



Pine Shavings



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

JANUARY 2015



Welcome to 2015 Compatriots!

Our New Year is shaping up to be a very active and productive year for Piney Woods #51. Our Chapter membership is growing with new Compatriots and friends, we have the Texas Society SAR State Conference coming to our area on March 26-29, 2015 at the Marriott North at Greenspoint which Piney Woods will be the host with the help of the Freedom chapter. Our member and past president Larry Stevens is running for the office of President of the Texas society. Please attend and be a part of this ceremony. Our last chapter member to become our state President was Mr. Jim Jones.

Our growing list of service projects and activities is keeping us all busy. We have received a dozen contestant applications for the Knight Essay Contest which we will be judging to select the "best" to forward before January 31st for our state essay contest. Unfortunately, we did not receive an Eagle Scout application this year. This will be the first time in a while. We continue to send notices to the 29 JROTC Instructors of schools where we present Bronze JROTC Medals each year but we have not received a JROTC Scholarship Application. We give each chapter first place winner of our scholarship contest a \$200 award; and now the first place state winners receive a \$2,500 scholarship in each contest; Knight Essay, Eagle Scout, JROTC, and Oration.

We are also in the periodic part of the Chapter activities in which we are selecting and approving new Chapter officers. We will have new officers in our Chapter as of March 2015, ready to lead us in the New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you at our Member-Guest meeting on January 15th!

Ben Stallings
Chapter President

**Meeting
January 15th
Member/ Guest 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 names by Wednesday before the meeting date.
ASAP to Larry Stevens wardtrack-er@aol.com or 281 361-2061

This Month in the Revolution

January 13, 1776 – Reporting to First Lord of the Admiralty, John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, British Admiral Molyneux Shuldham (ca 1717-1798) reported to Sandwich that he would be “surprised to learn how fast the armed vessels of the rebels have multiplied lately, how many of storeships and victuallers they have taken, and how successfully they have defeated all our force.”

January 14, 1776 – Washington writes from Cambridge Mass to Joseph Reed that army enlistment problems continue, that they total about ten thousand five hundred (NPS paper), but that ‘a large portion of these are returned not joined, I never expect to receive them...’, further he discusses militia and dissolution of the “Old Army”, Washington writes that only a paid army..... (*This letter is a must read*).

January 16, 1776 – Boston Loyalist Peter Oliver reports that the old North Meeting House is pulled down for fuel for the loyalist Associators. The meeting house had been abandoned by Reverend John Lathrop and his patriot congregation, most of whom had left Boston.

January 19, 1776 – Washington and other patriot generals agree that troops cannot be spared for service in Canada and that Boston must be attacked before Howe receives reinforcements.

January 20, 1776 – The Virginia Convention declares that the best method of opposing British oppression would be to open all ports to international trade from every country except England.



John Montagu 4th Earl Sandwich

January 21, 1776 – Washington directs each regiment to send out two officers to purchase weapons for their unit. Soldiers enlisting with their own firearms are promised one dollars for its use and reimbursement if the weapon is lost during the campaign.

January 22, 1776 – The South Carolina Council of Safety resolves ‘that able bodied negro men be taken into public service, and enrolled and employed, without arms for the defense of the several batteries in Charles Town, Fort Johnson and other batteries, at the rate of two to each gun.....That they be in constant pay at the rate of ten shillings per day, and the public to find them provisions....suitable rewards shall be given to those slaves, who behave well in time of action.



Peter Oliver 1713-1791

December 2015 Meeting

PineyWoods Officer Nominations.
December 18, 2015

President	Joe Potter
1 st VP	Karl Falken*
2 nd VP	Todd Simmons
Secretary	Kermit Breed
Treasurer	Jim Pinkerton
Chancellor	Alan Henshaw
Chaplain	Cannon Pritchard**
Registrar	Kermit Breed
	Larry Stevens
	Todd Simmons
Sgt at Arms	Larry Blackburn
Webmaster	Ray Cox
Newsletter	Larry Stevens

*Must Establish Chapter Membership First
**Ray Cox Interim until Cannon can return



Veteran Support for PTSD

Todd Simmons, our newest member, talked about program for vets suffering from PTS.....where dogs are being trained as companions as a part of a therapy program. He said he saw a video on "Paws and Stripes" and suggested the chapter make a donation to this program which is a 501 3 c. After some discussion the chapter approved donating \$200 to help with the training of the dogs which are adopted from rescue shelters.

Todd Simmons receives his membership certificate and rosette from PineyWoods Chapter 51 President Ben Stallings after his induction into SAR ceremony at the Chapter Business Meeting on December 18, 2015 at Jimmy G's.

Calendar of Events

National Society

George Washington Parade – Laredo, Texas – 21 February 2015

Spring Leadership – Friday, 6 Mar 2015 – Saturday, 7 March 2015 –
Brown Hotel, Louisville

125th NSSAR Congress – Friday, 26 June 2015 – 1 July 2015 – Galt Hotel, Louisville

Fall Leadership – Friday, 25 September 2015 – Saturday, 26 September 2015

Texas Society

120th TXSSAR Convention – 26 March 2015 – 29 March 2015

Greenspoint Marriott, Houston, Texas



Silas Deane the French Connection – Patriot or Traitor?

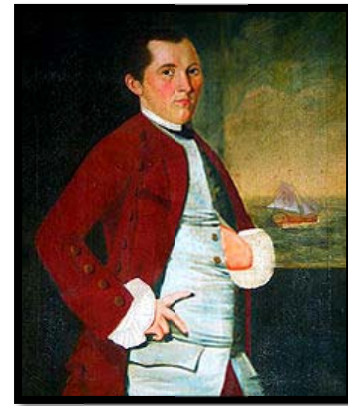
by Larry Stevens



Early in 1776, Silas Deane was dispatched to France as a secret agent by the Continental Congress to persuade the French to lend financial support for the revolution. Upon arriving, Deane immediately opened negotiations with the French Foreign Minister the Comte de Vergennes. Following the instructions of Committee of Congress for Secret Correspondence, Deane expressed to Vergennes America's need for military stores and that the American Colonies were fighting for total separation from Britain.

Enlisting the aid of Beaumarchais, who was an outspoken supporter of the American cause, Deane was able to recruit the Marquis de Lafayette to share his military expertise and aid in sending shiploads of supplies to the colonies. November 6, 1776, Deane wrote to the Committee expressing his frustration of lack of instructions and he reported what he had accomplished. Two hundred brass cannon, arms and ammunition, tents and accoutrements for thirty thousand men. He reported there would be 20 to 30 brass mortars and these were all waiting to leave Havre de France in Nantes. On December 7, 1776, he wrote Congress asking that they bestow the rank of Major General that he had promised to Lafayette. Deane also recruited soldiers such as the Baron Johann De Kalb, Thomas Conway, Casimir Pulaski, and the "Baron" von Steuben for Washington's Continental Army. When these officers reached America, they soon made themselves unpopular. Deane had signed contracts hiring them and was blamed for by the politicians in Philadelphia for their behavior.

Deane, as well as Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee have been accredited as commissioners to France by Congress during this early period. In 1777, Arthur Lee accused Deane of improprieties concerning contracts he had made with Beaumarchais and, he said Deane had not properly kept account of his receipts and expenditures. Deane was recalled to Philadelphia on November 21, 1777 and replaced by John Adams. However, before returning he signed the Treaties of Amity and Commerce and of Alliance, a defensive alliance between France and America, on February 6, 1778. Eventually Deane reached Philadelphia on July 14, 1778, where this was brought before Congress concerning his dealing with the French before the alliance on February 6, 1778. Congress requested that he furnish them his receipts and disbursements since France refused to provide them. John Jay and John Adams defended Deane in this long and bitter dispute. Although never found guilty, he was removed from his position. In 1781 he was allowed to return to France to settle his affairs and attempt to find copies of the disputed records. Due to his differences with French officials and the publishing of his private letters to his brother, where he decried the revolution as futile, Deane was barred from reentry and branded a traitor. Fifty years later in 1841, Deane's granddaughter Philura with the help of her husband pressed his case before the US Congress and was awarded a payment of \$37,000 on the grounds that the cause against Silas was "ex parte, erroneous, and a gross injustice to Silas Deane".



Silas Deane
Dec 24, 1737 – Sept. 23, 1789

Deane was born in Groton Connecticut, the son of a Blacksmith. He graduated from Yale University in 1758 and in 1761 he was admitted to the Bar. He practiced law for a short time in Hartford and then became a merchant Wethersfield Connecticut. Deane is accredited for training the double spy Edward Bancroft. Some feel that Bancroft may have poisoned Deane in 1789 to keep Deane from testifying on his actions.

Further Reading; (Also, Correspondence of Silas Deane Connecticut Historical Society; and, The Deane Papers in 5 Volumes in the New York Historical Society's Collections (1887-1890).)

Baker, Mark Allen. "Spies of Revolutionary Connecticut, From Benedict Arnold to Nathan Hale." Charleston: The History Press, 2014.

Fleming, Thomas. *The Perils of Peace: America's Struggle for Survival After Yorktown*. First Smithsonian Books, 2008.

Davidson, James West and Mark Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*. New York, NY: McGraw Hill, 1992



**Charles Gravier,
Comte de Vergennes
20 December 1717- 13
February 1787**

The Comte rose to power serving in various diplomatic posts in Portugal and Germany and became the Envoy to the Ottoman Empire in 1755 for the French Kings. He oversaw the complex negotiations which resulted in what is called the Diplomatic Revolution in 1756. The Diplomatic Revolution was a reversal of longstanding alliances in Europe between the War of Austrian Succession and the Seven Years War. And, it is called the change in partners in that Britain and Austria allied against France and Prussia became Britain and Prussia allied against France and Austria. This was a part of the Stately Quadrille constantly shifted during the Eighteenth Century. De Vergennes was recalled to Paris in 1768 but did not return until after France assumed power in Sweden. The Comte was appointed Foreign Minister to France by Louis XVI in 1774



Johann De Kalb

The Baron traveled to America with Lafayette and was at the Battle of Saratoga and Valley Forge. He died 16 August 1780, killed at the First Battle of Camden South Carolina led by General Horatio Gates. It is reported that General Cornwallis supervised his surgeons and caring for his wounds and De Kalb thanked them but stated he was dying.

**Beaumarchais or Pierre-Augustin
Caron-24 January 1732- 18 May
1799,**

was a French Playwright, a watchmaker, inventor, musician, diplomat, fugitive, spy, publisher, horticulturist, arms dealer, financier, satirist, and a revolutionary both American and French. Known as Beaumarchais, the son of a watchmaker, he rose in French society and became influential in Louis XV's Court, making influential contacts and amassing a fortune. He was used both as a spy and diplomat and he lobbied the French government for the American rebels.



Thomas Conway – 27 February 1727 – ca 1800. He was an Irish soldier from France and served as a Major General in the Continental Army. He had achieved the rank of Colonel in the French Army. Based on an introduction by Silas Deane to the Continental Congress on 13 May 1777, Thomas was sent to George Washington as a Brigadier General. Washington opposed his promotion believing he had as many qualified American commanders with longer and more valuable service. This and Conway's condescending attitude caused friction in the ranks. But, Congress appointed Conway and Major General and made him Inspector General of the Army. This is what is known as the "**Conway Cabal**" when used in politics to describe infighting. During this affair, Conway had written a letter to Horatio Gates in which he said George Washington was a weak leader.

This letter was intercepted by Washington and his backers and was brought before Congress resulting in Conway losing his command. Conway submitted his resignation to Congress and it was accepted and he was forced to leave the army. He was shot in a duel on 22 July, 1778 by John Cadwalader. After he recovered, he wrote a letter of apology to George Washington and left for France.

Historical Preservation Boonville Heritage Park

We often hear of projects to preserve our rich history. Dianne Jones let us know about a project to relocate and restore a piece of our Texas history. While it is hard to preserve anything but personal items related to our Revolutionary history, it is still important to save the history of our country.

Merv Peters, a member of the SAR Independence Chapter in Bryan-College Station, has been a champion of the project.

The project involves the relocation of an 1856 dog-trot log cabin from its current site near Waco. It will become a foundation for a new historic site, the Boonville Heritage Park.

It will be located in the front of the Boonville Cemetery on FM158 two miles north east of Bryan, Texas. Mr. Peters family owned the cabin for several decades in the twentieth century.

Boonville was the county seat of Brazos in 1841. The Brazos area was a rich contributor to Texas history.

