



Pine Shavings



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

December 2011

Volume 21, Issue 6



A Message from the President

We had an excellent meeting in November with nearly 30 attendees. Doc Rice and his wife Lynn really put on a special program, educational and entertaining. We also had the privilege of recognizing Tyler Parker, son of Compatriot Stephen Parker, for his saving the life of his cousin. Tyler received the BSA Life Savings Award for

his quick action. Our meeting in December focuses on the nomination process for new Chapter officers for next year. The new officers will be installed in March 2012 by TXSSAR President Elect Bob Clark. I would ask each of you to consider serving the Chapter in some way or another. I am a firm believer that you get out of an organization from putting into that organization. Most roles do not take a lot of time. It takes some basic organization and a willingness to serve.

As we approach the Christmas season, I think back to George Washington and Valley Forge. I thought I would put a synopsis of what happened then in this article.

With winter almost set in, and the prospects for campaigning greatly diminishing, General George Washington sought quarters for his men. Washington and his troops had just fought what was to be the last major engagement of 1777 at the Battle of White

Marsh (or Edge Hill). He devised to pull his troops from their present encampment in the White Marsh area and move to a more secure location for the coming winter.

Though several locations were proposed, he selected Valley Forge, 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia. It proved to be an excellent choice.

Named for an iron forge on Valley Creek, the area was close enough to the British to keep their raiding and foraging parties out of the interior of Pennsylvania, yet far enough away to halt the threat of British surprise attacks. The high ground of Mount Joy and the adjoining elevated ground of Mount Misery combined with the Schuylkill River to the north, made the area easily defensible.

On December 19, 1777, when Washington's poorly fed, ill-equipped army, weary from long marches, staggered into Valley Forge, winds blew as the 12,000 Continentals prepared for winter's fury. Only about 1/3 of them had shoes, and many of their feet were leaving bloody footprints from the marching. Grounds for brigade encampments were selected, and defense lines were planned and begun. Though



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ATTENTION

The dues notices are in the mail. Some members have already received theirs. Please return your payment to our State Treasurer, John Beard, as soon as possible.

Thank you!

EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

Feb 18, 2012 - George Washington Parade, Laredo, TX

Mar 2-3, 2012 - NSSAR Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY



State: www.txssar.org

Mar 22-25, 2012 - Annual Convention—San Antonio

President

John Beard

Johnbeard@suddenlink.net

1st Vice President

Greg Goulas

greg.red.river@att.net

Secretary

Larry Blackburn

lblackburn@eereed.com

Treasurer

Ben Stallings

Bbstallings@gmail.com

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 Stevens

wardtracker@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Larry Stevens

wardtracker@aol.com

Web Master

Ray Cox

coxmr@earthlink.net

This Month in the Revolution

December 16, 1773 – On this date Bostonians, dressed as Indians, dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. The situation which led to this action is discussed in a separate section of this newsletter.



Dec 20-31, 1775: Troops under Benedict Arnold fail to capture Quebec



Dec 25-26, 1776: General George Washington and men of the Continental Army and militia crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776 and marched to Trenton, New Jersey.

December 5, 1777: Early in December, General Howe tried to launch a surprise attack on the American position. But the British plan had been ferreted out by spies, and the Americans were well prepared for their expedition. On December 5, the British began a probe of the American position in the hills. Three days of non-decisive skirmishing followed, after which the British returned to Philadelphia. It was the last engagement in the campaign of 1777.

Both armies now turned their thoughts to winter encampment. The British would remain snug in Philadelphia. The Americans marched to a small Schuylkill River village called Valley Forge



December 19, 1777: George Washington and his troops retreat to winter quarters at Valley Forge.

December 1780: Second winter at Morristown, NJ. This winter was regarded as the harshest winter of the Eighteenth Century.

December 23, 1783: George Washington resigns as Commander and Chief.

**PineWoods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2011**

Dec 15	Members Only
Jan 19	Member & Guests Dinner Meeting
Feb 16	Members Only

MEETING LOCATION

**Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway
Houston TX 77060
6:30 PM
See ya'll there December 15th!**

PineWoods Member Jim Mitchell Joins Avoyelles Parish in salute to Patriots!



On Sat., Oct 29, 2011, Kingwood, TX PineWoods SAR Chapter member, James E. Mitchell uniformed with a Charleville flintlock to salute 37 French descendants and their families,

who settled in Avoyelles having served to defeat the British during the Revolutionary War. Color Guard members from North and South Louisiana and Kingwood, Texas that fired a 21 gun (black powder, flintlock) salute included the James Huey Chapter Louisiana Militia Color Guard wearing blue socks and militia uniforms.

The Louisiana Society Militia Color Guard and 80 attendees at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church cemetery at Mansura, Avoyelles Parish on Sat. Oct 29th to officially dedicate & mark a bronze cast cenotaph inscribed with 37 names of Louisiana Militia men who were found to be documented for military service with the Galvez Expedition (1779) that defeated British garrisoned troops at Natchez, Baton Rouge and Mobile Bay and later, Pensacola.

These soldiers' graves and markers were lost after their burial following the establishment of the 1790 first church cemetery on the Avoyelles prairie. All the soldiers' graves and markers were neglected over 210 yrs., following the

building of a church at this site. A few years ago, Father Chat Patain arrived at St. Paul's Church as the parish priest and he researched the records. He joined with Carlos Mayeux, Jr., and Randy DeCuir in their efforts to donate a plaque in memory of the soldier's Revolutionary War service.

Their allied American Revolutionary War service followed a secret 1779 proclamation of war made by King Carlos III of Spain. The objective was to drive the troublesome British out of the Gulf of Mexico and the Miss. River Valley from Pensacola and Mobile Bay to the Natchez Post.

Because of the successful action taken by Bernardo de Galvez, the Cmdr. of the Louisiana militia and royal Spanish forces from Cuba to seize the British outposts, the navigation privileges on the Miss. River between New Orleans, and the Ohio R. Valley, Texas longhorn cattle at San Antonio de Bexar and Spanish made wool blankets -- reached American soldiers at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

Father Chat Partain, the Pastor at St. Paul's RC Church in Mansura blessed the cast bronze plaque and cenotaph with over 80 area parishioners and attendees present on Saturday afternoon under bright blue skies. Hundreds even thousands of descendants from Texas, Louisiana and surrounding states are living descendants of these early Avoyelles prairie settlers to Louisiana and later, Texas.

James Mitchell



Boston Tea Party



of Liberty, local tradesmen in the area, acted out against these acts. By 1773 Parliament had withdrawn all but the tax on tea. They had other motives in keeping this tax. The highly placed East India Company was in dire financial straits at the time. To help the company recover Parliament gave them a monopoly on the tea trade to the colonies. They also reduced the duties required on the tea, in essence making the tea cheaper to the colonists than it had ever been. By this time, it was a matter of politics. If the colonists purchased East India tea with its lower duty, they would be acknowledging the Parliamentary prerogative to levy a tax on the colonies.

The East India ships bringing tea into the ports of Philadelphia and New York were not allowed by colonists to land. The ships in Charleston, landed but the tea was stored in a warehouse where it was used much

The colonist later to fund the revolution. The three ships which had been came into Boston were kept at the dock with the tea boiling since unloaded. The situation came to a head when the Collector of Customs in Boston refused to let the ships leave harbor without payment of the tax. On the 16th and the of December 1773, tensions reached the boiling point, Townsend several thousand colonists gathered at the dock to protest the tea importation. That night about 200 Acts beginning in 1767. “Indians” boarded the ships and threw about 342 barrels of tea overboard. History records that Ebenezer McIntosh, a South End shoemaker and leather sealer, was instrumental in stirring up the forces that day.

Ebenezer McIntosh had been one of the leading insurrectionists in the Stamp Act rebellions and was recognized as a leader in the tradesmen of the area, often termed the “South End Gang.” He is one of the few recognized participants in the Boston Tea Party. As the British looked for the leaders of the raid, Ebenezer moved his family to Haverhill, New Hampshire. He died there in 1816. Three of our new members, the Leishmans, are descendants of Ebenezer McIntosh.

You may wish to read more on the effects of the Quartering of soldiers and the other Townsend acts on the artisans of Boston. These decisions by Parliament lead to the civil unrest and the Boston Tea Party. Imagine losing your livelihood to soldiers who were sent to keep order in your area. McIntosh and his fellow Sons of Liberty felt they had no recourse.

Education

The end of the year offered two more opportunities to reach out to students with the story of our ancestors during the Colonial and Revolutionary War times. On Veterans Day Larry and Barbara Stevens spoke to all classes of the fifth grade at Shadow Forest Elementary in Kingwood and on

December 9th they conducted twelve sessions at Maplebrook Middle School in Atascocita. The children learn about foods, dress, games and chores. Also discussed is the Stamp Act, the Boston Tea Party and Colonial Currency.

Pictured: Maplebrook bottom left and Shadow Forest lower right.



Battle for the Carolinas—Part IV

Duel at Halfway Swamp



Brig. Gen. Francis Marion resumed the war in South Carolina on December 12, 1780 after learning that British Major Robert McLeuroth and his 64th Regiment was escorting some 200 recruits for the Royal Fusiliers from Charleston to Winnsboro. Marion left Snow's Island with about 600 men, the actual count is in doubt, and pursued in haste up the Santee Road encountering the British at Nelson's

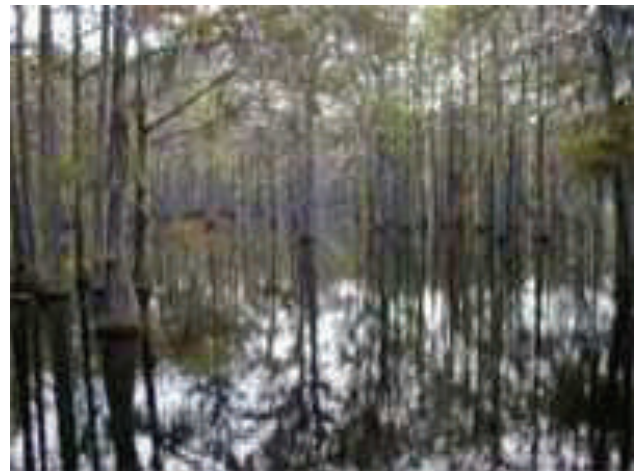
Ferry, just a little over a mile above Halfway Swamp. Marion attacked the pickets and drove into the rear guard causing McLeuroth's force to take cover behind a rail fence. The British gained advantage when musket fire stalled Marion's assault. McLeuroth escape route was blocked so he sent a flag to Marion protesting the slaughter of his pickets and challenged Marion to meet him out in the open. Marion responded by stating he would continue shooting pickets until the British stopped burning down civilian houses and sending out raids against the populace. During this lull, McLeuroth sent out a flag of truce challenging Marion to a gentlemanly duel between 20 men on each side. Marion agreed by saying "...if Major McLeuroth wishes to see mortal combat between teams of twenty men picked by each side, I will gratify him." And surprisingly McLeod accepted.

A field was chosen. The contest organized. Marion named Major John Vanderhorst the team Captain and he hand-picked his twenty men. Vanderhorst told his men to hold their fire until fifty yards and picked one man to keep track to the distance and notify him when the range was right. When the plan was understood, his men moved forward.

McLeuroth's twenty men first marched out to about 100 yards but then turned and retreated. The seemingly act of cowardice drew a cheer from Marion's men. Marion realized the British were just stalling. At this time British Captain James Coffin rode up with 140 New York volunteers. But when he learned of Marion's presence he refused to attack instead retreating to Swift Creek.

McLeuroth managed to escape during the night towards Singleton's residence abandoning his supplies and wagons. Marion's sent his swiftest mounted, under Major John James, and/or Major Hugh Horry, after him in the early hours of December 13th and passed McLeuroth seizing the buildings at Singleton's and then taking positions on a hill. When McLenoth's force arrived, the Americans fired a volley and left the field. They had discovered the Singleton family had smallpox. Marion withdrew to Nelson's Ferry. McLeuroth continued his march to Camden. The Duel at Halfway Swamp was off and is probably one of the strangest encounters of the American Revolution.

Larry Stevens



Chapter Registrar Report

Larry Stevens & Bob McKenna

We have received notice that the application of Joe Potter was approved on 22 November 2011 by national. We are awaiting his paperwork from the TXSSAR State Secretary.

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

David Work (S)	Michael Stallings (L)
Baron Schneider (L*)	Rod Gorman (L)
Eugene Shuffield (S)	Eugene Shuffield, Jr (S*)

The following applications are prepared and ready for sig-

natures and submission to state registrar:

William McKinney

We are also working on a few others in the preliminary stages. If you have any prospects, please contact us so that we can assist the prospective member with his application.

S* - Document requested from State Registrar—pending applicant response

L* - Questions from national reviewers being addressed.

President's Message Continued

(Continued from page 1)

construction of more than a thousand huts provided shelter, it did little to offset the critical shortages that continually plagued the army.

The men were under cover within six weeks. The first properly constructed hut appeared in three days. One other hut, which required 80 logs, and whose timber had to be collected from miles away, went up in one week with the use of only one axe. These huts provided sufficient protection from the moderately cold, but mainly wet and damp conditions of the mild, but typical Pennsylvania winter of 1777–1778. Snow was limited, and small in amounts. Alternating freezing and melting of snow and ice made it impossible to keep dry and allowed for disease to fester.

Soldiers received irregular supplies of meat and bread, some getting their only nourishment from "fire cake," a tasteless mixture of flour and water. However, due to the talents of Baker General Christopher Ludwig, the men at Valley Forge more often than not received fresh baked bread, about one pound daily. So severe were conditions at times that Washington despaired "that unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place ... this Army must inevitably ... Starve, dissolve, or disperse, in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can." Animals fared no better. General Henry Knox, Washington's Chief of Artillery, wrote that hundreds of horses either starved to death or died of exhaustion.

Clothing, too, was wholly inadequate. Many wounded soldiers from previous battles died from exposure. Long marches had destroyed shoes. Blankets were scarce. Tattered garments were seldom replaced. At one point these shortages caused nearly 4,000 men to be listed as unfit for duty.

Undernourished and poorly clothed, living in crowded, damp quarters, the army was ravaged by sickness and disease. Typhoid, jaundice, dysentery, and pneumonia were among the many diseases that killed 2,500 men that winter. Although Washington repeatedly petitioned for relief, the Continental Congress was unable to provide it, and the soldiers continued to suffer. Women, relatives of enlisted men, alleviated some of the suffering by providing valuable services such as laundry and nursing that the army desperately needed.

Upgrading military efficiency, morale, and discipline were as vital to the army's well-being as was its source of supply. The army had been handicapped in battle because unit training was administered from a variety of field manuals, making coordinated battle movements awkward and difficult. The soldiers were trained, but not uniformly. The

task of developing and carrying out an effective training program fell to Baron Friedrich von Steuben. This skilled Prussian drill master, recently arrived from Europe, tirelessly drilled the soldiers.

A group of people called Regimental Camp Followers also helped increase the morale of the soldiers and provided necessary support to the men. Camp Followers at Valley Forge consisted of the families, wives, children, mothers, and sisters of the soldiers.

These camp followers often served as laundresses, cleaning and mending the uniforms of the soldiers. Washington understood a soldier would die quickly from disease if his uniform was dirty and threadbare. These women and children also provided the emotional support to a soldier, allowing them to remain at camp and continue on training and soldiering during the winter months. These women gained half the rations of soldiers, half the wages of a soldier as well as a half pension after the war—if they had done enough work. Children would receive quarter rations if enough work was done.

Women were relegated to the back of the column when marching and were forbidden to ride on wagons. Camp followers faced the issues of disease along with the soldiers. While excellent scavengers, some women lost their lives on the battlefield trying to obtain goods from wounded or dead soldiers. At Valley Forge women averaged 1 to every 44 men, adding up to around 500 women.

Soon word of the British departure from Philadelphia brought a frenzied activity to the ranks of the Continental Army. On June 19, 1778, six months after its arrival, the army marched away from Valley Forge in pursuit of the British, who were moving toward New York. The war would last for another five years, but Washington and his men had won a decisive victory.

When you read about the hardships that our patriot ancestors endured, it puts a lot of things in perspective today.

Remember, December is nominations for next year's officers. The meeting is at Jimmy G's December 15, 2011, social at 6 pm, dinner and meeting starting at 6:30. Please let Larry Stevens, Kim Morton or me know that you'll be attending,

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

John Beard

November Meeting



The November meeting of PineyWoods was well attended. We had several members, guests and prospective members. We were fortunate to have Doc Rice and his lovely wife Lynn provide the program. They posed as John and Abigail Adams and read letters from each. It was inspiring. Programs like this bring our history to life. Doc and Lynn are pictured above.

was given the SAR Heroism medal and certificate. Pictured below: Michelle & Stephen Parker, Scout leader Bill Sprague with Tyler Parker. Michelle was also commended for the awesome scrapbook she prepared for the chapter last term.

The heroism of young Boy Scout Tyler Parker was honored at the meeting. Tyler saved his young cousin from drowning in a pool while on vacation in Galveston. Tyler



Reverend Gordon Waterman was inducted into the chapter at the November meeting. He was presented with his members rosette and certificate. Rev Waterman talked about his ancestor Isaac Cook, who bravely served under his father in the war and then moved to the Niagara Falls area of NY where his family rose to prominence in the state.

Happy Birthday

December

**John Beard
Edwin Pierson, Jr
Jonathan Hubbard**

**James O'Neal
Clay Warlick**



January

**Ron Barker
Robert L. McCain**

James Richards, Sr



front — Dist. #7 VP George Dersheimer, Past TXSSAR Pres. Jim Jones, Past Pres. Rankin Chapter Tom Jackson, TXSSAR Web Master Ray Cox, TXSSAR Historian Larry Stevens; Back row: Stephen Tanner, Rankin Chapter Pres., Robert Mason, BDG#1, TXSSAR Pres. Wm M. Marrs, Pete Lenex, Imm. Past Pres. BDG#1, Past Pres. BDG#1 Ron Mason, Pres. Cradle of Texas Chapter, Russell Dart, Bill Whatley, BDG#1 and David Peterson, Past Pres. TXSSAR (90-91)

Dickens on the Strand— 3 December 2011



Three members of the PineyWoods chapter traveled to Galveston to participate in the Dickens on the Strand Parade and the rededication of the TXSSAR foundation marker. The Galveston chapter was the first chapter formed in Texas, 8 December 1896, 115 years ago. The Bernardo de Galvez chapter of Galveston, hosted members including Ray Cox, Jim Jones and Larry Stevens, from PineyWoods, TXSSAR President Wm Marrs and members from other chapters. They provided a wonderful seafood lunch and carriages for the ladies to ride. Our own Dianne Jones and Barbara Stevens, dressed in colonial attire, rode in one of the carriages.

Pictured left: Ray Cox and Tom Jackson with the Galveston Train Depot 'ghosts.'

Note from the Editor: You will notice a change in the last page. For the e-mail issue we have removed the mailing block and used this space to expand the content of the newsletter. This issue it is history as we didn't have pictures or reports from the state meeting. However, we hope to have more chapter news to report in the next issue. This will give us more space to report.

**RSVP FOR THE December 15, 2011 MEMBER & GUEST MEETING
At Jimmy G's, 307 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Houston TX 6:30 PM**

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Wednesday, December 14. You can send an RSVP email to John Beard at johnbeard@suddenlink.net or call John at 281-358-2970 OR Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net. OR Larry Stevens wardtracker@aol.com (281-361-2061) Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$25.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.