

September 2003



# PineyWoods Pine Shavings

News of PineyWoods Chapter #51  
Sons of the American Revolution

## President:

James Jones 713-965-6837

## First VP:

Tom Lawrence 713-893-5450

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## Treasurer:

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## Chancellor

Allan Henshaw 281-894-8084

## Chaplain

Bernie Balser 281-360-7041

## Historian

(vacant)

## Registrar

Robert McKenna 281-361-5458

## Sgt-At-Arms

Jim Richards 281-358-7959

## Web Master

Ray Cox 281-454-6074

## Newsletter

Bernie Balser 281-360-7041

## MEETING NOTICE

"Members Only" dinner meeting

On Thursday, October 16, 2003; PineyWoods Chapter #51 of the TXSSAR will hold a "Member Only" dinner meeting at the Heritage Center in Kingwood Town Center. A social time will start at 6:15 pm, and dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. Dinner cost is \$10.50 per person. All members are encouraged to attend to enter their input in the activities of the chapter. Please respond ASAP, either by e-mail to: Genmorton@usa.net **OR** by returning the enclosed RSVP card.

## Directions:

Heritage Center, 2825 W. Town Center Cr.

A) from US 59, exit Kingwood Dr., go east crossing over the RR tracks. Go about 4 miles to Kingwood Town Center and turn right on Main (between Fudruckers and McDonalds). Continue a couple of blocks to Town Center Cr. Heritage Center is on the right.

B) Or drive north on Lake Houston Pkwy from FM1960 and turn left on Town Center Place (last crossover before Kingwood Dr.)

## PERSEVERANCE

The value of courage, persistence, and Perseverance has rarely been illustrated more convincingly than the life story of this man.

	age
Failed in business	22
Ran for legislature-defeated	23
Again failed in business	24
Elected to legislature	25
Sweetheart died	26
Had nervous breakdown	27
Defeated for Speaker	29
Defeated for Elector	31
Defeated for Congress	34
Elected to Congress	37
Defeated for Congress	39
Defeated for Senate	46
Defeated for Vice President	47
Defeated for Senate	49
Elected President of US	51

That's the record of  
Abraham Lincoln

## PineyWoods Junior ROTC Awards Program for 2003

Aldine High School  
Cleveland High School  
Hargrave High School  
Humble High School  
Klein High School  
Klein Forest High School  
Klein Oaks High School  
LaPorte High School  
New Caney High School  
Tomball High School

Sgt Randy Hall  
Col. Jim Meyer  
Capt Rick Nelson  
Joseph Lang  
Col. David Crum  
Sgt Roby Robinson  
Col. Irv LeBlanc  
Maj. Lawrence Vidinha  
LtCol. Paul Timmerburg  
Cmdr. Reedy Buford

Jim Jones  
Cannon Pritchard  
Don Lemon  
Ray Cox  
—(open)—  
Bob Smith  
—(open)—  
Tom Green  
Bernie Balser  
—(open)—



Remember to check out our Chapter Web Site:

[www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods](http://www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods)

## PineyWoods Chapter Compatriots Celebrate Birthdays

### October

7 Bernie Balser  
1 Raymond Cox  
14 Kenneth Fleming  
7 Craig Reese, DDS  
20 Glen Withrow  
6 Larry Stevens

### November

29 Ron Austin  
16 Marshall Battle  
16 Allan Henshaw  
20 Paul Luther  
15 Worthy Warnack, Sr.  
25 Jack Ward

### December

27 John Dorsey  
24 William Foster  
8 James R. Sloan  
9 MacLeod Smith  
4 Kenneth Vaughn  
10 Clay Warlick  
30 Ray G. Collins, 111  
30 Robert Armstrong

## PineyWoods Chapter Meetings

Thursday	Oct 16, 2003	6:15	Members only meeting
Thursday	Nov 20, 2003	6:15	Dinner with members & guests
Thursday	Dec 18, 2003	6:30	Nominating Committee Only meets
Thursday	Jan 15, 2004	6:15	Dinner with members & guests
Thursday	Feb 19, 2004	6:15	Members only, Election of Officers
Thursday	Mar 18, 2004	6:15	Dinner with members & guests

### PineyWoods Chapter #51 Texas Society

#### Sons of the American Revolution

Minutes of the General Meeting  
Thursday, September 18, 2003  
Held at the Holiday Inn North Belt and JFK

President Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with 15 members (Bernie Balser, Ray Cox, Mike Culbertson, Tom Green, Alan Henshaw, Jim Jones, Don Lemon, Bob McKenna, Kim Morton, Cannon Pritchard, Jim Richards, Richard Shanks, Larry Stephens, Jack Ward, and Worthy Warnack), 1 prospective member with application pending (Ed Farmer), 1 prospective transfer (Ron Barker), and 9 guests present, including special guest Representative Debbie Riddle. Our two prospective member guests were introduced by Kim Morton. The invocation was given by Chaplain Bernie Balser, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR pledge. The business meeting was then adjourned for dinner.

After dinner President Jim Jones introduced the guest speaker, Representative Debbie Riddle. Representative Riddle gave an informative talk on *Redistricting, Property Taxes, School financing, and Illegal Immigrants in Texas*, followed by a question and answer period.

At the conclusion of Representative Riddle's talk, she was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Jim Jones in recognition of her contribution to our meeting.

President Jones then opened an abbreviated business meeting. Ray Cox presented cost information on the PineyWoods Lineage Book Vol. II. Following a short discussion, Don Lemon made a motion to include a \$5.00 commitment-to-buy response form in the next newsletter, with a decision on producing the book being deferred until the next meeting when the response could then be considered.

No further business was discussed.

After reciting the SAR Closing and a closing prayer by Chaplain Bernie Balser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.



## NEWS AND NOTES

Reprint from NEHGS enews #129 of 8/30/03

### In Search of the Wild LNUs

A long time ago in a kingdom far away there lived a fair maiden by the name of Fnu MNU. She married a handsome young knight named Sir Arthur LNU and thus she became Fnu (MNU) LNU. Wait! Stop! Does this sound a bit like a page out of YOUR family tree?

Are you spending sleepless nights prowling the Web in search of your elusive MNU and LNU ancestors? Or perhaps you've encountered them in someone's GEDCOM file on WorldConnect at RootsWeb, and after doing more searches have come to the conclusion that there are many researchers out there hunting those wild and crazy LNUs.

Well, it's time to let you in on one of genealogy's best kept secrets: LNU, MNU, and FNU are not real names. They are acronyms. (Acronyms are combinations of the first letters/syllables in a group of words to form a new grouping of letters that can be pronounced as a word.) They are: First Name Unknown (FNU), Maiden Name Unknown (MNU), and Last Name Unknown (LNU). They are first cousins to the mysterious UNK ancestors that you might have spent time tracking down until you realized that UNK was short for "unknown."

Researchers have used these acronyms and other symbols and abbreviations for years, with little or no uniformity from file to file, to indicate the unknown or missing names. The meaning of these acronyms is often unclear and can be mistaken for actual names by new -- and not so new -- genealogists. After all, we all have a few oddly spelled names in our trees, so what's a MNU or two?

On another note, be careful should you encounter any DITTO ancestors in your line. DITTO is an actual surname, but it is frequently mistaken as a surname by those reading an enumerator's "ditto" entry to denote that the name is the same as the one listed above it. (DITTO and DITTOE are Anglicized forms of a Huguenot name of unexplained etymology. The names are found in North America by 1700. Ditto also is a short form of the Italian personal name Benedetto.)

All of this name confusion serves to reinforce the notion that while user-compiled genealogies are a valuable tool in research, you need to examine original records to verify or refute what the compiled records indicate. When possible examine the records for yourself.

What can you do to make your files clear as to the abbreviation or acronyms you use to indicate any unknown given names, maiden names, or surnames? There are no perfect solutions or worldwide standards. Some compilers, especially those who use genealogy software, put a question mark to indicate that a name is not known, but this is not recommended as some creative family historians use one question mark, while others use two or three, and a ? for a name might mean one thing to you and something else to another researcher

A recent unscientific search at WorldConnect <http://wc.rootsweb.com/> revealed the following are being used as names:

Unknown-- 2,742,761  
LNU/Lnu -- 14,134  
UNK/Unk -- 39,332  
FNU -- 139  
MNU/Mnu -- 3,357  
?? -- 78,201  
?,? -- 605,694  
??? -- 140,665  
\_\_\_\_ (underscores of variable lengths) 6,244  
- (one hyphen) 6,491  
MRS/Mrs (as a given name) -- 555,699  
[--?--] 3,125

Obviously there is no standard for indicating that a name is not known -- hence the confusion. The search even turned up an ancestor by the name of Unk FNU -- with FNU probably used as an acronym for Family Name Unknown. Not surprisingly there was no birth date or place for her and one wonders why such information is even included. It serves no purpose.

Unknown maiden names should be indicated by using square brackets with a single em dash (or two hyphens, if the software, typesetting or word-processing programs will not accept or use em dashes), or use a question mark amid the em dashes -- e.g. Catherine [--] or Catherine [--?--]. The same format can be used when the given name is unknown or in doubt. The latter happens sometimes when you learn your female ancestor married someone whose surname is known, but not his given name. Such references can be recorded as [--?--] Smith. Some of the popular genealogy software has to be forced to use this format.

In formal genealogical writing, the English tradition of putting a woman's maiden name in parentheses -- Elizabeth (Smith) Jones -- is commonly used by many genealogists. Therefore nicknames should not be put in parentheses, but rather enclosed in quotation marks. Example: Catherine "Cathy" [--?--] Jones. Again, your genealogy software program may or may not handle nicknames in this format or might require some tweaking. For those female ancestors with middle names that might be (or mistaken for) surnames, such as Mary Morgan Kirby, it is important to indicate that Kirby is her maiden name. If her nickname was Polly, and she married a Smith her name should be recorded so that in a family history publication it appears as: Mary "Polly" Morgan (Kirby) Smith.

Remember you do not have to fill in every field in your genealogy software. If you do not know the given or maiden name of a woman, either leave the field blank or use [--?--]. Her given name is not MRS, and certainly not Mrs. King William of England.

Using acronyms or various symbols when names are unknown is not a good idea because you want to make it clear that the name is unknown so as not to send others and generations of future researchers on an endless and futile search for the wild LNU. Don't put your cousins in the position of having to ask "What's MNU? Or who is Unk FNU?"