



Pine Shavings



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

February 2012

Volume 22, Issue 2



A Message from the President

Compatriots: In February we elect the Chapter Leadership for the Chapter year 2012-2013. The slate was officially read to the membership as recommendations

form the Nominations meeting held in December 2011.

At this month's meeting, we will accept nominations from the floor. I would challenge those members who are not listed right to get involved. As you can see, there a couple of

positions that are held by one individual. There's plenty of room for folks to get involved. It doesn't take that much time to lend a hand and I promise you, you'll get more out of your membership by being involved. Anyway, I would like to thank all of those who have served this year and are willing to continue next year.

As many of you know TXSSAR has a strong contingent at the Laredo George Washington Parade which includes many from Piney Woods # 51. Your Chapter will also be represented in the annual Kingwood Mardi Gras parade. If you're interested they are both on Saturday February 18th. I thought it would be fitting to have a little information about George Washington in this addition of *Pine Shavings* so here it is. I'm sure this will be a refresher for most of you.

George Washington (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799) was the first President of the United States of America, serving from 1789 to 1797, and dominant military and political leader of the United States from 1775 to 1799. He led the American victory over Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army from 1775 to 1783, and presided over the writing of the Constitution in 1787. Washington became the first president by unanimous choice, and oversaw the creation of a strong, well-financed national government that maintained neutrality in the wars raging in Europe, suppressed rebellion and won acceptance among Americans of all types. His leadership style established many forms and rituals of government that have been used since, such as using a cabinet system and delivering an inaugural address. Washington is universally regarded as the "Father of his Country".

Washington was born into the provincial gentry of a

(Continued on page 7)

<u>Position</u>	<u>2012-2013 Nominees</u>
President	Larry Blackburn
First VP	Ben Stallings
Second VP	vacant
Secretary	John Beard
Treasurer	Greg Goulas
Chancellor	Allan M. Henshaw
Genealogist	Kim A. Morton
Registrar	Larry Stevens
Historian	Jim Mitchell
Chaplain	Cannon Pritchard
Sergeant at Arms	John Beard
Newsletter Editor	Larry Stevens
Webmaster	Ray Cox

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Piney Woods - Meetings - 2012

Feb 16—Member Only	Aug 16—Member Only
Mar 15—Member/Guest	Sep 20 — Member/Guest
Apr 19—Member Only	Oct 18—Member Only
May 17—Member/Guest	Nov 15—Member/Guest
Jun -- No Meeting	Dec 20—Member Only
Jul —No Meeting	<i>(tentative date)</i>

MEETING LOCATION

**Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway
Houston TX 77060
6:30 PM
See ya'll there February 16th!**

EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

Feb 18, 2012 - George Washington Parade, Laredo, TX
Kingwood Mardi Gras Parade—Town Center

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



State: www.txssar.org

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

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This Month in the Revolution

February 27, 1776—The patriots drive the Loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina on this date. After Lexington-Concord, the loyalist governor of NC began marshalling troops to assist in a planned British expedition into NC. Patriots in the area also began mustering. The Patriots and Continental units began their blockade of several routes. At Moore's Creek (near Wilmington) loyalists (described as "sword-wielding Scotsmen") charged the bridge. They were met with musket fire. Their force was scattered with one death and one captured. This seemed to quell any further loyalist uprisings in NC until late 1780.

February 6, 1778—The United States and France sign the **French Alliance** on this date. The Treaty of Alliance between France and the United States was concluded at Paris. The treaty ensured that neither France nor the United States would conclude a peace with England until the independence of the US was recognized. It also had provision for the defense of France should England attack. The knowledge of the Alliance came to Washington on May Day, 1778



A week later George Washington celebrated the Alliance in festivities at Valley Forge. The length and breadth of Washington's exuberance upon the arrival of the good news can not be more effectively shown than in the fact that two soldiers awaiting execution in camp were pardoned and restored to the ranks by him in testimony of his joy

February 14, 1779—Patriots Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke beat Loyalists at Kettle Creek, Wilkes Co., GA. The Georgia militia soundly defeated the loyalist militia which had been dispatched to British-controlled Augusta. This victory was another that demonstrated the South was not "loyalist controlled" and easy prey for the British.

February 23-24, 1779—American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes (in what is now Indiana) on the Wabash in the Illinois campaign on these dates. Clark had held Vincennes since the summer of 1778. The Indians and French of the area refused to support the English. However the British under Henry Hamilton quickly captured the area. In February 1779 Clark retook Vincennes and captured Hamilton. Virginia established this area as Illinois County, VA. Many say that Clark's victory in this far flung region established the US claim to the Northwest Territory. This territory doubled the size of the United States.



Youth Programs

President John Beard presented the SAR Eagle Scout Medal and Certificate, the BSA/SAR Patch. Michael orally, and without notes, presented his paper on the formation of the US Marines during the American Revolution.

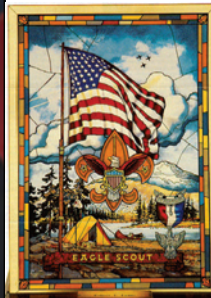
Eagle Scout Wilfong was presented a First Place check of \$200 in the PineyWoods Chapter 51 SAR

Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. In order to enter the SAR Eagle Scout contest, an Eagle Scout, before his 19th birthday, must submit a completed SAR Eagle Scout contest package with a list of his accomplishments in scouting, school, and community, a four generations ancestor chart, and an essay not the exceed 500 words on a subject on or during the Revolutionary War.

Pictured at right: PineyWoods Youth Programs Coordinator Larry Blackburn with Eagle Scout Wilfong and Chapter President John Beard. He is being presented his certificate for winning the PineyWoods competition.

Pictured below: Compatriot Larry Stevens presents Michael with the chapter award of \$200.

Pictured lower right: Eagle Scout Michael Wilfong parents Richard and Karen Wilfong.



Happy Birthday



February

William Francis Beard	Kenneth Cheatum	Jere H. Banewsk
Woody J. Reese	Joe Frank Potter	Andrew Evans
James D. Green	Donald P. Richards	Richard Glee Wood

March

Donald E. MacGregory
Steven Richards

MEMBERSHIP

At our January meeting we inducted new member Joe Frank Potter. Joe, who lives in Kingwood, is a Civil Engineer specializing in the construction of bridges. Joe's wife, Sarah, is a member of DAR and DRT in Kingwood. Joe and Sarah have two children and grandchildren.

Compatriot Potter's ancestor is Thomas Potter who was a soldier who served in Pittsylvania Co., Virginia. Thomas migrated to Kentucky after the Revolutionary war. He died in Warren Co., Kentucky on 14 Dec 1824.



Pictured above:
Larry Stevens, Joe Potter and
President John Beard present-
ing Compatriot Potter with his
membership certificate.

Pictured at right: Joe's wife
Sarah is pinning Compatriot
Potter's membership rosette.

Chapter Registrar Report

Larry Stevens

The National Application Status list has designated the following applications approved by the genealogists. We expect these applications to work through the system in the next few weeks. By next month the TXSSAR process should be finished.

Michael Stallings (national #182425; 8 Feb 2012)
Eugene Shuffield (number not assigned to date)
Eugene Shuffield, Jr. (number not assigned to date)

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

Baron Schneider (L*)
John Taylor (L*)
David Work (L)
Michael J. Streitman (L)

The following application is prepared and ready for signatures and submission to state registrar:

William McKinney

If you have any prospects, please contact me so that we can assist the prospective member with his application.

L* - Questions from national reviewers being addressed.

Note: The Taylor application was pended in 2009 and we just became aware of it. It appears documentation can be submitted to support this application

The Battle for Carolinas—Part V

The Battle at Haw River; also known as Pyle's Massacre and Pyle's Hacking Match

The disaster at Cowpens left Lord Cornwallis little choice if he was to succeed with his plan to control the Carolinas and Georgia. Shedding his supplies and wagons, but leaving some under a small guard, he headed his army of around 1,900 men north pursuing General Nathaniel Greene. He hoped to catch Greene before he reached the Dan River on the North Carolina and Virginia border. But he was too late. Greene had crossed the rain swollen Dan and had retreated into Virginia. At this point, Cornwallis decided the risk to his army was not worth continuing the chase so he returned to Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Camped at Hillsborough on February 19, 1781, Cornwallis began recruiting Loyalist to rebuild his militia forces. Dr. John Pyle, Chatham County, responded to the call, gathering 300 to 400 Loyalists. Dr. Pyle had supported the Crown previously in the War of Regulation, between 1768 and 1771 when other North Carolinians rebelled over taxes. However, he was not at the Battle of Alamance, May 16, 1771, when Governor Tyron defeated the "Regulators". Cornwallis responding to Pyle's request for an escort for his men by dispatching Banastre Tarleton with about 450 men to meet Pyle. But, Pyle did not move, he stayed put allowing his men to spend the time with their families.

In Virginia, General Greene resupplied his army and added more men from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and North Carolina, swelling his army to more than 4,000. Around 1,700 were regulars, with 3 year enlistments, and the rest militia. February 17th, Greene ordered Colonel Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee (with his cavalry) and Colonel Andrew Pickens (with Maryland infantry and South Carolina militia,) to go south

across the Dan and monitor British activity. They crossed on February 18th and scouts were sent out to ascertain the British position.



Light Horse Harry Lee

Lee learned that Tarleton was moving toward the Haw River (near Burlington, North Carolina) with a force of about 400 and had camped on the Haw. Lee and Pickens formed to attack but were too late, Tarleton had moved. Tarleton was following orders to meet up with Dr. Pyle's force not knowing Pyle had delayed marching his troop in violation of his instructions.

February, 24, Lee and Pickens captured two British staff officers and learned from them that Tarle-

ton was just a few miles ahead. Later that day,

Lee's Legion, who wore short green jackets and leather plumed helmets, encountered two of Pyle's men who mistook them for Tarleton's dragoons. Tarleton's uniforms

were similar. (see pictures) Lee took advantage of this confusion and learned Pyle's force was located nearby. Lee instructed Pickens' riflemen to flank Pyle's position and then rode into Pyle's camp in full salute. Lee and Colonel Pyle exchanged customary civilities and were shaking hands when the battle began.



Tarleton's dragoon uniform

Accounts from Colonel Lee and Captain Joseph Graham indicate that Lee's deception was purely by chance and that he had originally intended to avoid Pyle's Loyalist and instead continue after the more important Tarleton. But while Lee was shaking Pyle's hand, it is reported that one of his officers, Captain Joseph Eggleston, who was new to the south and knew little of local Whig and Tory badges, noticed red strips of cloth on the hats of Pyle's men. When he asked one of the Loyalist which side he was on, the Loyalist believing Eggleston was one to Tarleton's men said "King George". Eggleston immediately struck him over the head with his sword. Seeing this, Pickens riflemen attacked. Lee's cavalry also attacked causing the Loyalist to break and run, many were killed or

wounded. Pyle's men still believing the attackers were British continued to shout "King George". After 10 minutes the remaining Loyalist had fled, 93 Loyalist were

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January Meeting Presentation—History of the U. S. Marines

Compatriot Larry Blackburn provided the January meeting presentation. Dressed in his Revolutionary War Marine Uniform, with its accoutrements, he gave a very entertaining history of the formation of the Marines. He even had some great handouts. We all learned something new.

It was a distinct pleasure to have Eagle Scout Michael Wilfong assist Compatriot Blackburn with some of the demonstrations.

Pictured right; Larry Blackburn and Eagle Scout Michael Wilfong with a replica Marine



Pictured left is Compatriot Gary Housley, PineyWoods member from Billings, Montana. In January Compatriot Housley was awarded the NSSAR Military Service Metal and Certificate.

Compatriot Housley and Compatriot Stallings both have Thomas Hardeman as their patriot ancestor. Small world?



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killed, and many more wounded. Reports say, and even Cornwallis wrote, that many were hacked to death, thus the name "Pyle's Hacking Match". Local legend says Dr. John Pyle, wounded, crawled into a nearby pond, concealing himself until he could be rescued. Later, he surrendered to the local militia and was pardoned because of his care of the wounded.

Lee and Pickens never caught up with Tarleton. Cornwallis had ordered Tarleton back the evening of February 24th, and by the time they were near, they were too close to Cornwallis' camp to attack safely.

Larry Stevens

Sources

"The Cowpens-Guilford Courthouse Campaign" by Burke Davis, University Pennsylvania Press, 2003

"An Uncivil War: The Southern Backcountry During the American Revolution", Hoffman, Tate, and Albert, University Press of Virginia, 1985

"Loyalist in North Carolina during the Revolution", Robert DeMond, Duke University Press, Durham North Carolina, 1940

"Many Were Sore Chased and Cut Down fighting Cornwallis with Rockbridge Militia", Rockbridge Advocate.com by Odell McGuire, 1995

(Continued from page 1)

wealthy, well-connected Colonial Virginia family who owned tobacco plantations and slaves. After both his father and older brother died young, Washington became personally and professionally attached to the powerful William Fairfax who promoted his career as a surveyor and soldier. Washington quickly became a senior officer in the colonial forces during the first stages of the French and Indian War. Chosen by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 to be commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in the American Revolution, Washington managed to force the British out of Boston in 1776, but was defeated and almost captured later that year when he lost New York City.



After crossing the Delaware River in the dead of winter, he defeated the British in two battles, retook New Jersey and restored momentum to the Patriot cause. Because of his strategy, Revolutionary forces captured two major British armies at Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781. Historians laud Washington for his selection and supervision of his generals, encouragement of morale and ability to hold together the army, coordination with the state governors and state militia units, relations with Congress and attention to supplies, logistics, and training. In battle, however, Washington was repeatedly outmaneuvered by British generals with larger armies. After victory had been finalized in 1783, Washington resigned rather than seize power, proving his opposition to dictatorship and his commitment to American republicanism. He retired from the presidency in 1797 and returned to his home, Mount Vernon, and his domestic life where he managed a variety of enterprises. He freed all his slaves by his final 1799 will.

Dissatisfied with the weaknesses of Articles of Confederation, in 1787 Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention that drafted the United States Constitution. Elected as the first President of the United States in 1789, he attempted to bring rival factions together to unify the nation. He supported Alexander Hamilton's programs to pay off all state and national debt, to implement an effective tax system and to create a national bank (despite opposition from Thomas Jefferson). Washington proclaimed the U.S. neutral in the wars raging in Europe after 1793. He avoided war with Great Britain and guaranteed a decade of peace and profitable trade by securing the Jay Treaty in 1795, despite intense opposition from the Jeffersonians. Although never officially joining the Federalist Party, he supported its programs. Washington's "Farewell Address" was an influential primer on republican virtue and a warning against partisanship, sectionalism, and involvement in foreign wars.

Congressman Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, a Revolutionary War comrade, famously eulogized Washington:

First in war—first in peace—and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and enduring 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. 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.

Lee's words set the standard by which Washington's overwhelming reputation was impressed upon the American memory. Washington set many precedents for the national government, and the presidency in particular, and was called the "Father of His Country" as early as 1778. Washington's Birthday (celebrated on Presidents' Day), is a federal holiday in the United States.

During the United States Bicentennial year, George Washington was posthumously appointed to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States by the congressional joint resolution Public Law 94-479 passed on January 19, 1976, with an effective appointment date of July 4, 1976. This restored Washington's position as the highest-ranking military officer in U.S. history.



I find these trips back into History refreshing and informative. Remember, will be installing our newly elected officer group at the March 15th meeting. We'll have TXSSAR President Elect Bob Clark as our guest speaker. Also remember that the TXSSAR State Convention will be held in San Antonio March 23-25 at the Airport Hilton. Try to make it and see how your State Society works!

John Beard



Mary Claire Beard & Marty Cox



Cannon Pritchard, Kim Morton and Alan Henshaw

Photos from the January 2012 Meeting at Jimmy Gee's



Mary Claire Beard, Marty Cox and Sarah Potter



Ben Stallings



Compatriot John Worm a visitor from the Paul Carrington Chapter and Ray Cox



Larry Blackburn, Michael Wilfong, Ben Stallings, Larry Stevens, Richard and Karen Wilfong

RSVP FOR THE February 16, 2012 MEMBER ONLY MEETING

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday, February 14th. 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. Dinner is Dutch Treat.