



Pine Shavings



**PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution**

April 2012

Volume 22, Issue 4

A Message from the President



Compatriots, just a few short years back I contacted the TXSSAR state office to inquire about membership requirements. I was referred to Larry Stevens (who turned out to be a distant cousin) and he referred me to Robert McKenna (who turned out to be a distant cousin to both me and Larry Stevens.) Small world. The goal was to become a member and then to help out with youth programs. It has been my distinct pleasure as a member to work with Chapter Presidents: Larry Stevens; Ray Cox; and John Beard. It is an honor to be associated with the TXSSAR PineyWoods Chapter #51. I would have to name off all of the members who regularly attend our meetings, but I will just say to the group “thank you” for making this old Marine feel welcome. When compatriot Ron Barker retired to California I accepted the role of JROTC Coordinator. When the time came to elect new chapter officers I accepted the role of chapter

secretary. I think at that time compatriot Larry Stevens was wearing at least three different hats. Three short years later I am chapter president. Leads me to the age old adage ‘be careful what you wish for.’

I have said many times what a fine group of gentlemen (and ladies) comprise our chapter membership. Also, our membership and meeting attendees have grown considerably. Our guest speakers have been great – educational and interesting. It is amazing to see growth translate into enthusiasm – everybody does something, maybe even many somethings.

In March, many of us attended the annual TXSSAR state convention in San Antonio. It was my first time to attend and was a sight to behold. Chapter officers, state officers, national officers, elections and election challenges, committee meetings, changing of the guard, food, speeches, orations, eagle scouts, JROTC cadets – it went on and on. There was a fife and drum group made up of children of the revolution who were outstanding in presentation of the colors. Another group, a senior choir from a local church, entertained singing patriot songs. Hundreds of people. I lost track of the awards that our members received. I am sure that each of these will be mentioned in this newsletter. The Saturday agenda lasted from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Simply amazing. I came away with a different perspective about who we are and what we

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PineyWoods - Meetings - 2012

Apr 19—Member Only
May 17—Member/Guest
Jun -- No Meeting
Jul —No Meeting
Aug 16—Member Only

Sep 20 — Member/Guest
Oct 18—Member Only
Nov 15—Member/Guest
Dec 20—Member Only
(tentative date)

MEETING LOCATION

Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway
Houston TX 77060
6:30 PM
See ya'll there

RSVP FOR THE MEETING

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday before the meeting date. You can send an RSVP email to John Beard at johnbeard@suddenlink.net or call John at 281-358-2970 OR Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net. OR Larry Stevens wardtracker@aol.com (281-361-2061) Please RSVP to one person only.

EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

July 7-11, 2012 -

122nd National Congress will be held in Phoenix

Sept 28-29, 2012

Fall Leadership Meeting held in Louisville, KY



State: www.txssar.org

Oct 5-6, 2012

Fall TXSSAR BOM—Temple, TX

This Month in the Revolution

Last year's newsletter highlighted some events in the history of the Revolution in April. Those events were the following:

- **April 18, 1775:** Midnight Ride of Paul Revere & William Dawes
- **April 19, 1775:** Battle of Lexington-Concord
- **April 26, 1775:** Heroic ride of Sybil Ludington, a 16 year old
- **April 25, 1781:** Battle of Hobkirk's Hill (Second Battle of Camden)

Further April action during the Revolutionary War is given below.

April 25-28, 1777— The Battle of Ridgefield (CT) was fought between a force of about 500 British under Maj. Gen. Wm Tryon, Royal Governor of New York, and Connecticut militia under Maj. Gen. David Wooster and Continentals under Brig Gen Benedict Arnold. On the 25th Tryon's forces destroyed Continental supplies at Danbury. The patriot forces mustered and moved to stop them but could not reach Danbury in time. Instead they chose the American tactic of harassing the British on their march back to the coast. During the second Patriot attack on the 27th Wooster was mortally wounded. The significant battle occurred at Ridgefield where Arnolds Continentals joined by CT militia met the British. Arnold inflicted significant casualties on the British but was forced to retreat. While the win went to the British, the battle caused a surge of support in CT for the "cause."



April 15, 1783— The War is Over! On this day the Continental Congress ratified the preliminary articles of peace. Over eight years of civil war with the British was over! John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, Henry Laurens and Thomas Jefferson were named peace commissioners. The final formal treaties — USA and Britain [Treaty of Paris], France and Britain, and Spain and Britain — were all signed on the 3rd of September 1783. Some will argue that the British did not really give up the claim to the USA until after the War of 1812.

April 18, 1783— General Washington issues General Orders to the officers and troops announcing the "Cessation of Hostilities between the United States of American and the King of Great Britain."

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President’s Message, Continued

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do. I would encourage our members who have not had an opportunity to attend one of these events to do so when you have time.

PineyWoods 51 is not a large chapter in terms of membership. However, we have a very large presence in terms of representation and active participation at the state and national level committees and decision makers.

I am not going to set any major goals other than to do my best to represent our group. I think the parts are already in place for us to become even a greater example of what the SAR is all about. We do plan to grow our Eagle Scout

program and our JROTC program is one of the best in the state. We had the state winner in the American history teacher contest. Participation within our membership is growing and we have many new members who will be encouraged to get involved.

I will close this out by saying that I am looking forward to seeing you all again at the next monthly meeting. Best regards and god bless.

Larry H. Blackburn, PhD

President

Membership

President Elect Bob Clark initiated our new PineyWoods members Eugene Shuffield and his father Eugene Shuffield, at our March Meeting. Lynna Shuffield, present for the initiation, says she is preparing supplementals for them now.

Also inducted in March was Brent Monteleone who joined SAR under the Van Zandt chapter in Arlington. He lives in Kingwood, and may consider joining PineyWoods to become active locally.

As an aside, something was said at the March meeting that

awakened old memories. Lynna Suffield, sister and daughter of our two new members, works at Clayton Library every Wednesday evening helping prospective members for DAR, DRT and SAR get started on their genealogy. This used to be the hang out for our Tom M. Green, TXSSAR Registrar. He was so effective in meeting people and getting them interested in their lineage. There are probably several SAR members that could look back to a chance meeting with Tom as the start of their association with SAR. Our chapter may wish to consider attending some of these Wednesday evening sessions.



Above: Larry Stevens, Bob Clark, Eugene Shuffield, Eugene Shuffield, Brent Monteleone, Jim Mitchell (seated) Larry Blackburn and Ben Stallings.

Chapter Registrar Report — Larry Stevens

The following applications are with state registrar (S) or are in Louisville (L):

- Baron Schneider (L*,S*)
- James Liepman (L)
- Jeffery LaRochelle (S)

- John Taylor (L*)
- Marc Liepman (L)

If you have any prospects, please contact me so that we can assist the prospective member with his application.

L* - Questions from national reviewers have been addressed and submitted to state registrar. S* - questions at State level.

March Meeting—PineyWoods Chapter

It is our tradition to invite the President Elect of the TXSSAR society to speak at our March meeting and install our new officers. We were privileged to have Robert M. Clark, President Elect, from Dallas, join us at our meeting on March 15th. Bob is an excellent speaker and discussed SAR award in general and his goals for SAR.



President Elect Clark installed our new slate of officers for the 2012-2013 term. A list of these new officers and their contact information can be found on page 2.

We also initiated three new SAR members (page 3 has photos and a story).



Pictured left Bob Clark awarding the President's ribbon to new PineyWoods President Larry Blackburn. Above: Larry Blackburn talks of his aspirations for the chapter.

Below: Bob Clark swears in PineyWoods officers: Larry Stevens, John Beard, Alan Henshaw, Jim Mitchell, Gordon Severance, Larry Blackburn, Ben Stallings, Greg Goulas, Cannon Pritchard and Kim Morton.



Pictured below: Bob Clark is presented with a Liberty Bell for speaking to our chapter.

Pictured right: John Beard is presented the coveted Past Presidents pin and certificate.



TXSSAR ANNUAL MEETING—SAN ANTONIO

The annual TXSSAR meeting was held in San Antonio on the 23-25th of March. PineyWoods was well represented with the following Compatriots attending: Larry Blackburn, John Beard, with wife Mary Claire, Ray Cox, Jim Jones, with his wife Dianne, Jim Mitchell, Larry Stevens, with wife Barbara, and Gordon Severance, with wife Diana.

Larry Blackburn, John Beard, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell, Larry Stevens and Gordon Severance all donned their uniforms for some of the ceremonies.

Several NSSAR officers and their wives were in attendance as
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Pictured above PG Magerkurth with John Beard.



Youth Awards Luncheon: (clockwise from 7 o'clock: Sue and Pete Lenes, Gordon Severance; Larry Blackburn; John and Mary Claire Beard, Ray Cox and Larry Stevens. Below left: John Thomas and Larry Stevens were awarded the Alexander Hamilton Medals and Certificates; Below right: Larry Blackburn accepts the Texas State History Teacher award from Peter Baron and TXSSAR President Marrs. Our candidate for this award, Michael Block won the state contest and a monetary award to be used for historic studies.



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well. They included the following: President General Larry Magerkurth and his wife Barbara, Treasurer General Joe Dooley, our own Tom Lawrence, Chancellor General and his wife Mickey Jo, Genealogist General Larry Cornwall and his wife Anna, Registrar General Lindsey Brock and his wife Billie, and TXSSAR San Antonio member Dr. James Taylor, Chaplain General, and his wife Pat.

PineyWoods members and chapter received several awards during the meeting. Some of these are pictured in these pages. They included several very prestigious awards. The highest award TXSSAR can award is the Distinguished Service Medal. Each state may only award one such medal each year. PineyWoods Compatriot Ray Cox, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 2012. Ray has worked tirelessly over the years to support TXSSAR and NSSAR.

His contributions range from IT support for application preparation, to web design and maintenance, several terms as a District Vice President and Color Guardsman for years. TXSSAR President William Marrs put it best when he described Ray as a hard



working contributor with ideas that push the envelop and make the organization grow and become better. PineyWoods has a lot to be proud of in member Ray Cox.

Another one of a kind award was given to yet another PineyWoods member. Jim Mitchell was named Color Guardsman

of the year. This is only the second time the TXSSAR Color Guard have awarded this medal. Everyone that is familiar with Jim's contribution to color guard both in Texas and throughout the country will understand how well he deserves this. He has traveled more miles to patriot grave dedications in Virginia and Georgia and other places than we can tote up. [photos on the page 7]



Other awards presented our chapter or members

Individual Awards

- Larry Stevens—Alexander Hamilton Medal
- James T. Jones — Good Citizenship Medal
(pictured above left)
- Jim Mitchell—Gold Galvez Medal
- Larry Stevens & James T. Jones—Silver Galvez Medal
- John Beard — Meritorious Service Award
(pictured above right)
- John Beard & Larry Stevens—Certificate of Appreciation

Chapter Awards

- TXSSAR Flag Presentation Award
- Sponsorship of winner of the Texas Outstanding American History Teacher Award. State winners become finalists in the Tom & Betty Lawrence Outstanding American History Teacher at the national level.



TXXAR Meeting San Antonio: Pictured above PineyWoods Color Guardsman Jim Mitchell (2nd from right) is awarded Color Guardsman of the Year, the highest medal awarded by the TXSSAR Color Guard. (pictured: Mike Radcliff (NSSAR Adj.), Mike Tomme (NSSAR Color Guard Commander), Marvin Morgan (TXSSAR Color Guard Commander) and Joe Dooley (NSSAR Treasurer and former NSSAR Color Guard Commander)



Bob Northcraft and Ray Cox at San Antonio



Front: Larry Blackburn behind him is F. Rohrbough & M. Everheart

TXSSAR OFFICERS — 2012-2013



*John Beard
TXSSAR Treasurer*

President General Larry Magerkurth swore in the new TXSSAR officers. PineYoods has four members who were sworn in at this ceremony:

- James T. Jones, TXSSAR Alternate Trustee to NSSAR
- John Beard, TXSSAR Treasurer
- Larry Stevens TXXAR Staff Secretary
- John Thompson, TXXSAR District 8 Vice President



*James T. Jones
TXSSAR
Alternate Trustee*

Other officers elected at this meeting and sworn: Robert Clark, *President*, Stephen Rohrbough, *President Elect*, Robert Cohen, *Secretary*, Sam Massey, *Communications Secretary*, Gerald Irion, *Registrar—Coastal*, Mike Radcliff, *Registrar—Inland*, Henry Voegtle, *Chancellor*, James Taylor, *Chaplain*, David Temple, *Historian*, Russell Dart, *VP CM&A*, Drake Peddie, *Chair—Coun. Chapter Pres.*, and *District Vice Presidents*.



*Larry Stevens
TXSSAR Secretary*

The new position of Communications Secretary was created this term to coordinate the e-mail and web communications to membership with a goal to improve communications.



*John Thompson
TXSSAR
District 8 VP*

Pictured below TXSSAR President Marrs presenting his officers from the 2011-2012 term with a Certificate of Appreciation.



The Battle for Carolinas—Part VII— The War in Carolina is Over

Hold Up the Glories of Thy Dead

*“Hold up the glories of thy dead,
Say how their older children bled,
And point to Eutaw’s battle-bed,
Carolina, Carolina.”*

The above stanza is from the state song of South Carolina. What is meant by, “And point to Eutaw’s battle-bed,” do we know? Last issue we discussed the Battle of Guilford Court House, the battle that helped end the British control of the South. So what is this Eutaw battle bed? The Patriots had Cornwallis on the run; he had pulled his troops all the way to Yorktown. So again what is Eutaw?

Hindsight is a great perspective to view events. George Washington and Nat Greene didn’t know what would happen in Yorktown. They only knew that there were still British forces and loyalists in the Carolinas. There was a contingent of over 900 men under Lord Francis Rawdon around Camden still. Greene was sent back to South Carolina shortly after Guilford Court House to end British control in the South for good. Greene sent dispatches to his officers and men throughout South Carolina with orders to attack Loyalists and British positions. The Swamp Fox, Francis Marion, was reinforced with the cavalry under Light Horse Harry Lee. The Patriot goal was to drive the British and Loyalists to Charleston.



First, Greene, with 1,450 men, marched through North Carolina to Camden to engage Rawdon, arriving on the 20th of April 1781. He found Rawdon entrench in redoubts around the town. Greene therefore stopped at a rise, Hobkirk’s Hill, about a mile from Camden. Because a spy reported to Rawdon that Greene had no artillery, Rawdon attacked Greene’s position on April 24, 1781 and the Battle of Hobkirk’s Hill (or alternatively the Second Battle of Camden) began.

Rawdon’s force advanced up the hill in tight formation. Seeing this Greene ordered an attack from both flanks and the center. His six three pound cannon surprised Rawdon and inflicted heavy casualties. Rawdon realized he could

not continue the fight and retreated toward Charles Town. Rawdon’s losses were high with 39 killed, 210 wounded, and 12 missing. Greene’s losses were 19 killed, 48 wounded, 47 wounded and taken prisoner, 41 unwounded prisoners, and 50 missing. The Day before Marion and Lee captured Ft. Watson on the Black River.

After the battle, Gen Greene continued to his main objective, the British controlled town of Ninety-Six under British Lt Col John Crager. He laid siege to the fortified town on May 22, 1781. After nearly a month, he learned Lord Rawdon was sending reinforcements from Charleston. Greene ordered the attack of Ninety-six but was repulsed. Not wanting to face Rawdon’s force, he retreated toward Charlotte, North Carolina. Rawdon pursued but eventually gave up, his men exhausted, his supplies insufficient, so he returned to Ninety-six. Ninety-six was the last inland British fort remaining after the fall of Augusta, Georgia, but Rawdon decided to burn and abandon it, and withdrew to Charleston.

When Rawdon gave up the chase, Gen Greene turned around and headed toward Charleston. On August 22, 1781, he set up camp at Burdall’s Plantation, above the Santee River, with a force of about 2,200. Marion and Lee re-joined Greene there. Some detachments continued harassing the British as they retreated to Charlestown, Greene prepared the rest for an assault of Charleston.

Lord Rawdon recognized Greene was moving toward him for a showdown at Charleston.

Greene’s army was attacking British and Loyalist positions all over central and south east South Carolina. He therefore sent Col Alexander Stuart with 2,000 men to Eutaw Springs to find, attack, and defeat Greene. He felt if this could be accomplished then Charleston would be safe. Greene moved the seven miles toward Eutaw Springs on September 8. About 8:00 AM a patriot scouting party encountered British scouts. The Patriots retreated, leading the British scouting party directly into an ambush by Col. Lee who attacked killing 4 or 5. While pursuing these scouts he captured 400 unarmed British soldiers who had been sent out unarmed to a field gather sweet potatoes.

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Col Stuart, warned by the scouts of Greene's approach, deployed his force and waited. Greene formed his men into two lines; the first line was militia and the second line was the North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia regulars. The British charged and broke through the center of the first Patriot militia. The North Carolina Continentals in the second line reinforced the militia in the center, but the British drove through again. The Virginia and Maryland regulars joined in the fight and this time the British were stopped and they began to retreat in disorder. The Americans pursued them into the British camp, but instead of pressing their advantage, they stopped to plunder the British supplies. They had been in the field a long time.

British Major John Majoribanks was able to restore order in the British lines. He attacked the Americans driving them out of the British camp. Greene retreated a short distance away to camp for the night. An overnight a rain storm moved in so he did not continue the battle. Greene left Eutaw Springs that day leaving a strong picket as a rear guard. Col Stuart had had enough and headed back to Charleston.

So, who won this Battle of Eutaw Springs? Stuart lost 882 of 2,000 regulars with 85 killed. Greene lost 579 with 119

killed. Greene had the battle won, but his men stopped to plunder. So the British held the battle field by dark. There were no engagements the next day. Both the Americans and British abandoned Camden. The Patriots in South Carolina considered the fighting at Eutaw a blood victory in that it ended British control of South Carolina. They memorialized the battle in their state song.

Gen Nathaniel Greene accomplished what he set out to do. The **Battle for the Carolinas** was nearly complete. His men, the Huguenot Francis Marion, Andrew Pickens, Col Lee, and Col Washington, who was wounded, Gen Sumter, with Lacey and McGriff of South Carolina, Williams, and all the rest had driven Loyalist and the British regulars from their strongholds, pushing them to Charles Town.

The British and Loyalist would not leave for another year, fighting at least 25 more times. But on December 14, 1782, the British sailed out of Charles Town for good.

This series has been just a glimpse of actions for freedom in the Carolinas; I would encourage you to explore the "Battle for the Carolinas" in which greater detail

Larry G. Stevens.

Genealogy — 1940 Census

The 1940 Census is here. The census no longer reported the birth state of the parents (except for those on two lines per page). It does however ask where the individual resided in 1935.

Also the individual reported in the household is as of the 1st of April 1940. Individuals born after that date were not enumerated, and died after were enumerated, regardless of the day the census was actually taken. Clayton Librarian Mary Harrell-Sesniak will present a program on the 1940 Census in our area. [Please see below.] The census is available on Ancestry.com [subscription] and Family Search [free] Since the census has not been fully indexed one will need to know where to look. So, with an address or street or town, use the following site to get the ED district:

<http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php>

[**Note:** Ancestry has completed indexing two states Delaware and Nevada as of this printing.]

Kingwood Atascocita Genealogy Society

The Rosemont, 6450 Kings Park Way, Humble — Sunday, 4/15/12, 3:00pm

"Interpreting U.S. Federal Census Records from 1790-1940" presented by: Mary Harrell-Sesniak

Mary Harrell-Sesniak, MBA is a computer consultant, author, avid genealogist and 5-year resident of Texas. Prior to relocating, she founded a computer consulting and training center in Fort Meyers, Florida, and was active with the Genealogical Society of Broward County, Florida where she served as an officer, webmaster and editor of imprints, a genealogical publication.