



Pine Shavings

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

December 2008

Volume 18, Issue 12

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A Message from the President



At Christmas 1783, General George Washington resigned as Commander and Chief of the Continental Armies after a peace treaty was signed in

London and he had assumed control of British forces in New York. General Washington could have remained the leader of the military forces and become a virtual king of the colonies.

Instead, General Washington bade his loyal soldier's farewell at Fraunces Tavern in New York. He then journeyed to Philadelphia, gave a retirement speech to Congress, then travelled home to Mount Vernon, arriving on Christmas Eve in time for a very happy Christmas.

The December Nominations Meeting was held at my home on December 13th attended by Ron Barker, Ray Cox, Jim Jones, Jim Mitchell, Cannon Pritchard, Jim Richards, Walter Thompson, and myself. Our slate of officers will be formally announced at the January 15, 2009 meeting at Homewood Suites. Anyone interested in serving our chapter, please contact me or one of our officers. Some of us have served Piney Woods Chapter 51 for several years and would like to see some new faces, new ideas.

One change that has taken place this year concerns Texas Memberships. If you are a member of more than one Texas Chapter, you will need to pay your secondary membership dues directly to those chapters. The dues notices sent out by TXSSAR were only for your primary chapter. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so now.



Whether you travel during the Holidays or remain at home, have a merry Christmas and a great New Year.

PLEASE DON'T MISS IT!

See you then,
Larry Stevens

- PAST PRESIDENTS**
- Ron Barker**
 - Tom Green**
 - Bernie Balser**
 - Don Lemon**
 - Jeff Meadows**
 - McLeod Smith**
 - Robert McKenna**
 - Bob Smith**
 - Cannon Pritchard**
 - James Jones**
 - Ray Cox**
 - Larry Stevens**

EVENTS

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State

www.txssar.org

March 19-22, 2009 - TXSSAR Annual Convention, Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches, TX

Special Note: A New Patriots Fund 2009 Contribution Form posted under "Contests & Awards."



National

www.sar.org

March 5-7, 2009 - Spring 2009 Leadership (Trustee) Meeting, Details to be announced

July 4-8, 2009 - 119th Annual Congress, Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia



The Revolution

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party. In May of 1773, the British Parliament passed the Tea Act which allowed the East India Tea Co. to sell its tea cheaper than other imported tea companies. The Sons of Liberty gathered thousands of colonists at Boston Harbor to encourage 60 men who, dressed as Mohawk Indians, dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor.

December 31, 1775 - Continental Congress authorized invasions of Canada in May. Brig. Gen. Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold marched to Quebec, Canada. They attacked Quebec, Montgomery was killed and Arnold wounded. Waiting for Montgomery led to confusion which gave the British time to regroup and drive the American's out of Quebec.

December 26, 1776 - Battle of Trenton, NJ. Gen George Washington defeats Col. Johann Rall.

December 23, 1783 - Gen. George Washington resigns his commission in the Continental Army.

Our largest expenditure is the cost of our newsletter. Help us eliminate mailing newsletters thereby saving money on mailing. Please send your e-mail address to Ron Barker at ron.barker@hp.com and/or Jim Mims at jhmims4@aol.com and/or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com.

Meetings

Come and join us at the next meeting.



Piney Woods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2008



January 15
February 19
March 12

Guest Speaker and Dinner
Members Meeting and Dinner
Members and Guest, Officer Installation

Minutes December 13, 2008 / Members Meeting

T X S S A R
 PineWoods
 Chapter 51,
T X S S A R ,
 Nomination
 Meeting was
 held at Chap-
 ter President
 Larry Stev-
 ens and his
 wife, Bar-
 bara's resi-
 dence for the
 purpose of



L to R. Conni Barker, Ron Barker, Larry and Barbara Stevens, Ray Cox, Walter Thompson.

searching out candidates for nomination as 2009 officers according to our organization's by-laws. This meeting was a preliminary effort to select a Nominating Committee- President Stevens noted.

Attending were Compatriots Ray Cox, Jim Richards, Larry Stevens, Jim Jones, Cannon Prichard, Ron Barker, Walter Thompson and Jim Mitchell. President Stevens called to order our chapter's assemblage at 4:20PM. Minutes for Nov 20th were passed out by Jim Mitchell to all attendees and read individually; Compatriot Jim Jones made a motion to accept the minutes and Jim Richards seconded the motion which passed by voice vote.

President Stevens asked for names of prospective candidates be furnished to a Nominating Committee that was agreed upon as follows: Ron Barker, Ray Cox and Jim Mitchell; Alternate Larry Stevens.

President Stevens opened the positions to be filled as follows: Registrar - Bob McKenna, nominated; Genealogist – Kim Morton, nominated; Chan-

cellor and Parliamentarian – Allan Henshaw, nominated; Chaplain – Cannon Prichard, nominated; Sergeant-At-Arms & Quartermaster (flags & stands) – Ray Cox, nominated; Historian—Ken Cheatum, nominated; Newsletter Editor—Jim Mims, nominated; President – Larry Stevens, nominated.

Some discussion followed regarding the encouragement of members to move to positions other than what they held the previous year.

The Treasurer and Secretary positions, although nominated to retain Ron Barker and Jim Mitchell as Acting, were declared *as open to be filled*.

Pres. Stevens moved to accept the above nominees and Compatriots Jim Jones and Cannon Prichard seconded the motion which passed by voice vote.

Announcements: Next Dinner (Guest invited) Meeting scheduled January 15, 2009. The proposed 2009-2010 Officers will be announced.

Staff Secretary Jim Mitchell made a motion to Adjourn if there was no additional business and Compatriot Jim Jones seconded the motion which passed.



(l-r) Dianne Jones, Cannon Pritchard, Jim Jones, Mary Richards, Jim Richards.

Adjournment was at 4:50PM.

James E. (Jim) Mitchell
 Staff Secretary

HAPPY HOLIDAYS		Happy Birthday		HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH		
John Dorsey Clay Warlick Charles McKim, Jr. Edwin Pierson, Jr. Pat O'Neal	Dennis McKey James Richards, Sr. Robert L. McCain	Jere Banewski Ken Cheatum Andrew Evans James Green Thomas Green Woody Reese Donald Richards James Richards	Donald MacGregory Steven Richards Thomas Lawrence Edward Farmer Michael Lambert		

Color Guard Activities

November was an active month for the PineyWoods Color Guard members. Most memorable was the Naturalization ceremony aboard the Battleship US Texas docked at San Jacinto Battleground State Park on November 10th. Federal Naturalization District 13 invited our Chapter to post and retire the Stars and Stripes and the Texas State Flag. Sixty-eight new citizens swore allegiance witnessed by about one hundred guests, the Pasadena High School String Orchestra, and news media. This was the first ever ceremony conducted on the old ship. Television news that evening showed clips of the ceremony with members of the PineyWoods and other TXSSAR Color Guard members holding the US Flag. It was a blustery day. Gusts up to 15 knots whipped the flag. You could hear it snapping in the wind.

November 10th was the anniversary of the United States Marines. We held the flags high as the Pasadena Band played the Marine Corps Hymn. I thought of my Uncles Ernest Stephens and Claude Stephens who served our country in the Marine Corp during WWII. Uncle



Larry Stevens on the deck of Battleship Texas

Ernest at Guadalcanal and Uncle Claude, we called him Bud, at Peleliu. Uncle Ernest was injured and spent some time at Christ Church New Zealand mending. He later was sent to Korea. Both were decorated for their actions. I thought of all of us who served in the military as I held our Flag in the wind. "Lest not forget their sacrifices."

Veterans Day, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell, and I were at Whispering Pines Elementary in Atascocita, helping the children celebrate Veterans Day. With Ray and Jim's help, I presented the SAR Flag Certificate to the School Principal and the students during their choral program of Patriotic songs. Later, the fifth graders asked some good questions when Ray, Jim, and I spent about thirty minutes discussing with them our dress, the music, and the Revolutionary War. One young lady asked what would have happened to her if she had been seriously shot in the foot during the Revolutionary War. We did not expect that one.

Larry Stevens



Aboard the Battleship Texas at San Jacinto Battlefield Park.

(l-r) Larry Stevens, Vic Smith, Ray Cox, Pat Kerr, Tom Green, John Thompson.



Color Guard Activities cont'd



Pioneer Days at Jesse Jones Park

(Nov. 8) We dressed these kids and the boy has my black powder rifle.



Humble Christian School (Nov. 6) Instructing class with students help.



Kingwood Christian School Flag Certificate

(Nov. 7) Larry presenting SAR Flag Certificate to a fourth grade student for the school, he later presented it to the Principal for me from the SAR!



HCS Flag Certificate (Nov. 6) Larry presenting Flag Certificate to Assist. Principal and School, and Students.



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Richards,

I am very thankful that you came to my class to show and tell us how it was in the time of the Alamo. I liked it when Carolyn and Sky got dressed up. I think that you're one of the best and coolest teachers ever. I really like it when we got to see all kinds of coffee beans and how they used to make candles. It was really cool to see all of that kind of stuff. Thank you for the cool activity book and for the certificate. It was really cool learning about Texas.

Sincerely:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Richards,

I am sending this card to honor and thank you. You have shown me and my class many things about how old time people dressed, ate, and what they ate. You also showed us about the musket, money, and sewing. I have seen and talk to people who represent the old time, but you all are the best yet!

love,
Amanda



You Rock!
Thank you!



Website

A color version of this newsletter along with other chapter related items and various SAR links can be found on our website at:

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

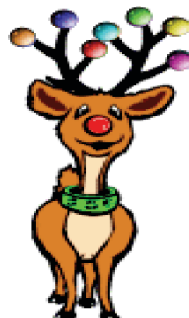
Education/Youth Programs

One of the most exciting aspects of being a member of the Sons of the American Revolution is being invited to do programs at Private and Public Schools. This fall, my wife Barbara, DAR and DRT, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and I, SAR and SRT, loaded the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Instruction Trunk into the back of the car and went to Humble Christian School November 6th, Kingwood Christian November 7th, and Maple Brook Elementary School in Atascocita December 12th. This trunk contains garments, belts, hats, cookware, utensils, fire starting, foods, and sewing. At the private schools, I was allowed to take my 1770 model Pennsylvania Flintlock Rifle with ball and tools needing when firing; of course, No Black Powder. All are articles you could have found in any home during the



colonial period and even up until the late 1800's. We dress the fourth and fifth graders, depending on which school, in the garment and hats, passed around each item explaining its use, asking the students to guess what some items were and the purpose of some items. Humble Christian asked for our pictures for their school year book and Kingwood Christian sent us the greatest hand drawn thank you cards.

I presented both schools SAR Flag Certificates for properly flying the US Flag. A young man at Kingwood Christian proudly accepted for his school and students.



Each year, there is a Pioneer Days at Jesse Jones Park in Humble, where re-enactors, members of the Texas Army, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas or DRT, Park Officials, depict Pioneer Life with clothing, foods, tools, camping, blacksmiths, and weapons. On November 8th, Barbara and I were at the DRT table showing the frontier articles and I, and members of the Texas Army, demonstrated the art of firing black powder muskets and rifles. Harris County Commissioner for Precinct 4 Jerry Eversole and wife Pat stopped to talk with us about our dress and pioneer life. The children were excited to learn of the dress, food and tools of our pioneer ancestors.

Whispering Pines Elementary asked PineyWoods to help them celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, 2008, and Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell and I accepted in militia and continental uniform. After a short session in the school library, we were asked to visit with the kindergarteners. Mitchell went to a different class then Ray and I and then we rotated rooms. I am really glad Ray brought his fife. He played the fife camp tunes announcing

wake up, time for break and for lunch. The children really liked this. Then, we joined the principal, teachers, staff, other veterans, and children for a very special treat, the third graders patriot song Choral, which included the songs of our armed services. Each vet was asked to stand during the song for their branch. Ray stood for US Navy, Jim Mitchell for his son James, a Marine Corp officer, two trips to Iraq, and I for the US Air Force. Others stood up for the US Army. The children clapped for each.

I presented the Principal, the school, and the students, with the help of Ray and Jim, the SAR Flag Certificate in front of the stage. It was thrilling to her the student clapping the shouting their approval.



In other Youth Programs, the Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest and the JROTC Enhanced Scholarship contests, I have been contact by and Eagle Scout and the JROTC Directors at Crosby and New Caney High Schools. All are sending applications. Ron Barker is receiving a JROTC Enhanced application from Tomball High.

Why do I like our Educational and Youth Programs?

Larry Stevens

Genealogy

I have made the upgrade. I could not resist the prices to upgrade some of my software (MS Office, MS Publisher, MS Expression Web). Family Tree Maker (FTM) 2009 being the one I use the most often, ok, every night. The program took a little getting used to as the layout is a bit different.

My FTM version 16 had this “new” layout but I stuck with the old way of which I grew accustomed. Being forced to change to the new layout, I am now beginning to like it. Everything is still there, it’s just moved around and located in some places other than where I am used to finding them. Rather than having the husband and wife and their respective information one on top of the other, they are now side by side in a middle, larger window. The other windows, one on each side of the middle window, contain the index of people in my files on the left and the individual currently being researched on the right. This is a very user friendly layout. The children are listed below the parents and clicking on a child puts their info in the right window for editing. A pedigree view is above the parents in the upper part of the middle window. This makes going from one generation to the next fast. Takes some getting used to but I am getting the hang of it. Some habits are hard to break.

FTM is much better with the sourcing of information. I can attach links to other pieces of info rather than copying the source info and pasting it to each piece. This is much faster.

For “media”, FTM now puts all of the pictures, documents, etc. into one location where they can all be viewed at once. Click on an image, and each name the image is associated with is shown in another window. The images are “linked” to the names rather than the old way of putting them into the individuals scrapbook which made for several copies of the image. Having several copies in the program makes the program larger in size. Linking to images means I only have one image with a text link to the individuals thereby reducing the size of the program. The scrapbook is no longer a part of FTM. A new feature for media, is the ability to link to an image at its location on the

hard drive. I will not be using this option as I like having the image become a part of the program. This serves as a backup of my image. Besides, what if I remove the image from my hard drive and put it on a CD/DVD. Using the “link to existing location” would show a broken link not the image.



My computer would hang up in FTM16 when I would use the index. Now, the program runs smoothly. The program automatically backs itself up when I close the program and this seems to be much faster.

Also, the “notes” for each name, date, location, etc. used to be just a note for the person or the marriage. This allows for more notes on individuals. I use these locations to cut and paste things I find on the internet which saves me from having to type the info. And I always remember to source where I get the info. by copying the web sites address from the address bar, adding the date in which I accessed the site, as well as the sites name. We always want to credit others for their work and it also helps us know when we found the info in case the site is no longer available.

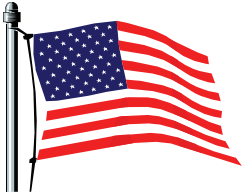
There are many more features but I have only had the program for a short time and still need to “play” with it to see what else has changed or has been enhanced. So far, I am really glad I upgraded. I hope this may help if you are considering FTM or upgrading.

I hope to see and meet some of you in the upcoming year. Please plan to attend some meetings this new year. Being a newer member, I have enjoyed my first year and look forward to learning more about the American Revolution which provides me an idea of what my patriot ancestors life was like.

Have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Jim Mims

Pine Shavings



Sons of the American Revolution



Official Newsletter

PineyWoods Chapter, #51
Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325

Volume 18, Issue 12



We're on the Web

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

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Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution
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TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RSVP FOR THE JANUARY 15, 2008 DINNER MEETING
At Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Friday, **January 9th**. You can send an **RSVP** email to Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com OR you can **call** Larry Stevens at 281-361-2061. Please **RSVP** to one person only. Payment of \$15.00 per attendee will be collected at the **meeting**.