

Piney Woods Pine Shavings

Official Newsletter of the PineyWoods Chapter, No. 51
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution
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NOVEMBER 1995

NOVEMBER 16 PINEYWOODS MEETING SLATED

The November 16 "Members Only" meeting will be held at the Humble City Cafe, located at 200 Main Street, with the social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. The cost for the meal for this meeting is \$8.00. This meeting is for members and prospective members. Your RSVP form is also enclosed with this newsletter, along with a return addressed envelope for your convenience. You must return your RSVP form with your check by Saturday, November 11th.

There will be reports from the Nominating Committee on the proposed officers for the 1996-1997 year for the PineyWoods Chapter. There will also be discussion and reports from the Color Guard Committee.

A report will be given on the Texas Society's Board of Managers meeting that was held

Saturday and Sunday, October 4-5, 1996. Also to be discussed will be the upcoming TXSSAR 100th Annual Convention to be held in March 1996 in Galveston and the importance of this meeting, as well as, the representation of the PineyWoods Chapter at his important convention.

The discussion of the possibility of moving our meeting place to another location will be discussed.

Please make every effort to attend this important "members only" meeting as many decisions will be discussed and made concerning the operations and future functions of the PineyWoods Chapter. We need your presence and your input.

The PineyWoods Chapter will not have a meeting in December due to the holiday season. The next scheduled meeting will be on January 18, 1996.

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER COMPATRIOTS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

06 Nov.	Marshall Battle
06 Nov.	Gary Smith
11 Nov.	Harold Green, Jr.
11 Nov.	Jere Hart
13 Nov.	Byron Basham
15 Nov.	Worthy Warnack, Sr.
16 Nov.	Allan Henshaw
20 Nov.	Paul Luther
25 Nov.	Jack Ward
29 Nov.	Ron Austin

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

04 Dec.	Kenneth Vaughn
07 Dec.	Richard McCaine
08 Dec.	James Sloan
10 Dec.	Clay Warlick
14 Dec.	Forest Rees
17 Dec.	Robert Simmons
19 Dec.	Scott Leonard
24 Dec.	Bill Foster
26 Dec.	Harold Green, D.D.S.
27 Dec.	John Dorsey
29 Dec.	Charles Fox
30 Dec.	Ben Gantt

BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL AWARDED TO EAGLE SCOUT RASCH

KINGWOOD — PineyWoods Chapter President, Thomas Green and Vice President Bernard Balser presented Samuel L. Rasch with a bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate for his service to his community on Saturday afternoon at 3 P.M., October 21 at the Strawbridge United Methodist Church in Kingwood. Samuel is the son of Linden and Cindy Rasch, also of Kingwood.

Samuel's project was building a bird recovery cage at the bird sanctuary near Tomball for the recovery of health for injured birds.

Index

- Members Only Meeting.....Page 1
- Compatriot Birthdays.....Page 1
- TXSSAR 100th Convention.....Page 2
- Patriot's CommemorationPage 2
- Planned Commemoration.....Page 2
- NSSAR 106th Congress.....Page 2
- Signers -Second in a series..Page 3-4

Beaumont's Paul Revere Chapter Will Hold Commemorative Service for Revolutionary Soldier

BEAUMONT — The Paul Revere Chapter TXSSAR will lead a public commemorative service for Revolutionary Soldier Jean Baptiste (Jonas) Chaison (Chaisson) at his memorial site in Pipkin Park, Beaumont. This site was marked by the DAR in an earlier event and the SAR is adding a stone with their bronze marker with this ceremony. Chaison descendants and the SAR state officers will attend. Veterans and the public are invited.

This program will be a symbolic tribute to those Revolutionary Patriots who won our freedom from England making our democracy possible; also to all veterans since that time who have served in the Armed Forces as needed to keep these freedoms.

This is a significant event because only 46 Revolutionary Patriots are buried in Texas, and Jean Baptiste Chaison is the only one buried in Jefferson County. Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served and the adjacent Temple of the Brave will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This service will be attended by President Thomas Green and Secretary Jeff Meadows of the PineyWoods Chapter.

TXSSAR Annual Convention To Be Held in Galveston, March 9 - 10, 1996

GALVESTON — The next Annual TXSSAR Convention will be held in Galveston, March 9-10, 1996 at the San Luis Hotel and Resort on Seawall Blvd. with the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter as the host chapter. 1996 is the Centennial year for the Texas Society.

All Compatriots should try to attend this meeting, especially on Saturday, March 10. The Saturday dinner will be when the Texas Society will present the annual awards to chapters and compatriots and the dinner will be formal attire requested. The election of the 1996-97 State Society officers will also take place at this convention.

The PineyWoods Chapter will be allocated a certain number of delegates to represent the chapter at this important annual meeting. This is the last time in a number of years that this annual convention will be held this close to the Houston area.

The 106th Congress of the NSSAR To Be Held in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO — The next annual NSSAR Congress will be held in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Riverwalk, June 8-12, 1996. The National Society Sons of the American Revolution is holding the Congress in Texas to celebrate the Centennial year of the Texas Society. There will be more coverage on this later.

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER PLANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT CHERRY

LIBERTY COUNTY — The PineyWoods Chapter is making plans to dedicate and commemorate the grave and tombstone of Revolutionary War Patriot Private Aaron Cherry in March or April 1996, who is buried in a cemetery on the land of Gov. Bill Daniel of Liberty in Northeastern Liberty County. Aaron Cherry was born in Virginia and served in the Revolutionary War as a private from Pennsylvania.

President Tom Green brought the Patriot's grave marker back from Louisville when he attend the 105 Annual Congress in June of this year.

Secretary Jeff Meadows has contacted Robert Schaadt, Archivist and Director of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center to assist in locating some of the descendants of Aaron Cherry for this special commemoration ceremony. The Atascocito Historical Society of Liberty, Texas will also be notified to assist us, as will the TXSSAR and the NSSAR Officers and Committee Chairmen.

Each Compatriot of the PineyWoods Chapter will receive a complete copy of the plans when completed, as you should make every effort to attend this service.

"Paul Revere's Ride - April 18, 1775

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had a fatal knack for enshrining history in one-liners, and several figures of American folklore come down to us filtered through his romantic lens. And it's because of Longfellow's poem 'The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere' that most American believe the Boston silversmith warned the slumbering citizens of Concord, Massachusetts, that 'the redcoats are coming.'

In the spring of 1775, Revere and every other member of the anti-British Sons of Liberty were aware that King George's finest were about to move on American arms stores at Concord and arrest the rebel leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Anticipating the move, Revere arranged for lamps to be lit in the steeple of Boston's North Church - 'one if by land, and two if by sea' - to indicate the British approach. As Longfellow's Revere proclaims:

I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm
For the country folk to be up and to arm.

The signal came on the night of April 18, and the patriot craftsman dutifully took his famous ride. What Longfellow doesn't mention is that he was aided by two other riders, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott; that

Dawes and Revere were stopped by a British patrol and turned back and that Prescott was the only one to reach Concord. Revere's main contribution to the night's business was to warn Hancock and Adams to get out of Lexington.

Aside from the difficulty of rhyming 'Prescott' with anything but 'waistcoat,' Longfellow had a sound historical (or at least mythical) reason for favoring Revere over his fellow riders. Paul was not only a distinguished silversmith but a notable firebrand for the patriot cause. A major figure in the Sons of Liberty, he published a drawing of the Boston Massacre in 1770 that helped to nourish colonial resentment of British troops, agitated widely against taxed tea in the early 1770s, and was one of the 'Indians' at the Boston Tea Party. In choosing Revere over Prescott or Dawes, the poet was putting his money on a known winner.

TIDBITS: • *A fine blend of artist and businessman, Revere was commissioned to print not only the first Continental money but also the official seal. Plus, as a cooper-sheeting specialist after the war, he was responsible for covering the dome of the Massachusetts State House and the hull of the U.S.S. Constitution.* • *Nowhere in Longfellow's poem does the hero actually utter the words 'the redcoats are coming.'* [American History in 100 Nutshells by Tad Tuleja, publ. Fawcett Colombine, 1992]

Part 2 (of a series) The Signers of the Declaration of Independence

On July 4, 1776, all the Colonies except New York voted to adopt the Declaration. Congress ordered it printed and distributed to colonial officials, military units, and the press. John Hancock and Charles Thomson, President and Secretary of Congress respectively, were the only signers of this broadside copy. On July 8, outside the Pennsylvania State house, the document was first read to the public. During the ensuing celebration, people cheered, bells rang out, and soldiers paraded. At other cities, similar celebrations soon took place. Yet many citizens — the Loyalists, or Tories — could not accept independence now that it had been declared any more than previously when it had been merely a concept. Some of them would continue to dream of reconciliation. Others would flee from or be driven out of the country. In addition, another sizable group of citizens remained non-committal, neither supporting nor opposing independence.

Four days after obtaining New York's approval of the Declaration on July 15, Congress ordered it engrossed on parchment for signature. At this time, indicate of unanimity, the title was changed from "A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of American in General Congress Assembled" to "The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America."

Contrary to a widespread misconception, the 56 signers of the Declaration did not sign as a group and did not do so on July 4, 1776. The official event

occurred on August 2, 1776, when 50 men probably took part. Later that year, five more apparently signed separately and one added his name in a subsequent year. Not until January 18, 1777, in the wake of Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton, did Congress, which had sought to protect the signers from British retaliation for as long as possible, authorize printing of the Declaration with all their names listed. At this time, Thomas McKean had not yet penned his name.

The most impressive signature is that of John Hancock, President of Congress, centered over the others. According to tradition, Hancock wrote boldly and defiantly so that King George III would not need spectacles to identify him as a "traitor" and double the reward for his head. The other Delegates signed in six columns, which ran from right to left. They utilized the standard congressional voting order, by colony generally from north to south: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Those who signed on August 2 undoubtedly did not realize that others would follow them and thus allowed no room to accommodate the signatures of the later six men. Two of them, George Wythe and Richard Henry Lee, found ample room above their fellow Virginians. One, Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, crowded his name into the space between the Massachusetts and Rhode Island groups. Two of the others — Thomas McKean and Oliver Wolcott — signed at the bottom of columns following their State delegations. Only Matthew Thornton of New Hampshire needed to add his name separately from his colleagues — at the bottom of the first column on the right at the end of the Connecticut group.

Liberal as a whole with courage and sense of purpose, the signers consisted of a distinguished group of individuals. Although heterogeneous in background, education, experience and accomplishments, at the time of the signing they were practically all men of means and represented an elite cross section of 18th-century American leadership. Every one of them had achieved prominence in his colony, but only a few enjoyed a national reputation.

The signers were those individuals who happened to be Delegates to Congress at the time. Such men of stature in the Nation as George Washington and Patrick Henry were not then even serving in the body. On the other hand, Jefferson, the two Adamses, Richard Henry Lee, and Benjamin Rush ranked among the outstanding people in the Colonies; and Franklin had already acquired international fame. Some of the signers had not taken a stand for or against independence in the



final vote on July 2. For example, Robert Morris of Pennsylvania had purposely absented himself. Others had not yet been elected to Congress or were away on business or military matters. Some were last-minute replacements for opponents of independence. The only signer who actually voted negatively on July 2 was George Read of Delaware.

The signers possessed many basic similarities. Most were American-born and of Anglo-Saxon origin. The eight foreign-born — Button Gwinnett, Francis Lewis, Robert Morris, James Smith, George Taylor, Matthew Thornton, James Wilson, and John Witherspoon — were all natives of the British Isles. Except for Charles Carroll, a Roman Catholic, and a few Deists, every one subscribed to Protestantism. For the most part basically political non-extremists, many at first had hesitated at separation let alone rebellion. A few signed only reluctantly.

The majority were well educated and prosperous. More than half the southerners belonged to the planter class and owned slaves, though Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, and others heartily opposed the institution of slavery, as did also several of the signers from the North. On the other hand, William Whipple, as a sea captain early in his career, had likely sometimes carried slaves on his ship.

Although the signers ranged in age at the time from 26 (Edward Rutledge) to 70 (Benjamin Franklin), the bulk of them were in their thirties or forties. Probably as a result of their favored economic position, an amazingly large number attained an age that far exceeded the life expectancy of their time; 38 of the 56 lived into their sixties or beyond and 14 into the eighties and nineties.

With few exceptions, those who subscribed to the Declaration continued in public service under the new Federal and State Governments. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson became President; they and Elbridge Gerry, Vice President. Samuel Chase and James Wilson won appointment to the Supreme Court. Others served as Congressmen, diplomats, Governors, and judges. Six of the signers — George Clymer, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, George Read, Roger Sherman, and James Wilson — also signed the Constitution. Sixteen of them underwrote the Articles of Confederation. Only two, Roger Sherman and Robert Morris, affixed their signatures to the Declaration, Constitution, and Articles.

Caesar Rodney and Joseph Hewes were the only bachelors in the group. All but five fathered children. Carter Braxton sired no fewer than 18, but 10 others each had at least 10 offspring. The average number was about six. Some of the sons of the signers attained national distinction. John Adams' son John Quincy became President; the son of Benjamin Harrison, William Henry, won the same office, as did also Benjamin's great-grandson with the same name. Other male progeny of the signers served as U.S. Congressmen, Governors and State legislators.

In wealth, the signers ranged from Charles Carroll, one of the wealthiest men in the Colonies, to Samuel Adams, whose friends supplied money and clothes so he could attend Congress. About one-third were born into

wealth; most of the others acquired it on their own. Some were self-made men. A few were of humble origin; one, George Taylor, had come to America as an indentured servant.

Many pursued more than one vocation. More than half were trained in the law, but not all of them practiced it. Some won a livelihood as merchants and shippers. Roughly a quarter of the group earned their living from agriculture, usually as wealthy planters or landed gentry, but just a few could be called farmers. Four — Josiah Bartlett, Benjamin Rush, Lyman Hall, and Matthew Thornton — were doctors. Oliver Wolcott also studied medicine for awhile, but never entered the profession. George Taylor's occupation was iron-master. Of the four trained as ministers — Lyman Hall, William Hooper, Robert Treat Paine, and John Witherspoon — only the latter made it his lifetime vocation. William Williams received some theological training. Samuel Adams followed no real occupation other than politics.

For their dedication to the cause of independence, the signers risked loss of fortune, imprisonment, and death for treason. Although none died directly at the hands of the British, the wife of one, Mrs. Francis Lewis, succumbed as a result of harsh prison treatment. About one-third of the group served as militia officers, most seeing wartime action. Four of these men (Thomas Heyward, Jr., Arthur Middleton, Edward Rutledge, and George Walton), as well as Richard Stockton, were taken captive. The homes of nearly one-third of the signers were destroyed or damaged, and the families of a few were scattered when the British pillaged or confiscated their estates.

Certainly most of the signers had little or nothing to gain materially and practically all to lose when they subscribed to the Declaration of Independence. By doing so, they earned a niche of honor in the annals of the United States. Whatever other heights they reached or whatever else they contributed to history, the act of signing insured them immortality.

**WELCOME TO NEW COMPATRIOT
MARSHALL L. BATTLE;
ALSO CONGRATULATIONS TO
COMPATRIOT MATTHEW GREENWOOD
ON PROVING HIS FIRST SUPPLEMENT**

**The PineyWoods Chapter
as of October 31, 1995
has 93 approved Compatriots
and 69 approved Supplements
with 11 awaiting approval**