

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:

January 16, 2003	Chapter Meeting
February 20, 2003	Members Only (Election of Officers)
TXSSAR State Convention at the Marriott Hotel Houston, 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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The next meeting will be held January 16, 2003 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 Mr. Stephen Davis; Chairman of the Department of Social Sciences at Kingwood College his topic will be the Louisiana Purchase. He graduated from the University of Houston. He has received Teaching Excellence Awards at both the University of Houston and Kingwood College. He is a founding member of the faculty at Kingwood College and is the Chairman of the Department of Social Sciences.

January 1776

The Continental Congress kept pace the Revolution throughout January. For example, to ensure the safety of the southern colonies, Congress recommended seizing and securing the barracks and castle located at St. Augustine.

In an effort to isolate Loyalists, Congress passed a resolution calling on colonial committees to indoctrinate those "honest and well-meaning, but uninformed people" by expounding to them the "origin, nature and extent of the present controversy." The body also called for confirmed Tories to be disarmed and confined, if necessary. The Congress recommended to frustrate the mischievous machinations, and restrain the wicked practices of these men: "And it is the opinion of this Congress, that they ought to be disarmed, and the more dangerous among them, either kept in safe custody, or bound with sufficient sureties to their good behavior." They authorized them to call to their aid, whatever continental troops, stationed in or near their respective colonies, may be conveniently spared from their more immediate duty; and the commanding officers of such troops, are hereby directed to afford the said Assemblies, conventions, committees or councils of safety, all such assistance in executing this resolution, as they may require, and which, consistent with the good of the service, may be supplied.

Every county was not onboard when the United Colonies asked for help. Take Queens County in New York for example. Congress resolved, "whereas a majority of the inhabitants of Queen's County, in the colony of New York, being incapable of resolving to live and die freemen, and being more disposed to quit their liberties than part with the little proportion of their property necessary to defend them, have deserted the

American cause, by refusing to send deputies as usual to the convention of that colony; and avowing by a public declaration, an unmanly design of remaining inactive spectators of the present contest, vainly flattering themselves, perhaps, that should Providence declare for our enemies, they may purchase their mercy and favor at an easy rate; and, on the other hand, if the war should terminate to the advantage of America, that then they may enjoy, without expense of blood or treasure, all the blessings resulting from that liberty, which they, in the day of trial, had abandoned, and in defense of which, many of their more virtuous neighbors and countrymen had nobly died. And although the want of public spirit, observable in these men, rather excites pity than alarm, there being little danger to apprehend either from their prowess or example, yet it being reasonable, that those who refuse to defend their country, should be excluded from its protection, and be prevented from doing it injury. Resolved, that all such persons in Queen's county, aforesaid, as voted against sending deputies to the present convention of New York, and named in a list of delinquents in Queen's county, published by the convention of New York, be put out of the protection of the United Colonies, and that all trade and intercourse with them cease; that none of the inhabitants of that county be permitted to travel or abide in any part of these United Colonies, out of their said county, without a certificate from the convention or committee of safety of the colony of New York, setting forth, that such inhabitant is a friend to the American cause, and not of the number of those who voted against sending deputies to the said convention; and that such of the said inhabitants as shall be found out of the said county, without such certificate, be apprehended and imprisoned three months." *Minutes of Continental Congress*

Congress received letters concerning the aborted attack on Ontario on January 25th. They may have heard earlier but this was the first mention in the minutes. Three letters concerning attacks were read into the record. They resolved that a committee of three be appointed, to consider of a proper method of paying a just tribute of gratitude to the memory of General Montgomery.

Some of the other matters that Congress handled:

Congress determined how the crews of Continental navy vessels would divide the prizes taken on the high seas.

To help soldiers, Congress resolved that no postage be paid for any letters to or from soldiers while they are engaged in actual service in the defense of the United Colonies.

Congress addressed servants by resolving that no bought, indented servants be employed on board the fleet, or in the army of the United Colonies, without the consent of their masters.

That every person under the age of twenty-one years, enlisting himself in the Army or Navy, may, within 24 hours of such enlistment, obtain his discharge, by refunding the money received from the recruiting officer, and returning any supplies issued to him by the recruiting officer, or the value in money.

In Massachusetts a flag, called the Grand Union, was raised which symbolized the United Colonies. It had thirteen alternating red and white stripes to symbolize the thirteen colonies.

Thomas Paine, the editor of The Pennsylvania Magazine, published his pamphlet *Common Sense*. The pamphlet, of which one hundred-twenty thousand copies were distributed in the following three months, played a significant role in bringing about the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. Paine wrote that "Europe, and not England is the parent country of America. This new World hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every part of Europe. Hither have they fled, not from the tender embraces of the mother, but from the cruelty of the monster; and it is so far true of England, that the same tyranny which drove the first emigrants from home, pursues their descendants still...I challenge the warmest advocate for reconciliation to show a single advantage that this continent can reap by being connected with Great Britain...The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries 'TIS TIME TO PART. Even the distance at which the Almighty hath placed England and America is a strong and natural proof that the authority of the one over the other was never the design of Heaven...Arms, as the last resource, must decide the contest; the appeal was the choice of the king, and the continent has accepted the challenge... The sun never shone on a cause of greater worth.

You can read the entire pamphlet at:

<http://earlyamerican.com/earlyamerican/milestones/commonsense/text.html>. There are other places to get the entire text. Search using Thomas Paine "Common Sense."