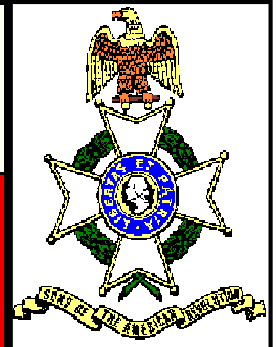




Pine Shavings



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

February 2013

Volume 23, Issue 2



Larry H. Blackburn, PhD
President

Compatriots – where does time go? My year of serving PineyWoods Chapter 51 as President is already ending. We vote for the new remarkable slate of officers at our February meeting and the swearing in ceremony is in March!

The year was busy and quite rewarding. Our membership has increased. Our participation in State and National level programs and events is vibrant. The root of this success is the rock solid basis of PineyWoods. Part of our discussion in the January meeting was making a change to the length of terms of office by chapter officers. We are considering changing the length of term from one (1) year to two (2) years. We reviewed the original Chapter Constitution and By-Laws which highlighted the diligence of the founding members of our group. Compatriots Stevens, Morton, Pritchard, Henshaw, Jones, Cox and others have served this group with passion for a long time. I have the distinct honor of calling each of these gentlemen friend and mentor. I have also been afforded the tutoring of John Beard, Jim Mitchell, John K. Thompson, Robert McKenna and others which has been most rewarding. I have a special bond with Ben Stallings, Gregg Goulas and Gordon

Severance. I look forward to working with the newer members as well. We have lots to do in the future. I will continue to encourage participation.

I can report that our youth programs are healthy and growing. We have recognized 26 JROTC Cadets, an Eagle Scout and an American History student, Alexandra Choukarova of Mayde Creek HS in Katy ISD who is our PW Chapter 51 entry in the TXSSAR Knight Essay contest. We recently added the Deer Park HS JROTC unit which brings the total of these programs to 27. We are tops in the State for actually presenting these awards in person at JROTC Military Balls and Awards Ceremonies. This year we are adding presentation of a Flag Certificate to each participating school. We also want to increase our recognition of first responders. 2013 will be another busy year for PineyWoods. I am looking forward to supporting the Chapter to the best of my ability.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting. God Bless.

Best Regards,
Larry Blackburn, PhD

In This Issue

Events/ Calendar	1,3, 10
Chapter News	3-7
Revolutionary History	2, 7-9
TXSSAR An- nual Mtg	10
Color Guard	6-7

PineyWoods - Meetings - 2013

February 21st	Member only	August 15th	Member only
March 21st	Member/Guest	September 19th	Member Guest
April 18th	Member only	October 17th	Member only
May 16th	Member Guest	November 21st	Member/Guest
June - July	No meetings	December TBA	Member

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

Some events this week:

- Feb 13, 1776:** Patrick Henry named colonel of First Virginia battalion
Feb 14, 1779: Patriots defeat Loyalists at Kettle Creek
Feb 15, 1776: Nova Scotia governor sends word of American invasion
Feb 16, 1778: John Adams prepares to sail for France
Feb 17, 1782: French and British battle in the Indian Ocean
Feb 18, 1776: Lord Dunmore sends note of "inexpressible mortification"
Feb 19, 1777: Congress overlooks Benedict Arnold for promotion

Winters in the Revolutionary War were brutal. It was a European custom to suspend hostilities during the winters. This was generally continued by the



leaders during the Revolutionary War. Remember that a significant portion of the War was fought in the North. One needs to look at the recent snow storm in the Northeast to understand how hard life must have been during the war. The historic winter of 1777 is an example of the hardships of just keeping an army together during winter. In fact, Washington

did not successfully keep all his militia during the winters. It is not surprising that the only notable battles during February were in the South — North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. There were exceptions. The Battle of Trenton, fought during a blinding snow storm, was a significant patriot victory over the Hessians. This led to the following victory in Princeton and bolstered Washington's stature and the confidence of the American army.

The Battle of Kettle Creek is covered in a separate article in this issue.

Slate of Officers for 2013-2014

Election to be held at the February Meeting

President - Ben Stallings

1st Vice President - Greg Goulas

2nd Vice President - Gordon Severance

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - John Beard

Historian - Jim Mitchell

Registrar - Larry Stevens

Genealogist - Kim Morton

Chancellor/Parliamentarian - Allan Henshaw

Chaplain - Cannon Prichard

Sergeant-At-Arms, Quartermaster and

Newsletter - Larry Stevens

Webmaster - Ray Cox

President

Larry Blackburn

Lblackburn@eereed.com

1st Vice President

Ben Stallings

Bbstallings@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Gordon Severance

gordonbseverance@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

John Beard

Johnbeard@suddenlink.net

Treasurer

Greg Goulas

greg.red.river@att.net

Chancellor

Allan Henshaw

Allan_henshaw@aigag.com

Genealogist

Kim Morton

genmorton@usa.net

Registrar

Larry Stevens

wardtracker@aol.com

Historian

James Mitchell

Chaplain

Cannon Prichard

cannon1@livingston.net

Sgt. at Arms

John Beard

Johnbeard@suddenlink.net

Newsletter Editor

Larry Stevens

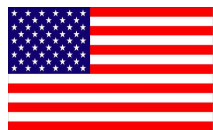
wardtracker@aol.com

Web Master

Ray Cox

coxmr@earthlink.net

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

Montgomery County Library, Conroe, TX— The PineyWoods chapter has a long tradition of contributing

to the Montgomery County Library to honor the memory of members and family. In the past the donations have been for the purchase of micro-film. In recent years the donations have been donated for genealogical resources, at the discretion of the library staff. On January 28th, Larry Stevens presented Genealogy Room with two checks to honor the memory of Berniece H. Blackburn, mother of Chapter President Dr. Larry Blackburn and Compatriot Ed Farmer. The library was very happy to receive the donation. Their budget was reduced significantly this past year and contributions like ours, though they cannot fill that significant gap, do help the library offer their fine services.



Proposed Constitution/ Bylaw Changes

In our last issue we discussed some amendments that had been proposed to the PineyWoods Constitution and By-Laws. Allan Henshaw researched the issue and presented his results at our January meeting. He found that the wording in our By-Laws and Constitution does not restrict the changes which were discussed in December of 2012. The only actions that now remain are to decide which actions the membership wishes to make. These can be made at one of our meetings.



Pictured above at our January meeting are Lawrence and Gordon Severance . Lawrence, a PineyWoods member was visiting his parents from out of state.

January Meeting

Our member-guest meeting was held on January 17th, at Jimmy Gee's in Greenspoint. Allan Henshaw, who had researched our Constitution and By-Laws, provided insight on what changes we might be able to make to our meeting schedule and officer terms. We were surprised to see that our governing documents are rather flexible in both areas. Handouts were very valuable in helping us understand our structure and options.

Jeffery LaRochelle, our Eagle Scout liaison, introduced the PineyWoods Eagle Scout Scholarship winner. Isaac Brocato attended our meeting with his parents, Richard and Diane Brocato. His essay was on his Revolutionary War ancestor, Levi Holden of Boston. He read his essay. Eagle Scout Brocato was presented with a Eagle Scout certificate and medal and check for \$200.

We were also favored with a visit by PineyWoods member, Lawrence Severance, who attended with his father Gordon and Diana Severance.



Allan Henshaw is presented with a SAR mug by President Larry Blackburn

Pictured below: John Beard, Isaac Brocato Jeffery LaRochelle and Larry Blackburn



January Meeting



President Dr. Larry Blackburn made a generous donation to the Piney Woods Youth Programs at our January meeting. His donation of \$500 will help our youth programs. We have been so fortunate to have benefac-

tors like Larry over the years which help us continue our programs. Larry has been so active in our youth programs. He has managed the JROTC programs at PineyWoods for years. We are so indebted to Compatriot Blackburn for his support of our youth programs.



At the January meeting two members, Ben Stallings and Greg Goulas, were given the Texas Bronze Service Medals and certificates. Pictured above: Ben Stallings with President Blackburn and below: John Beard, Greg Goulas and President Blackburn.





Color Guard & Community Events



Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia

On Thurs., Feb 7th Historian for Piney Woods Chapter # 51 traveled accompanied by his wife, Anne Sullivan Mitchell to represent Texas Society SAR at the 234th Anniversary Celebration of The Battle of Kettle Creek held at Washington-Wilkes Co., GA during the annual

Revolutionary Days events. Photographs of the reenactment battle and, wreath presentation at War Hill, Kettle Creek were taken by Anne, and are included here.

The events began with dinner on Friday, evening, the 8th —the dinner supported the **Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA)**. [Two Texas Society SAR members — Dale T. Williamson (Micajah Williamson) and me (John McAlphin) were officially registered as descendants of ancestors who fought at the Kettle Creek Revolutionary War battle on Feb. 14, 1779.] The Mitchells were seated Fri. evening at the **KCBA** dinner with Preston Thos. (Tom) Higgins II, Past KYSSAR State President; Junior Murdock, David H. Garr, a Gaar Family Revolutionary War descendant and Chuck and Charlie Scott, Jr., of the Kentucky Society.



Piney Woods, Jim Mitchell marching in tan frock coat and striped socks

The battle of Kettle Creek has been compared in significance to the Battle of Trenton in the North. The Kettle Creek defeat of British Loyalist force led by Col. John Boyd and his party of just under 600 by a smaller numbered Colonial Patriot force of approx., 340 backcountry, Whigs began a string of campaign combat successes including (1780) battles at Kings Mountain, SC, and Cowpens, that culminated the combined American and French Victory at The



Piney Woods, Jim Mitchell as soldier offering comfort to his commander

(Continued from page 6)



Wreath prepared by Anne Mitchell from Piney Woods Chapter

Siege of Yorktown on Oct. 19, 1781!

On Saturday, at 8:15 a.m., sixty Continental Army, Patriot militia uniformed (including Jim) NSSAR

Nancy Hart, Georgia Heroine

Nancy Hart was one of those heroines that would make an exciting movie. A plucky woman whose courage, steely wit and pioneer ways made her bravery legendary. She would have been played by one of the glamorous starlets; this would have been done an huge disservice to this woman. No one quite knows just when or where she was born, but it was probably sometime in the 1730s or 1740s in North Carolina or Pennsylvania. She was a cousin of Rev War General Daniel Morgan and her husband was related to the Hart-Benton families of Tennessee and Missouri. The families moved to Georgia in the 1770s.

She was an imposing woman. She was described as tall (six foot) and gangly, with red hair and pox marked (not unusual for the day) and crossed eyes. The Indians called her Wahatche or "war woman." She was never slow to avenge a wrong done to family or friends. She had eight children.

One of the most famous of her exploits during the

Color Guard members carrying flags and militiamen with arms, fife & drum for the annual parade at Washington Square. Afterward, the parade rendezvoused at the site of the Memorial park, creek and woods located behind the Washington Square Courthouse for the *living history reenactment battle* between Col. John Boyd's Loyalists and rebel backcountry Whigs commanded by Col(s). John Dooley, Andrew Pickens, and Elijah Clarke.

Submitter: James E Mitchell, Chapter Historian
Chairman, Texas Society Patriot Grave Registry

Participants in the Battle of Kettle Creek can be found in RootsWeb (Although the list does not list all of the some 340 Militia men under Col's Dooley, Clarke and Pickens. Accounts of this Battle can be found on-line. Please see the program and battle description by the Georgia Society SAR at georgiasocietysar.org.)



Revolutionary War happened in her cabin on the frontier of what is now Elberton Co., GA. Five or six Tories came by her cabin looking for Whigs or food. They shot her turkey and then demanded she cook it for them. While cooking she sent her daughter Sukey to the well for water, instructing her to warn the neighbors. She fed them and wined them and when they were properly off their guard began slipping their guns out to Sukey through a hole in the wall. One of the Tories saw what they were doing and ordered her to stop. She told him to sit. He didn't and she shot him and another man who rushed her. When her husband and other men returned they hanged the rest. The Tory's skeletons were found in 1912 by road crews.

Other stories of her bravery include her service, while dressed as a man. She would enter Tory camps posing as a man who was somewhat simple. They did not consider the "slow" man a threat and carried on their business while she was there. She reported her intelligence to the patriots. Some stories place Nancy Hart at the Battle of Kettle Creek.

Thomas “Burnfoot” Brown and the Georgia Revolution

Political sides were taken in Georgia long before Lexington and Concord. The Intolerable Acts taxing popular goods and limiting trade were opposed by most Savannah Merchants and Georgians. However, many backcountry settlers still tended to support the crown. In January 1775, Royal Governor James Wright allowed an unofficial Provincial congress to meet instead of the official assembly. Political opinions split the body of representatives with the result of an agreement to support the anti-Crown American Association being formed in other colonies. Names were taken of those who did not support the Association and these individuals were shunned economically and socially resulting in hard line political differences between the loyal supporters of the Crown and those supporting independence.

The last thing Thomas Brown wanted to be was the “Notorious Tory Guerilla Fighter” during the Revolutionary War. All he wanted to be is a prosperous gentleman planter in Georgia. Thomas was born May 27, 1750 in the port town of Whitby, in Norse meaning “white settlement,” which is at the mouth of the River Esk in Yorkshire England. His father Jonas Brown was a wealthy and well respected business man who owned a shipping company and had a regular trade route to South Carolina. Thomas was well educated with the classic curriculum of French, Latin, Greek, Roman history, and literature. After failing to obtain a well appointed government position, Thomas decided to become a planter in Georgia.

A young 24 year old Brown arrived in Savannah during November 1774, with about 70 indentured servants from Yorkshire and the Orkney Islands, seeking land to establish a plantation. Georgia Royal Governor James Wright was greatly impressed with young Brown, he was a gentleman, well educated, and just the type he wanted to settle in Georgia. The rough and tumble frontiersmen who were settling in Georgia for the most part were difficult to control and deal with. Brown was

named a Magistrate and given a track of 5,600 acres at five pounds sterling north of the Little River and west of Augusta. The land was recently obtained by Wright from the Cherokee to help pay off their debts to colonial traders. However, Brown found this track far too dangerous with the Creek Indians attacking the settlers. The Creek felt their claim to the land was better than the Cherokee. Brown selected another track between the Big and Little Kiokee Creeks about 30 miles northwest of Augusta. He named his settlement Brownsborough. While his settlers cleared the land, Brown decided to build a home in Augusta. Nearby lived Robert Mackay who welcomed the young planter to Augusta.



The news of Lexington and Concord reached Savannah and on May 11, 1775, Whigs, calling themselves the Savannah Committee to Safety, broke into the powder house taking arms and powder. This patriot group formally met in Savannah on June 21. In July, Brown, an outspoken supporter of the Crown, declared he would use his office to support the King and set about organizing a Loyalist Association to oppose the Georgia Provincial Congress and the Councils of Safety. A new group of patriots calling themselves “The Liberty Boys”, a local “Sons of Liberty” took exception to Brown’s politics, and decided to visit the outspoken Brown and make an example out of him.

The mob led by Capt Robert Hamilton, Thomas Graham, and Chesley Bostick “visited” a number of Loyalist homes before finding Brown on August 2, 1775 at the home of his friend James Gordon. The crowd confronted Brown on the porch demanding that he sign an oath to the Association. Brown said he could not do so; that he could never lift up arms against government that gave him so much (2). Brown’s arguments were somewhat persuasive in that about half of the crowd left. But, shortly after they left the remaining mob attacked him. While trying to defend himself with pistols and sword, he was struck in

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

the back of the head fracturing his skull, leaving and injury that would never quite heal and causing him constant headaches. Brown was beaten, scalped, and tar and feathered then tied to a tree. Fire wood was piled around his feet and set afire while the mob delighted in his screams, shouting derisive epithets. Before he died in the fire, he was cut down from the tree, strapped to a rail and paraded through Augusta. Finally, he was released to his friend Martin Weatherford who found medical attention for him. Thomas lost two toes to the fire and his legs were badly burned. He spent weeks recovering and when able to ride a horse, he headed for the Loyalist stronghold at Ninety-six. Brown swore to return and seek out his torturers with a vengeance.

But Brown was not an idle person. He spent his time enlisting loyal men to defend the Crown. Many Scots in South Carolina chose the support the Crown which seems odd considering their history. When the last Scottish Rebellion was crushed by the British Army 1745-1746 at the Battle of Culloden, the Highlanders were removed from their lands, rounded up and shipped to Ulster or today Northern Ireland; and they were forbidden to immigrate to the colonies. But in the 1760 and 1770's, many made their way to the south. A large number to these Scots viewed the rich Virginians and New Englanders leading the Continentals no different than the rich landowners and British officials that removed them from their homes in Scotland. They did not trust these northern leaders so about a third in South Carolina supported the King. Another third were Continentals and the last just wanted to left alone. Because of these sentiments by many of the Scots and others, Brown was able to successfully recruit loyalist militia for British service from 1775 up until the end of the war in 1783.

Having lost control of Georgia and South Carolina in 1775, Thomas left Savannah with Governor Wright for British St. Augustine, Florida on January 18, 1776. In St. Augustine, Brown received a commission as Lt Col of British Militia and approval to raise a force of loyalist and Creeks to attack Whig strongholds in Georgia and South Carolina. Brown led very successful campaigns by picking his fights and losing nearly none arousing great jealousy among regular British officers who had not been successful. His Tory militia known as the Kings Rangers and Creek Indian units were feared throughout the Carolinians; especially the

Creeks who did not take prisoners. December 1778 found Brown once again heading back home to Augusta, in support of British Lt Col Archibald Campbell. Brown played a major role in the planning and execution of the battle to retake Augusta in January 1779. However, Campbell felt his position in Augusta to be untenable due to Whig forces and ordered a march back to Savannah on February 14, 1779; *the same day Elijah Clarke and his force attacked British Col. Byrd at Kettle Creek some 30 miles away.* Brown remained in the frontier of Georgia and along the Florida border with his force of Rangers and around 1,000 Creek Indians.

September 1780, Lt Col Thomas Brown was back in Augusta at his old friend's house, Robert MacKay, when what is called the First Battle of Augusta began. Brown, after the initial attack by Clarke's militia, fortified the MacKay house and held off fierce assaults by Continental militia. However after a couple of days, Clarke learned of a British relief force headed his way and when his men heard this they began to retreat which turned into flight. Seeing this, Brown emerged from the house and ordered his Rangers to pursue, capturing several Patriots. Brown identified thirteen of these prisoners as men who had sworn allegiance to the Crown so he had them hung by their necks in the stairwell of the McKay house. News of the lynching spread quickly through Georgia and the Carolinas. This, coupled with the atrocities of his Creek friends, branded Brown as Burnfoot Brown, the unscrupulous murderer and villain.

Brown remained until the Second Battle of Augusta June 5, 1781, where he was compelled to leave Fort Cornwallis. Brown was captured and Gen Nathaniel Greene managed to parole him. After agreeing not to reenter the war, Greene sent Brown to Savannah. Greene feared his own men would kill him. Brown left Savannah in 1782 for St. Augustine never to return to Georgia.

Larry Stevens

1. John McKay, "*Speaking Ill of the Dead, Jerks in Georgia History*", Copyright 2012, Morris Book Publishing, LLC
2. Dr. Charlene Kozy, "*Revealing Thomas Brown*", Article in the Fall 2009 Issue of Times of the Islands.
3. The New Georgia Encyclopedia (On Line)
4. Wikipedia

Note: *List of Loyalist Militiamen in the Kings Rangers under Lt. Col. Brown can be found in Ancestry.com; as well as lists of "Refugees" where col. Brown is listed*

SAR Annual Convention— Dallas, Texas

Dallas, Texas — April 4-7, 2013

Our annual convention will be held in Dallas this year. This is the home of our President Robert Clark. For those members who have not attended a state meeting, you should not miss this if you can make it. It is a chance to meet other compatriots from all over the state and usually at this time one gets the chance to meet National Officers and candidates for National Office. President General Stephen Leishman and his lady Janet will be in attendance and will swear in our newly President.

Compatriots will consider old and new business and elect officers for the upcoming year.

Dallas is the host chapter and has planned some excel-

lent activities. These include the following:

- Genealogy Seminary on Thursday before the meeting. Noted Revolutionary War Historian and former Dallas Library Lloyd Bockstruck will conduct the seminar at Southern Methodist University. If you haven't heard him speak you are in for a real treat.
- Friday, dinner on your own at the Ozona Grill and Bar.
- Youth Awards luncheon featuring the State winners in the JROTC, Eagle Scout, Oration and Essay contests. This event is a real treat.
- The Ladies Tour on Friday will visit the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.
- The Saturday night banquet will feature the swearing in of new state officers, and usually the roasting of the outgoing State President. Bob Clark is probably really looking forward to this event!!

Registration Form
 TXSSAR ANNUAL MEETING, April 4-7, 2013
 Wyndham Dallas Love Field
 3300 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235
 (Each Member should use a separate form.)

Mail this form with payment to: Charles Baker, TXSSAR Annual Meeting, 8600 Skyline Dr. #1005, Dallas, TX 75243. You may also register on-line. There is a small charge for credit card transactions for on-line registration.

SAR Member Name: _____ Chapter: _____
 Chapter Office (if any): _____ SAR/TXSSAR Office (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____
 City/ZIP: _____ State: _____
 Telephone # (Cell Preferred): _____ Confirm E-mail Address: _____
 Name of Spouse (if attending): _____ Will you bring your car? _____
 Names of other Guests: _____
 Estimated Day and Time of Arrival: _____
 Do you or any guest have special dietary or disability requirements?: Yes No
 If yes, please describe: _____

EVENT	#People	COST	TOTAL
Registration Fee (SAR Members only):		\$35	35.00
Thursday: Casual outing to SMU for Genealogy Seminary by Lloyd Bockstruck, followed by Dinner on your own at Ozona Grill & Bar, 4615 Greenville Ave. (near SMU). Vans leave hotel at 5:30 p.m., arrive at seminar at 6:00, arrive at Ozona at 7:15, and back to hotel.		\$10 (includes van from hotel to SMU, to Ozona, back to Hotel.) [We strongly recommended that you take the van, as parking at SMU is tight.]	
Friday Ladies' Tour of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Vans leave hotel at 12:30 p.m. Arrive back at hotel at 3 p.m. Deadline for tour registration: 3/21.		\$22 (includes van from hotel to Museum, admission and movie, and van back to hotel.)	
Saturday Youth Awards Luncheon (Chicken)		\$23.00	
Saturday Night Banquet (Beef)		\$34.00	
Saturday Night Banquet (Fish)		\$34.00	
Sunday morning 1812 Breakfast Buffet, 7 a.m.		\$10.00	
TOTALS (Include check to TXSSAR)	Calculate		35.00

MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

Location: Wyndham Dallas Love Field (Directly across Mockingbird Lane from Love Field)
 Wyndham Reservation Line: 214-357-8500 You must mention the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, in order to get the price of \$100 per night, single or double, plus tax per room per night. Room includes Wi-Fi, Exercise/Fitness Center, Outdoor pool. Cut-off date for this price is March 21, 2013.

SILENT AUCTION

At our state meetings the hosting chapter usually organizes a Silent Auction to raise funds for the Patriot Fund. The Patriot Fund is used for our youth programs. The host chapter has asked that each chapter donate an item of \$50 value or that members bring items to be used in the auction.

The TXSSAR website has a slideshow of the items collected thus far at the following url:
<http://www.txssar.org/pdf/Mar13ConfSilentAuctionFlyer.pdf>

Registration form can be found at the following site:

<http://www.txssar.org/pdf/Apr13ConvReg.pdf>