



Pine Shavings



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

December 2012

Volume 22, Issue 10



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*Larry H. Blackburn, PhD
President*

Dear Compatriot members of TXSSAR PineyWoods 51. This holiday message will be short as I know there is lots of information in this publication for you to enjoy. We have had a wonderful year and next year looks great as well. Both membership and attendance is up and our programs are healthy. The December breakfast meeting at the Kingwood Country Club was robust with discussions covering a number of topics. Please make plans to attend the January 17, 2013 meeting at Jimmy G's Restaurant.

I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. Be safe and God bless.

Larry Blackburn, PhD
President, TXSSAR PineyWoods Chapter 51

**PineyWoods -
Meetings - 2013** Jan 17th—Member/Guest

MEETING LOCATION

6:30 p. m. at Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway,
Houston TX 77060

RSVP FOR THE MEETING

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday before the meeting date. 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.

Revolutionary Timeline

Valley Forge December 19, 1777 - Washington's Army staggered into the valley named after an iron Forge on Valley Creek just west of today's King Of Prussia, Philadelphia. They would remain here until June 1778. Washington's assessment to General Clinton follows;

Governor George Clinton

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 16, 1778

Dear Sir: It is with great reluctance, I trouble you on a subject, which does not fall within your province; but it is a subject that occasions me more distress, than I have felt, since the commencement of the war; and which loudly demands the most zealous exertions of every person of weight and authority, who is interested in the success of our affairs. I mean the present dreadful situation of the army for want of provisions, and the miserable prospects before us, with respect to futurity. It is more alarming than you will probably conceive, for, to form a just idea, it was necessary to be on the spot. For some days past, there has been little less, than a famine in camp. A part of the army has been a week, without any kind of flesh, and the rest for three or four days. **Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery**, that they have not been ere this excited by their sufferings, to a general mutiny or dispersion. Strong symptoms, however, discontent have appeared in particular instances; and nothing but the most active efforts everywhere can long avert so shocking a catastrophe.

Our present sufferings are not all. There is no foundation laid for any adequate relief hereafter. All the magazines provided in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, and all the immediate additional supplies they seem capable of affording, will not be sufficient to support the army more than a month longer, if so long. Very little has been done to the Eastward, and as little to the Southward; and whatever we have a right to expect from those quarters, must necessarily be very remote; and is indeed more precarious, than could be wished. When the aforementioned supplies are exhausted, what a terrible crisis must ensue, unless all the energy of the Continent is exerted to provide a timely remedy?

Battle of Trenton December 26, 1776—Washington orders his troops across the Delaware in the afternoon of Christmas Day 1776. The British

were camped around Princeton, encamped for the winter. At a point on the Pennsylvania bank where ferries crossed, Washington forces including artillery began the crossing on every vessel found. Marching through a miserable night of winds, snow, sleet, ice, and mud, they arrived at Trenton a little later the Washing planned. A message to Hessian Colonel Rahl received the evening of the 25th warning of the approaching Americans was found in his pocket after the Battle. Colonel died from his wounds.



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EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

March 1-2 , 2013

Spring Leadership Meeting held in Louisville, KY

July 5-10, 2013

NSSAR National Congress—Kansas City, MO



State: www.txssar.org

April 4-7

TXSSAR Annual Meeting

Wyndam Hotel, Dallas, TX

Members Meeting December 15, 2012

TXSSAR PineyWoods Chapter 51, TXSSAR, Nomination Meeting was held at 9 a.m. at Kingwood Country Club, Kingwood, Texas. Attending were Compatriot(s) John Beard, Larry Blackburn, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell, Kim Morton, Cannon Prichard, Ben Stallings, Larry Stevens, and Dist. 8 VP John Thompson. President Blackburn called to order our chapter's assemblage at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Minutes for Nov 15th were passed out by John Beard to all attendees and read individually; Compatriot Jim Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes and Ben Stallings seconded the motion which passed by voice vote.

Although Treasurer Greg Goulas was absent, it was noted the as of November 30, 2012 there was \$808.71 in the bank.

Registrar Larry Stevens said he had one new application compete and waiting for the prospective member to sign. He said there were 14 new members added in 2012 and the chapter has 83 members.

Webmaster Ray Cox said everything is posted and up to date. He did encourage members to send articles and pictures to him.

Historian Jim Mitchell, who is also Chairman of the Texas Society Patriot Graves Committee, reported that he has completed 1,000 entries to the Patriot Graves data base for the PineyWoods Chapter. He said this is an ongoing project.

Saturday, Nov 10, 2012, Jim attended the RevWar Patriot grave marking of Ensign James Head at Van(n)'s Creek Baptist Church, Ruckersville, GA, where we

presented the colors, fired a 3 volley musket salute, and performed Mourn Muskets while in period uniform. A TXSSAR PineyWoods Chapter #51 wreath was presented. The same followed at the grave markings of Patriot Moses Haynes, Patriot Leonard Rice, Patriot Torrence Merritt, Patriot Andrew Jackson Brown in Bowman, GA, at Holly Spring Baptist Church Cemetery. Jim's reported driving miles were 1,806 miles between Nov 7 and 12, 2012. He asked these activities be reported for the PineyWoods Chapter in the Americanism report.

Friday, September 14, 2012, Jim attended the RevWar Patriot Grave Marking Program held for Patriot Capt. James Moore, NY Provincial Co. of Artillery at Washington Crossing State Park, Washington Crossing, PA. In addition to my attendance, Compatriots Larry G. Stevens, James T. Jones, Jr. and Ronald J. Barker, and our wives, the PineyWoods Chapter, uniformed, presented wreaths, and toasted the memory of Capt. James Moore, who died Dec 25, 1776. Please record all for the PineyWoods Chapter in the Americanism report. My total driving miles were 366 miles from Washington, DC to Washington Crossing. The remaining miles were by air between Houston, TX and WDC (total of 2408 miles).

President Blackburn asked if there was any **new business**.

Compatriot Stevens asked for discussion on **three issues** under new business.

First, he proposed our chapter officers discuss reducing the number of dinner meetings to 3 or 4 a year; still in the evening, on the 3rd Thursday of the month; and decide which meetings would be dinner meetings. He proposed that 3 or 4 of the members' only meetings be changed to a Saturday morning breakfast

meeting; such as here, today, at Kingwood Country Club. After some discussion, all members present agreed to this proposal and any changes in which meetings and what times would be determined by the board with member approval.

Second, he proposed for discussion that the March Officer induction meeting held each year, where the President Elect of TXSAAR inducts our new officers for the next year be changed to a induction meeting consisting of three Dist. 8 chapters: Freedom, Robert Rankin, and PineyWoods; to be held in the month of March; and the new Chapter Officers for each chapter be inducted by the President Elect or his delegate at that meeting. The meeting location and date of this meeting would be decided by the three chapters. All those present agreed to pursue this and asked Dist. VP John Thompson to discuss this proposal with the Freedom and Robert Rankin chapters. John agreed to do so.

Third: Stevens proposed the officers discuss changing our officer's terms from one year to two consecutive years. After some discussion, all those chapter members present agreed that we should change the terms to two years.

President Blackburn reviewed the names of prospective candidates for the **Nominating Committee** that was present: Larry Blackburn, John Beard, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell, Kim Morton, Cannon Pritchard, Ben Stallings, Larry Stevens, and John Thompson.

President Blackburn read the names for positions for the 2013-2014 terms:

President - Ben Stallings

1st Vice President - Greg Goulas

2nd Vice President - Gordon Severance

Secretary - Vacant (Joe Potter was nominated but not contacted; acting Larry Blackburn)

Treasurer - John Beard

Historian – Jim Mitchell

Registrar – Larry Stevens

Genealogist – Kim Morton

Chancellor and Parliamentarian – Allan Henshaw

Chaplain – Cannon Pritchard

Sergeant-At-Arms and Quartermaster (flags & stands) – Larry Stevens

Webmaster - Ray Cox

The nominating committee approved this list of officers for March 2013 – March 2014.

The next meeting, a Dinner/Guest meeting, is scheduled for January 17, 2013. The proposed for 2013-2014 Officers will be announced.

Larry Stevens made a motion to adjourn if there was no additional business and Compatriot Jim Mitchell seconded the motion which passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Larry Stevens for/ John Beard



Notice of Proposed Constitution/Bylaw Changes

PineyWoods Chapter 51 Members:

At the December 15, 2012, Nominating Committee Meeting and Members Business Meeting at Kingwood Country Club, there was a proposal expressed to change PineyWoods Officers Terms from one (1) year to two (2) years. Officer induction would still take place at the March meeting, but each officer would serve until replaced not the next year but the one following. (An example would be: officers would serve from induction in March 2014 to, when relieved, March 2016). Our Chapter Constitution and Bylaws may/will need some revisions to change our officer terms to the proposed two (2) years. This requires a fifteen (15) day notification to all Chapter Members by the Chapter Secretary before any proposed changes can be made at a chapter meeting as stated in PineyWoods Chapter 51 Constitution Article XV.

This notice from the PineyWoods Chapter serves as the notification of the chapter members.

A Bylaws Committee chaired by our Chapter Chancellor will write the proposed revisions and these will be presented in an upcoming chapter meeting for approval.

Respectfully Submitted,
John C. Beard
Secretary
PineyWoods Chapter 51

November Meeting

At the November meeting Mary-Claire Beard was awarded the Martha Washington Medal for her support of the PineyWoods chapter and the TXSSAR society. Mary-Claire has been very supportive of PW programs and has also been invaluable in her support of husband John in his role as TXSSAR Treasurer.



Pictured above: President Larry Blackburn, Mary-Claire Beard, Larry Stevens and John Beard



November Meeting

Our speaker at the November meeting was Major Maury Millican, Chaplain. (Pictured top left and below) He discussed his work training chaplains, advising command, and counseling servicemen at Fort Hood. Major Millican was an engaging speaker and everyone was so interested in his experiences, especially dealing with his calling which occurred a bit later in his life. Pictured top right: PineyWoods President Larry Blackburn is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.



Pictured above: John Beard, Major Millican, Larry Blackburn and Larry Stevens



Several individuals were honored at the November meeting for their contributions to SAR. Pictured above, Compatriots John Beard, Larry Blackburn and Gordon Severance were awarded the Texas Bronze Service Medal. Compatriot Severance was also awarded the SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal and the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal (Pictured below).



Above PW President Larry Blackburn awards Diana Severance the Martha Washington Medal. Diana has been such an active member of our chapter attending meeting and color guard events. Our last Pine Shaving featured one of her excellent articles.





Color Guard & Community Events



Vann's Creek—Ruckersville, GA Patriot Grave Marking



Saturday Nov 10, 2012, I attended the Revolutionary War Patriot grave marking of Ensign James Head at Vann's Creek Baptist Church, Ruckersville, GA,. We presented the colors, fired a 3 volley musket salute, and performed Mourn Muskets while in period uniform. A TXSSAR PineyWoods Chapter #51 wreath was presented. The same ceremony followed at the grave markings of Patriot Moses Haynes, Patriot Leonard Rice, Patriot Torrence Merritt, Patriot Andrew Jackson Brown in Bowman, GA, at Holly Spring Baptist Church Cem. My total driving miles were 1,806 miles between Nov 7 and 12, 2012.

Compatriot James Mitchell

Pictured at left Compatriot Mitchell (l) with Georgia Color Guard

Kiwanis Christmas Parade Conroe

Compatriot Stevens, of Piney-Woods, joined members of the Freedom chapter in the Kiwanis Christmas Parade..

Pictured: Larry Stevens, B. J. Thompson, John K. Thompson, Dwayne Miskill, John Meredith and Dave Morton.

