



PineyWoods Newsletter



Happy Holidays to all!

I hope you are all having a great holiday season and looking forward to Christmas and the start of a new year. Our PineyWoods Chapter has had a very productive year and all of the thanks goes to our membership for making this happen. We have gained new members, which indicates a continued and growing interest in the Sons of the American Revolution, our ideals, service, and commitment to our great nation.

I look forward to having good attendance at our upcoming Member's Meeting on December 18th, in which we will nominate members for new Chapter positions. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated Chapter membership that takes a high level of interest in SAR and its success. See you Thursday December 18th and Merry Christmas!

Ben Stallings

Meeting December 18th Member Only

**Jimmy G's
307 N. Sam Houston E. Parkway,
Greenspoint
6:30 p.m.**

RSVP for the Meeting

Please respond with the number of people attending and names by Wednesday before the meeting date. ASAP to Larry Stevens wardtracker@aol.com or 281 361-2061

This Month in the Revolution

December 11, 1775 - Virginia and North Carolina Patriots rout Loyalist troops and burn Norfolk
Following the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, the British army was besieged in the City of Boston. The British were supported and supplied by the Royal Navy under the command of Vice-Admiral Samuel Graves, who was under Admiralty instruction to suppress the burgeoning rebellion. Under his orders,



vessels were searched for military stores and potential military communications. Laid-up vessels were stripped of their masts and rudders to prevent their use by privateers and military equipment was salvaged from readily-accessible recent wrecks.

When Admiral Graves was relieved in December 1775, these punitive raids were gradually abandoned. One of the last, undertaken to avenge British military losses to revolutionary Patriots, was the burning of Norfolk, Virginia, on January 1, 1776, instigated by Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia

December 22, 1775 - While those engaged at Ninety-Six were negotiating a truce, Col. Richard

Richardson was already on its way into the upcountry to arrest the leaders of the Loyalist party. Richardson decided that his mission was not affected by the truce signed at Ninety-Six and proceeded to carry out his instructions.

Receiving intelligence that the most active leaders of the opposition were encamped on Cherokee land, he dispatched a force under Colonel William Thomson (SC 3rd Regiment of Rangers), which surprised the Loyalists on the morning of December 22 and defeated them in the Battle of Great Cane Brake. Most of the Loyalist band were captured and sent back to face charges of sedition in Charleston. However, Patrick Cunningham and Col. Joseph Robinson escaped to the Cherokee Nation.

December 23, 1775 - The “Snow Campaign” - The Spartan Regiment and other Patriots, under Col. Richard Richardson, set out to attack a Loyalist unit that had camped in Indian territory (present-day Greenville County) for safety. Thomas Sumter participated in this as Col. Richardson's Aide-de-Camp. The patriots marched through several feet of snow in early December to accomplish this. The battle above was part of this campaign.



December 31, 1775 - The **Battle of Quebec** was fought between American Continental Army forces and the British defenders of Quebec City early in the American Revolutionary War. The battle was the first major defeat of the war for the Americans, and it came with heavy losses. General Richard Montgomery was killed, Benedict Arnold was wounded, and Daniel Morgan and more than 400 men were taken prisoner. The city's garrison, a motley assortment of regular troops and militia led by Quebec's provincial governor, General Guy Carleton, suffered a small number of casualties.

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This Month in the Revolution

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December 26 1776 – The Battle of Trenton took place on the morning of December 26, 1776, after George Washington crossed the Delaware River north of Trenton, New Jersey. The hazardous crossing in a severe snow storm made it possible for Washington to lead his force an attack the Hessian soldiers garrisoned at Trenton. Washington's men capture the entire garrison with negligible losses.



December 15, 1778 – The Naval Battle at St. Lucia, West Indies. Before and during the Revolution, the West Indies was considered economically to be the most valuable area in the world and St. Lucia was the jewel in that it changed hands many times. Since the French sided with the American colonists early in 1778, there had been many encounters with the British. On

September 7, 1778, the French Governor of Martinique, surprised the British at the Island of Dominica and seize the island. Then on November 4, 1778 the French fleet commanded by Admiral comte d'Estaing, sailed his large fleet of war ships, ten Man-of-War and four Frigates, from Boston for the West Indies. The very same day Commodore William Hotham departed Sandy Hook, New York with five Men-of-War and some Frigates escorting 59 transports carrying 5000 British soldiers under Major General Grant. Hotham was joined by Admiral Samuel Barrington at the Island of Barbados on December 10. The fleet sailed for Grand Cul de Sec, St. Lucia the morning of December 12. In route, the French fleet was blown off course in a violent storm which prevented them from arriving in the Caribbean before the British. During the evening of December



13th and on the 14th, Grant took control of the high ground around the bay. The arrival of the d'Estaing prevented the British from moving their transports into Carenage Bay forcing Admiral Barrington to move his war ships into a line of battle. On December 15th, Barrington was able to get most of the Transports behind his defensive before d'Estaing attacked with ten of his war ships. Barrington was able to repulse the attack and a second attack. Then D'Estaing sent his ships

Marines ashore at Gros Islet Bay on December 16th in an attempt to gain the high ground from the British and silence the British shore batteries, but Grant forced the local garrison and the Marines to surrender on December 28, 1778.

December 23, 1783 Gen George Washington surrendered his military commission in the State House at Annapolis to a grateful Congress. He declared, "Having now finished to work assigned to me, I retire from the great Theatre of Action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to the August body under whose orders I have so long acted. I here offer my commission, and take my leave of



The Snow Campaign: South Carolina 1775

By Larry G. Stevens

South Carolina was divided in 1775 with a large contingents of Loyalist supporting King George and Britain and another large contingent group of Patriots who wanted their freedom for self-rule from a tyrannical King and British Parliament. This difference between Loyalist and Patriots was found in the City of Charleston as well as throughout the colony with some area pockets sympathetic to one side or the other. A series of encounters between the two sides is called the Snow Campaign. Loyalist units were led by Patrick Cunningham and Thomas Fletchall, while the Patriots were commanded by Andrew Williamson, Richard Richardson, and William Thomson.

The conflict began when Ft. Johnson at Charleston was taken on September 15, 1775 by Patriot Militia led by Lt. Col Isaac Motte. Royal Governor William Campbell dissolved the Provincial Assembly and moved aboard the HMS Tamar. This left the Patriot Council of Safety in control of the Capitol, Charleston. On September 18, the patriots took Sullivan's Island, seizing a small ship and took supplies off of two British ships at anchor. Then on the 28th of September, patriots building up defenses at Cunningham Point were fired upon by the HMS Tamar. November 11 and 12, the patriot batteries fired on the Tamar with little effect.

On October 31, 1775, the Council of Safety learned the Loyalist had seized ammunitions at the Congaree River. These were destined for the Cherokee, so the Council of Safety on November 8th commissioned Col. Richard Richardson, the Commander of the Camden Militia, to raise a force and recover the powder and ammunitions and arrest the Loyalists responsible.

While Richardson was recruiting his army, Patriot Andrew Williamson with 560 newly recruited militiamen marched on Ninety-Six and struck camp at John Savage's farm. Williamson set his men to fortifying his camp and mounting three swivel cannon. Before marching out to attack a small force at Ninety-six, Williamson learned that Loyalist Major Joseph Robinson and Captain Cunningham, with about 1900 Loyalist were just a short distance away. Williamson met with his officers and they decided to stay in camp.

The next morning, November 19, 1775, the loyalist surrounded his camp. This led to negotiations with Robinson. During the talks, loyalist seized two of the patriots who were outside the fortified area causing shots to be exchanged. However, talks continued and after two days the patriots were allowed to march out leaving their three cannon.

November 27, 1775, Col Richardson gathered about 1500 men at the Congaree River, near present day Columbia. He then marched his force to Dutch Fork and camped near McLauren's Store. Here he captured a number of loyalist officers. Richardson issued a proclamation to the inhabitants to deliver the bodies of Patrick Cunningham, Henry O'Neal and others who had stolen the munitions and taken them to Ninety-Six.



Col Richardson
1704 - 1780

Richardson then marched toward the Enoree River and on December 12 reported the capture of Fletchall, who was hiding in a large bowl in a Sycamore tree about eight feet above the ground, and searching his farm found letters from Governor Campbell. He reported his army numbered more than 3500. North Carolina Militia commanded by Col Griffith Rutherford and Col William Graham joined him at the Enoree bringing their strength to near 5000.

The capture of Thomas Fletchall caused the Loyalist militia to disintegrate; a number fled deep into Cherokee Territory. Patriot scouts located a group of about 200 at a place called Cane Brake on Reedy Creek. Richardson dispatched William Thomson to Reedy Creek and on December 22, 1775, he surrounded the camp taking the Loyalist by surprise at day break, capturing men, weapons, powder and other supplies.

December 23, Richardson began the march back toward the South Carolina Coast. It began an unseasonable cold spell with snow accumulating to around 19 inches, making travel very difficult. The army was dissolved and Richardson dispatched 136 prisoners under guard to Charleston on January 2, 1776. These men were released later. The British forces at Charleston were defeated in June 1776 and sailed out of Charleston not returning until the fall of 1778.

GEORGE WASHINGTON



On December 14, 1799, at the age of 67, George Washington died at home in Mount Vernon of pneumonia, contracted a mere two days earlier. Those longer term members of the PineyWoods chapter will remember the discussion of his death by TXSAR President James Heath. He said that the physicians attending him bled him so many times that it was calculated that he lost over half of his blood volume during the past few hours of his life. By all accounts he was probably suffering from laryngitis which may have progressed to pneumonia. When he began feeling ill, he instructed his overseer to let a half pint of blood. The doctors continued this treatment. What is interesting that an anguished Martha Washington pled with the physicians and others not to bleed him. She did not believe in bloodletting.

On December 26, 1799, at the request of Congress, Representative Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee III (1756–1818) of Virginia—former cavalry commander in the Revolutionary War, later governor of Virginia, and father of Robert E. Lee—delivered a funeral oration before a joint session of both houses of Congress. His oration concludes with the following words:

” First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. Pious, just, humane, temperate, and sincere; uniform, dignified, and commanding, his example was as edifying to all around him as were the effects of that example lasting. [emphasis added]

“To his equals he was condescending, to his inferiors kind, and to the dear object of his affections exemplarily tender. Correct throughout, vice shuddered in his presence, and virtue always felt his fostering hand. The purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues.

“His last scene comported with the whole tenor of his life. Although in extreme pain, not a sigh, not a groan escaped him; and with undisturbed serenity he closed his well-spent life. Such was the man America has lost!

Such was the man for whom our nation mourns.

“Methinks I see his august image, and hear, falling from his venerable lips, these deep sinking words:

‘Cease, Sons of America, lamenting our separation. Go on, and confirm by your wisdom the fruits of our joint councils, joint efforts, and common dangers. Reverence religion; diffuse knowledge throughout your land; patronize the arts and sciences; let liberty and order be inseparable companions; control party spirit, the bane of free government; observe good faith to, and cultivate peace with all nations; shut up every avenue to foreign influence; contract rather than extend national connection; rely on yourselves only: be American in thought and deed. Thus will you give immortality to that union, which was the constant object of my terrestrial labors; thus will you preserve undisturbed to the latest posterity the felicity of a people to me most dear; and thus will you supply (if my happiness is now aught to you) the only vacancy in the round of pure bliss high Heaven bestows.’ ”

PineyWoods Chapter Officer Duties

PineyWoods officers serve two year officer terms. Although, we have modified duties of the different officer positions at times due to the availability of Compatriots willing to serve, we have not changed our officer position descriptions. Further, we have divided up the duties of a second Vice President where chapter members oversee our different youth programs.

The following can be found on the Chapter Web-site and is copied from our PineyWoods Constitution.

The duties of the officers of this Chapter, other than those usual under parliamentary law for the respective officials, shall be such as elsewhere provided in the Constitution and these By-Laws, and in the following sections of this article:

SECTION 1. President: The President shall appoint all standing committees and such special committees, as he deems necessary. He shall announce to the Chapter at meetings, or direct the Secretary to do so to the members by mail all actions and decisions of the Board of Directors. He shall represent the Board of Directors in all its dealings. He shall countersign all checks written on funds of the Chapter.

SECTION 2. First Vice President: The First Vice President shall fill the office of the President of the Chapter when the President is absent or unable to act. In matters other than presiding at meetings, however, he shall act only if the matter will not reasonably await the return of the President or his renewed ability to act. Duties of the First Vice President shall include, but are not limited to:

• Responsible for the Chapter Meeting Programs. • Assists the Chapter Genealogist with follow up on new member application issues. • Other duties or responsibilities as may be assigned by the Chapter's Board of Directors. • The President will appoint an Assistant to the First Vice President. The term of the Assistant to the First Vice President will be one year in length. He will be responsible for the Newsletter.

SECTION 3. Second Vice President: The Second Vice President shall, as provided for the First Vice President, will fill the office of the President in case both the President and the First Vice President are absent or unable to act.

Duties of the Second Vice President shall include, but are not limited by:

• Leads the Chapter activities in the area of Chapter sponsored Youth Contests, such as essay, oration, and poster programs. • Assists the Medals and Awards Committee in the performance of its official duties. • Other duties or responsibilities as may be assigned by the Chapter's Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Secretary: The Secretary shall have custody of all papers, books, files, and property of the Chapter, except such as pertain to the duties of other officers, and have same available for use of the Chapter at all meetings, or as it may direct. He shall keep the minutes of all meetings and present them for approval at the next regular meeting of the Chapter, after which he shall enter them in the minute book. Such minutes shall show the names of all members present at the meetings and the actions taken and other performances at same. He shall carry into effect all orders of the Chapter at meetings, except such as are directed to other officers and committees, and perform such other services for the Chapter as directed by it or its authorized officers, committees, and members. He shall keep all books, files, records, and property subject to inspection of all members of the Chapter at all reasonable times. He shall preserve all property of the Chapter in his possession from loss or injury, and permit it to be used for Society purposes only. He shall conduct all business and correspondence for the Chapter as directed by the President and/or the Board of Directors, except such as may be in the hands of other proper officers or committees for attention.

SECTION 5. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep the funds of the Chapter deposited in a good and solvent bank in an account or accounts, as may be authorized by the Board of Directors, in the name of the Chapter, and such funds may be withdrawn only on checks signed by him or the Assistant Treasurer and countersigned by the President or another Officer, as approved by the Board of Directors. At the last regular meeting of each year he shall make an annual report, in writing, to the Chapter showing all money and property of the Chapter in his possession, all that has been received by him during the year, and fully the manner of its disposition. He shall make such special reports during the year as may be called for by the Chapter or its Board of Directors. He shall collect from the Secretary all funds due the Chapter and make deposit thereof.

BY-LAWS

PineyWoods Chapter, No. 51 Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution as amended May 2000

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SECTION 6. Registrar: The Registrar shall keep a list of all members of the Chapter and their addresses, with the dates of admission to membership, dates of resignation, death, or other termination of membership.

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He shall make a report to the Chapter in writing, at the February regular meeting for the entire preceding calendar year, and at such times during the year as may be called for by the Chapter or its Board of directors, and deliver to his successor in office all the lists of members, books, papers, correspondence, and other property pertaining to his office.

SECTION 7. Genealogist: The Genealogist shall render such assistance to the Secretary and members of the Chapter as may be needed in compiling the genealogy for all applicants for membership, and give such advice and assistance in completing applications for membership as may be needed.

SECTION 8. Chancellor: The Chancellor shall be an attorney-at-law if one be included in the Chapter and it shall be his duty to give opinions on legal matters affecting the Chapter when such questions are referred to him by the proper officers. The Chancellor may also act as Parliamentarian at any of the meetings of the Chapter.

SECTION 9. Parliamentarian: The Parliamentarian shall be called upon by the President or the Board of Directors in all matters affecting parliamentary law in the course of meetings of the Chapter.

SECTION 10. Historian: The Historian shall, from time to time, make recommendations to the Board of Directors for the collection and preservation of historical and genealogical material, collect and record information in reference to historical sites and related matters, and keep a scrapbook or record of the events pertaining to the Chapter's history.

SECTION 11. Chaplain: The Chaplain shall open and close all meetings with prayer, and officiate in such other duties as the President or Board of Directors may direct

SECTION 12. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall lead the members of the Chapter into the meeting hall, bearing the flag, at the opening of meetings. Between meetings the flag shall remain in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, who will deliver it for use at meetings of the Chapter. During meetings he shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the President.

ARTICLE V - STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint the following standing committees, of not less than three (3) members each, whose duties shall be such as may be defined by the Board of Directors unless otherwise directed by the Chapter at a regular or special meeting:

Membership Committee
Credentials Committee, Genealogy Committee, Finance Committee, Program Committee, Publicity Committee, Visitation Committee

Also, the President may appoint such special committees as may be necessary from time to time.

Original By-Laws adopted by members of the Chapter at an organizing meeting held on Thursday January 13, 1994.

Thomas M. Green, President

Calendar of Events

National Society



George Washington Parade – Laredo, Texas – 21 February 2015
Spring Leadership – Friday, 6 Mar 2015 – Saturday, 7 March 2015 –
Brown Hotel, Louisville

125th NSSAR Congress – Friday, 26 June 2015 – 1 July 2015 – Galt Hotel, Louisville
Fall Leadership – Friday, 25 September 2015 – Saturday, 26 September 2015

Texas Society



120th TXSSAR Convention – 26 March 2015 – 29 March 2015
Greenspoint Marriott, Houston, Texas

November Meeting

Our meeting was held on November 20th at Jimmy G's at the Greenspoint area. President Ben Stalling was traveling so Past President Larry Stevens conducted the meeting.

Members and their wives were delighted to hear the presentation by District VP John Thompson. John continued his education on Paul Revere and his contribution to the Revolutionary War. The news from this week about the opening of the cornerstone of the Massachusetts State House was a great reminder of his presentation.

John Beard, introduced the chapter to the manager of Jimmy G's, and thanked her from the chapter for the wonderful meeting place and staff.



Massachusetts Statehouse — History Uncovered

A small metal "time capsule" was removed from the granite cornerstone of the Massachusetts Statehouse this week. This was done during a repair to the structure. Experts believe this to be the one placed by Revolutionaries including Paul Revere and Samuel Adams. The was done when Adams was State Governor.

The contents were removed about sixty years ago. At that time the items were wrapped in a cowhide but were transferred into the copper box. It is believed that coins, documents, newspaper and a metal plate were contained in the package.

The box will be x-rayed and then opened. It is believed that the contents may have deteriorated over the years. After examination, the time capsule will be returned to its original site.

The article at the right appeared in the Boston Reporter in 1948.

Its cornerstone was laid by Paul Revere, in a Masonic ceremony, in 1795. Samuel Adams, the doughty Boston patriot, was governor then. It was three years later, when Increase Sumner was governor, that the building was first occupied.

COST \$133,333.33

Tomorrow's ceremony will be pallid in comparison with the cornerstone laying. The stone itself was hauled on a truck by 15 be-ribboned horses, each with its own leader, and carefully placed at the top of the hill that once was John Hancock's farm, with a prayer that the building to be constructed would be as everlasting as the mountains.