



From the Editor December 25, 2016



Christmas is a special season and means many things to each of us. In this Issue, I took a little time to share two very different early American traditional Christmas Celebrations.

Barbara and I with the help of John and Mary-Clare Beard prepared a Christmas lunch for Janisue Rigel and her sister Devena Liepman. Janisue and Devena have sons and grandsons who are chapter members. This was a special and surprise occasion. As the immediate Past Texas Society President, with the help of Texas President Elect John Beard, I presented Janisue with the Martha Washington Medal for her work with the Texas society in 2014-2015 from Past Texas President Bob Cohen. I then presented her with the Daughters of Liberty Medal, the highest award, for her work with the Texas Society during my term of office 2015-2016. Janisue was not able to attend the state meetings to receive this awards do to the illness of friends. She was truly shocked.

Each December the nation remembers our Veterans. Memory Wreaths are place at the gravesites of those

men and women who served our country on a date each year called "Wreaths Across America, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. The Sons of the American Revolution supports this Annual Memorial; many of us and our forefathers served in the United States Armed Services and many of us served in areas of conflict. And, we all have ancestors who served in the American Revolution.

At the December 17th meeting the PineyWoods Chapter members present selected a slate of Chapter officers to run for the upcoming term from March 2017 to 2019. The slate is on page three.

As your chapter registrars, Kermit Breed and I have completed the applications for several new members and have four at the NSSAR Office in Louisville for approval. It is disappointing to us as to how many men join, being interested in the history of their ancestors and Texas SAR, but do not maintain their membership. However, we both agreed to continue serving the chapter as Registrars.

Please enjoy the Holiday Season,

Larry G. Stevens
Editor

Past President and Founding Member

**Meeting
January 21st
Member/ Guest**

Jimmy G's
307 N. Sam Houston E. Parkway,
Greenspoint
12 noon

RSVP for the Meeting

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

ASAP to Larry Stevens wardtrack-er@aol.com or 281 361-2061

This Month in the Revolution

December 25th 1776 Washington Crosses the Delaware to attack Trenton on December 26th.



December 25th, 1777 – George Washington and the Continentals encamp at Valley Forge.



December 14, 1799—Death of George Washington, while not a Revolutionary War event it was important to Revolutionaries still living.



December 2015 Meeting

PineyWoods Officer Nominations. December 17, 2016

Officers Nominated for Terms of March 2017 to 2019. The Slate of nominations must be publicized for a minimum of 30 days before election can take place.

President	Jim Pinkerton
1 st VP	Larry Stevens
2 nd VP	Todd Simmons
Secretary	Kermit Breed
Treasurer	John Beard
Chaplain	Cannon Pritchard
Chancellor	Brent Monteleone
Genealogist	Kim Morton
Registrar	Kermit Breed
Registrar	Larry Stevens
Historian	Ben Stallings
Sgt. at Arms	Larry Blackburn
Newsletter	Larry Stevens
Webmaster	Ray Cox

Election of chapter officers will be held at the February meeting and installation of officers will occur at the March 2017 meeting. If anyone would like to assist with the following programs please let us know: JROTC, Eagle Scouts, Knight Essay, Oration, Public Safety, Heroism, Color Guard



Wreaths Across America Remember our Veterans



Texas Society SAR District 8 VP and PineyWoods Chapter Past President USMC SGT Dr. Larry Blackburn participated placing wreaths at the site of Veterans Graves at the Houston Veterans Memorial Cemetery. SAR, DAR, 1812 and other community organizations throughout the USA participated in this activity.

All Veteran's graves at the Veteran Cemetery received a Christmas Wreath Dec 17. Well over a thousand volunteers including BSA, JROTC, Veterans, family and friends gathered on a cloudy day to honor our military heroes.



Larry
Blackburn

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans to early wars were treated and appreciated by our nation",President General George Washington.

"The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism.....It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn",George Washington



Conroe Christmas Parade Dec 10th

Larry Blackburn joins Freedom with Chapter President Dave Morton and John Thompson to march as the SAR Entry in this Annual Event on December 10th.

Calendar of Events



National Society

George Washington Parade – Laredo, Texas – 18 February 2017
Spring Leadership – 3-4 Mar 2017 Brown Hotel, Louisville
127th NSSAR Congress – July 7-13, 2017 — Knoxville, TN



Texas Society

122th TXSSAR Convention – 30 March – 2 April 2017
El Tropicana, San Antonio, TX

Piney Woods Chapter 51 Texas Society SAR

Meeting at Jimmy G's at Greenspoint, Houston, TX

17 December 2016

Larry Stevens, presided at the meeting with the absence of chapter President Joe Potter. He welcomed all to the meeting at 12:10 PM. After invocation by Cannon H Pritchard members recited the pledge to the United States and Texas flags followed by the SAR pledge.

COMPATRIOT PRESENT: Kermit Breed, Jim Pinkerton, Larry Stevens, Cannon H Pritchard, John K Thompson and John Beard

MINUTES: Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from the November meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Pinkerton reported a balance is \$3,701.98. Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Kermit Breed is working on a new application for John Schmonsees. Larry Stevens has finishing the application for Lark Leazar whose ancestor is Samuel Blythe. Larry has an old application for William "Bill" McKinney that is complete and given to Ray Cox for handling.

NEWSLETTER: December 2016 Pine Shavings newsletter will be on line soon.

FUTURE EVENTS:

January 21, 2017	Meeting at Jimmy G's at 12:10 PM
February 18, 2017	George Washington Parade, Laredo, Texas
Mar. 30-April 2, 2017	123rd Texas Annual Conference El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel. San Antonio

NEW BUISNESS: Nominations were made by the members in attendance which satisfied the Constitution and Bylaws definition of a Quorum. The following were nominated as Piney Wood #51 Officers to serve from March 2017 to March 2019:

President	Jim Pinkerton	Sergeant-at-arms	Larry Blackburn
1 ST Vice President	Larry Stevens	Chaplain	Cannon Prichard
2 nd Vice president	Todd Simmons	Chancellor	Brent Monteleone
Secretary	Kermit Breed	Webmaster	Ray Cox
Treasurer	John Beard	Newsletter	Larry Stevens
Genealogist	Kim Morton	Historian	Ben Stallings
Registrars	Larry Stevens and Kermit Breed		

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Feb. 18th, 2017	Annual George Washington Parade in Laredo Texas
Mar.30-Apr.2,2017	123 Texas Convention at El Tropicana in San Antonio

After the benediction by Cannon H Pritchard members joined together in the SAR closing. Larry Stevens adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Piney Wood #51 Secretary Kermit Breed

Piney Woods Chapter 51 Texas Society SAR

Meeting at Jimmy G's at Greenspoint, Houston, TX

19 November 2016

President Joe Potter welcomed all to the meeting at 12:18 PM. After invocation Cannon H Pritchard by members recited the pledge to the United States and Texas flags followed by the SAR pledge.

COMPATRIOT PRESENT: Kermit Breed, Joe Potter, Kim Morton, Jim Pinkerton, Larry Stevens, Ben Baskin, Cannon H Pritchard, Larry Blackburn, Ray Cox, John K Thompson and Alan Bowman
GUEST: Sandra Breed, Sarah Potter, Carolyn Bowman and John Schmonsees

MINUTES: Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from the October meeting.
Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Pinkerton reported a balance is \$3,802.76. Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Kermit Breed is working on a new application for Jerry Lenzinger, Richard and Christopher Fork. Larry Stevens has mailed applications for Nolan and Michael Richardson; and, Jeffery, Sharpe, Graham and Grumboski. Larry is finishing the application for Lark Leazar whose ancestor is Samuel Blythe. Larry has an old application for William "Bill" McKinney that is complete and will be giving to Ray Cox for Bill to sign and will mail it to the Coastal Registrar.

NEWSLETTER: November 2016 Pine Shavings newsletter is on line. As always, good job Larry.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Larry Blackburn reported PineyWoods will be presenting 36 JROTC awards. This is up from 2016 when PineyWoods presented Bronze JROTC Medals to 33 High Schools. State wide, 435 JROTC awards were presented to high schools.

FUTURE EVENTS:

December 17, 2016	Meeting at Jimmy G's at 12 noon
January 21, 2017	Meeting at Jimmy G's at 12 noon
February 18, 2017	George Washington Parade, Laredo, Texas
Mar. 30-April 2, 2017	123rd Texas Annual Conference El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel. San Antonio

GUEST SPEAKER; Larry Stevens gave a slide presentation and played the National Parks Service DVD on the Battle Of Cow Pens that occurred 17 Jan 1781. Larry also gave a slide show on what is believed to be what Revolutionary uniforms looked like from sketches by Lippard. And, he talked about Gen. George Washington's orders on Continental uniforms. There were no pictures; only a few paintings.

After the benediction by Cannon H Pritchard members joined together in the SAR closing. President Potter adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Piney Wood #51 Secretary Kermit Breed

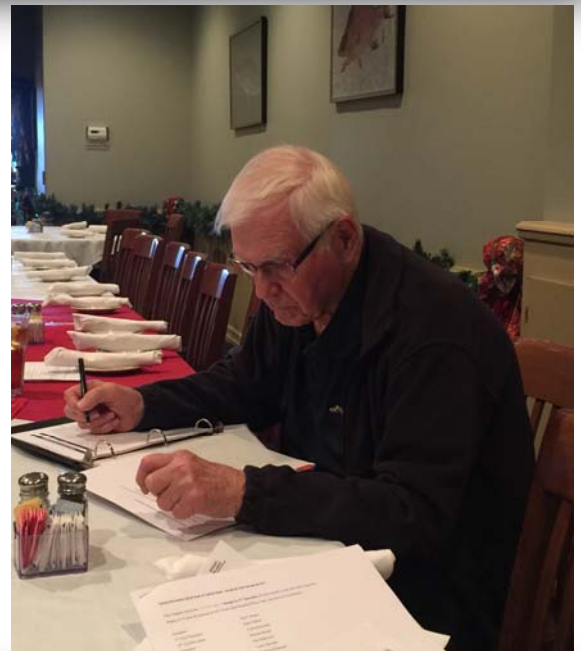
Kim Morton is presented a supplemental certificate from President Joe Potter. His Ancestor is David Roper who served on a Jury.



December 17th Meeting photos above and right

Above: John Thompson, Cannon Pritchard.

Right: Kermit Breed.



November 2016 Meeting below:

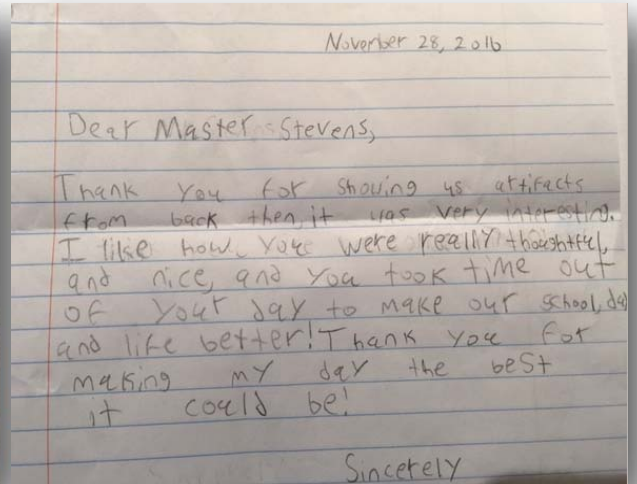
Left to right: Sandra Breed, Sarah Potter, Alan and Carolyn Bowman, John Thompson, Larry Blackburn and Joe Potter



Greentree Elementary Ray Cox

Ray Cox presenting "The Fife: A Weapon of War- A Day In a Continental Army Camp." at Greentree Elementary on November 17th. Ray and Larry Stevens both made presentations to about 150 5th graders. Stevens also presented the School Principal with the SAR Flag Certificate in recognition for properly displaying the US Flag at the school.

The thank you note from a student of Greentree makes the time spent at these presentations seem very worthwhile



John Beard, TXSSAR President-Elect, Janisue Rigel, and Immediate TXSSAR President Larry Stevens.

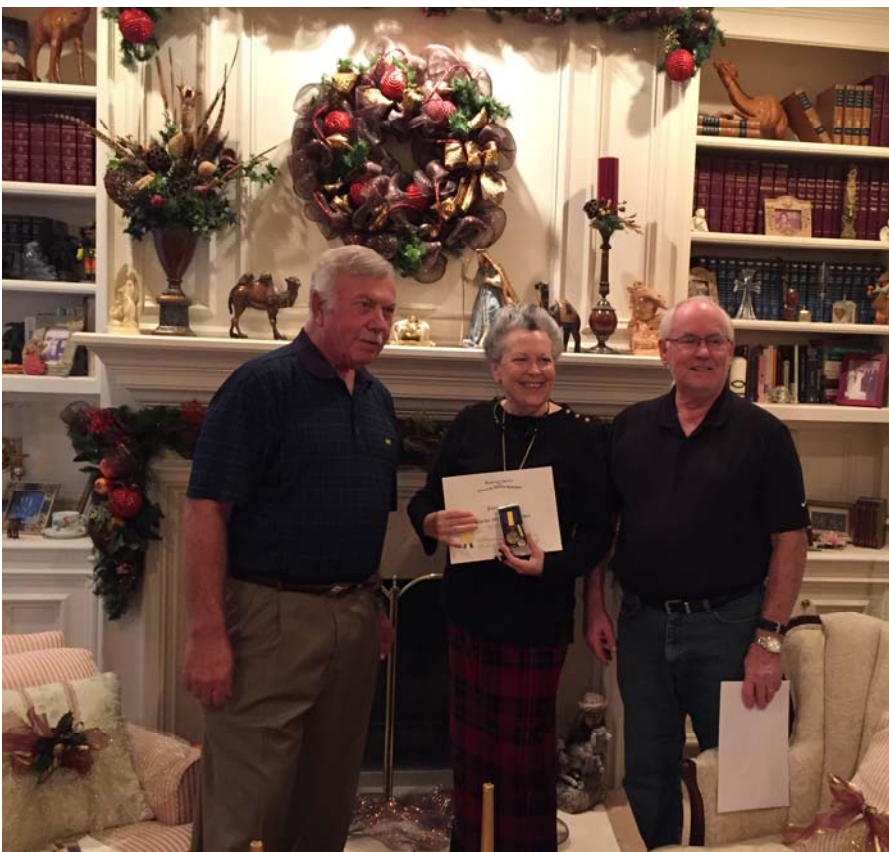
Janisue Rigel has been an avid supporter of SAR for many years. She has served as the TXSSAR meetings coordinator for BOM and State Meetings, provided support and encouragement for so many activities. Janisue and her sister Davena are patriotic supporters of the same youth programs that our chapter supports.

Janisue was presented with the Martha Washington Medal for her work with the Texas Society in 2014-2015 from Past Texas President Bob Cohen.

President Larry Stevens then presented her with the Daughters of Liberty Medal, the highest award a DAR member may receive, for her work with the Texas Society during my term of office 2015-2016.

These were truly well deserved awards, and the presentation of the medals was certainly long overdue.

Thank you Janisue Rigel for your support of SAR.

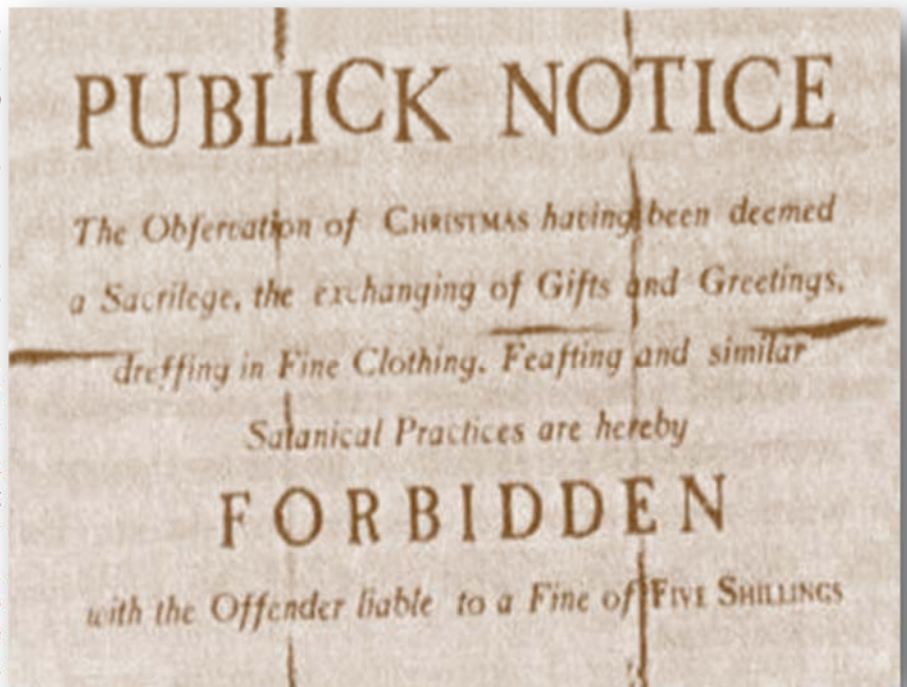


Puritan Christmas — The Massachusetts Way

“In their strict interpretation of the Bible, the Puritans noted that there was no scriptural basis for commemorating Christmas. The Puritans tried to run a society in which legislation would not violate anything that the Bible said, and nowhere in the Bible is there a mention of celebrating the Nativity,” Nissenbaum says. The Puritans noted that scriptures did not mention a season, let alone a single day, that marked the birth of Jesus.”

The noted Puritan minister Increase Mather wrote that Christmas occurred on December 25 not because “Christ was born in that month, but because the heathens’ Saturnalia was at that time kept in Rome, and they were willing to have those pagan holidays metamorphosed into Christian [ones].” According to Nissenbaum, “Puritans believed Christmas was basically just a pagan custom that the Catholics took over without any biblical basis for it. The holiday had everything to do with the time of year, the solstice and Saturnalia and nothing to do with Christianity.”

The pagan-like way in which Christmas was celebrated troubled the Puritans even more than the underlying theology. “Men dishonor Christ more in the 12 days of Christmas than in all the 12 months besides,” wrote 16th-century clergyman Hugh Latimer. Christmas in the 1600s was hardly a silent night, let alone a holy one. More befitting a rowdy spring break than a sacred occasion, Christmas revelers used the holiday as an excuse to feast, drink, gamble on dice and card games and engage in licentious behavior.



In his research, Nissenbaum found no records of any prosecutions under the 1659 law. “This was not the secret police going after everybody,” he says. “It’s clear from the wording of the ban that the Puritans weren’t really concerned with celebrating the holiday in a quiet way privately. It was for preventing disorders.”

The prohibition of public Christmas celebrations was unique to Massachusetts, and under the reign of King Charles II political pressure from the motherland steadily increased for the colony’s Puritan leaders to relax their intolerant laws or risk losing their royal charter. In 1681, the Massachusetts Bay Colony reluctantly repealed its most odious laws, including the ban on Christmas.

Hostility toward the public celebration of Christmas, however, remained in Massachusetts for years to come. When newly appointed royal governor Sir Edmund Andros attended Christmas Day religious services at Boston’s Town House in 1686, he prayed and sang hymns while flanked by Redcoats guarding against possible violent protests. Until well into the 1800s, businesses and schools in Massachusetts remained open on December 25 while many churches stayed closed. Not until 1856 did Christmas—along with Washington’s Birthday and the Fourth of July—finally become a public holiday in Massachusetts.”

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

This a part of an article, "When Massachusetts Banned Christmas" by Christopher Klein, December 22, 2015

For preventing disorders arising in several places within this Jurisdiction; by reason of some still observing such feasts, as were superstitiously kept in other Countries, to the Great dishonour of God and Offence of others It is therefore Ordered by this Court and the Authority thereof. That whosoever shall be found observing any such day, as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing labour, feasting, or any other way upon any such account as aforelaid, every such person so offending, shall pay for every such Offence Five shillings, as a fine to the County. And whereas not only at such times but severall other times also, it is a Custome too frequent in many places to expend time in unlawfull Games, as Cards, Dice &c: It is therefore further Ordered and by this Court declared. That after publication hereof whosoever shall be found in any place within this Jurisdiction playing either at cards or at dice, Contrary to this Order, shall pay as a fine to the County the sum of Five Shillings for every such Offence.

Penalty for keeping christmas

Penalty for playing at Cards, & dice

Puritan Governor interrupts sporting events on Christmas Day in the picture below.



Christmas In the American Virginia Colony

Larry Stevens - Editor

Not much to say about Christmas 2016. Store signs advertising Christmas sales were in the papers and stores before Halloween. Guess we should be used to this by now.

Christmas in the American Colonies varied; depending upon which colony.

Colonial Virginia Christmas can best be described by this 1765 poem from the Virginia Almanac (Royle):

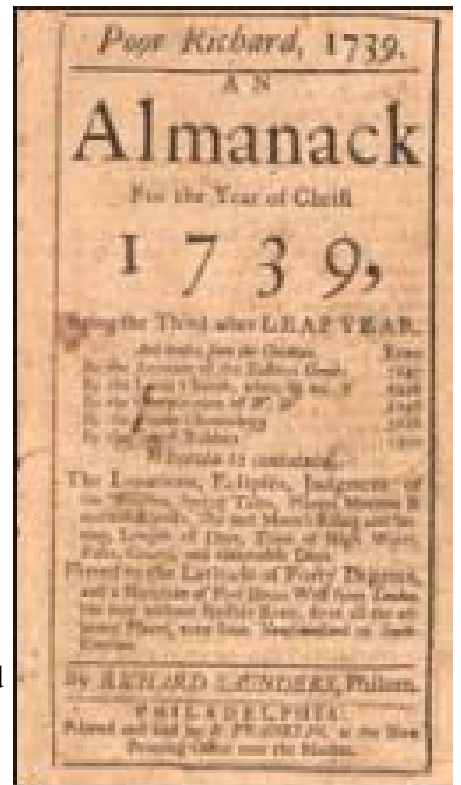
*Christmas is come, hang on the pot,
Let spits turn round, the ovens be hot,
Beef, pork, and poultry, now provide
To feast thy neighbors at the tide;
Then wash all down with good wine and beer,
And so with mirth conclude the Year.*

Englishmen who came to Virginia brought with them traditions from home. Like on the English Manors at home, they tried to recreate this interval of leisure and enjoy feasting, visiting family and friends dancing and playing games. These settlers did not forget Christmas.

Captain John Smith wrote that in 1609 that he kept *“Christmas amongst the Salvages: where wee were never more merrie, nor fedde on more plenty of good oysters, fish, flesh, with fowle, and good bread, nor better fires in England then in the drie warme smokie houses of Kecoughtan”*.

Kecoughtan, was originally Kikoton or Kikowton, named in 1607 after the Algonquian Indians who lived there when the Virginia Company landed at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

Researchers have found that a French traveler in a party of twenty stopped by the home of William Fitzhugh in Virginia 1680 and reported “There was good wine and all kinds of beverages, so there was a great deal of carousing” ...and the Fitzhugh’s provided the entertainment of three fiddlers, a tight rope walker, and an acrobat who tumbled around”.



The German’s who settled the Shenandoah Valley in the early 1700’ brought with them the tradition of **“belsnickeling”** at Christmas. Dressed in costumes and masks they went to the neighbors, house to house, and if the neighbors could guess who they were they had to remove their masks, if not, they were treated, sometimes with strong drink. The practice has also been known as **Kris Kringling**. This tradition was still around in the 1960’s.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Martha Washington's Christmas tradition was baking her favorite 40 egg cake for George, family and friends at the Mount Vernon Christmas Celebration. Her recipe was to, *"Take 40 eggs and divide the whites from the yolks and beat them to a froth. Then work 4 pounds of butter to a cream and put the whites of eggs to it a Spoon full at a time till it is well work'd. Then put 4 pounds of sugar finely powdered to it in the same manner then put in the Yolks of eggs and 5 pounds of flour and 5 pounds of fruit. 2 hours will bake it. Add to it half an ounce of mace and nutmeg half a pint of wine and some fresh brandy"*. Our own Dianne Jones has made this recipe. And her cake was yummy! You may wish to try it, it is quite good, though Dianne might point out, it is a long process. Surprisingly the frosting forms a hard shell. There is a modern equivalent published online. Since eggs were smaller then it doesn't take 40 jumbos but maybe more than two dozen. Remember too that egg production was seasonal back in those days so the eggs used at Christmas time were stored eggs. Our lady ancestors back then did not have the convenience of a Kroger or H.E.B.



Research does show that Christmas was celebrated in Virginia from the earliest time; however, the celebrations for the most part were on the 5th (some the 6th) of January, Epiphany; instead to December 25th, being the Twelveth Day after Christmas or Christmastide. The Twelve Days are celebrated by the familiar carol. The "Christmas Tree" tradition dates to England and Queen Charlotte wife of George III. She brought the tradition to her court in England. It was not until the 1840s that the tradition gained hold in America.



Celebrations began the evening of January 5th and ranged from quiet family gathering to rambunctious displays with the drinking of spirits (like flip, syllabub, wine, egg nog, and many favorite punches) and of course the firing of muskets.