

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 May 5, 2002; PineyWoods
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Schedule of Meetings:

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| June 2002 | No Meeting |
| July 2002 | No Meeting |
| August 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) |
| Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2003 | TXSSAR State Convention at the Marriot Hotel Houston, TX, hosted by the Paul Carrington Chapter |
| March 20, 2003 | Chapter Dinner (Installation of New Officers) |



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June 1775

As the calendar turned so did the pace of the events that lead to the revolution. In June of 1775 three events occurred that hastened the movement to the revolution.

In Castine, Maine a British ship accompanied by the British warship Margaretta arrived to purchase wood for the British. The settlers met at a town meeting and voted not to sell them wood. They even erected a liberty pole in the town square to show their resolve. The next day, June 11th, Patriots attempted to capture the Captain of the Margaretta. The Captain stood his ground until two musket balls felled him. The Margaretta surrendered and the Patriots quickly commandeered her and renamed her Machias Liberty. The Patriots tried unsuccessfully to capture Fort George, which controlled the Penobscot River. When word reached the British in Boston of the fate of the Captain and crew of Margaretta they sailed 42 ships and 1,400 men to put down the colonists and recapture the ship. The Patriots fled up the Penobscot River where all their ships were either captured by the British or scuttled by their crews.

In June the Second Continental Congress was in session in Virginia. The journal of the proceedings read, "At a General Assembly begun and held at the Capitol in the City of Williamsburg on Thursday, the first day of June, in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Lord GEORGE the third, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, &c. Annoque Domini 1775." George Washington was nominated and unanimously elected as the Commander of the Continental forces on June 16, 1775. They also developed guidelines for how an army would be raised, paid, and provisioned. The oath of enlistment read, "I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said Army." Even though the beginning rhetoric was certainly not revolutionary, the session formed a Continental Army!

The British began their occupation of Boston on June 1, 1775. The British needed to secure the approaches to better control the port. This included the higher ground both the north and south of the city, requiring the occupation of Dorchester and Charlestown. However the Massachusetts Committee of Safety decided to take a position on the Charlestown peninsula at Bunker Hill before the British. Bunker Hill is the highest point on the mile long peninsula; it is 110 high and was next to the only avenue of retreat, a road back to Cambridge. At midnight of the 16th, 1,500 patriots took up station on Breed's Hill instead of Bunker Hill due either to darkness or confusion. Breed's Hill is only 75 feet high and 600 yards further back on the peninsula. The Commanding Officer of the militia, Israel Putnam, had them erect redoubts, v-shaped fortifications, with the tip pointed down the hill toward the enemy. When the British found out the colonials had taken this position they mustered over 2,000 men and ships to oust them, Commanded by General Howe. The original British plan was to perform an encirclement maneuver by landing troops on the tip of the peninsula and marching the main force from Boston thus forcing the colonials to protect both sides of the hill. When the British ships moved to disembark their troops on the tip of the peninsula the militia quickly erected barriers on the beach and positioned New Hampshire riflemen that stopped this advance. This left the main unit of 2,000 men as the only assault force. A column of light infantry began an assault on the American's left flank in concert with a bombardment by the British ships on their right flank. The main force began their assault up the hill with their full packs still on. These packs weighed over 70 pounds. The militia waited until the British were within 150 feet of their position then opened fire. The British lines were slaughtered. Huge gaps appeared. General Howe's entire staff was wiped out. But they regrouped and climbed the hill again. The militia again waited until the British were within 150 feet and again opened fire. The British were decimated; their line was in tatters. What remained of the forward group ran down the hill straight into the second line moving up. However the British were not going to leave the field in defeat. General Howe ordered a bayonet charge. The British dropped their packs and began up the hill. They were again greeted with raking fire but less intense. The colonial's powder ran out during the third assault. In fact, after they had taken position the night before, the militia had not called up any reinforcements nor did they receive any more supplies. They could not repulse this assault. They turned and fled past Bunker Hill and down the road. The British suffered 1,000 casualties and the colonials suffered 500. The battle took place within four hours of the colonials taking their positions. The Bostonians watched the entire battle from their rooftops. Once again the colonials showed that they could take the fight to the British.