



**Pine Shavings
PineyWoods chapter 51
Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
August 16, 2025 Issue 6**



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR or NSSAR) is an American congressionally chartered organization, founded in 1889 and headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky.



The PineyWoods Chapter #51 was chartered on February 3, 1994, and is named for its geographic location in the state. We draw members from Houston (S) to Livingston (N) and from The Woodlands (W) to Liberty (E). PineyWoods meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month except June and July at Los Cuco's Mexican Restaurant, Kingwood Texas.



Subject: Charting Our Future Together

Dear Members of the Sons of the American Revolution, Piney Woods Chapter #51,

As we look ahead to the upcoming 250th anniversary of our great nation in 2026, it is an opportune moment for our chapter to reflect on our mission and set a clear direction in three key areas: community engagement, education, and heritage preservation.

1. Community Engagement: Let us strengthen our ties within the Piney Woods community by actively participating in local events, service projects and giving out service medals. By hosting commemorative activities and partnering with local organizations, we can raise awareness of our mission and inspire a new generation to appreciate the values of our founding principles.

2. Education: We have a unique opportunity to educate our community about the significance of the American Revolution and its impact on our freedoms today. By organizing Chapter lectures, workshops, and school programs, we can foster a deeper understanding of our history. Collaborating with local educators and historians will enhance our outreach and ensure that the stories of our ancestors are shared with pride.

3. Heritage Preservation: As we approach this monumental anniversary, we must commit to preserving the rich history of our nation. This includes supporting initiatives that protect historical sites and promote research into our revolutionary past. Our chapter can lead efforts to document local history and ensure that the sacrifices



**Chapter Meeting- Los Cucos Mexican Café, Kingwood August 16, 2025
11:30 AM to 1:00**

of those who fought for our independence are remembered. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our chapter officers for taking the time to meet at IHOP to discuss our programs and educational activities that align with our mission and direction. It was a productive discussion that will undoubtedly shape our future initiatives.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and enjoyed celebrating the 4th of July. This day holds profound historical significance as we commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, a pivotal moment that laid the foundation for our freedoms. Celebrating our independence not only honors our past but also reinforces our commitment to the values that define our nation.

Together, we can create a bright vision for the future of the Piney Woods Chapter. By focusing on these areas, we will not only honor our heritage but also inspire future generations.

Let us embrace the spirit of the 250th anniversary, ensuring that the legacy of our forefathers continues to thrive for years to come.

In patriotism and service,

Abe Abdmoulaie
President
Piney Woods Chapter #51

MAY 31—PineyWoods



Page 5



Officers meet at IHOP Kingwood, for a called meeting by President Abe Abdmoulaie to discuss our mission for 2025-2027, officer training, upcoming meeting programs, Awards, 250th Anniversary, veteran and youth programs. Able to attend were Secretary Bill King, Webmaster Ray Cox, just Past President Ben Baskin, 2nd VP over Youth Programs Louis Skip Hawley, Genealogist and Registrar Kermit Breed, 1st VP over programs, and other things, Jim Pinkerton, President Abe Abdmoulaie, Newsletter and Registrar Larry Stevens, and past President and Parliamentarian Mike Anderson. The meeting began around 9 am and lasted about an hour or two, lost track, eating food and just talking about the chapter and things we need to be doing. We are a Patriotic Lineage Organization with a mission to preserve the histories, memories and sacrifices of the men and women who fought and worked to form the Republic of the United States of America. Our participation in programs with the public and for our schools as representatives of the SAR help promote our mission.

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Calendar Editor Officers page 3

Members & Vet. Coupons page 4

Wreaths Across America page 5

Youth JROTC page 6

August Agenda page 7

May Meeting page 8—10

*Documents of the American Revolution Lexington and Concord April-October 1775
Pages 11-17*

FROM THE EDITOR

In this newsletter I have included documents I had read on the *Massachusetts Historical Society, Coming of the American Revolution 1764-1776*. These documents are used by many writing History accounts of the American Revolution. The documents are transcripts of the preserved records of the time; letters, addresses to parliament, pamphlets and proclamations, newspapers, and many other types of papers. These are primary source documents. They are reports such as General Thomas Gage's paper submitted of the events of April 18, 19, 20, 1775, on his officers attempt to remove weapons from the Armories at Lexington and Concord. His report was based on his officers accounts. You will find information in this account in books written on Lexington and Concord. ARTICLE Page 10-15



Larry G. Stevens
Editor

Battle of Bunker Hill

This Song was Composed by the British after the engagement. This is only the first 23 lines of a lengthy account of the battle.

IT was on the seventeenth, by break of day,
The Yankies did surprise us,
With their strong works they had thrown up,
To burn the town and drive us.
But soon we had an order came,
An order to defeat them,
Like rebels stout, they stood it out,
And thought we ne'er could beat them.
About the hour of twelve that day,
An order came for marching,
With three good flints and sixty rounds,
Each man hop'd to discharge them.
We marched down to the long-wharf,
Where boats were ready waiting,
With expedition we embark'd,
Our ships kept cannonading,
And when our boats all filled were,
With officers and soldiers,
We row'd in line of battle,
Where showers of ball like hail did fly,
Our cannon loud did rattle.

PineyWoods Chapter Officers

2025 - 2027

President - Abe Abdmoulaie
1st Vice President - Jim Pinkerton
2nd Vice President - Louis Skip Hawley
Secretary - William Bill King
Treasurer - B. Ray Mize
Historian - Kermit Breed
Chaplain - Alan Bowman
Chancellor - Jim Pinkerton
Parliamentarian - Mike Anderson
Registrars - Larry Stevens, Kermit Breed, Joe Potter
Genealogist - Kermit Breed
Sargant at Arms—Merv Hartwick

Chapter Non - Officers Roles

Newsletter - Larry Stevens
wardtracker.aol.com
Web Master - Ray Cox

Events Calendar



NSSAR

National Trustees and Leadership
Galt Hotel
October 2-4, 2025



TXSSAR
Sugarland

October 17-19, 2025

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER 51

Los Cucos
August 16, 2025
September 20, 2025
October 18, 2025

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
PineyWoods Chapter
Membership:**

TOTAL 98

**Current Regular Members 61
New 1 Dual 3 Youth 8 Reinstat-
ed 24
Not Paid—14 Regular Members
1-deceased
1-treansfered out
*As of Aug 6, 2025***

**Official Newsletter
PineyWoods Chapter #51**

**Texas Society SAR
P. O. Box 6524
Kingwood, TX 77325
www.txssar.org/PineyWoods**

June—August 2025 Issue 6

EFFECTIVE JULY 2024

**New Member Application Fee
for PineyWoods Chapter 51**

NSSAR \$200.00

TXSSAR 47.50

PineyWoods 17.00

TOTAL \$264.50

**Check the FEE Schedule
For Junior and Family
Membership Costs**

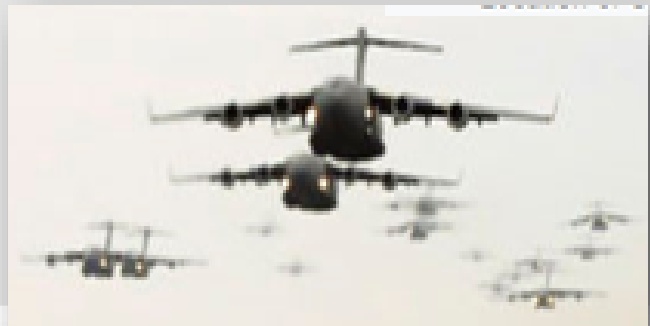
Supplemental PineyWoods

NSSAR \$150.00

TXSSAR 32.00

PineyWoods 6.00

TOTAL \$188.00



VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

CHAPTER COUPON PROJECT

Coupons for Overseas Military Families program. All that is required is for you to CLIP the manufacturer's coupons out that appear in the newspapers, and mail them to:

**John Beard
3738 Palmetto Creek Dr
Kingwood, Texas 77339**

Please cut the coupons from the pages and bring to the PineyWoods Lunch meetings. The coupons are very helpful to the service members and families and about 90% are used of purchase items in the exchanges.


[Overview](#)
[News](#)
[Remember](#)
[Members](#)
[Locations](#)
[Photos](#)
[Shop](#)







SPONSOR WREATHS

DONATE

TX1448 - SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION PINEY WOODS #51

Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on December 13, 2025 at 11:00 am by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help.

SPONSOR



VOLUNTEER



RESULTS

2025 SO FAR

3 Wreaths Sponsored

1.3% to Goal

197 To Go!

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Welcome to the TX1448 - Sons of the American Revolution Piney Woods #51's Wreaths Across America Page.

On December 13, 2025 at 11:00 am, TX1448 - Sons of the American Revolution Piney Woods #51 will be helping Houston National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

Thank you so much for supporting the TX1448 - Sons of the American Revolution Piney Woods #51 and Wreaths Across America!

SPONSOR WREATHS

Click "Sponsor Wreaths" to sponsor a wreath and help us reach our goal of honoring every veteran at the cemetery.

SPONSOR WREATHS

VOLUNTEER

Click here if you would like to participate in the wreath laying ceremony on Wreaths Day at the cemetery.

VOLUNTEER

INVITE

Click here to spread the word encourage your friends to sponsor, volunteer or keep up with our news.

INVITE

Help the Sons of the American Revolution PineyWoods #51 honor local heroes. Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a Veterans Grave this December at Houston National Cemetery.

GO TO www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TX1448

PineyWoods Chapter Youth Programs



Cadet Erich King Tomball Memorial High School JROTC, with Major Iazzetta, Larry Blackburn, Cadet King, and 1st SGT Carpenter, USMC



Larry Blackburn at Tomball High School Navy ROTC presenting the NSSAR Junior ROTC Bronze Medal and Certificate to a deserving Cadet in his Junior or 11th year of school. The cadets that receive these National Awards are selected by the Unite Senior and Assistant JROTC Instructors.

In 2025, the chapter delivered 23 Bronze Medals and was able to present some in person.

Each year Junior ROTC Instructors attempt to reach out to our chapter for our Bronze Medals

Pledge to the United State of America

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



Texas Pledge

Honor the Texas flag, I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



PineyWoods Chapter 51 TXSSAR

Lunch Meeting

Los Cucos Mexican Cafe

Kingwood Texas

August 16 , 2025

11:15 AM—1:00 PM

INVOCATION

PLEDGES; USA & Texas Flag and SAR Pledge

Introductions

Officer Reports

President

1st Viced President

Youth Report (Stevens)

Secretary Report

Treasurer

Chaplain

Registrar

Historian

Nomination Committee Chair Report

New Business

SAR PLEDGE

"We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe."

SAR CLOSING

"Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men."

Piney Woods Chapter #51 Business Meeting

May 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Los Cuco's Restaurant, Kingwood, Texas

President Abe Abdmoulaie called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M. Merv Hartwick led Members and guests in pledges to U.S, and Texas flag. He also led members and guests in the SAR pledge. Abe led the invocation.

Abe and Larry Stevens reported that Jim Pinkerton sustained a fall that resulted in a broken femur. Jim's broken femur required surgery to be repaired, which was successful. He is now at the height of Valley Ranch rehab center in Porter. It may be up to 4 months before he is back to normal. Members were encouraged to text him on Jim's cell phone.

Members present (17): Bill King, Merv Hartwick, Louis "Skip" Hawley, Stephen E. McIntyre, Richard Payne, Michael Anderson, Kermit Breed, Bernie Kent, Cannon Pritchard, Ray Cox, Ben Barkin, B. Ray Mize, Larry Stevens, Abe Abdmoulaie, Keith Schoonover, Harry Salisbury. Guests (4) John Orndorff, Jeannie Hartwick, Don Abbie, Samantha Ballard.

Members and guests individually introduced themselves.



The meeting's presenter was Kermit Breed. As part of our observance of the battle of Bunker and Breed' Hill, Kermit gave a historical review of the battle. As Kermit is a descendant of the Breed family for which the hill was named, his presentation had a personal touch. Details of Kermit's presentation were included in the chapter newsletter.



Three presentations for member service awards were given to Kermit Breed, Certificate of Appreciation, Ben Baskin the Meritorious Chapter Medal, and Merv Hartwick the Roger Sherman Medal. Abe read a description of the Meritorious Service Medal and Roger Sherman Medal before he presented the awards.

Members were reminded of May events including George Washington appointment as General of the Continental Army and Memorial Day. Also, May 18th is Armed Forces Day.

VP Skip Hawley reported on the recent revolution Education 1776 held for elementary and middle school students in the Splendora ISD. Five SAR members joined the RevEdu1776 on May 16th included Abe Abdmoulaie, Ray Cox, Louis "Skip" Hawley Bill Meyers (Freedom Chapter), and Larry Stevens. The program started at 7:30 AM with more than four hundred middle school eighth grade students, which were divided into two groups. One group participated the reenactment of part of the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina which occurred on March 15, 1781 the second was split into 6 smaller groups and they rotated between six presentations: Apothecary, Cooking, Fife and Drum,



Crafts, water brigade, and artifacts. At 8:30 they switched. This meant that Ray and Bill, Skip and Larry made twelve presentations each in two hours. After a 30 minute much needed break at 10:30 AM , the first wave of fifth grade elementary students who were bused in, except Whispering Pines Elementary where the event where the RevEdu 1776 setup was located. At 12:30 PM , the second group arrived. An exact count of students was not made, but it is estimated that about 500 students participated. Again, our SAR members gave twelve presentations each. The event was well organized by both Splendora administrators and teachers, as well as Revolutionary Education management. The event will be added to the chapter Annual Report.

Chapter officer reports:

Bill King reported that the meeting minutes are included in the monthly newsletter.

B Ray Mike had nothing to add after reporting the treasurer's report in April's meeting.

Kermit Breed reported that two prospective member applications are at SAR national for final approval. Kermit has one additional application in review. Two additional prospective applicants who are guests at today's meeting. A new member will be formally inducted into our chapter at our meeting in August. Kermit said he would be working with our two guests Mr. Orndroff and Abbie, on Membership applications.

Larry Stevens reported that he has one more JROTC program tonight at Splendora High School. Larry noted that the presentations of JROTC medals to the JROTC cadets are especially appreciated. He said twenty three Bronze Medals were sent or taken to schools. He said the chapter Junior ROTC effort would be as-



sumed by 2VP Hawley. He said chapter members need to help with distribution and presentation. All of the school awards programs will be in the Spring of 2026. He said the medals should be ordered this fall. Ray Cox reported on his recommendations for the fees and dues calculator on the SAR Texas State website. Ray is recommending reducing the family member application fee. Ray is also recommending reducing the individual fee.

Harry Salisbury Reported that the Holocaust Docent Remembrance and Hope Center on Lake Houston Drive has presentations on Sunday afternoon. He recommended that members attend so as to never let the awful events of the Holocaust are never forgotten. The possibility of planting an SAR 250th Anniversary Liberty Tree at the Site was discussed since the chapter has already approved of this expense. Harry was asked to check to see if this was doable.

Abe Abdmoulaie reported that chapter officer training is scheduled for May 31st at the IHOP restaurant starting at 9:30 AM. Abe also reported that he is looking for volunteers for the annual July 4th parade.

Larry Stevens reported that a picture and article of the 250th Bench installed at the Humble Museum was submitted to the SAR Magazine Committee. Look for our chapter article in the next SAR magazine.

Jeannie Hartwick reported on the DAR event which was the lighting of the red lantern at the holocaust museum.

Merv Hartwick led the closing of the business meeting with the SAR closing. Abe ended the meeting with the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted by *Secretary Bill King*

PineYoods Lunch Meeting at Los Cucos Mexican Café Private Room



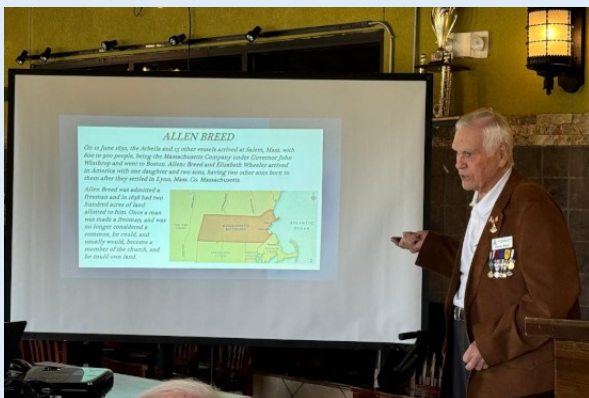
Larry, his daughter Samantha and B Ray



Ray, Cannon Bernie



Richard, Ray Cannon Bernie, Keith Harry and Guest



Kermit on Family that owned BREED's Hill—Not Bunker which was next to Breeds



Past President Cannon Prichard was able to return to a meeting



ALL SMILES

Ben
Stephen
Mike
Richard

DOCUMENTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

APRIL 1775—OCTOBER 1775

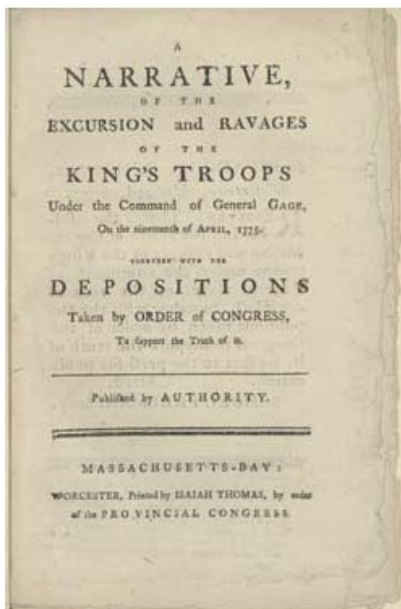
My major History Professor always insisted that I not only read published accounts of History, in this case the American Revolution or Revolt, but study the accounts written at the time by individuals or chroniclers to get a better understanding. Study documents from private files, if possible.

When you read the 5 documents that follow, and if you have read historical accounts of what took place at Lexington and Concord and the weeks after, I believe you will find the accounts by historians reporting on this time in our history have in fact read these petitions, reports, and addresses.

1. Narrative of the Excursions of the King's Troops Under the Command of General Gage on the ninetieth of April 1775
2. A CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT Of an Attack that happened on the 19th of April 1775, on his MAJESTY'S Troops by Thomas Gage
3. The Olive Branch Petition was adopted by the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 5, 1775
4. By the KING, A PROCLAMATION, For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition. GEOGRE R
5. On October 27th 1775, George III addressed the opening of parliament

I have at least two books on the conflicts at Lexington and Concord and others history books that describe the events that took place on April 19, 1775 and in the months after.

I did not include the "Narrative" due to the petition being 23 pages. I includes all of the depositions and lists the killed and wounded in each community. I only copied the deposition of John Parker, CMDR Lex. Militia **Larry Stevens—BA History California State University Stanislaus**



1. On April 22, 1775, a committee of seven was appointed by the Massachusetts Provincial Congress to dispose witnesses. They interviewed 97 people in three days and secured signed, sworn statements from all of them. Each person deposed was administered an oath by a justice of the peace whose "good faith" was certified by

a notary public. The main point of all the depositions was that no provincial at either Lexington or Concord fired until the British had fired first. (Peter Force, ed., *American Archives*, 4th Series, 2:765.) On April 25, the Provincial Congress rushed to have the depositions included in , "*A Narrative, of the Excursions and*

Ravages of the King's Troops Under the Command of General Gage, on the nineteenth of April, 1777: Together with the Depositions taken by order of Congress." The account was written by Benjamin Church, Elbridge Gerry and Thomas Cushing , and printed by Isaiah Thomas of Worcester.

I JOHN PARKER, of lawful age, and commander of the militia in Lexington, do testify and declare, that on the 19th instant, in the morning about one of the Clock, being informed that there were a number of the regular officers riding up and down the road, stopping and insulting people as they passed the road, and also was informed that a number of the regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order to take the province stores at Concord, ordered our militia to meet on the common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered nor meddle or make with said regular troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or molest us, and upon their sudden approach, I immediately

ordered our militia to disperse and not to fire. Immediately said troops made their appearance and rushing furiously, fired upon and killed eight of our party, without receiving any provocation therefore from us. JOHN PARKER”

On 25 April, the Provincial Congress learns that General Gage plans to send his report on the clash at Lexington and Concord to Parliament. He has hired the *Sukey*, a vessel owned by Boston merchant John Rowe, to carry the correspondence. Fearful that Gage might win the battle for public and official opinion, the Congress rushes to print nearly 100 copies of its own collected depositions, prefaced by a letter from Joseph Warren. Hiring the *Quero*, a fast schooner out of Salem, the Congress instructs its owner and captain to make haste and secretly deliver the depositions to the Lord Mayor of London. The *Quero* arrives two weeks ahead of the *Sukey*. Before Gage's account is known to exist, the American narrative is already spread across the London papers. Massachusetts Historical Society, [Coming of the American Revolution 1764-1776](#), Master Document List)

2. General and Governor Thomas Gage reports on April 24, 1775, A CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT Of an Attack that happened on the 19th of April 1775, on his MAJESTY'S Troops, By a Number of the People of the Province of MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

ON Tuesday the 18th of April, about half past 10 at Night, Lieutenant Colonel Smith of the 10th Regiment, embarked from the Common at Boston, with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Troops there, and landed on the opposite Side, from whence he began his March towards Concord, where he was ordered to destroy a Magazine of Military Stores, deposited there for the Use of an Army to be assembled, in Order to act against his Majesty, and his Government. The Colonel called his Officers together, and gave Orders, that the Troops should not fire, unless fired upon; and after marching a few Miles, detached six Companies of Light Infantry, under the Command of Major Pitcairn, to take Possession of two Bridges on the other Side of Concord : Soon after they heard many Signal Guns, and the ringing of Alarm Bells repeatedly, which convinced them that the Country was rising to oppose them, and that it was a pre-concerted scheme to oppose the King's Troops, whenever there should be a favorable Opportunity for it.

About 3 o'clock the next Morning, the Troops being advanced within two Miles of Lexington, Intelligence was received that about Five Hundred Men in Arms, were assembled, and determined to oppose the King's Troops ;* and on Major Pitcairn's galloping up to the Head of the advanced Companies, two Officers informed him that a Man (advanced from those that were assembled) had presented his Musquit and attempted to shoot them, but the Piece flashed in the Pan.

On this the Major gave directions to the Troops to move forward, but on no Account to fire, nor even to attempt it without Orders. When they arrived at the End of the Village, they observed about 200 armed Men, drawn up on a Green, and when the Troops came within a Hundred Yards of them, they began to file off towards some Stone Walls, on their right Flank : The Light Infantry observing this, ran after them ; the Major instantly called to the Soldiers not to fire, but to surround and disarm them ; some of *[Handwritten reference mark, "#," in margin, refers to handwritten note at bottom of broadside]* them who had jumped over a Wall, then fired four or five Shots at the Troops, wounded a Man of the 10th Regiment, and the Major's Horse in two Places, and at the same Time several Shots were fired from a Meeting-House on the left: Upon this, without any Order or Regularity, the Light Infantry began a scattered Fire, and killed several of the Country People; but were silenced as soon as the Authority of their Officers could make them.

After this, Colonel Smith marched up with the Remainder of the Detachment, and the whole Body proceeded to Concord, where they arrived about 9 o'Clock, without any Thing further happening; but vast numbers of armed People were seen Assembling on all the Heights: while Colonel Smith with the Grenadiers, and Part of the Light Infantry remained at Concord, to search for Cannon, &c. there; he detached Captain Parsons with six Light Companies to secure a Bridge at some Distance from Concord, and to proceed from thence to certain Houses, where it was supposed there was Cannon, and Ammunition; Captain Parsons in pursuance of these Orders, posted three Companies at the Bridge, and on some Heights near it, under the Command of Captain Laurie of the 43d Regiment; and with the Remainder went and destroyed some Cannon Wheels, Powder, and Ball; the People still continued encreasing on the Heights; and in about an Hour after, a large Body of them began to move towards the Bridge, the Light Companies of the 4th and 10th then descended, and joined Captain Laurie, the People continued to advance in great Numbers; and fired upon the Kings Troops, killed three Men, wounded four Of-

ficers, one Serjeant, and four private Men, upon which (after returning the fire) Captain Laurie and his Officers, thought it prudent to retreat towards the Main Body at Concord, and were soon joined by two Companies of Grenadiers; when Captain Parsons returned with the three Companies over the Bridge, they observed three Soldiers on the Ground one of them scalped, his Head much mangled, and his Ears cut off, tho' not quite dead; a Sight which struck the Soldiers with Horror; Captain Parsons marched on and joined the Main Body, who were only waiting for his coming up, to march back to Boston; Colonel Smith had executed his Orders, without Opposition, by destroying all the Military Stores he could find; both the Colonel, and Major Pitcairn, having taken all possible Pains to convince the Inhabitants that no Injury was intended them, and that if they opened their Doors when required, to search for said Stores, not the slightest Mischief should be done; neither ad any of the People the least Occasion to complain, but they were sulky, and one of them even struck Major Pitcairn. Except upon Captain Laurie, at the Bridge, no Hostilities happened from the Affair at Lexington, until the Troops began their March back. As soon as the Troops had got out of the Town of Concord, they received a heavy Fire from all Sides, from Walls, Fences, Houses, Trees, Barns, &c. which continued without Intermission, till they met the first Brigade, with two Field Pieces, near Lexington; ordered out under the Command of Lord Percy to support them; (advice having been received about 7 o'Clock next Morning, that Signals had been made, and Expresses gone out to alarm the Count0y, and that the People were rising to attack the Troops under Colonel Smith.) Upon the Firing of the Field Pieces, the People's Fire was for a while silenced, but as they still continued to encrease greatly in Numbers, they fired again as before, from all Places where they could find Cover, upon the whole Body, and continued so doing for the Space of Fifteen Miles: Notwithstanding their Numbers they did not attack openly during the Whole Day, but kept under Cover on all Occasions. The Troops were very much fatigued, the greater Part of them having been under Arms all Night, and made a March of upwards of Forty Miles before they arrived at Charlestown, from whence they were ferried over to Boston.

The Troops had above Fifty killed, and many more wounded: Reports are various about the Loss sustained by the Country People, some make it very considerable, others not so much. Thus this unfortunate Affair has happened through the Rashness and Imprudence of a few People, who began Firing on the Troops at Lexington.

At this Time the advanc'd Light Companies loaded,

but the Grenadiers were not loaded when they received their first Fire.

Notwithstanding the Fire from the Meeting House, Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn, with the greatest Difficulty, kept the Soldiers from forcing into the Meeting-House and putting all those in it to Death.

1. The Olive Branch Petition was adopted by the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 5, 1775 and was signed July 8.

It was the final attempt to avoid war. The invasion of Canada had already been authorized the week before, however the petition affirmed colonial loyalty to the King and Great Britain and entreated George III to prevent further conflict. With the ink barely dry, congress on July 6, 1775, wrote another petition, Declaration of Causes and necessity of Taking up Arms . This document made it unlikely for the Olive Branch Petition would be successful. It is believed George III never read the Olive Branch Petition; however, his August and October address to parliament leaves little doubt of his thoughts of the Olive Branch request and the actions of the colonist rebels.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN: We, your Majesty's faithful subjects of the Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of these Colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in General Congress, entreat your Majesty's gracious attention to this our humble petition.

The union between our Mother Country and these Colonies, and the energy of mild and just Government, produce benefits so remarkably important, and afforded such an assurance of their permanency and increase, that the wonder and envy of other nations were excited, while they beheld Great Britain rising to a power the most extra-ordinary the world had ever known.

Her rivals, observing that there was no probability of this happy connexion being broken by civil dissensions, and apprehending its future effects if left any

longer undisturbed, resolved to prevent her receiving such continual and formidable accessions of wealth and strength, by checking the growth of those settlements from which they were to be derived.

In the prosecution of this attempt, events so unfavourable to the design took place, that every friend to the interests of Great Britain and these Colonies, entertained pleasing and reasonable expectations of seeing an additional force and exertion immediately given to the operations of the union hitherto experienced, by an enlargement of the dominions of the Crown, and the removal of ancient and warlike enemies to a greater distance.

At the conclusion, therefore, of the late war, the most glorious and advantageous that ever had been carried on by British arms, your loyal Colonists having contributed to its success by such repeated and strenuous exertions as frequently procured them the distinguished approbation of your Majesty, of the late King, and of Parliament, doubted not but that they should be permitted, with the rest of the Empire, to share in the blessings of peace, and the emoluments of victory and conquest.

While these recent and honourable acknowledgements of their merits remained on record in the Journals and acts of that august Legislature, the Parliament, undefaced by the imputation or even the suspicion of any offence, they were alarmed by a new system of statutes and regulations adopted for the administration of the Colonies, that filled their minds with the most painful fears and jealousies; and, to their inexpressible astonishment, perceived the danger of a foreign quarrel quickly succeeded by domestick danger, in their judgment of a more dreadful kind.

Nor were these anxieties alleviated by any tendency in this system to promote the welfare of their Mother Country. For though its effects were more immediately felt by them, yet its influence appeared to be injurious to the commerce and prosperity of Great Britain.

We shall decline the ungrateful task of describing the irksome variety of artifices practised by many of your Majesty's Ministers, the delusive pretences, fruitless terrors, and unavailing severities, that have, from time to time, been dealt out by them, in their attempts to execute this impolitick plan, or of tracing through a

series of years past the progress of the unhappy differences between Great Britain and these Colonies, that have flowed from this fatal source.

Your Majesty's Ministers, persevering in their measures, and proceeding to open hostilities for enforcing them, have compelled us to arm in our own defence, and have engaged us in a controversy so peculiarly abhorrent to the affections of your still faithful Colonists, that when we consider whom we must oppose in this contest, and if it continues, what may be the consequences, our own particular misfortunes are accounted by us only as parts of our distress.

Knowing to what violent resentments and incurable animosities civil discords are apt to exasperate and inflame the contending parties, we think ourselves required by indispensable obligations to Almighty God, to your Majesty, to our fellow-subjects, and to ourselves, immediately to use all the means in our power, not incompatible with our safety, for stopping the further effusion of blood, and for averting the impending calamities that threaten the British Empire.

Thus called upon to address your Majesty on affairs of such moment to America, and probably to all your Dominions, we are earnestly desirous of performing this office with the utmost deference for your Majesty; and we therefore pray, that

your Majesty's royal magnanimity and benevolence may make the most favourable constructions of our expressions on so uncommon an occasion. Could we represent in their full force the sentiments that agitate the minds of us your dutiful subjects, we are persuaded your Majesty would ascribe any seeming deviation from reverence in our language, and even in our conduct, not to any reprehensible intention, but to the impossibility of reconciling the usual appearance of respect with a just attention to our own preservation against those artful and cruel enemies who abuse your



royal confidence and authority, for the purpose of effecting our destruction. Attached to your Majesty's person, family, and Government, with all devotion that principle and affection can inspire; connected with Great Britain by the strongest ties that can unite societies, and deploring every event that tends in any degree to weaken them, we solemnly assure your Majesty that we not only most ardently desire the former harmony between her and these Colonies may be restored, but that a concord may be established between them upon so firm a basis as to perpetuate its blessings, uninterrupted by any future dissensions, to succeeding generations in both countries, and to transmit your Majesty's name to posterity, adorned with that signal and lasting glory that has attended the memory of those illustrious personages, whose virtues and abilities have extricated states from dangerous convulsions and, by securing the happiness to others, have erected the most noble and durable monuments to their own fame. We beg further leave to assure your Majesty that, notwithstanding the sufferings of your loyal Colonists during the course of this present controversy, our Breasts retain too tender a regard for the Kingdom from which we derive our Origin to request such a Reconciliation as might in any manner be inconsistent with her Dignity or her welfare. These, related as we are to her, Honor and Duty as well as inclination induce us to support and advance; and the apprehensions that now oppress our Hearts with unspeakable Grief, being once removed, your Majesty will find your faithful Subjects on this Continent ready and willing at all times, as they have ever been with their lives and fortunes, to assert and maintain the rights and interests of your Majesty and of our mother country. We therefore beseech your Majesty that your royal authority and influence may be graciously interposed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealousies occasioned [caused] by the system before-mentioned, and to settle peace through every part of our dominions, with all humility submitting to your Majesty's wise consideration whether it may not be expedient, for facilitating those important purposes, that your Majesty be pleased to direct some mode by which the united applications of your faithful Colonists to the Throne, in presence of their Common Councils, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation; and that, in the mean

time, measures may be taken for preventing the further destruction of the lives of your Majesty's subjects, and that such statutes as more immediately distress any of your Majesty's Colonies may be repealed. For such arrangements as your Majesty's wisdom can form for collecting the united sense of your American people, we are convinced your Majesty would receive such satisfactory proofs of the disposition of the Colonists towards their Sovereign, and the parent state, that the wished for opportunity would soon be restored to them of evincing the sincerity of their professions by every testimony of devotion becoming the most dutiful Subjects and the most affectionate Colonists. That your Majesty may enjoy long and prosperous reign, and that your descendents may govern your dominions with honor to themselves and happiness to their subjects, is our sincere and fervent prayer.

JOHN HANCOCK [President of the Congress]

Colony of New Hampshire JOHN LANGDON THOMAS CUSHING

Colony of Massachusetts Bay SAMUEL ADAMS JOHN ADAMS ROBERT TREAT PAINE

Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantation STEPHEN HOPKINS SAMUEL WARD

Colony of Connecticut ELIPHALET DYER ROGER SHERMAN SILAS DEANE

Colony of New York PHILIP LIVINGSTON JAMES DUANE JOHN ALSOP FRANCIS LEWIS JOHN JAY ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR. LEWIS MORRIS WILLIAM FLOYD HENRY WISNER

New Jersey WILLIAM LIVINGSTON JOHN DE HART RICHARD SMITH

Pennsylvania JOHN DICKINSON BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GEORGE ROSS JAMES WILSON CHARLES HUMPHREYS EDWARD BIDDLE

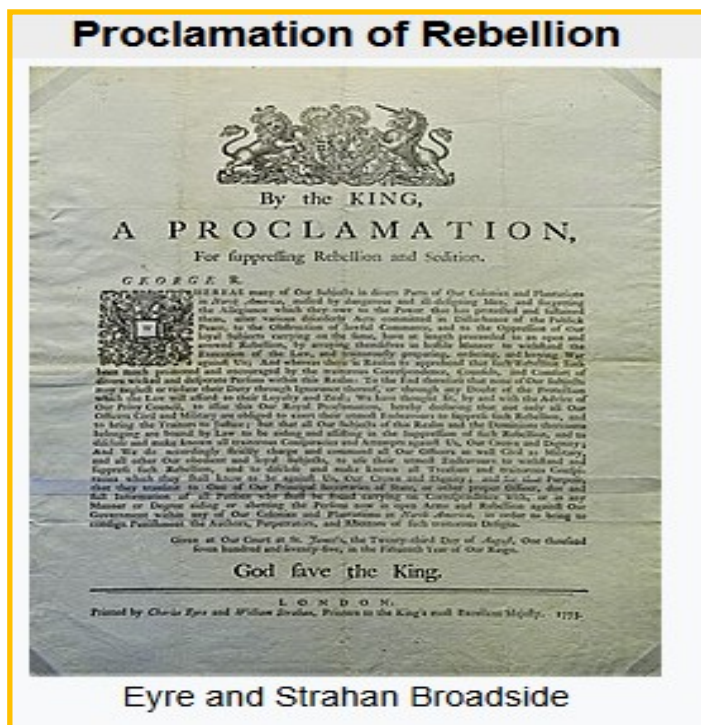
Counties of Newcastle, Kent, Sussex [Delaware] CAESAR RODNEY THOMAS McKEAN GEORGE READ

Maryland MATTHEW TILGHMAN THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. WILLIAM PACA SAMUEL CHASE THOMAS STONE

Colony of Virginia PATRICK HENRY, JR. RICHARD HENRY LEE EDMUND PENDLETON BENJAMIN HARRISON THOMAS JEFFERSON

North Carolina WILLIAM HOOPER JOSEPH HEWES

South Carolina HENRY MIDDLETON THOMAS LYNCH CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN JOHN RUTLEDGE EDWARD RUTLEDGE



4. By the KING, A PROCLAMATION, For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in North America, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us; And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Comfort of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to

bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in North America, in order to bring the condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-third Day of August, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.
God save the King.



5. On October 27th 1775, George III addressed the opening of parliament. Expanding on his proclamation of rebellion in August. “The present situation of America, and my constant desire to have your advice, concurrence and assistance on every important occasion, have determined me to call you thus early together. Those who have long too successfully laboured to inflame my people in America by gross misrepresentations, and to infuse into their minds a system of opinions, repugnant to the true constitution of

the colonies, and to their subordinate relation to Great-Britain, now openly avow their revolt, hostility and rebellion. They have raised troops and are collecting a naval force. They have seized the public revenue and assumed to themselves legislative, executive and judicial powers, which they already exercise in the most arbitrary manner, over the persons and property of their fellow-subjects. And although many of these unhappy people may still retain their loyalty, and may be too wise not to see the fatal consequence of this usurpation, and wish to resist it, the torrent of violence has been strong enough to compel their acquiescence until a sufficient force shall appear to support them. The authors and promoters of this desperate conspiracy have, in the conduct of it, derived great advantage from the difference of our intentions and theirs. They meant only to amuse by vague expressions of attachment to the parent state, and the strongest protestations of loyalty to me, whilst they were preparing for a general revolt. On our part, though it was declared in your last session that a rebellion existed within the province of the Massachusetts Bay, yet even that province we wished rather to reclaim than to subdue. The resolutions of Parliament breathed a spirit of moderation and forbearance. [Parliament adopted] conciliatory propositions accompanied by measures taken to enforce authority. The Coercive Acts were adapted to cases of criminal combinations amongst subjects not then in arms. I have acted with the same temper; anxious to prevent the effusion of the blood of my subjects and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war, still hoping that my people in America would have discerned the traitorous views of their leaders. The rebellious war now levied is become more general and is manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire. I need not dwell upon the fatal effects of the success of such a plan. The object is too important, the spirit of the British nation too high, the resources with which God hath blessed her too numerous, to give up so many colonies which she has planted with great industry, nursed with great tenderness, encouraged with many commercial advantages, and protected and defended at much expense of blood and treasure. It is now become the part of wisdom... to put a speedy end to these disorders by the most decisive exertions. For this purpose, I have increased my naval establishment, and greatly aug-

mented my land forces, but in such a manner as may be the least burdensome to my kingdoms. I have also the satisfaction to inform you that I have received the most friendly offers of foreign assistance. When the unhappy and deluded multitude, against whom this force will be directed, shall become sensible of their error, I shall be ready to receive the misled with tenderness and mercy... And in order to prevent the inconveniences which may arise from the great distance of their situation, and to remove as soon as possible the calamities which they suffer, I shall give authority to certain persons upon the spot to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities, in such manner, and to such persons as they shall think fit; and to receive the submission of any Province or Colony which shall be disposed to return to its allegiance. It may be also proper to authorise the persons so commissioned to restore such Province or Colony, so returning to its allegiance, to the free exercise of its trade and commerce, and to the same protection and security as if such Province or Colony had never revolted.

“Gentlemen of the House of Commons, “I have ordered the proper estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you; and I rely on your affection to me, and your resolution to maintain the just rights of this country, for such supplies as the present circumstances of our affairs require. Among the many unavoidable ill consequences of this rebellion, none affects me more sensibly than the extra-ordinary burthen which it must create to my faithful subjects. “My Lords, and Gentlemen, “I have fully opened to you my views and intentions. The constant employment of my thoughts, and the most earnest wishes of my heart, tend wholly to the safety and happiness of all my people, and to the re-establishment of order and tranquillity through the several parts of my dominions, in a close connection and constitutional dependance. You see the tendency of the present disorders, and I have stated to you the measures which I mean to pursue for suppressing them. Whatever remains to be done, that may farther contribute to this end, I commit to your wisdom. And I am happy to add, that, as well from the assurances I have received, as from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, I see no probability that the measures which you may adopt will be interrupted by disputes with any foreign power”.