

PineyWoods Pine Shavings

News of the PineyWoods Chapter #51, of the Texas
Society of The Sons of the American Revolution

Volume X, Issue #9, Copyright March 3, 2003; PineyWoods
Chapter #51, TXSSAR, P.O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325-6524
All Rights Reserved. Visit our web site: www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods



Schedule of Meetings:

March 20, 2003	Chapter Dinner (Installation of New Officers)
April 17, 2003	Members Only
May 15, 2003	Chapter Dinner

Office/Title	Name	Telephone #	Email Address
President	Cannon Pritchard	936-327-2695	cannon@livingston.net
1 st Vice President	James Jones	713-956-6837	jtjones@hal-pc.org
2 nd Vice President	John Albright	281-856-7478	ncc1861@aol.com
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw	281-894-8084	henshaw@flash.net
Chaplain	Bernie Balser	281-360-7041	bbalser@aol.com
Genealogist	Kim Morton	281-358-5429	genmorton@usa.net
Historian	Clinton Fleming	713-695-6594	flem3clj@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Mike Culbertson	281-469-8734	mculby@yahoo.com
Registrar	Richard Shanks	281-493-4581	rgvpshanks@msn.com
Secretary	Ken Fleming	281-358-5839	kfle532460@aol.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jim Richards	281-358-7959	
Treasurer	Tom Lawrence	281-893-5450	tlawrence@Houston.rr.com
Web Master	Ray Cox	281-454-6074	coxmr@earthlink.net

The next meeting will be held March 20, 2003 at the Holiday Inn located at 15222 JFK Boulevard near Intercontinental Airport at the intersection of Beltway 8 and John F. Kennedy Boulevard. Social time begins at 6:15 PM and with dinner served at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be President Dick Robinett, his presentation is entitled, "Recommitment To America- Recommitment to the SAR." He will preside over the installation of our new officers. His wife Jo Ann will also attend.

The Officers for 2003 - 2004 are

Office/Title	Name	Telephone #	Email Address
President	James Jones	713-956-6837	jtjones@hal-pc.org
1 st Vice President	John Albright	281-856-7478	ncc1861@aol.com
2 nd Vice President	Ken Fleming	281-358-5839	kfle532460@aol.com
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw	281-894-8084	henshaw@flash.net
Chaplain	Bernie Balser	281-360-7041	bbalser@aol.com
Genealogist	Kim Morton	281-358-5429	genmorton@usa.net
Historian	Vacant	Will accept a volunteer	
Registrar	Bob McKenna	281-361-5458	robertmc@sprynet.com
Secretary	Ray Cox	281-454-6074	coxmr@earthlink.net
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jim Richards	281-358-7959	
Treasurer	Mike Culbertson	281-469-8734	mculby@yahoo.com
Web Master	Ray Cox	281-454-6074	coxmr@earthlink.net

March 1776

The Continental Congress was still the center of activity during March. They took up the petition from the people of Falmouth who were burned out by His Majesty's ship Canceau when they would not give them arms and ammunition. They requested that Congress help them with funds from the Treasury, the motion was tabled. Congress wanted to do something but not just pay them that would have resulted an unequal tax upon the more generous and humane and set a dangerous precedent.

They agreed to pay an addition of \$34/month to Joseph Reed, secretary to General Washington, on account of the extraordinary services he has rendered to the cause.

They remained the nexus of all efforts to fight this war. The Secret Committee was empowered to try to purchase recently imported medicines at the best price. They also encouraged assemblies in the colonies to seek "virgin lead, leaden ore, and the best methods of collecting, smelting and refining it, and also the cheapest and easiest methods of making salt in these colonies." They appointed general officers and staff for the middle and southern departments. One of those appointed was Major General Lee to take the command of the continental forces in the southern department.

During this month the President of the Congress ran into Mr. Melchior who treated him with "great rudeness, and made use of several disrespectful and contemptuous expressions

towards him and of this Congress. The Congress ordered Mr. Melchior to appear the following Monday and explain himself. A more contrite Mr. Melchior appeared denying that he acted that way and apologized for his behavior. He was dismissed after the apology.

They kept the blockade runners trying to get colony wares, and agriculture products exported to collect money for war supplies. They selected the ships to run the blockade and also picked the captains. One such captain was Mr. Stephen Decatur. His son, Stephen Decatur would become one of the great Naval heroes in the War of 1812.

Remember Major General Lee? Well he informed Congress, by letter, that he had imposed a test upon the inhabitants of a Colony, in order to ascertain their political principles. This was not well received by Congress. They replied to him, "There can be no liberty where the military is not subordinate to the civil power in everything not immediately connected with their operations."

They recommended that the assemblies to disarm all of those who are "notoriously disaffected to the cause of America, or who have not associated, and shall refuse to associate, to defend, by arms, these United Colonies, against the hostile attempts of the British fleets and armies."

They sought the strength and guidance of the Almighty. Congress set the seventeenth of May as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the Canadian problem. They still wanted to enlist them into the fight or as a minimum ensure that they do not fight for the British. They sent another committee up there to relate the aims of the United Colonies.

"The act of Parliament prohibiting all Trade & Commerce between Great Britain and the Colonies has been lately brought here by a Mr. Temple from London, it makes all American property found on the sea liable to seizure & confiscation and I fear it will make the Breach between the two Countries so wide as never more to be reconciled, we have heard much talk of Commissioners to be sent to treat with us, I do not expect any, the act of Parliament empowers the Navy to appoint Commissioners to receive submissions and grant pardons but no further." Joseph Hewes to Samuel Johnston, Philadelphia, 20 March 1776.

Congress was formulating a response to the order from the King that the colonies were in open rebellion. "Whereas the petitions of the United Colonies to the King, for the redress of great and manifest grievances, have not only been rejected, but treated with scorn and contempt, and the opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to a state of servile subjection, and their necessary defense against hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, declared rebellion; And whereas an unjust war hath been commenced against them, which the commanders of the British fleets and armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute, with their utmost vigor, and in a cruel manner; wasting, spoiling, and destroying the country, burning houses and defenseless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every misery, from the inclemency of the winter; and not only urging savages to invade the country, but instigating Negroes to murder their masters; And whereas the parliament of Great Britain hath lately passed an Act, affirming these colonies to be in open rebellion, forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they shall accept pardons, and submit to despotic rule, declaring their property, wherever found upon the water, liable to seizure and confiscation; and enacting, that what had been done there by virtue of the royal authority, were just and lawful acts, and shall be so deemed; from all which it is manifest, that the iniquitous scheme, concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the English constitution, will be pertinacious pursued. It being therefore necessary to provide for their defense and security, and justifiable to make reprisals upon their enemies, and otherwise to annoy them, according to the laws and usages of Nations, the Congress, trusting that such of their friends in Great Britain (of whom it is confessed there are many entitled to applause and gratitude for their patriotism and benevolence, and in whose favor a discrimination of property cannot be made) as shall suffer by captures, will impute it." This is as far as they got in March before handing it to a committee of three to draft a response.

The most important event in March was the British ended their siege of Boston. While the militia maneuvered and dug in the British made their plans to leave. In fact they sent word to all occupants of Boston and to the militia. Then on March 9th British general after a council of war began removing supplies and personnel to ships. It took two weeks to complete this and Howe finally left the harbor on March 17th. With him were 11,000 soldiers and Loyalist refugees. Even after the Americans had taken back full possession of the city of Boston, the British ships were anchored less than five miles away for another ten days, taking on fresh water and distributing their cargo. Washington assumed that Howe would sail for New York City in preparation for battle in the south, but instead they headed north to Halifax, Nova Scotia to re-supply his ships and deliver the loyalists to a new home.