

# PINEYWOODS PINE SHAVINGS

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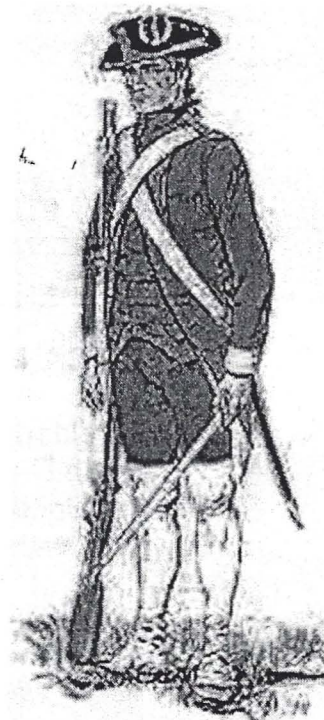
YOUR CHAPTER IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT A DINNER MEETING AND INSTALLATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN HUMBLE, TEXAS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2000.

THE HOLIDAY INN IS LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF BELTWAY 8 AND JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD. (15222 JFK BOULEVARD, HUMBLE, TEXAS) A SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER WILL COMMENCE AT 6:15 PM AND THE MEAL WILL BE SERVED PROMPTLY AT 7:00PM. THE HOLIDAY INN HAS ASSIGNED THE COTTONWOOD ROOM FOR OUR EXCLUSIVE USE FOR THIS MEETING.

THE MENU FOR THE EVENING WITH CONSIST OF TOSSED SALAD, ENCRUSTED RAINBOW TROUT ALMONDINE ON A BAKED BED OF RICE, SERVED WITH BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER AND CARROTS ALL WITH A DESERT OF NEW YORK STYLE CHEESE CAKE WITH STRAWBERRIES.

TO MAKE YOUR EVENING EVEN MORE ENJOYABLE, WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT MIC BARNETTE, ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS, WILL PRESENTED US WITH AN INTERESTING TALK ABOUT REVEOLUTIONAR WAR HISTORY.

THE TOTAL COST PER PERSON FOR THIS DELECIOUS MEAL AND INFORMATIVE TALK IS \$16.50. **PLEASE** RETURN THE ATTACHED MEETING RESERVATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR THEIR PREPARATION, THE RESTAURANT REQUIRES A FORTY EIGHT-HOUR NOTICE OF THE NUMBER ATTENDING THE DINNER MEETING.



## REMAINING DATES OF THE PINEY WOODS CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR 1999 – 2000

MEMBER ONLY MEETING	APRIL 2000
DINNER MEETING	MAY 2000

## BIRTHDAYS OF MEMBERS

### APRIL 2000

1. Patrick Whipple
3. Robert McKenna
14. Allen Green Jr.

### MAY 2000

4. Mic Barnette
8. James Sterling Jr.
10. Donald Poindexter
11. Jeffrey Meadows
14. Cannon Pritchard
15. Kenneth Korthauer
23. Walter Straley
27. Donald Young

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR  
YEAR 2000 – 2001**

The following slate of officers have been elected by the Piney Woods Chapter of the  
Sons of the American Revolution

A PRESIDENT Robert E. McKenna  
B 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT Bobby Smith  
C 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT Cannon Pritchard  
D SECRETARY Mike Culbertson  
E TREASURER James Jones  
F CHANCELOR Allan Henshaw  
G CHAPLIN Rev. Douglas Harper  
H REGISTRAR Kenneth Fleming  
I GENEALOGIST Kim Morton  
J HISTORIAN Worthy Warnack  
K SARGENT-AT-ARMS Clinton Fleming

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**OH CANADA**

An elderly woman lived on a small farm in Canada, just yards away from the North Dakota border. Their land had been the subject of a minor dispute between the United States and Canada for years. The now widowed woman, lived on the farm with her son and three grandchildren.

One day, her son came into her room holding a letter. "I just got some news, Mom," he said. "The government has come to an agreement with the people in North Dakota. They've decided that our land is really part of the United States. We have the right to approve or disapprove of the agreement. What do you think?"

"What do I think?" his mother said. "Sign it! Call them right now and tell them we accept. I don't think I could stand another one of those Canadian winters!"

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The attached Editorial appeared in the Wall Street Journal on 22 February 2000.

The story describes the effort by certain people to destroy the real history of the creation of a new nation by using lies and distortions. We must all be aware of the distortions that people who would like to reinvent history are spreading by defaming our national heroes.



February 22, 2000

Editorial Page

## Founding Fathers in the Dock

*Richard Norton Smith, author of "Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation" (Houghton Mifflin, 1993) and co-author with Brian Lamb of "Who's Buried in Grant's Tomb?" (Johns Hopkins Press, 2000).*

In the autumn of 1787, newly returned from Constitution-making in Philadelphia, George Washington turned his attentions to more prosaic matters. The proprietor of Mount Vernon needed a gardener for his estate, and he approached the search with the same psychological insight that had so impressed his fellow delegates.

At length, Washington drew up a contract with a hard-drinking candidate, binding him to perform his duties sober for one year "if allowed four dollars at Christmas, with which to be drunk four days and four nights; two dollars at Easter, to effect the same purpose; two dollars at Whitsuntide, to be drunk for two days, a dram in the morning and a drink of grog at dinner and at noon."

Shrewd and generous, Washington's tolerance serves as a rebuke to those who smugly accuse him and other Founders of violating contemporary morality. On the heels of the recent acknowledgement by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation that its namesake almost certainly sired one or more children by his slave mistress, Sally Hemings, a newly commissioned book will entertain the possibility that Washington or members of his family fathered a slave child. It is one thing to demythologize American giants, quite another to echo the cynical and inaccurate claims heard at the height of *l'affaire Lewinsky* that "everybody did it." They didn't.

With the author of the Declaration of Independence in the dock, it was only a matter of time before historians and pseudohistorians turned their guns on the Father of His Country, whose birthday we celebrate Monday. There is nothing new about such prosecutorial zeal. In the 1920s debunkers reacting to the sugary odes of Parson Weems resolved to cut Washington down to size. Invited to voice his own opinion, Calvin Coolidge directed reporters' attention to the Washington Monument outside his White House office. "He's still there, I see," drawled Coolidge.

These days, monuments are targets as well as totems. A virulent form of popular history has emerged, one that combines genuine moral outrage, smug condescension and more than a little dramatic license to arraign the dead white males who fathered the nation.

At issue today is whether Washington fathered a son, West Ford, with a young slave who lived on the



**George Washington**

**Father of his country  
-- and of slave  
children?**

distant estate of his brother, John Augustine Washington. Several descendants of West Ford have emerged to say they hope to use DNA evidence to establish links. Writer Henry Wiencek has been advanced \$500,000 by publisher Farrar, Straus & Giroux to explore this and other aspects of Washington's life.

One is tempted to say that the only bastardization here is of history. Facts, as John Adams pointed out, are stubborn things, even when applied to the icons we wish to humanize. Forget Washington's youthful case of smallpox, or his failure to impregnate Martha, who had conceived four children by her first husband. Forget the forged letters, easily disproved, in which his British enemies suggested "pretty little Kate, the washerwoman's daughter" as a Washington mistress.

More importantly, dismiss the careful birthdating of West Ford, and the abundant documentation of Washington's whereabouts during the time when West Ford could have been conceived. (By then Washington was the most famous man in the world; his travels were hardly secret.) Unlike Jefferson, none of Washington's contemporaries so much as hinted at sexual impropriety by the soldier turned statesman, notwithstanding heavy criticism that he was a dupe of King George, had betrayed the Revolution, harbored monarchical pretensions and overspent his salary.

In fact, there is a compelling story to be told about Washington's attitude toward slavery. He was appraised at age 16 as "a man who will go to school all his life," and his lessons dealt mostly with the darker side of human nature. As a youthful aspirant to aristocratic status and wealth, Washington was not above trading human beings for rum or limes.

Consistent with his intellectual and moral growth, however, the adult Washington was deeply troubled by the South's peculiar institution. The revolutionary commander relied heavily on black soldiers. He expressed "great respect" to the slave poetess Phyllis Wheatley, whom he invited to his camp outside Cambridge. After the war, Washington lamented to his friend Lafayette about Virginia's refusal to consider gradual emancipation. As president, Washington devised a radical plan whereby he might rent out most of his Mount Vernon estate to English farmers, who would in turn employ his newly freed slaves as paid laborers. (No renters appeared, and Washington instead willed that his slaves be set free upon the death of his wife.)

One should not sentimentalize Washington's views, which were dictated by economic necessity as much as moral indignation. Neither, however, should we dismiss the sincerity with which he confronted the paradox of an America that professed to love liberty even while holding a million slaves in chains.

It is easier to exploit the past than to explain it. The real "miracle at Philadelphia" -- Washington's phrase when he sanctioned the republic conceived there in 1787 -- was that 55 white men, hardly representative in any modern sense, could fashion a system capable of evolving, though at times painfully, into a racially inclusive democracy. Thus did the nation emulate its founding father, a giant who in many ways outgrew the racist society that produced him.