



Pine Shavings



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

January 2012

Volume 22, Issue 1



A Message from the President

Happy New Year Compatriots! I hope that you all had a very safe and satisfying Christmas and New Year. By the time you all get this message, I'm certain that some of the resolutions that were made have gone by the wayside. Oh well, there's always next year. We had a productive nominating meeting session in December. Here's the result of

that meeting:



The **history of the United States Marine Corps** began with the founding of the Continental Marines on November 10, 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide shipboard security and discipline enforcement, and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and foreign policy of the United States. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the United States Marine Corps has served in nearly every conflict in United States history. It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of the Pacific Theater of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps would become one of the dominant theorists and practitioners of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond on short notice to expeditionary crises has made and continues to make it an important tool for American foreign policy.

The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on 9 November 1775, consulting the Naval Committee to send an amphibious expedition to Halifax in Nova Scotia. Having launched two land expeditions toward the St. Lawrence River months earlier, (as Richard Montgomery's and Benedict Arnold's forces were each making their way toward Quebec

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<u>Position</u>	<u>2012-2013 Nominees</u>
President	Larry Blackburn
First Vice President	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

The process works this way: The nominating report will be made to the chapter in January. The election will be in February at which time nominations from the floor will be accepted. Those persons elected will be inducted in March 2012 for a term of one year.

January's speaker is our own Larry Blackburn who will be providing us with information on the formation and activities of the United States Marine Corp and the Revolutionary War. Here is some overview of that history:

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EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

Feb 18, 2012 - George Washington Parade, Laredo, TX

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

January 1, 1776 – Daniel Morgan is taken prisoner in the unsuccessful attempt to capture Quebec. This was the first major defeat of the Americans. In this battle General Richard Montgomery was killed, Benedict Arnold was wounded and Morgan and 400 men were taken prisoner.



T. Paine

January 10, 1776: Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*. It was first published anonymously by “an Englishman.” It has the largest sale and circulation of any book in American history. It was written in common vernacular, and spoke to the common man. It made many a man think of the injustices and join the cause for freedom.

January 3, 1777: Washington is victorious at Princeton. After Washington’s significant victory at Trenton in December, he decided he could not allow the British to control New Jersey. In a brilliant move he circled Lord Cornwallis and attacking his rear guard. The win boosted the troops morale and was

the last major action of the winter New Jersey campaign.



1 Jan 1781: Mutiny of unpaid Pennsylvania soldiers. About 1,500-2,500 soldiers of the Pennsylvania line (about half) marched out of the Morristown camp to go to Philadelphia to demand back pay. At one point the British sent two men to try to recruit the disaffected men, these men were captured as spies. After a successful negotiation the \$20 men (those enlisted between 1776-77) were allowed to resign and reenlist if they wished. Many men did just that signing new enlistments

17 Jan 1781: Daniel Morgan defeats British Col Tarleton at Cowpens. This battle has been regarded by many Revolutionary Historians as the battle that turned the tide. Lord Cornwallis lost most of his fast light cavalry under Tarleton. This crippled his speed in tracking and locating the Americans. He vowed to go to Virginia and deal with the insurgents there, sensing this was the source of the strength of the southern back county. Virginia had been the source of materials and men in the battle in the south. Clinton did not agree with his strategy and sent Cornwallis instead to establish a post at Yorktown. He intended to use his troops in the eventual battle in New York. And we all know how that strategy played out. [see article page 6]

**PineyWoods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2011**

January 19 **Members/Guest Meeting**
February 16 **Members Only Meeting**
March 15 **Member/Guest Meeting**

MEETING LOCATION

**Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway
Houston TX 77060
6:30 PM
See ya'll there January 19!**

PineyWoods

Color Guard



James F. Jones



Ray Cox



Larry Stevens

The Color Guard is the face of SAR. The uniformed compatriot seems to get the attention of young and old alike. Yes, many children first think you must be on the crew with Jack Sparrow. But the uniform draws attention and starts a dialogue about SAR and the objectives of our organization. This year our members, dressed in their Colonial uniforms—both Continental Line and militia — appeared in many public events and school programs. These included four members marching in the largest George Washington parade in Laredo before a crowd of about 400,000, grave markings for our patriots (in Georgia and Virginia as well as Texas), school programs in six schools, and local parades. Larry Blackburn found that dressing in his Colonial marines uniform at JROTC presentations was well received by the cadets.



James E. Mitchell



Larry Blackburn



John Beard



Ron Barker

Happy Birthday

January

Rodman Edmond Gorman III
James P. Richards
Dennis Key

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

MEMBERSHIP

Visiting his children in Spring, Texas was Chapter member Alan Bowman and his wife. The Bowmans live in Lafollette, Tennessee. Alan attended our member meeting at Jimmy G's Restaurant at Greenspoint on December 15th.



President John Beard took this opportunity to formally swear Alan into the SAR and present him with his membership certificate and Rosette.

Alan and Registrar Larry Stevens briefly discussed Alan's Patriot Ancestor Lawrence Fix, who served as a Private in the 6th Bat., Berks Co., Pennsylvania.

[See photo left]

Jonathan Edward Beard was officially sworn in as a member of the PineyWoods Chapter 51 on Dec. 28, 2011 at the home of his parents, Chapter President John Beard and mother Mary Claire. Jonathon's Patriot Ancestor was Joseph Advent of Georgia. Witnessing the ceremony was his wife Jennifer and their children. Assisting John, Chapter Registrar Larry Stevens and wife Barbara taking pictures. *[See photo right]*



Chapter Registrar Report

Larry Stevens

The approved papers for Joe Potter and Rod Gorman have been received. We hope to install Joe at our meeting in January and Rod at our February meeting.

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

- Michael Stallings (L)
- Baron Schneider (L*)
- Eugene Shuffield (L)
- Eugene Shuffield, Jr (L)
- David Work (L)

The following application is prepared and ready for

signatures and submission to state registrar:

William McKinney

There are also a few others in the preliminary stages. The state registrar has called with questions about an application pended by national in 2009, and this is being addressed. If you have any prospects, please contact me so that we can assist the prospective member with his application.

S* - With applicant to be submitted shortly to state

L* - Questions from national reviewers being addressed.

The Battle for Carolinas—Part IV

Nathaniel Greene, “We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again”.

British Gen Cornwallis wintered at Waynesboro, regaining his health, and trying to keep track of the whereabouts of Gen Nathaniel Greene and Brig Gen Daniel Morgan. Receiving information from his scouts led him to believe Greene had dispatched Morgan southwest of the Catawba River and was headed for the important Ninety-Six. Cornwallis immediately ordered Lt Col Banastre “Tarleton Quarter” Tarleton to intercept Morgan, defeat him or drive him back into North Carolina. Tarleton soon discovered Morgan had not taken his force into Ninety-Six. Sending this information back to Cornwallis, Tarleton sent out his scouts and located Morgan’s force at Grindal’s Shoals on the Pacolet River, South Carolina, on January 12, 1781.



As scouts reported Tarleton’s advance, Morgan surveyed the unique landscape of the fields known as Cowpens just inside the southern North Carolina Border and located between the Broad and Pacolet rivers. He knew his men, his experienced Continentals and his inexperienced militia men, and Tarleton’s brash personally. At Camden the patriot militia had fled the field after seeing Cornwallis trained army. At Cowpens, if the patriot army was routed, there would be no reasonable escape route. Tarleton would have to advance up the gentle uphill slope through meadows bordered by a brushy creek on his right and a deep ravine on his left. There are three small hills or mounds crossing the meadow from the creek on one side to the ravine. Morgan, reportedly said, *“the whole idea is to lead Benny into a trap so we can beat his cavalry and infantry as they come up the slopes. When they’ve been cut down to size by our fire, we’ll attack them.”* Morgan saw that Tarleton’s forces

would not be able to see beyond the first hill as they advanced. He selected 150 sharpshooters from North Carolina, under Major McDowell, and Georgia, Major Cunningham to be his first line of skirmishers on the first mound. Behind the next hill, where the British could not see, he placed 300 militia men under Andrew Pickens. He knew the militia would not stand and fight so he asked them to only fire two volleys and then withdraw to the left and reform behind the third line, under cover of the reserves of light dragoons under William Washington and James McCall. His third line on the next hill was his best companies numbering about 550; Continentals from Delaware and Maryland and experienced Militia from Georgia and Virginia. The Continentals were commanded by Col John Eagar Howard and the Militia by Col Tate and Col Triplett. This line he placed in a pincer formation with the left angled slightly toward the right and he instructed his officers to have them fire so balls would cross diagonally through the British line. (Chastellux) (There are disagreements among Historians as to the strength of Morgan’s force ranging from about 800 to more than 1,700 men.)

At 2:00 AM on January 17, 1781, Tarleton roused his troops to march to Cowpens. His force consisted of about 1,150 from the British Legion, 250 Cavalry and 200 Infantry, the 17th Light Dragoons, a battery of the Royal Artillery with two 3 pounders, the 7th Royal Fusiliers, the 16th Regiment, the 71st Regiment

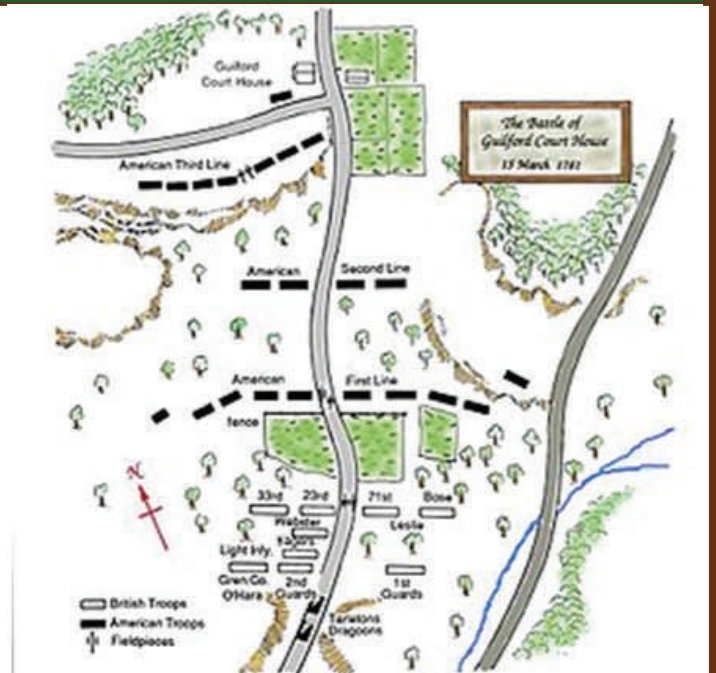
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of Fraser's Highlanders under Major Arthur MacArthur, a light company of the Loyalist Prince of Wales' American Regiment, and 50 Loyalist guides. His force had little rest in their pursuit of Morgan and were tired from forced marches, little rest, and slim rations.

Tarleton's plan was simple with most of his force aligned in a linear formation with the two cannon in the middle, British Regulars on one side and American Royalist on the other. They would move directly at Morgan. His right and left would be protected by his dragoons, and in reserve were the experienced Scottish Highlanders. Tarleton kept with him a 200 member cavalry unit he could send in if the American line broke and ran.

At about 6:45 AM and just before sunrise, Tarleton's force emerged from the woods in front of the American first line of skirmishers. Tarleton ordered his dragoons to attack. The Patriots opened fire and dropped 15 dragoons who immediately retreated. Tarleton then ordered his infantry to attack without studying the American deployment or the ability on his cavalry to make out of the woods. As the British advanced, the sharp shooters fired at will as they retreated and joined the second line commanded by Pickens. The British attacked again reaching Morgan's second line. The American militia fired two volleys into the oncoming British. The British lost nearly 40 percent of their officers and became astonished, confused. But, they reformed and continued the attack. Tarleton ordered Ogilvie to attack with his dragoons. They were momentarily halted by musket fire but continued. As planned, Morgan's militia retreated to the left after their second volley. Seeing the militia retreat, the British believed the Americans were in full retreat, so they ran headlong into Morgan's seasoned third line. Col Howard spotted the 71st Highlanders trying a flanking move on his right and ordered the Virginia militiamen on the right to turn and face them. Misunderstanding the order, the militia began to withdraw. The Highlanders saw them retreating and broke formation charging the Virginians. Morgan stopped the Virginian's retreat and turned them around, firing a volley into the highlanders but 30 yards away. The entire British line halted. Col Howard ordered a bayonet charge causing Tarleton's force to collapse with many surrendering on the spot while others ran. Col Washington's Cavalry came



from behind the Patriot left hitting the right flank and rear of Tarleton's Army. Pickens led his militia from behind the hill completing a circle around most of the British. British and Loyalist fell to the ground, wounded or not. Tarleton charged in with what force remaining and shot Washington's horse from under him. Seeing all was lost, Tarleton fled from the field avoiding capture. Morgan is reported to have said of Tarleton, "I have given him a devil of a whipping." Morgan took 712 prisoners and 110 British soldiers were killed. Historian Lawrence Babits has identified by name 128 patriots killed.

Rumored, Cornwallis, when listening to Tarleton's report, leaned heavily on his sword snapping the blade in two pieces. Historian John Buchanan wrote, Morgan may have been "the only general in the American Revolution, on either side, to produce a significant original tactical thought."

Larry Stevens

Sources

1. "An Uncivil War" Edited by Ronald Hoffman, Thad W. Tate and Peter J. Albert; Univ. Press of VA
2. "A Devil of a Whipping, the Battle of Cowpens", by Lawrence Babits; Univ. NC Press
3. "Travels in North America; in the years 1780, 1781 and 1782", by the Marquis De Chastellux, by Howard C. Rice Jr. Vol. 2, Univ. NC Press
4. United States Park Service at Cowpens National Battle Ground Park Web site and park visit June 2011

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City to join forces [later leading to the Battle of Quebec]), Congress was convinced that sending marines to fight at sea and engage military operations ashore were paramount in destroying an important British naval base in Halifax, and to procure enemy provisions and supplies, if possible. On 10 November 1775, the Naval Committee was directed by Congress to raise two marine battalions at the Continental expense. Also, Congress decided the marines will not only be used for the Nova Scotia expedition but for subsequent service thereafter. Henceforth, the Naval Committee established a network of appointments for offices; paymaster, commissions, procurements, equipment, etc., for establishing a future national corps of marines. The United States Marine Corps still celebrates 10 November, as its official birthday. Borrowing from the Royal Navy, the practices and printed instructions were outlined in the "Rules for the Regulations of the Navy of the United Colonies." It was intended that the American marines would provide the same services as British marines.

The two battalions of Continental Marines officially became "resolved" when Congress issued the first commission to Captain Samuel Nicholas on 28 November 1775. Nicholas' family was tavern keepers, his prominence came not from his work but from his leadership in two local clubs for fox-hunters and sport fishermen. Historian Edwin Simmons surmises that it is most likely Nicholas was using his family tavern, the "Conestoga Wagon" [*sic*], as a recruiting post; although the standing legend in the United States Marine Corps today places its first recruiting post at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

In December of 1775, to aid in drafting plans in expanding the Continental Navy and to supervise the construction of vessels and procurement of naval

equipment, the Continental Congress established a permanent committee for the Marine Corps, the Marine Committee (the forerunner of the United States Department of the Navy). It would supersede the duties of the naval affairs committee; which the majority of the personnel were also appointed in the same office of the Naval Committee. The Marine Committee contained thirteen members, one for each colony, included important figures, such as Robert Morris, John Hancock, and Samuel Chase. The Naval Committee would oversee the Marine Committee on matters concerning naval expeditions and projections. It exercised legislative, judicial, and executive powers. However, the lack of an administrative head and of actual authority over the states impeded the Marine Committee as they did Congress. Since the Marine Committee was responsible in drafting plans for the expansion of the Continental Navy, three days later after its establishment it recommended to Congress to build a force of thirteen frigates, outfitted with 24–36 guns. Congress accepted the program as it would protect colonial merchant trade from the British blockaders; on the recommendation that the construction of warships will be decentralized.

I'm looking forward to hearing the complete story from Compatriot Blackburn, it promises to be very interesting.

Again, if there's anyone that would like to serve in an officer capacity, please let me know what you're interests are. I'm sure that some of these kind folks on the nominations list that have served multiple years would gladly give someone a chance to participate.

John Beard

Celebrate the 225th Anniversary of the Signing of the Constitution

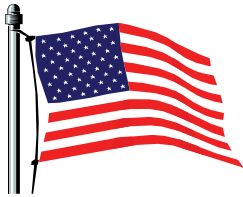
NSSAR sent out a mailing at the end of the year which discussed the next phase of the building project for the new HQ, Museum and Educational Center. The organization plans to showcase the National Society Charter of 1906 which was signed by Theodore Roosevelt. The communication briefly discussed SAR plans to celebrate the Constitution with a launch at the National Archives in DC. The mailing also contained a solicitation for donations to support the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. A James Madison lapel pin is being given to donors for \$100 donation and donations of over \$225 will receive a lapel pin and a 3-inch medal. Consider contributions to this worth endeavor.



New Members

In order to get your State Newsletter and other information routinely sent to the membership you should sign up on the TXSSAR members-only website. If you need access to the members-only or if you have questions ask our TXSSAR webmaster, Ray Cox, at the next PineyWoods meeting or e-mail Ray Cox or Larry Stevens.

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Sons of the American Revolution



Official Newsletter
PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325

Volume 22, Issue 1



We're on the Web

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

RSVP FOR THE January 19th, 2012 MEMBER & GUEST MEETING

At Jimmy G's, 307 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Houston TX 6:30 PM

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday, January 15th. 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. Payment of \$25.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.