

# 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:

June 2002	No Meeting
July 2002	No Meeting
August 15, 2002	Board Meeting (Everyone is invited)
September 19, 2002	Chapter Meeting
October 17, 2002	Members Only
November 21, 2002	Chapter Dinner
December 2002	No Meeting
January 16, 2003	Chapter Meeting
February 20, 2003	Members Only (Election of Officers)
February 28 - March 2, 2003	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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## July 1775

By now it is obvious that the Continental Congress had become the nexus of all activities both conciliatory toward the Crown and getting the colonies ready to fight. July brought many and varied actions by the Congress.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> one of first orders of business was to grant liberty to Lt Patrick Moncrieff to return to England on his honor that he will not take up arms against the colonies in this present conflict. I could not find where Lt Moncrieff came from but assume he was a captured British officer. Imagine having to deal with a prisoner of war where number one, he is your countryman and number two, there isn't even a declared war yet!

The large portion of that same day was spent on a debate concerning the Indians. It was agreed that it was not beneath the crown to incite and/or elicit Indian participation in attacks against the colonists in exchange for some future consideration. The discussion considered approaching the Indians asking them to refrain from participating in any action on either side. The colonies should not wait for the British to do this but should go to the Indians first and ask them not to take up arms with the British. Notice they didn't ask the Indians to join their side but to stay out should any fighting take place. A motion was passed that a subcommittee draft a speech that should be delivered the members of the Six Nations, the Southern Tribes that included north to the Cherokees and the middle tribes that consisted of tribes that do not fall into either



group. The final draft was a speech that was to be delivered to the various tribes by the newly formed Commissioners of Indians Affairs.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> George Washington took over command of the militia, which numbered approximately 17,000 at Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Remember they were not the Continental army yet.)

The Congress then sent two diametrically opposed messages.

First, they adopted the Olive Branch Petition, which was a list of wrongs done to the colonies by the King's ministers. By blaming his Ministers they were able to list their grievances without blaming the King and therefore remain loyal subjects. They went so far as describing their service during the previous wars and signing as "your faithful subjects on this continent ready and willing at all times, as they ever have been with their lives and fortunes to assert and maintain the rights and interests of your Majesty and of our Mother Country." This was the second attempt at listing the wrongs done to the colonists; the first being the Intolerable Acts, which was adopted in October of 1774 during the First Continental Congress.

Secondly, they issued the Declaration on the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms detailing reasons for fighting the British. It was published and distributed by George Washington on his taking command of the militia. It stated that the Americans are "resolved to die as free men rather than live as slaves."

On July 12th the Congress examined a man who had intelligence on the state of affairs in Canada. The Congress had become a fact-finding body, trying to discern all of the information available in understand their current status.

The Congress then took up the issue of Colonies raising Militias. They issued guidelines to raise and equip a proper militia. Some of the issues were the size of units, how many officers, what percentage should be minute men, and how to outfit poor enlistees. "The standard equipment for each enlistee should be a good musket, that will carry an ounce ball, with a bayonet, steel ram rod, worm, priming wire and brush fitted thereto, a cutting sword or tomahawk, a cartridge-box, that will contain 23 rounds of cartridges, twelve flints and a knapsack." It was recommended that each colony appoint a committee of safety to direct all matters concerning security and defense of the colony during the recess of their assemblies and conventions.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> Benjamin Franklin introduced his Articles of Confederation. It consisted of thirteen articles detailing everything from the name, The United Colonies of North America, "to binding themselves and their Posterity, for their common Defence and Offence, against Enemies for the Security of their Liberties and Propertys, the Safety of their Persons and Families, and their common and mutual and general Welfare." No further action was taken on them.

Congress took steps to address the peoples of both Jamaica and Ireland, detailing the wrongs committed against the colonists. This followed their communiqués to the people of Britain and Ireland, and the peoples of Canada to elicit support or at least non-intervention in the coming battle.

Finally the Congress formed the mail system appointing Benjamin Franklin as the first Post Master General.

With during this month the Congress passed several measures steps to be able to fight a war for their independence. The record still shows conciliatory gestures but also a war of independence, though no one has raised that possibility yet.