



# Pineywoods Pine Shavings

Official Newsletter of the Piney Woods Chapter, No 51  
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution  
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325

October 2004



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October 1776

From the first, American Women played an active role in the revolution. As their men went off to war, they pushed plows and gathered crops. There was "Old Mom" Rinker of Philadelphia who made daily reports on Howe's army to Washington by messages concealed in balls of yarn which she rolled over a cliff. And Lydia Darragh, a Philadelphia housewife, whose home faced British Headquarters. Lydia kept a constant watch on the British and sewed important information into cloth-covered jacket buttons which her son wore on frequent visits to Gen. Washington.

Molly Hays was a Pennsylvania Dutch girl who accompanied her husband to the Battle of Monmouth. Throughout the battle, she brought pitcher after pitcher of water to thirsty soldiers. When her husband fell wounded, Molly took over at his cannon to ram the shot.

Another revolutionary heroine, Margaret Corbin, also manned her husband's cannon when he was wounded during the siege of Fort Washington.

In New York, during the years 1776—1777, a Quaker lady named Sarah Smith literally impoverished herself by supplying money, food and clothing to American prisoners held by the British.

Martha Washington cheered up the troops at Valley Forge.....Betsy Ross stitched the first flag.....Mistress Murray delayed General Howe with her madiera wine.....small but important threads in the patchwork of war.

## Birthdays

### August

Kenneth Cox  
Donald Lemon  
Richard Shanks  
Bobby Smith  
James McKim III

### September

William Green  
Keith Wiggins  
James Jones  
David Mahavier  
Ross Miller

### October

Bernie Balser  
Raymond Cox  
Kenneth Fleming  
Glen Withrow  
Larry Stevens

## Weather Legend

July 15 was Saint Swithin's Day. In spite of repeated weather records which tell of rain many times within 40 days of a dry Saint Swithin's Day, and drought after a fair one, the tradition clings.

"St Swithin's Day, if tho dost rain  
For forty days it will remain;  
Saint Swithin's Day, if tho be fair  
For forty days tweil rain nae mair."

Swithin was bishop of Winchester. This devout man was beloved of King Egbert, under whom England was united, and tutored the King's son, Ethwold. Swithin accompanied Ethwold's son, Alfred, afterward "the Great, to Rome. It was Swithin who persuaded the English Kings to tithe, setting aside a tenth of the income from their lands for the church.

When Swithin died in 862 he was buried at his own request outside the church, but on July 15, 871, the monks removed his body to the choir.

The legend of fair or wet weather following his day in the calendar is thought to have sprung either from the fact that rain dripped from the church eaves on his grave, causing the monks to decide to bring his bones inside, or from the weather on the day when the removal took place. Anyhow there it is. It doesn't affect the meteorologists officially, using the most advanced scientific instruments. In fact, it doesn't affect the weather at all, but it's something to write about.

## PineyWoods Chapter Meetings

October 21, 2004	Members Only Meeting
November 18, 2004	Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)
December 16, 2004	Nominating Committee Meeting
January 20, 2005	Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)
February 17, 2005	Members Only Meeting (Election of Officers)
March 17, 2005	Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests) Installation of 2005-2006 Officers
April 21, 2005	Board Meeting
May 19, 2005	Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)
Board Meetings will be held at the Kingwood Funeral Home beginning at 6:30 PM.	
Dinner Meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn located at the intersection of Beltway 8 and JFK Blvd. Social time beginning at 6:15 PM, Dinner served at 7:00 PM.	
Members Only Meetings will be held at the Heritage Center in Kingwood, Texas. Social time beginning at 6:15 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM	

### Past Presidents:

Tom Green  
Bernie Balser  
Don Lemon  
Jeff Meadows  
McLeod Smith  
Robert McKenna  
Bob Smith  
Cannon Pritchard



## Did you know .....

Early American naval officer, William Bainbridge, suffered a number of misfortunes, being the first officer of the United States Navy to surrender the command of two American ships to enemy forces, the *Retaliation* during the Quasi-War with France, and the *Philadelphia* at the time of the Tripolitan War. Another humiliation came in 1801 when the Dey of Algiers forced Bainbridge, captain of the USS *George Washington*, to transport to the Ottoman Sultan the Dey's ambassador and an unusual cargo, including lions, tigers and ostriches. Yet Bainbridge accomplished much. To him goes credit for promoting the idea of a naval board of commissioners, establishing the first naval school, and strengthening American relations with Turkey.

During the early years of America's history, military officers frequently used duels to resolve their personal disputes. Popular naval hero Stephen Decatur and fellow officer James Barron fought a duel over a long-standing dispute between the two regarding the troubled naval career of Barron. Commodore Decatur was shot by Captain Barron during the duel on March 22, 1820, in Bladensburg, Maryland, and died several days later of his wounds. The nation mourned Decatur, one of the "brightest stars" of the U.S. Navy.

Reputed to be "as able a seaman as ever sailed a ship," Captain Issac Hull of the United States Navy presided at the first significant American naval victory of the War of 1812. On August 19, 1812, Hull, commanding the USS *Constitution*, engaged the British frigate *Guerriere* off the coast of Newfoundland. In the battle, the British ship and crew suffered severe loss, largely as a result of Hull's skill in both seamanship and expert training of his inexperienced crew. Luckily for Hull, since he was sailing without explicit orders, he was victorious. He returned to a hero's welcome in Boston.

American naval vessels were not confined to the Atlantic and the Great Lakes during the War of 1812. On February 24, 1813, Captain David Porter, having successfully navigated the frigate *Essex* around Cape Horn, brought the first American warship ever into the Pacific. Porter sought to protect American whalers and to weaken the British whaling interests in the Pacific. For a year, Porter experienced unqualified success, seriously damaging the British whaling industry in the region. Porter's success came to an abrupt halt on March 28, 1814, when, off the coast near Valparaiso, Chili, British naval forces overpowered Porter's ships.

Not all early American naval heroes found their lives inextricably bound up with the sea. As a young boy, Silas Talbot sailed on merchant sloops. Returning to land he became a successful stone mason and at the eve of the American Revolutionary War, joined a local militia. During the war he fought on land and sea, rising to the ranks of lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army and captain in the Continental Navy. Subsequently, Talbot was appointed captain in the U.S. Navy, incurring the jealousy of some naval officers who perceived Talbot, given his varied background, as unworthy. In 1799 Talbot received the prestigious command of the USS *Constitution*, and the mission of protecting American maritime trade interest in the West Indies.

The Lucayan were some of the first people Christopher Columbus encountered when he first landed in the New World. Columbus described the boats the Lucayan used as "made of the trunk of a tree" and large enough to carry forty men. These boats, referred to by the Lucayans as "canoa" were the origins of present day canoes.

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We're on the Web  
[www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods](http://www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods)

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*The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized April 30, 1889, and was incorporated by Act of Congress of the United States of America on June 9, 1906.*

*By virtue of the authority granted the National Society by its Constitution and the charter issued by the Congress of the United States, charters are issued to the State Societies of the various States and territories. Each State Society is empowered to issue charters to chapters within the boundaries thereof.*

*The affairs of the National Society are administered by the Board of National Trustees, composed of the General Officers, all living Past Presidents General, one Trustee from each State Society, and any member of the*

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