans and enlisted Paul Revere and William Dawes to warn Hancock and Adams who were at Lexington and to alert the countryside. Revere reached Lexington near midnight and met Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott. All three then left for Concord. However, Revere and Dawes were captured, but Dr. Prescott escaped by leaving the road and making his way to Concord cross-country.

As the British marched toward Concord the militiamen were waiting to meet them. The advance troops, commanded by Major John Pitcairn, arrived at Lexington at dawn. Lexington Militia Captain John Park mustered seventy of his men at the town commons to face the British troops. Pitcairn ordered his troops to surround and disarm the militiamen. It is unclear who fired first, but the British fired a volley in return and killed eight militiamen and wounded ten, the militia fled into the woods. During the engagement both Hancock and Adams escaped. The British Army continued to Concord. But Dr. Prescott's warning preceded their arrival and while attempting to locate cannons at a nearby farm, the British ran into a group of militiamen at Concord's North Bridge. The militia was ready for them this time. When the shooting began the militia stood their ground. Under heavy fire, the British evacuated the bridge and moved toward Concord. After realizing their exposed position, the British continued their retreat to Boston. During the retreat, militiamen flanked the British forces.

During a normal engagement at the time, the British would wheel to face the flanking force, however the militia did not fight that way. The militia hid behind trees and walls. Firing and moving, never concentrating their forces for long in one position, the militia denied the British an enemy to wheel and face. Thus, they retreated running into ambush after ambush. Fighting a new kind of battle where their superior discipline and firepower were rendered impotent, discipline waned and the line broke. It would have been a disaster had it not been for a relief column waiting in Lexington. The militia was dispersed by cannon fire from the column and the British reformed their ranks. The British, their line now intact, continued their retreat to Boston. While the militia continued harassing attacks, the British line held and the retreat was completed. The militia lost about 90 men, but the British suffered 230 casualties.

This was a resounding victory for the cause of the American Revolution. Before this battle, the majority of colonists were not in support of a revolution. After the rebels used the tactic to show they could fight a better-equipped and professional force, the rebels used this battle as a rallying point to convince other colonists to actively seek independence.