



Pine Shavings



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

August 2013

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Welcome back Compatriots from our summer break. I hope you had a restful and productive summer. We have a very full agenda for this fall starting with our *Wednesday, August 14th, 6:00 p.m. Members Meeting* at Jimmy G's. Note that this is a change from our regular meeting time of the 3rd Thursday.

The Texas Fall Board of Managers, or BOM, meeting is October 11-13, 2013 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Northwest Freeway. PineyWoods is one of three chapters, Freedom and Robert Rankin charged with hosting this event. Responsibilities for each chapter were decided in a State Meetings Committee meeting in Dallas on April 5, 2013. We are responsible for a Friday program and locating a restaurant not far from the hotel for those attending the BOM to get together as a group for dinner. If you have program suggestion, such as a speaker, please let me know. Also, we are responsible for managing a silent auction. Each chapter is to obtain around 10 items to be auctioned. If you have anything you can donate for the auction, please contact me or one of the chapter officers. And, third, chapter will donate an item for the raffle. We will discuss these responsibilities Wednesday evening.

The Registration form for the BOM can be found on the Texas Web-site. I urge all of you to attend. See you Wednesday evening.

Best Regards, Ben Stallings

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Please note the change in this month's meeting date

Wednesday, August 14th
Jimmy Gee's

Meetings - 2013

August 14th	Member Only
September 19th	Member Guest
October 17th	Member Only
November 21st	Member/Guest
December TBA	Member

RSVP FOR THE MEETING

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday before the meeting date. Please RSVP ASAP, to Ben Stallings bbstallings@gmail.com or John Beard Johnbeard@suddenlink.net
NOTE THAT THIS IS A MEMBERS MEETING AT JIMMY GEE'S.

This Month in the Revolution

August 12, 1776 - The Ring of Fire – This Revolutionary War skirmish was fought in the 96 District of South Carolina near the Cherokee town of Tamasee. There Major Andrew Pickens with a small scouting party of about twenty-five men were ambushed by Cherokees. Accounts give the strength of the Indian band as about 185 strong. In response to the attack Pickens ordered the men to form two circles, one within the other. He then had his men to fire alternatively in twos, one group fired then crouched to reload their guns while the next group fired. Those Indians that rushed the circles were killed by knife, hatchet or bayonet. The Cherokees were held off until Joseph Pickens, brother of Andrew, arrived with reinforcements. One Patriot was injured while from 18 to 85 Indians were reported killed. The Cherokee dubbed Andrew Pickens, Skyagunsta, or Wizard Owl.]Editor's note: It is possible that my SAR ancestor Patrick McGriff was present at this skirmish since the troops of Edward Lacey have been identified as being present.



August 27, 1776 - Battle of Long Island [aka Battle of Brooklyn or Battle of Brooklyn Heights] – This was the first major battle after the Declaration of Independence and perhaps the largest battle of the war. Washington after his success in Boston knew that the New York harbor would offer the British a strategic advantage. He moved to New York and entrenched there, waiting for the British to come. In July Gen Wm. Howe did, landing at Staten Island (then sparsely populated.) His force grew to over 30,000 in August. Washington expected the British to attack at Manhattan so he moved his forces there. On the 22rd of August Howe moved across The Narrows to Brooklyn (about 12 miles distant from Washington's troops in Manhattan.) Then on the 27th Howe attacked Washington with a small force while the main body of his army move to the rear to flank the patriots. A small force of Marylanders protected the retreat of Washington's army, without a loss of either men or material. This loss drove the patriots out of New York to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Historians have debated the effect Howe's loss at Bunker Hill had in his failure to pursue Washington at this time and maybe end the war.



President

Ben Stallings

Bbstallings@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Greg Goulas

greg.red.river@att.net

2nd Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Joe Potter

potterj1@mac.com

Treasurer

John Beard

Johnbeard@suddenlink.net

Chancellor

Allan Henshaw

Allan_henshaw@aigag.com

Genealogist

Kim Morton

genmorton@usa.net

Registrar

Larry Stevens

wardtracker@aol.com

Historian

James Mitchell

Chaplain

Cannon Pritchard

cannon1@livingston.net

Sgt. at Arms

Larry Blackburn

Lblackburn@eereed.com

Newsletter Editor

Larry Stevens

wardtracker@aol.com

Web Master

Ray Cox

coxmr@earthlink.net

EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

September 27-28, 2013 Leadership Meeting
 NSSAR Headquarters—Louisville, KY



State: www.txssar.org

Oct 11-13 TXSSAR BOM Meeting (see TXSSAR website)
 Hilton Garden Inn, 14919 290/, TX

May Meeting

Our May meeting at Jimmy Gee's was well attended with both members and their guests. After what can only be described as "several engineers working diligently without proper materials," a makeshift screen was constructed using flagpoles and a sheet. Then, Genealogist Kim Morton, presented a wonderful presentation part history-part mystery.

Compatriot Morton weaved his way through records and family history to uncover the life of a colonial family and a young slave boy. This slave served in the American Revolution. We were left with questions about the family and his position in that family. We learned a son was a nephew was a ward, or was he? Following along with court records, Kim showed how and why genealogy can be both difficult and exciting. Peeling this onion left many with a desire to dig in further to this mystery.



May Chapter Meeting



Larry Blackburn, Larry Stevens, John Beard and Ben Stallings



Jim T. Jones, Cannon Pritchard, John Thompson and Larry Blackburn



Joe Potter, John Meredith, Allen Henshaw, Kim Morton



Larry Blackburn, Larry Stevens, John Beard and Ben Stallings



Left: Mary Thompson, Dianne Jones, Mary-Claire Beard & Marty Cox



Right: Ray Cox



Ray Cox, Jim Jones, Canon Pritchard, John K. Thompson & Larry Blackburn



Mary-Clair Beard



Mary Thompson, Marty Cox, Dianne Jones

GORDON BARKER SEVERANCE 1921- 2013

Our chapter lost a great man on July 18th, as Gordon Severance ended his journey on this earth and went to his reward with the Lord. His final months had not been easy as he battled a disease that left him unable to participate as fully as he would. His mind and drive was present to the very end as he worked on a Christian film for children and even hosted our April meeting so that he could participate. Our thoughts are with his lovely wife, Diana, who like Gordon showed love for our chapter and such support for all of the activities of SAR. "PairADoc" is what Dr. Moore called them during Gordon's eulogy, and that is what the couple were, both brilliant and both constant in their love for one another and in their love of God. The chapter hopes that Diana always knows that she is a member and welcome.

Gordon is colorfully remembered in SAR for his love of Color Guard. He was in uniform during the dog days of summer and in the cold of the Kingwood Mardi Gras. One photo of Gordon marching in the color guard in the Woodlands was carried in French newspapers! Gordon will be missed.



Center: The photo that was seen around the world

Gordon enrolled sons & grandsons in SAR in 2012



Gordon received SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award in 2012



Above: Son Lawrence joined Gordon at a meeting; Center: Diana and Gordon at a meeting.



Above: Kingwood Mardi Gras Parade; Center: Gordon Received Bronze Color Guard Medal



Above: Gordon was inducted into SAR at the March 2011 Meeting pictured with Bob McKenna and Wm Marrs

123th NSSAR Congress—Kansas City

PineyWoods Chapter 51 was well represented at Kansas City. Members John and Mary-Claire Beard, Jim and Dianne Jones, Larry and Barbara Stevens and dual members Ron and Conni Barker and Tom and Mickey Jo Lawrence were in attendance attending most functions; the reception at the WWI Museum, The Memorial Service, Youth Oration Contest, Youth Awards Luncheon, and the Banquets on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Jones' and Stevens' stayed over Thursday to tour Old Ft. Leavenworth which today is a training center for Army Majors and members of other branches of the US Services and for Allies around the World. A number of well known pictures of those who attended school at Ft. Leavenworth hang on the wall of honor; President and General Dwight Eisenhower, General George Patton, General Douglas MacArthur, and 5 Star US Air Force General Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold to name just a few. And old church on the grounds displays commemorative plaques of men who fought and died with Custer's Seventh and the Eleventh Calvary at Little Big Horn.

Business at the Congress progressed smoothly with the new slate of officers nominated. Only one race was contested; for Librarian General. The incumbent, Wells, prevailed and all were sworn in by our new Chancellor General John Dobbs of California. He replaced our own Tom Lawrence who is now SAR Treasurer General; congratulations to Tom. Your new officers are posted on the NSSAR Web-site.

One hotly contested proposal was made by Genealogist General Larry Cornwall (Alabama Society) to

raise the National Fee for supplemental to \$80 making the Fee \$118 compared to the current fee of \$78. A vote by society delegates soundly defeated this motion; however, we have been advised this proposal will be tried again at the Fall Trustees meeting. This time the proposal will included some background data to support the recommended increase.

Joseph Dooley, a dual Texas society member, became our President General for the next year. Joe introduced a new Vietnam Service Medal for veterans of that conflict and presented the first to outgoing President General Stephen Leishman who flew F4's in Vietnam. DD214 Forms that indicate service in Vietnam qualify veterans for this medal and they are encouraged to apply. Please contact your editor Larry Stevens for more information.

President Dooley presented 4 initiatives his term as President General. The first, Initiative I, concerns building fund donations by members, chapters, and state societies to the Center for Advancing American Heritage in Louisville; Initiative II is a plan to partner with the Ladies Association of Mount Vernon to help them raise funds for maintaining the Mount Vernon Estate and property; Initiative III is for states and chapters to erect Memorials, Markers, and Monuments honoring a person, place, event, or document associated with the Revolutionary War to be awarded an NSSAR Streamer; Initiative IV is for states and chapters to donate time, goods or money to the USO in their areas. Complete details of these Initiatives can be found on the NSSAR Web-site as well as the TXS-SAR Web-site.



*Chancellor General John Dodd swears in
President General Joseph Dooley*



*PPG Leishman presents Washington's ring to
President General Joseph Dooley*

NSSAR COLOR GUARD COMMAND

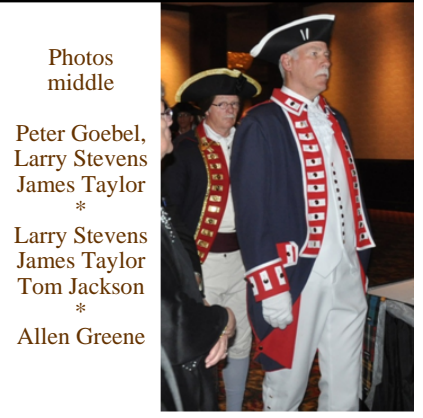


Changing of the Guard—Mike Radcliff (TX) is installed by the NSSAR Color Guard & PG Leishman as the new NSSAR CG Commander



Texas Color Guard

Proudly marches behind the new Color Guard Commander Mike Radcliff



Photos middle

- Peter Goebel,
- Larry Stevens
- James Taylor
- *
- Larry Stevens
- James Taylor
- Tom Jackson
- *
- Allen Greene

Photos bottom l-r

- Stephen Rohrbough
- Bob Clark
- Tom Green
- *
- Stephen Rohrbough
- Bob Clark
- *
- Bob Clark
- Tom Green
- James T. Jones, Jr



NSSAR Congress—Kansas City



Above left: NSSAR Vice President International General James T. Jones and Dianne, (Wednesday Banquet)



Above right: NSSAR Treasurer General Tom Lawrence and Mickey Jo (Wednesday Banquet)

Center left: Connie Barker and Dianne Jones (after Sunday Memorial Service)

Center right: Barbara Stevens, Dianne Jones and First Lady Janet Leishman at the First Ladies Luncheon on Sunday afternoon.



Bottom left: William Marrs (TX), President General Stephen Leishman and James T. Jones (TX)

Bottom right: Children across from the hotel Tuesday night wanted to see our Colonial attire and pose for photos: Jim Jones, Barbara Stevens and Dianne Jones





Above right: VPG International James T. Jones and his lady Dianne
Above right: Treasurer General Tom Lawrence and his lady Mickie Jo
Above: Texas State Color Guard after the Sunday Memorial Service
Below: TXSSAR Compatriots and their ladies on Tuesday night



WOMEN IN THE REVOLUTION

Over the years Compatriot Jim Mitchell has told our chapter stories of the spies of the American. This article is going to feature those spies of the fairer sex. Both the British and the Colonial commanders recruited women to assist with the effort. These women were needed to cook and clean and perform domestic duties around the camp, the Camp Followers. This gave the ladies access to many levels of military command. What gave this access even more importance was the attitude of men towards women at this time. Women were seen as delicate beings with only a head for housewifery and needlework. Soldiers frequently spoke of military matters in front of the women as they would children or animals, dismissing the notion that they would either understand or act upon this knowledge. This made them very effective. Featured here are tales of four such women.

One of the first women called upon to serve was Elizabeth Burgin. Washington used her to spy on the British prison ships in New York harbor. Men were not allowed on board, but women were not considered dangerous. She is credited with helping 200 prisoners escape, before being found out by the British. They placed a £200 bounty on her head. She was forced to flee with the clothes on her back. She was granted a pension in 1781.



General George Washington, reporting to the Continental Congress:

"Regarding Elizabeth Burgin an inhabitant of New York. From the testimony of our own [escaped] officers...it would appear that she has been indefatigable for the relief of the prisoners, and for the facilitation of their escape. For this conduct she incurred the suspicion of the British, and was forced to make her escape under disturbing circumstances."

Another spy ring in the New York area, the Culper Spy Ring, had several operatives who were women. They used the code "355" to designate one female agent. This group was important in uncovering the

treason of Benedict Arnold and the arrest of Major John Andre. The identity of agent "355" has never been determined.

Anna "Nancy" Smith Strong (1740-1812) was one of the Culper agents for which a little is known. Vital information was gathered in New York City and passed to an agent. He carried it to Setauket and placed it into a drop-box on a farm.

Mrs. Smith lived within view of the farm and used her laundry as a signal where the information could be delivered to the next agent. That agent, #725, a whaler, was hidden in one of six local coves, Mrs. Smith would hang her black petticoat on her clothesline. She indicated which of the six coves by hanging up handkerchiefs along with the black petticoat. No one knows how Mrs. Smith knew when and where to locate the whaleboat of Agent 725, Caleb Brewster. Nancy's husband Selah Strong, spent much of the war on a NY prison ship and after his release went into hiding in Connecticut. They united after the war and in 1790 Selah led George Washington's carriage to the tavern on Long Island.



The British side had its heroines too. Gen Henry Clinton recruited a Philadelphia schoolteacher Ann Bates. She was the wife of a British cannon repairman and was very familiar with military weapons. She began work in 1778 posing as a peddler lady, Mrs. Barnes. She was able to infiltrate Washington's headquarter in White Plains, NY. Her intelligence was responsible for the American withdrawal from Newport in August of 1778. She went with her husband to England in 1781. After her husband desert her, she was awarded a pension from the British government.

These were just a few of the many women spies. Clearly underestimating women cost both sides.