



# Pine Shavings



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

February 2014

Volume 24, Issue 5



Dear Compatriots,  
We are looking forward to a very active next few months in the PineyWoods Chapter 51, to follow up a very active last few months. Our meetings have been well attended, and we continue to get new member inquiries. Our membership has been particularly active with Regional, State, and National SAR meetings. Interest in the SAR and our activities is getting a great deal of visibility and our strong membership and SAR ideals are instrumental in promoting this visibility. I encourage you all to plan ahead and attend our upcoming meetings as we have some exciting events and in particular, our JROTC activities for the spring school season.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.  
Very best regards,  
Ben Stallings, President, SAR PineyWoods Chapter

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<b>Meetings - 2014</b>	
February 20, 2014	Member
March 20, 2014	Member-Guest (Officer Induction)
April 17, 2014	Member
May 15, 2014	Member Guest
August 21, 2014	Member
September 18, 2014	Member/Guest
October 16, 2014	Member
November 20, 2014	Member/ Guest
December 18, 2014	Member

**Meeting—February 20th**

**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 their names by Tuesday before the meeting date. Please RSVP ASAP, to Ben Stallings [bbstallings@gmail.com](mailto:bbstallings@gmail.com) or John Beard [Johnbeard@suddenlink.net](mailto:Johnbeard@suddenlink.net)  
**NOTE THAT THIS IS A MEMBER MEETING AT JIMMY G'S.**

**Piney Woods Officers**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**National Events**

- ⇒ George Washington Parade Laredo February 22, 2014
- ⇒ Spring Leadership and Trustee Meeting Brown Hotel Louisville February 28 - March 1
- ⇒ NSSAR 124<sup>th</sup> Congress Greenville, South Carolina July 18 – 24, 2014



**Texas Events**

- ⇒ TXSSAR 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Omni Hotel, 9821 Colonnade, San Antonio, Mar 27-30, 2014
- ⇒ TXSSAR Fall BOM October – Location Not Selected



**DO NOT FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO.**

The state meeting is a great time to meet new friends and renew old friendships.

We have our youth luncheon which features the winners of all of our contests.

- Orations
- JROTC Enhanced Scholarship
- Poster Contest
- Eagle Scout Contest
- Essay Contests

This is the meeting in which your new state officers are installed at the Saturday night banquet.

## February in the Revolution

*“Liberty must at all hazards be supported. But if we had not, our fathers have earned their estates, their pleasure, and their*



*We have a right to it, derived from our Maker, and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, blood.”* **John Adams**

**February 13, 1776** – Patrick Henry named colonel of the First Virginia battalion and was charged to guard the store of gunpowder at Williamsburg. In April 1776, Virginia’s Royal Governor Lord Dunsmore attempted to take the magazine. Henry mustered his militia and held Dunsmore’s force in check until a truce was negotiated by fellow Patriot Carter Braxton.



**February 1, 1775** - Lord Chatham’s Provisional Act that would maintain the ultimate authority of Parliament sovereignty, while meeting colonial demands for fundamental liberties – no taxation without consent, independent judges, trial by jury, along with the recognition of the American Continental Congress was defeated. William Pitt, First Earl of Lord Chatham 1707 – 1778 – known as Chatman or William Pitt the Elder to distinguish him from his son who also served as Prime Minister of Britain.

William Pitt the Elder, Lord Chatham

**February 6, 1778** – France signs a Treaty of Alliance and a Treaty of Amity and Commerce negotiated by Benjamin Franklin after the Washington Army captures the British army at Saratoga. William Pitt urged in Parliament to make peace with America, however, those members of Parliament who had sympathized with colonial grievances now turned against the American rebels.

**February 13, 1801** – The Federalist Congress passes the Judiciary Act. “Midnight Judges” – Within twelve years of the establishment of the federal judiciary, Congress approved a sweeping reorganization of the nation’s court system and significantly expanded federal jurisdiction. The Judiciary Act of 1801 reduced the size of the Supreme Court from six justices to five and eliminated the justices’ circuit duties. To replace the justices on circuit, the act created sixteen judgeships for six judicial circuits. The U.S. circuit courts over which the new judges were to preside gained jurisdiction over all cases arising under the Constitution and acts of the United States. *Many appointments were made at night or so claimed; Thus, Midnight Judges.*





# January Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2014

The speakers for our Thursday evening Members and Guests dinner were Major Johnny Nail USAF Retired and Cadet Elizabeth Mulloy from Kingwood Park High School. Major Nail spoke about JROTC; he reminded us that first of all, JROTC is not a military

organization but a part of the school curriculum. The mission of the AFJROTC program "is to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals." The objectives of the AFJROTC are values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and sense of accomplishment. The Cadets participate in many programs all designed to promote discipline and leadership responsibilities. Cadets can participate in many of these programs; **Armed and Unarmed Regulation** which is a group trained

for exhibition purposes in precision marching and the manual of arms; **Color Guard; Physical Training; Air Rifle; Swim Team; Remote Control** for the RC airplane and car enthusiast; **Rocketry**; and **Orienteering**, which is a training exercise in land navigation. Many programs are designed as team in which they compete in "meets" against other school's JROTC teams. These events are local, state and national. The competition creates a shared pride in the units competing much like one is seeing in the Olympics this week. He said the Cadets enjoy these events, especially when they excel in completion events.

Major Nail indicated one of the greatest problems in participating in these competitions is funding both for the program and travel to the events. He said that funding for the JROTC Programs is facing increased competition with other government programs and has been reduced. Another more lo-



Major Nail and Larry Blackburn



In Front: Major Nail, Cadet Mulloy and Larry Blackburn  
Seated: John Beard, Ben Stallings, John Thompson (in front of Ben), Alan Henshaw, Larry Stevens, Kim Morton

cal problem is finding support to cover local expenses, such as travel. Cadets, in most cases, are paying their expenses. Some cadets cannot afford this expense, so, they rely on fund raising events sponsored by the cadets and JROTC Booster organization. One such fundraiser is cupcakes sales, a recent one was held on February 2nd at the Wal-Mart on Northpark. Funds realized at this sale will go to help defray expenses for the spring events. The Booster Club and parents are asking businesses and groups in the area to help the cadets travel to these not only fun events, but events that will develop their characters for years to come.

Major Nail introduced Cadet Elizabeth Mulloy. One of the goals each year at Kingwood Park JROTC Cadets is honoring veterans. Cadet Mulloy did not believe the current program was adequate. She proposed building a Memory Wall at the school in honor of all local US veterans with the names on plaques posted on the wall. A new cadet unit, in charge of this task was formed, and Cadet Mulloy was named its leader. As a part of this program, Honoring Great Americans, she recognized the service of three PineyWoods veterans, John Beard, Larry Blackburn, and Larry Stevens. Each was presented a plaque engraved with their name and the inscription "Honoring Great Americans".

Past President and Chapter JROTC coordinator Larry Blackburn then thanked Major Nail and Cadet Mulloy for attending our meeting and telling us about JROTC. He said our chapter presented 27 Bronze JROTC Medals to High schools in the area with one going to Ramstein AFB in Germany; he said we try to present every Medal in person because we understand what a great youth educational program JROTC is and for the values it instills in our young people.



*Major Nail and Cadet Mulloy*



*Cadet Mulloy presents Larry Blackburn the "Great American Hero" award for military service. In the two photos above the awards are given to Larry Stevens (left) and John Beard (right.)*





# Battle of Moore's Creek

On January 3, 1776, North Carolina Royal Governor Josiah Martin, who had been driven out of NC in exile, learned that General Clinton was sailing from Cork, Ireland for North Carolina with an army of 2,000. He saw this as his chance to return to power so he immediately ordered loyalist commanders General Donald McDonald and Lt. Colonel Donald McLeod to assemble the militia at Cross Creek with the intent to capture Brunswick Town.

However, the new Patriot North Carolina Congress at Hillsborough had not been idle since news of Lexington and Concord. The Congress had ordered two regiments of 500 soldiers each be raised and sent North to the Continental Line and funded the money to equip them. They did the same for the home front when they authorized uniforms and arms for six battalions of 500 "Minutemen". These were divided into 50 men in each "Minutemen" company and appointed officers over each.

In Carteret County, the militia were not trained in Beaufort but secretly on an island in the sound called Crow Hill reachable only by boat. The militia officers such as Colonel William Thompson, Commander of the Carteret County Militia, did not lack experience. Thompson commanded companies of militia under Governor William Tyron during 1771 in the "War of Regulation".

Learning of the Loyalist assembly at Cross Creek, alarm was raised and the Continental Militia. Colonel Richard Caswell, later Brigadier General of the North Carolina Patriot Army, Colonel James Moore and Captain Alexander Lillington, marched their army estimated at 1,000 militiamen to intercept the Loyalists at Moore's Creek Bridge.



At the bridge they established a camp on the west, lit fires, and crossed the bridge to high ground. The main body of men built an arcing earthen structure overlooking the bridge on the east side where they mounted two small cannons. Then planks of the bridge were removed and the rails greased to make passage very difficult.

At 1:00 a.m., February 27, 1776, Lt. Col. Donald McLeod, now in command due to an ill Gen. MacDonald, marched the loyalist force to the Moore's Creek Bridge. Arriving at dawn, he found the defenses on the west bank unoccupied. He ordered his estimated 1,600 men to set up defensive lines in the trees. One of Caswell's sentries spotted the movement and fired upon McLeod's men. McLeod ordered his men to prepare for attack, and in the pre-dawn light, a contingent of his Scots approached the bridge.



The Royal Force called across for the identification and it is said that Patriot Captain Alexander McLean

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shouted back that he was a friend of the King. McLean then responded with his own challenge in Gaelic. Hearing no other response from the colonist militia, McLeod ordered his men to fire and they began an exchange of gunfire with the sentries from across the bridge.

Colonel McLeod and Captain John Campbell then lead a charge of a select group to Scot swordsmen across the bridge. The missing planks and greased rails slowed them down. In fact, one can only imagine a group of men swords raised slipping and sliding to stay erect, a comical sight.



Col. Richard Caswell held his forces in check until the Scots were 30 paces then ordering them to fire. The loyalists were hit by a hail of musket, rifle and cannon balls causing the charge to collapse. McLeod was slain, reportedly hit by more than twenty musket balls.

The loyalist began a general retreat. Caswell and Moore ordered their men to pursue. Planks were replaced and the militia chased the loyalist to Cross Creek where they captured the camp. Around 850 loyalist and Scots were captured, of these, most were paroled and the ringleaders sent to Philadelphia.

The colonist confiscated 1,500 muskets, 300 rifles, and \$15,000 in Spanish gold. Colonel Moore re-



*Richard Caswell  
1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Governor of North Carolina  
Caswell represented North Carolina in 1774 and 1775 He was President of the North Carolina Provisional Congress and wrote the first North Carolina Constitution in 1776*

ported 30 Loyalist had been killed but said it may have been 50 or more because some may have fallen into the creek or were carried off.

Moore's Creek was the last battle fought in this part of North Carolina and there was no British presence in the area until Lord Cornwallis passed through the area in 1781.

The victory at Moore's Creek on February 27, 1776 was significant for the Continental government. It raised eyebrows of the bureaucrats in London who had not supported an armed conflict in the colonies. But most important was the effect on Loyalists in North Carolina. Many strong supporters of the King were arrested; others joined their colonial neighbors in the fight against the King. Britain did not again control North Carolina.





# Registrar Report

We currently have three applications awaiting approval in Headquarters at Louisville.

First is Curtis Laird of Dayton whose ancestor is George Thompson who served as a private who served from 1776 to 1781 beginning as a drummer. George filed for and was awarded a Pension.

Second, Charles "Chuck" Rew; his ancestor was Clayton Stribling who served as a private in the South Carolina Militia as a Horseman and Footman.

Third, Eric Ramsey, whose ancestor was Francis A. Ramsey who served as a Private and Sergeant in the Continental Line of Virginia. Some of the engagements he was in were the battles of Camden, Eutaw Springs and Guilford Courthouse. Francis Ramsey received a Pension and in the pension is a page from the Family Bible. His pension also listed his service and when his wife filed on his, she was listed as the daughter of Richard Allen who served in Virginia.



## Port of Beaufort or Fish Town

Researching the Carteret County North Carolina Ancestor of an applicant who lives in New South Wales, Major William Dennis Sr., pointed out the significance of the town and port of Beaufort was during the Revolution. During Blackbeard's days in the early 1700's, Beaufort was known as "Fish Town". It then became known as the Beaufort Town and had become a seaport and was allowed to collect customs in 1722. During the Austria Secession, 1740 to 1748, where Spain was again allied with France, a Spanish force sailed into and captured the Port of Beaufort. The colonist called out the militia, which included William Dennis and drove the Spanish out in 1748. During the Revolutionary War, the Port of Beaufort was ignored by Britain, so it became an important for trade with privateers and others; ex-



porting pine, pine tar and turpentine and importing coffee, rum, cloth and other materials. But, one of the most important commodities was Sea Salt. Although, salt was harvested from the low lying pools along Bogue Sound and others, the third Congress of Hillsborough passed a bill in 1776 providing 750 pounds to be given to any person who would erect

and build works for "Manufacturing common Salt." The colonies had relied on the importation of salt up to the Revolution, but, with the port closures by

the British, salt had become more difficult to obtain. People could not exist without salt. It was used for preserving fish, meats, and other foods