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# Piney Woods Pine Shavings

Official Newsletter of the Piney Woods Chapter, No 51

Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution

P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325

January 2005

## Nominating Committee Meets

The Nominating Committee met on December 16, 2004 at the Kingwood Funeral Home and made the following recommendations to the Board of Directors:

### Slate of Officers, Piney Woods Chapter 2005-2006

<b>President</b>	<b>Ray Cox</b>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Larry Stevens</b>
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ron Barker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>James Jones</b>
<b>Genealogist</b>	<b>Kim Morton</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Bernie Balser</b>
<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Allan Henshaw</b>
<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	<b>Scott Beason</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Ray Cox</b>
<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Bob McKenna</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Rex McLain</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Bernie Balser</b>

# **Birthdays**

## **JANUARY**

Dennis Key  
James Richards, Sr.  
Nicholas Hart  
Robert L. McCain  
Ronald Barker

## **FEBRUARY**

Jere Banewski  
Paul Culbertson  
Anderew Evans  
James Green  
Thomas Green  
Woody Reese, DDS  
Donald Richards  
James Richards, Jr.  
James Freeman

## **Past Presidents:**

Tom Green  
Bernie Balser  
Don Lemon  
Jeff Meadows  
McLeod Smith  
Robert McKenna  
Bob Smith  
Cannon Pritchard

## **January 1776**

- Jan. 1** American forces begin slow retreat up the St. Lawrence after defeat at Quebec.
- Jan 9** Thomas Paine's "*Common Sense*" is published.
- Jan 19** French agent Bonvolair meets with Congress' Secret Committee to discuss possible aid.
- Jan 24** George III's message to Parliament promising "drastic steps" against a "desperate conspiracy" reaches the colonies.
- Jan 25** Washington moves the cannon supplied by Knox up to American lines around Boston.

## **PineyWoods Chapter Meetings**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| January 20, 2005  | Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)<br>Guest Speaker: Thomas Green from the Wm. Hightower Chapter who will speak on Historic Flags of America |
| February 17, 2005 | Members Only Meeting (Election of Officers)   |
| March 17, 2005    | Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)<br>Installation of 2005-2006 Officers   |
| April 21, 2005    | Board Meeting   |
| May 19, 2005      | Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)   |
- Board Meetings will be held at the Kingwood Funeral Home beginning at 6:30 PM.
- Dinner Meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn located at the intersection of Beltway 8 and JFK Blvd. Social time beginning at 6:15 PM, Dinner served at 7:00 PM.
- Members Only Meetings will be held at the Heritage Center in Kingwood, Texas. Social time beginning at 6:15 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM



## The First National Bestseller

There is a famous saying, "The pen is mightier than the sword." It is certainly true in the case of Thomas Paine during the Revolutionary War. "I know not," said John Adams in 1806, "whether any man in the world has had more influence on its inhabitants or affairs for the last thirty years than Thomas Paine."

Paine was an Englishman who had come to America in 1774 at the age of thirty-eight. He had been unsuccessful at several business attempts in England and was penniless in 1774. He enjoyed writing and talking about ideas and had gained the friendship of Benjamin Franklin, then in London. Franklin urged him to move to America and wrote Paine several letters of recommendation.

Paine found America an exciting, energizing place to live. He admired the patriotic spirit growing in the American colonies. He began writing essays about ideas he had—equal rights for people, independence, and the evils of slavery.

In January 1776, he published many of these ideas in a forty-two-page booklet called *Common Sense*. To Paine, it seemed obvious—a matter of common sense—that King George, whom Paine referred to as "the Royal Brute," had no right to rule the American people three thousand miles away. It was only right for the people of America to stand up against England.

"I cannot see," Paine wrote, "on what grounds the King of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us: a common murderer, a highwayman or a house-breaker has as good a pretence as he."

"Everything that is right or reasonable," Paine went on, "pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'tis time to part.'"

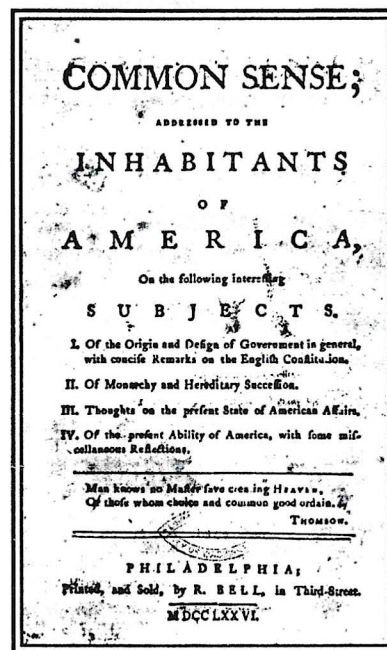
*Common Sense* was instantly popular. Most Americans could read, and they read Paine's ideas with fervor. More than 120,000 copies were printed and sold in less than three months. On every street corner, in every tavern and store, people crowded around while they listened to someone reading Paine's essays.

Washington urged those of his soldiers who could read well to read the essays aloud to the rest of the troops. During the darkest, most pessimistic moments of the war, Paine's words were uplifting to the men. "These are the times that try men's souls," Paine wrote. "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and the thanks of man and woman."

Paine's work also had a strong effect on colonists who had before been undecided about whether to fight the British. They were moved by Paine's words and joined the patriots' cause. The last page of *Common Sense* was especially moving. There were only seven words, written in

bold, black letters: "The Free and Independent States of America." Those words lit a flame in many colonists' imaginations. Liberty, they decided, was worth fighting for.

*Thomas Paine's pamphlet became instantly popular among early Americans. Paine's eloquent defense for an independent and democratic United States rallied many colonists to support the Revolution.*





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We're on the Web  
[www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods](http://www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods)

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*The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized April 30, 1889, and was incorporated by Act of Congress of the United States of America on June 9, 1906.*

*By virtue of the authority granted the National Society by its Constitution and the charter issued by the Congress of the United States, charters are issued to the State Societies of the various States and territories. Each State Society is empowered to issue charters to chapters within the boundaries thereof.*

*The affairs of the National Society are administered by the Board of National Trustees, composed of the General Officers, all living Past Presidents General, one Trustee from each State Society, and any member of the*

**A study found the 55 % of Americans could identify Obi-Wan Kenobi as the person who said, "May the force be With you" in *Star Wars*.**

**Only 9% knew that George Washington was a general in the Revolutionary War.**

#### **LINEAGE BOOK VOL. 2, AND CD STILL AVAILABLE**

See our web site at [www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods/purchase.htm](http://www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods/purchase.htm) for particulars. The Lineage Book Vol. 2 Hardcover/CD-ROM combination is \$40.00.

The Lineage Book Vol. 2 Hardcover only is \$30.00.

The Lineage Book Vol. 2 CD \-Rom is \$15.00

Shipping/handling + taxes must be added to the above prices. Place your order thru the web site, or for more information contact us at our PO Box.