

# PineyWoods Pine Shavings

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



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The next meeting will be held May 23, 2002 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 Compatriot Jim Robertson President of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. His biography appeared in last month's newsletter. **Please note it is the forth Thursday.**

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As a continuing series in the newsletter we are looking at the chronology of the Revolutionary War beginning in April 1775:

## May 1775

The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia from September 5 - October 26, 1774. It was convened at the urging of Virginia and New York committees to discuss actions protesting the "Intolerable Acts." Delegates were sent by each colony except Georgia. The purpose of the Congress was to spell out the grievances the colonies had against the Crown and ask for relief. The Congress drafted and sent The Articles of Association passed the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1774. They referred to themselves as, "his majesty's most loyal subjects." The paper continued by listing the various acts oppression against the American subjects. The Articles went on to impose a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement among the colonies and against Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies. They agreed to meet again in May 10<sup>th</sup> of 1775 if the Crown did not right these wrongs.



As you remember from last month's newsletter, fighting had broken out in April of 1775 at Lexington and Concord. The Second Continental Congress met again in Philadelphia as agreed. This time all colonies were represented. Many of the well-known patriots were present, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton and George Washington. They each had to swear an oath of secrecy on the proceedings until such time as the majority agreed to release that information. In the South Carolina "Credentials of Delegates" the stated purpose of the Continental Congress was to "direct and order such further Measures, as,....shall appear to be necessary for the Recovery and Establishment of American Rights and Liberties, and for Restoring Harmony between Great Britain and her Colonies." One of the first orders of business was the reading of a report from the Colony of Massachusetts Bay to their agent in Great Britain detailing sworn testimony concerning the battles at Lexington and Concord that had occurred in April of 1775. It is excellent reading and worth your time. It is titled the U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1873 from the Library of Congress, <http://memory.loc.gov>.

On May 7, 1775 militia for the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Connecticut attacked and took control of the fort and military stores at Ticonderoga. In a pre-emptive strike to secured a cannon and other stores to deny the British from sending troops from that fort to harass American colonists. They also stated that they had taken an inventory of stores and ammunition to give an accurate account to the British once the current troubles had subsided.

On May 25, 1775 six resolutions concerning New York were passed. They included such actions as to take over a post near King's Bridge to block the British from isolating New York, for New York to establish batteries along the Hudson River, that the militia of New York be armed and trained, that the militia be paid no more than the going rate, that no bounties be posted, and the time of enlistment was established. Two day later they passed a resolution to convey these measures to the Congress of New York but to keep them secret.

On May 29, 1775 a letter to "The Oppressed Inhabitants of Canada," was read and approved. The letter stated that American colonists were not at war with Canada. That Canadians were in the same boat and that they are slaves to the crown as were the Americans. It described the actions to secure Ticonderoga was an act of self-preservation. It ended with a hope Americans and Canadians will unite and stand against tyranny. It was ordered that 1,000 copies of the letter be printed, sent to Canada and distributed to the inhabitants thereof.

On the last day of May a letter from Colonel Arnold informed the Congress that the British were preparing a force to march against Ticonderoga. The Congress immediately sent word to Connecticut to reinforce the fort. The Continental Congress had become a center of communications, a center of intelligence, and a conduit for the colonies to speak to the crown. The Second Continental Congress would meet throughout the entire Revolutionary War.