

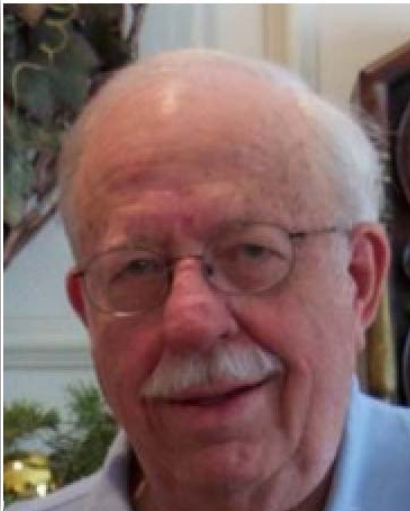


Pine Shavings



**Piney Woods Chapter #51
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution**

APRIL 2015



We attended the 120th State Convention of the Texas Society Sons of The American Revolution. Our own Larry Stevens was elected and installed as the State President. We give thanks to The Ladies Auxiliary for providing a Hospitality Suite. Members of our chapter, Joe Potter, Jim Pinkerton, Kermit Breed, John Thompson and others manned the registration desk during the convention. This was a successful Convention and we have a slate of state officers that will do excellent work for the following year.

I want to do as much as possible during my term to encourage member participation in the meetings of our chapter. I will endeavor to contact as many as possible to notify them of the meetings. I suppose that I was not paying attention to the size of the chapter and did not realize that there were so many members of this chapter. I went to the state website and downloaded the January member list. We would crowd the meeting room at Jimmy G's if only one fourth of the members and spouses showed. This is a problem I would like to have.

I would like to have members participate in relating stories about your ancestors to give a perspective about those that participated in the Revolutionary War and any interesting descendants. We will publish these stories in the Pine Shavings newsletter.

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Calendar of Events National Society

125th NSSAR Congress – Friday, 26 June 2015 – 1 July 2015 – Galt Hotel, Louisville
Fall Leadership – Friday, 25 September 2015 – Saturday, 26 September 2015



Texas Society

TX SAR BOM – October 9-11, 2015
Galveston, Texas

Meeting April 2015 Member Only

Jimmy G's
307 N. Sam Houston E. Parkway,
Greenspoint
6:30 p.m.

RSVP for the Meeting

Please respond with the number of people attending and names by Wednesday before the meeting date.
ASAP to Larry Stevens
wardtracker@aol.com or 281 361-2061

March 2015 Meeting

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The March meeting saw the installation of the new slate of officers as follows:

President	Joe Potter
First Vice President	vacant
Second Vice President	Todd Simmons
Secretary	Kermit Breed
Treasurer	Jim Pinkerton
Chancellor	Allan M. Henshaw
Registrars	Kermit Breed, Todd Simmons, Larry Stevens
Chaplain	Cannon Pritchard
Sergeant at Arms	Larry Blackwell
Newsletter Editor	Larry Stevens
Webmaster	Ray Cox

The First Vice President Karl Falken will be installed as soon as his SAR application is approved.

I wish to thank each one of you for giving me this opportunity and will endeavor to live up to the confidence in me that you have.

Joe Potter, Chapter President



Ancestors

John Beard is presented his latest two supplemental ancestor certificates by PineyWoods President Ben Stallings.

John worked tirelessly on these supplementals using the work of his father in many instances. His father was a determined genealogist.

The ancestors were Robert McGinty and Samuel Rosemond

March Meeting Installation of Officers



Outgoing President Stallings fastening the President's Neck Ribbon. *Pictured Larry Stevens, Joe Potter, Ben Stallings, and Kermit Breed.*



Ben Stallings gets the Award of the Day; Past President Pin from President Joe Potter while Kermit and Larry B. watch.



Jim Jones (L) and John Beard (R) watch as Ben Stallings passes the PineyWoods Chapter Gavel to new President Joe Potter. Newly installed officers (l-r) watch Texas SAR President Elect Larry Stevens lead the ceremony Joe, Ben; Kermit Breed-Secretary, Larry Blackburn-Sgt. At Arms, Jim Pinkerton-Treasurer, and Kim Morton-Genealogist. Not pictured were Todd Simmons-2nd VP, Allen Henshaw-Chancellor, and Cannon Pritchard-Chaplain,

This Month in the Revolution

A time line of the Revolutionary War should begin with the Treaty of Peace in Paris on 10 February 1763 which ended the French and Indian War or Seven Years War in America. Great Britain was faced with a massive national debt following the Seven Years War. That debt had grown from £72,289,673 in 1755 to £129,586,789 in 1764. English citizens in Britain were taxed at a rate that created a serious threat of revolt.



So, the King, the House of Lords and Parliament of Britain looked to the Colonies to pay these debts. In the treaty, France ceded to Britain, Canada, Dominica, Granada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tobago. Also ceded was the eastern half of French Louisiana.; the area from the Mississippi River to the Appalachian Mountains. Spain ceded Florida to Britain. France had already secretly given Louisiana to Spain in the Treaty of Fontainebleau (1762). In addition, while France regained its factories in India, France recognized British clients as the rulers of key Indian native states, and pledged not to send troops to Ben-

gal. Britain agreed to demolish its fortifications in British Honduras (now Belize), but retained a logwood-cutting colony there. Britain confirmed the right of its new subjects to practice Catholicism.

France ceded all of its territory in mainland North America, but retained fishing rights off Newfoundland and the two small islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, where it could dry that fish. In turn France gained the return of its sugar colony, Guadeloupe, which it considered more valuable than Canada.

On October 7, 1763 –A Proclamation signed by King George III of England, prohibits any English settlement west of a line drawn along the Appalachian mountains and required those already settled in those western regions to return east in an attempt to ease tensions with Native Americans.

On April 5, 1764 The Sugar Act - Parliament passed a modified version of the Sugar and Molasses Act (1733), which was about to expire. Under the Molasses Act colonial merchants had been required to pay a tax of six pence per gallon on the importation of foreign molasses. But because of corruption, they mostly evaded the taxes and undercut the intention of the tax that the English product would be cheaper than that from the French West Indies. This hurt the British West Indies market in molasses and sugar and the market for rum, which the colonies



The Right Honourable
George Grenville PC



Prime Minister of Great Britain

In office

16 April 1763 – 13 July 1765

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had been producing in quantity with the cheaper French molasses. The First Lord of the Treasury, and **Chancellor of the Exchequer Lord Grenville** was trying to bring the colonies in line with regard to payment of taxes. He had beefed up the Navy presence and instructed them to become more active in customs enforcement. Parliament decided it would be wise to make a few adjustments to the trade regulations.

1764 - The English Parliament passes a measure to reorganize the American customs system to better enforce British trade laws, which have often been ignored in the past. A court is established in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that will have jurisdiction over all of the American colonies in trade matters.

1764 - In May, at a town meeting in Boston, James Otis raises the issue of taxation without representation and urges a united response to the recent acts imposed by England. In July, Otis publishes "The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved." In August, Boston merchants begin a boycott of British luxury goods.

"Taxation without representation is tyranny" is usually attributed to him. Otis helped formulate and draft official colonists' grievances that he sent to the government in England on their behalf. He was struck by lightning while standing in a friends doorway and died the 23 of May, 1783.



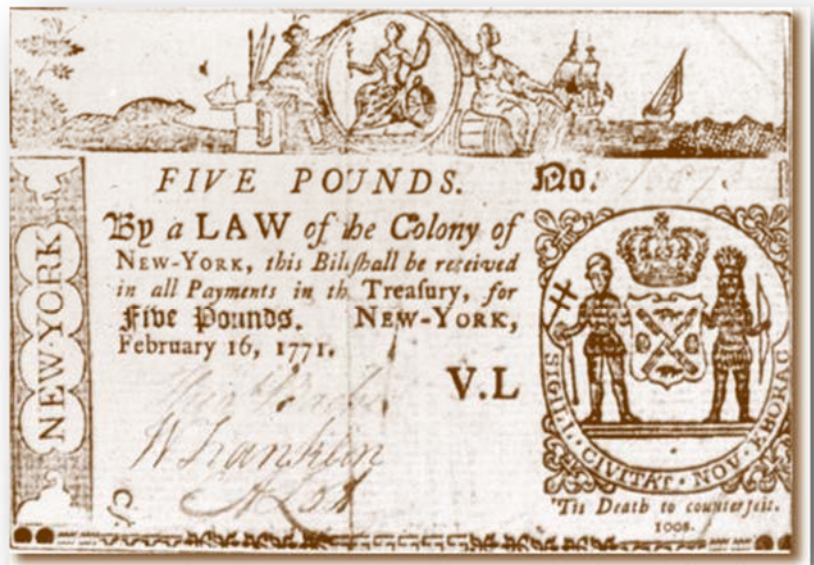
James Otis
5 Feb 1725-23 May 1783



September 1, 1764 Currency Act—On September 1, 1764, Parliament passed the Currency Act, effectively assuming control of the colonial currency system. The act prohibited the issue of any new bills and the reissue of existing currency. Parliament favored a "hard currency" system based on the pound sterling, but was not inclined to regulate the colonial bills. Rather, they simply abolished them. The colonies protested vehemently against this. They suffered a trade deficit with Great Britain to begin with and argued that the shortage of hard capital would further exacerbate the situation. Another provision of the Currency Act established what amounted to a "superior" Vice-admiralty court, at the call of Navel [sic] commanders who wished to assure that persons suspected of

smuggling or other violations of the customs laws would receive a hearing favorable to the British, and not the colonial, interests of the Colonies,

"WHEREAS we have taken into Our Royal Consideration the extensive and valuable Acquisitions in America, secured to our Crown by the late Definitive Treaty of Peace, concluded at Paris the 10th Day of February last; and being desirous that all Our loving Subjects, as well of our Kingdom as of our Colonies in America, may avail themselves with all convenient Speed, of the great Benefits and Advantages which must accrue therefrom to their Commerce, Manufactures, and Navigation, We have thought fit, with the Advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, hereby to publish and declare to all our loving Subjects, that we have, with the Ad-



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vice of our Said Privy Council, granted our Letters Patent, under our Great Seal of Great Britain, to erect, within the Countries and Islands ceded and confirmed to Us by the said Treaty, Four distinct and separate Governments, styled and called by the names of Quebec, East Florida, West Florida and Grenada, and limited and bounded as follows, viz.”



March 22, 1765 The Stamp Act - “AN ACT for granting and applying certain stamp duties, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America, towards further defraying the expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the same; and for amending such parts of the several acts of parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the said colonies and plantations, as direct the manner of determining and recovering the penalties and forfeitures therein mentioned.” Lord George Granville presented what became the Stamp Act to Parliament on February 6, 1765. The Bill was approved on February 17th and approved by the House of Lords on March 8th and two weeks later was signed by King George III. Great Britain was faced with a massive national debt following the

Seven Years War. That debt had grown from £72,289,673 in 1755 to £129,586,789 in 1764*. English citizens in Britain were taxed at a rate that created a serious threat of revolt.

March 24, 1765 The 1st Quartering Act - “AN ACT to amend and render more effectual, in his Majesty's dominions in America, an act passed in this present session of parliament, intituled, An act for punishing mutiny and desertion, and for the better payment of the army and their quarters.

WHEREAS ... [by the Mutiny Act of 1765] ... several regulations are made and enacted for the better government of the army, and their observing strict discipline, and for providing quarters for the army, and carriages on marches and other necessary occasions, and inflicting penalties on offenders against the same act, and for many other good purposes therein mentioned; but the same may not be sufficient for the forces that may be employed in his Majesty's dominions in America: and whereas, during the continuance of the said act, there may be occasion for marching and quartering of regiments and companies of his Majesty's forces in several parts of his Majesty's dominions in America: and whereas the publick houses and barracks, in his Majesty's dominions in America, may not be sufficient to supply quarters for such forces: and whereas it is expedient and necessary that carriages and other conveniences, upon the march of troops in his Majesty's dominions in America, should be supplied for that purpose: be it enacted”,



1766 - In March, King George III signs a bill repealing the Stamp Act after much debate in the English Parliament, which included an appearance by Ben Franklin arguing for repeal and warning of a possible revolution in the American colonies if the Stamp Act was enforced by the British military.

1766 - On the same day it repealed the Stamp Act, the English Parliament passes the **Declaratory Act** stating that the British government has total power to legislate any laws governing the American colonies in all cases whatsoever.

1766 - In April, news of the repeal of the Stamp Act results in celebrations in the colonies and a relaxation of the boycott of imported English trade goods.



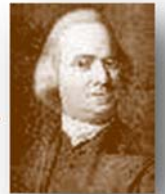
1766 - In August, violence breaks out in New York between British soldiers and armed colonists, includ-

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ing Sons of Liberty members. The violence erupts as a result of the continuing refusal of New York colonists to comply with the Quartering Act. In December, the New York legislature is suspended by the English Crown after once again voting to refuse to comply with the Act. In New York, James McEvers resigned his distributorship four days after the attack on Hutchinson's house. The stamps for several of the northern colonies arrived in New York Harbor on October 24. Placards appeared throughout the city, warning **that 'the first man that either distributes or makes use of stamped paper let him take care of his house, person, and effects.'**

1767 - In June, The English Parliament passes the Townshend Revenue Acts, imposing a new series of taxes on the colonists to offset the costs of administering and protecting the American colonies. Items taxed include imports such as paper, tea, glass, lead and paints. The Act also establishes a colonial board of customs commissioners in Boston. In October, Bostonians decide to reinstate a boycott of English luxury items.



1768 - In February, Samuel Adams of Massachusetts writes a Circular Letter opposing taxation without representation and calling for the colonists to unite in their actions against the British government. The letter is sent to assemblies throughout the colonies and also instructs them on the methods the Massachusetts general court is using to oppose the Townshend Acts.



Betsy Ross Designs and Sews the Stars and Strips—Did She or Didn't She
The following is an article by Natalie Pompilio. [You need to read. LGS Editor]
Score one more for Betsy Ross' supporters
Article by Natalie Pompilio
Philadelphia City paper 8 April 2015

The "Did she or didn't she?" debate over Betsy Ross and the creation of the country's first flag in 1776 has gone on for centuries. The anti-Betsy faction usually advances these arguments: There's no paper trail. The Ross family made up the story of her quick fingers folding a piece of paper and creating — with one snip — a five-pointed star in front of George Washington. Americans choose to believe the tale because they wanted a female to balance out the "Founding Fathers."



Betsy Ross re-enactor at the historic Ross house of Arch Street, Philadelphia

The pro-Betsy group counters: Members of the Ross family signed affidavits attesting to the truth of their matriarch's role in history, and they were devout Quakers and wouldn't lie. In the 1920s, a five-pointed paper star was found in a safe that had once belonged to Samuel Wetherill, one of Ross' friends, and it had to have had significance or wouldn't have been locked up.

And now, Betsy's supporters also have this: George Washington knew Betsy and her husband, John Ross, because he'd hired the couple two years earlier to do work for his home at Mt. Vernon. Last March, Mt. Vernon Associate Curator Amanda Isaac found a receipt for "five half joes" made out to a Mr. Ross of Philadelphia for bed furnishings. That's 55 pounds, 12 shillings and six pence — a very large sum at that time — to completely outfit at least three beds plus labor and materials, including a cotton calico print and muslin for lining. That's everything from canopies to sheets and covers.

"It's the only documentation we have that these two icons of the American Revolution, Betsy and George, actually met. Before, it was all mythology," Isaac said. "For years, Betsy Ross has been a shadowy, mythical figure and ... she's coming into focus as a real-life person. Someone who was creative, ambitious and an entrepreneur, not a quaint domestic figure we might associate with women of the Revolution." The information had been in Mt. Vernon's collection for years, but the discovery was only made recently as

curators launched a bedroom-renovation project at the historic home. While they knew from one of Washington's ledgers that he'd spent that money at that time, they decided to access his day books, where he kept more detailed records about the purchases and vendors. The receipt naming "Mr. Ross" of Philadelphia was among the detailed cash memorandums.

"The only Mr. Ross is John Ross, the husband of Betsy Ross," Isaac said. "I was pretty excited."

Even more excited? Lisa Acker Moulder, director of the Betsy Ross House in Philly.

"One of the issues the naysayers raise is how would this lowly upholsterer know George Washington, of all people? Now we know how. He knew she was good at what she did and it makes perfect sense that he would ask her to make the first American flag," she says.

Besides adding legitimacy to Ross' role in the flag's creation, the discovery also shows that Betsy and John Ross were good at their work and well on their way to successful careers in the upholstery field, Moulder said. Each was only 22 years old when they'd started their business a year earlier.

The Washington commission would have been the second large order they'd received within a week, she said. A close friend of Washington's had hired the couple to outfit his daughter's entire house with textiles a few days earlier. There's evidence the two men had dined together between that commission and Washington's personal order.

John Ross died in January 1776. Legend has it that Washington visited his widow about creating a flag five months later. Washington thought a six-pointed star would be best. Ross folded a piece of paper and with one cut created a five-pointed star, the one that eventually went on the flag.

"Betsy Ross had that upholstery firm for decades in Philadelphia between the 1770s and 1820s. We see men and women working in partnership. We see women in business," said historian Marla Miller, director of the Public History program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and author of *Betsy Ross and the Making of America*.

"People ask, 'Was it unusual to have those skills that she had and lead the enterprise?' And no, it wasn't at all unusual in Philadelphia in that period. We have, as a culture, forgotten that."

Many paintings and drawings of Ross depict her sitting in a rocking chair and sewing in her parlor. Or she's in that formal room with other women, putting the flag together. But Ross was a craftswoman running a business that eventually employed many of her younger family members.

"There was an effort in the late 19th century to make her a domestic figure when, as we know, she had this upholstery shop. ... There's a clear effort to pull her out of the labor history context where she really belongs," Miller said. "The culture has never imagined her working, stuffing a mattress or doing the work we knew she did."

Today, the upholstery shop inside the Betsy Ross House on Arch Street is a featured attraction. The museum has three Betsy Ross interpreters who are not only fine actors but also accomplished sewers, Moulder said. They are in the process of sewing new beddings for the home while engaging with visitors. With the Mt. Vernon receipt now uncovered, "Our interpreters can say, 'This is something I did for George Washington in 1774,'" Moulder said.

"Visitors to our house find she has a story they can relate to. She is a counterpart to the modern-day American woman. ... She was not wealthy. She was not famous. She had times when business was doing well and then some years when business was so bad that she had to accept financial aid like shoes and clothing from the Quaker meeting house."

Miller's research showed that Ross's company did work for the federal government in the early 1800s, producing large garrison flags sent to New Orleans and other Mississippi Valley locations. Ross also partnered with a local painter on the creation of flags for the Indian Department. They were sent west.

So Ross was definitely a flag maker. But was she the flag maker?

"I think there is probably a germ of truth at the bottom of the whole story. What resonated for me was that moment when she claims to have folded the paper and snipped the five-pointed star. I think she took a lot of pride in having taught George Washington something," Miller said.

"But in the book, I encourage people to let go of the idea of the first flag. There is no first flag. ... I think a lot of people contributed and it was a gradual process and there is every reason to believe that Betsy Ross was one of those people."