



Piney Woods Pine Shavings

News of the Piney Woods Chapter #51 of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Volume IX, Issue #1, Copyright (©) MARCH 27, 2000; Piney Woods Chapter #51 TxSSAR
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DRAFT NOTICE - Volume II **OR** "No Good Deed

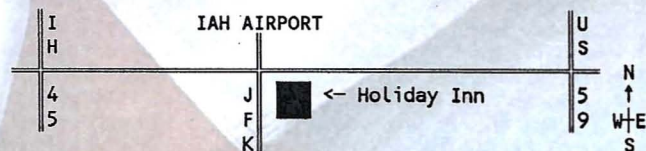
Goes Unpunished: It was almost exactly a year ago when I put out issue #1 of the Newsletter in the eighth year of the Chapter's existence. At that time I was told that it would be just a one year assignment and that if I did well then I would start moving into various chapter offices to give me the experience needed to ultimately move up to the presidency of the chapter. So I dutifully put out the Newsletter for a year (in eight issues - including licking approximately two thousand, six hundred and eighty envelopes, stamps, and return labels) and at the end of the year I felt good when I was informed that the Chapter Newsletter had been awarded first place in the state competition (see "Minutes of March Meeting"). So, it was time for me to move on to the next challenge, right? WRONG-O!!! At the March meeting a friend of mine (I won't mention any names but his initials are THOMAS MILTON GREEN) spoke up during the "new business" phase of the meeting and said "that since Albright did such a good job on the Newsletter, we ought to draft him for another year." The next things I heard were: "so moved," "seconded," "all in favor," and a whole lot of "ayes." Ai-yi-yi... So on top of being the Chapter Secretary I am also still the editor of the Newsletter. At least now I have an official position and can actually vote at meetings of the board. Anyway, I'm back and so y'all will have to put up with another year of my writing and humor (maybe if I make the puns bad enough you will PUNish me by assigning the newsletter to someone else?) This first issue will be in the "familiar" style of last year, but I have some new software I want to try out so maybe next month we'll go to a more modern format (everything so far has been simple text files generated in the computer with photocopies of any non-text items pasted onto a print-out of the base file). You'll have to let me know how you like it OR if there is something else you would like to see included in (or excluded from) the Newsletter (NOTE: Some of the regular items are dictated by the TX State SAR Newsletter guidelines.)

Discussions commence concerning second volume of chapter book: As our more tenured members will recall, some time ago the chapter assembled a book containing copies of the member and supplemental applications of the members at that time (plus information on the chapter). Being well indexed it was believed that the book would serve as a reference for others with common ancestors. The chapter has grown such that a second book is planned.

Piney Woods Chapter #51 - TxSSAR Has A Web Site: Yes, our chapter does have a web site (for those of you who are brave enough venture into the internet). It's out of date Chapter-officer wise, but still has plenty of useful information about the history of the chapter and lists of our patriot ancestors. Access it at:
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Oaks/5534>

NOTICE OF MEETING: "Come One - Come All" Dinner Meeting

On Thursday, APR 19, 2001, Piney Woods Chapter #51 of the TxSSAR will hold a dinner meeting for members, wives, and guests at the HOLIDAY INN located near Intercontinental Airport at the intersection of Beltway 8 and John F. Kennedy Boulevard (at 15222 JFK Boulevard - see map below). A social time shall commence at 6:15 PM with dinner to be served promptly at 7:00. The evening's presentation will be by Judge Tom Lawrence who holds dual membership in the Mississippi and Texas State Societies of the SAR (he has recently joined the Piney Woods #51 Chapter). The dinner cost is \$16.50 per person. Please respond ASAP either by E-mail to: Genmorton@usa.net *OR* by returning the enclosed RSVP card.



CLOSING THE BOOKS ON 2000-01:

The 2000-01 SAR year has come to an end and with the installation of the new Chapter officers it is time to "close the books" on the past year. So if anyone is aware of any bills that still need to be paid, or has any materials that should be included in the 2000-01 Chapter scrapbook, or believes that there are unresolved issues from the previous year then they should bring these matters to the attention of one of the officers now or as they say "forever hold your peace."

OPENING THE BOOKS ON 2001-02:

As noted in the above article, we are in the process of closing the books on last year's activities. Simultaneously we are "cranking up" for the new year. Of foremost importance is setting the Chapter's budget for the upcoming year so if you have any items you'd like to have considered you will need to communicate them to Ken Fleming ASAP (As Soon As Possible). Any matters that you think should be addressed in the new year should be brought to the attention of the board, and we should all be starting to gather materials for this year's Chapter scrapbook.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JAN MEETING

And here you thought I forgot about the January meeting (and I thought the "new" newsletter editor would handle it (see "Draft Notice - Volume II"). Anyway, at the 18 JAN 2001 members only meeting: the slate of officers for the new year was proposed, chapter member Tom Green announced that he was running for state genealogist for the Texas SAR society, it was noted that the Oration contest would be held in February, and the Chapter's ROTC contest was expanded to another school.

Please join the Chapter in wishing the following members a heartfelt "Happy Birthday:"

« APRIL Birthdays »

04.01 Patrick Johnson Whipple
04.03 Robert Edward McKenna
04.14 Allen Johnson Green Jr.

« MAY Birthdays »

05.04 Mic Barnette
05.04 John Alston Pritchett
05.08 James B. Sterling Jr.
05.10 Donald T. Poindexter
05.11 Jeffrey Manton Meadows
05.14 Cannon H. Pritchard
05.23 Waller T. Straley
05.27 Adam Sandefer Key

HISTORY 101 - As you may recall, in last year's newsletter I ran a series of articles listing key books - available locally at the Clayton Library - that are useful in proving the patriotic service of your ancestors. This year, I'd like to run through a number of topics (of interest to me and hopefully to y'all) arising from the Revolutionary War. In this issue, I'd like to point out some interesting aspects of the coinage of the new nation. First, one must realize that coins were crucial to trade in the United States - credit cards were still a long way off, paper money was typically accepted only by people who were familiar with the bank that had issued the money or if the bank was local and they could personally present the bank note at the bank and receive in exchange hard currency (that is to say "coins") for it. Second, essentially in all small scale trade outside their local area (and in particular foreign trade) the seller demanded payment again in hard currency. And third, in that era the value of the coinage was such that the vast majority of day-to-day items that people typically purchased could be readily valued in a few coins. Our founding fathers established a metric system of currency with 100 cents ("centi-" being the Latin prefix for the hundredth portion of something) to the dollar. Having done so though, it would not be until well after the Revolutionary war was over that the new nation would actually set about the task of producing significant quantities of coinage. With the war being over in 1783, it was not until 1793 that the first pennies and half pennies were minted. And even then the quantities being minted were insufficient to meet the needs of the populace (there were only about 110 thousand of the 1793 penny minted in eight varieties and of the rarest variety only four specimens are known to have survived to modern times). Silver coins began being produced in 1794 including the half-dime (silver 5 cent piece), the half dollar, and the silver dollar. But again, only in very small numbers (only 1,758 of the 1794 silver dollars were produced). To meet the demand for hard currency, coinage from many other nations saw widespread use in the United States. The silver coinage from the Spanish colonies in Central and South America saw extensive circulation (primarily due to its ready availability and its similarity in size to the existing US silver coins). Coins from Great Britain were also fairly common in spite of the complexity of their values (two farthings = a ha'penny, two pennies = one tuppence, three pennies = one truppence, two tuppence = one groat, two truppence = one sixpence, two sixpence = one shilling, two shillings = one florin, one florin plus a sixpence = half a crown, five shillings = a crown, and so on...). And to a lesser degree coins of other nations (eg the Netherlands, France, and the German States) circulated. It wasn't until 1837, fifty-four years after the war, that the US government cranked up the production of coins to the point that the foreign pieces started disappearing from service and most transactions involved American coins.

2001-2002 Chapter Officers:
President [telephone:] Bobby Smith.....281-373-1356
First Vice President Cannon Pritchard·281-358-9731
Second Vice President James Jones.....713-956-6837
Secretary John Albright.....281-856-7478
Treasurer Kenneth Fleming·281-359-3285
Chancellor Allan Henshaw·281-894-8084
Chaplin Bernie Balser·281-360-7041
Registrar Clinton Fleming·713-695-6594
Genealogist Kim Morton.....281-358-5429
Historian Tom Lawrence.....281-446-7191
Sargent-At-Arms Richard Shanks·281-354-5407
Newsletter Editor John Albright·281-856-7478

FUTURE NATIONAL SAR MEETINGS:

111th Annual Congress
JUN 30 - JUL 04, 2001
Hyatt Regency, Louisville, KY

112th Annual Congress
JUN 29 - JUL 03, 2002
Stouffer Renaissance, Nashville

113th Annual Congress
JUL 03 - 09, 2003
Hyatt on the Riverwalk, Chicago

114th Annual Congress
JUL 03 - 07, 2004
Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

Following are the "notional" (read that at "proposed" or "tentative") dates and "types" of meetings for the 2001-2002 calendar years:

19 APR 2001 - dinner meeting
17 MAY 2001 - member only mtg.
JUN 2001 - no meeting
JUL 2001 - no meeting
16 AUG 2001 - officer only mtg.
20 SEP 2001 - dinner meeting
18 OCT 2001 - member only mtg.
15 NOV 2001 - dinner meeting
DEC 2001 - no meeting
17 JAN 2002 - member only mtg.
21 FEB 2002 - dinner meeting & officer election
21 MAR 2002 - member only mtg & install officers
18 APR 2002 - dinner meeting
16 MAY 2002 - member only mtg.
JUN 2002 - no meeting
JUL 2002 - no meeting
15 AUG 2002 - officer only mtg.
19 SEP 2002 - dinner meeting
17 OCT 2002 - member only mtg.
21 NOV 2002 - dinner meeting
DEC 2002 - no meeting

MINUTES OF 15 MARCH 2001 "MEMBERS ONLY DINNER MEETING:"

On Thursday - March 15, 2001 - the PineyWoods Chapter #51 of the TxSSAR held a "members only dinner meeting" at the new "Heritage Center" in Kingwood, Texas. Eighteen members and one guest were in attendance at 7:17PM when 2000-01 Chapter President Bob McKenna called the meeting to order. Following the invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and the SAR pledge, Bob introduced our guest speaker - B. Rice Aston - and a new member to the Chapter - Compatriot John Pritchett. Following dinner (turkey and ham buffet from Boston Market) Bob reconvened the meeting at 8:08 and proceeded to the officers' reports. In the absence of Mike Culbertson, John Albright presented the minutes of the 15 FEB meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented and passed unanimously. James Jones presented the treasurer's report which was similarly accepted. In Allan Henshaw's chancellor's report he noted that \$52 had been budgeted for contribution to the state society's Patriot Fund but had not as yet been paid. He noted that that fund is key to the state's activities and the members present agreed that the commitment should be met. In the genealogist's report, Kim Morton noted that the Chapter had been awarded the E. A. Limmer, Jr. Award for the Texas Chapter that had submitted the most supplemental applications in the past year. He noted that this is the fourth time that PineyWoods has held the award: 1994-5, 1995-6, 1996-7, and now 2000-1. Kim also noted that Tom Green of our Chapter is running for the position of genealogist in the Texas State Society. The registrar had no report to make. In Worthy Warnack's historian report, he noted that the Chapter scrapbook for 2000-01 was nearly complete and indicated that anyone who had items to be included therein should get them to him soon. Worthy also noted that there were plenty of materials left to use as a starting point in assembling the Chapter's 2001-02 scrapbook. In the absence of Rev. Harper, Bernie Balser presented the Chaplin's report. He noted that besides the E. A. Limmer Award, the Chapter had also been awarded the Ross L. Shipman award for the best chapter single-sheet newsletter in Texas for the year 2000-01 (don't ask me how this duty fell to the chaplin, perhaps it was through prayer that the awards were swayed?) Bernie displayed the plaques that the Chapter will possess and display for the year and said that he would have the Chapter's name engraved in the appropriate places on the plaques. Bob McKenna then asked B. Rice Aston to oversee the swearing in of the new officers which was done according to SAR procedures. Mr. Aston then spoke at length on where he sees the state and national societies going over the next few years (he is running for the position of Secretary General of the National Society this year). Following his presentation, Bobby Smith took over the meeting as the new Chapter President and asked if there was any old business. There being none he then asked about new business. Tom Green spoke on the favorable response to a project of presenting framed pictures of George Washington to selective schools. He indicated the cost was about \$85 per picture. It was decided to discuss this further at a future meeting. Tom Green noted that since the Newsletter had won top honors last year John Albright should be drafted to edit it another year. A motion was made (when I find out by who...), seconded, and passed almost unanimously. Jim Jones indicated that the Chapter must act to change the signatures on the checking account for the new officers. The motion was made, seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned.