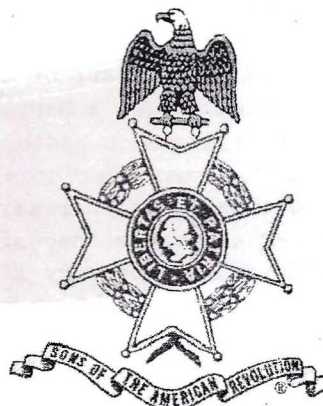


# PineyWoods Pine Shavings

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



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## Schedule of Meetings:

December 2002	No Meeting
January 16, 2003	Chapter Meeting
February 20, 2003	Members Only (Election of Officers)
February 28 -	TXSSAR State Convention at the Marriott Hotel Houston,
March 2, 2003	TX, hosted by the Paul Carrington Chapter
March 20, 2003	Chapter Dinner (Installation of New Officers)
April 17, 2003	Members Only
May 15, 2003	Chapter Dinner

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There is no meeting in December, the next meeting will be held January 16, 2003.

A message from Helie de Noailles, duc d'Ayen, President, Society in France of the SAR.

Dear Friends,

The friendship between France and the United States of America is important to both Nations. It is for this reason that the State Society in France of the Sons of the American Revolution has planned and is sponsoring a very special trip for Patriotic Associations Members to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the treaties that united our two Nations against common enemies from the American Revolution through World War Two. The ceremonies planned for February 4 though February 8 are offered for each to relive our history and share the official Alliance Day observance, while visiting beautiful palaces and chateaux, historical museums and attending gala parties and dinners. Patronage at the highest levels have been confirmed. Our President General B. Rice Aston is member of the Honorary Committee. A detailed program and registration form can be accessed by going to the Alliance Day website:  
<http://www.allianceday.org/>.

## DECEMBER 1775

Many and varied issues were taken up by the Continental Congress in December of 1775. Two could have an immediate effect on the armed forces of the **United Colonies**, as the Congress had begun to refer to the colonies. The first issue was the enlistment was expiring for many of the volunteers in the Army on December 31, 1775. The Congress: "Resolved, That the money [500,000 dollars] lately ordered, be forwarded, with all possible expedition, to General Washington, that he may be enabled to pay such soldiers as will re-enlist, for the succeeding year, and December, and also advance to them one month's pay." Continental Congress Journal

The next issue that took so much of their time was to get into place a Continental Navy. One such resolution stated: "Resolved, That Colonel Harrison do immediately proceed to Maryland, and be empowered in conjunction with the delegates of that colony to this Congress, or any one or more of them, [to] take such measures, as appear to them most effectual to procure, with all possible dispatch, on continental charge, two or three armed vessels to proceed immediately to cruise on, take or destroy as many of the armed vessels, cutters, and



ships of war of the enemy as possible, that may be found in the bay of Chesapeake, or any of its dependencies, &par; or coasts of Virginia and Maryland." The requirement for a Navy and actions taken to get a Navy was mentioned 28 times in sessions in December. As an aside one young 1st Lieutenants assigned to the Continental Navy was John Paul Jones.

The Congress also took up the business of any government of backing their debts with paper. The inscription read: "THIS bill intitles (sic) the bearer to receive Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to a resolution of Congress passed at Philadelphia, November 29, 1775."

The second Battle of Bunker Hill was fought in Virginia on November 9, 1775. The British Governor of the Virginia Colony, Lord Dunmore, had to retreat from Williamsburg due to unrest amongst the colonists. He was headed for Norfolk, which was considered still loyal to the crown. On his way down to Norfolk he raided many farms and gathered freed slaves to the British side. He engaged a rebel force at Kemp's Crossing which is just south of Norfolk. He then moved ten miles further south and re-enforced his position at Great Neck on the southern branch of the Elizabeth River. Colonel Woodford had almost 1,000 men under his command for the colonists and was advancing from the south. In the morning hours of November 9<sup>th</sup>, Lord Dunmore sent sailors from the British ship Otter and 60 town people, almost 200 in all to engage the colonists. He was however misinformed as to the size of the opposing force. When the attackers were within 50 yards of the rebel force, the rebels let them have. It was over in less than an hour. Lord Dunmore and all of the Tories retreated north to Norfolk and within a week the rebels had complete control of Norfolk and Lord Dunmore and the Tories had escaped to the Otter.

On December 3, General Montgomery arrived at Point-Aux-Trembles with only 350 men, having left the rest at Montreal. On December 5, Montgomery and Arnold began a siege and demanded surrender, which was rebuffed by General Carleton. Montgomery and Arnold knew they had to act soon, because the expedition's enlistments ended on December 31. They decided to attack under the cover of a snowstorm. After a near miss on December 27, a huge storm brewed on the night of December 30. At 2:00 AM in the midst of a fierce snowstorm the surprise attack on Quebec was soon underway. The Americans had intended to use the cover of a storm to move their men into position. Brig. General Richard Montgomery would take his 300 men and attack the city along the river from the west, while Colonel Benedict Arnold would take his 600 men, and attack from the east.

The two forces would join in the middle of the business district and then march up to Upper Town. At 4:00 AM, General Montgomery fired rockets, signaling that he was in position and launching the assault. As Montgomery reached the western edge of Lower Town, while inspecting a barricade thrown up by the British the general was shoot and killed. On the eastern edge of Lower Town, Colonel Arnold had launched his attack when he sighted the rockets. Having lost his one artillery piece on the way in a snowdrift, Arnold had no choice but to lead a frontal assault on another British barricade. Arnold was wounded when a musket ball tore into his leg. He attempted to continue on, but could not. He was carried to the rear, leaving Captain Daniel Morgan in command. The British commander, General Carleton, had been warned of the American plan by an American deserter or the signaling flares depending on which source you believe.

Captain Morgan rallied the men and the Continentals overran the barricade after some heavy fighting. Morgan and his men raced through Lower Town, pouring over another unmanned barricade. The defenders of the city were in chaos. Morgan was ready to continue toward Upper Town, but his subordinates advised caution and persuaded him to wait for General Montgomery, this delay proved his undoing.

By dawn, Captain Daniel Morgan finally grew impatient and ordered his men forward. The wait had cost the Americans their advantage and momentum. General Carleton had regrouped his troops and positioned them for defense of the streets. As the Americans now attempted to move toward Upper Town, they were under constant fire coming from the surrounding houses. After fighting most of the day still hoping for aid from General Montgomery, the Americans finally turned back. However, General Carleton had positioned 200 of his men at the once abandoned barricade. The Americans were trapped in the streets of the city. Eventually almost the entire American force was captured or surrendered, as they were isolated in small pockets throughout the streets of the city. Captain Morgan himself refused to surrender even when completely surrounded. He dared the British to shoot him, but his men pleaded with him until he finally turned his sword over to a French priest, rather than surrender it to the British.

Benedict Arnold was able to escape and he retreated to about a mile from Quebec City with the remaining 600 men and awaited reinforcements from General David Wooster. He refused to retire from the field and continued his "siege" of Quebec.