



Pine Shavings

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

June 2009

Volume 19, Issue 2

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A Message from the President

Our speaker at the May 21st dinner meeting was Joe Allen “Doc” Rice, a retired professor from the University of Houston. In his speech he made reference to the inaccurate portrayal of American History by our film makers and authors of articles



published in magazines, books, and periodicals. One example was the movie Exodus starring Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint. Standing on an upper deck of cargo ship in the Mediterranean, Eva Marie said something about so few to fight for a new country. Paul Newman then made reference to the 77 militia men who fought for independence at Lexington. Doc Rice said the real reference should have been the battle of Concord, a few miles from Lexington. The British army fired into a group of colonist at Lexington killing several, then around 250 colonial militia men fled to Concord. Concord was where the Revolutionary War really began. At Concord, several hundred colonial militia men rose up and soundly defeated 700 British soldiers. When the British commander realized his predicament, he organized a retreat across Old North Bridge. The militia rudely greeted this retreat with several volleys of musket fire killing many British soldiers. The shot

heard around the world. The colonials continued the fight from along the road toward Boston until dusk and rain halted their attack. The date was April 19, 1775.

I realize this is a very sketchy account of the beginning of the American Revolution, but the point is, Doc Rice is commenting on the accuracy of reporting and recording of American History. The reporters of our history, whether script writers, history buffs, or academics all have agendas. When we read published works, we should always keep this in mind. If curiosity causes you to investigate the sources of these authors, find their references and do your own research. And, just as an added caution, read as many of the original documents from as many different sources as you can. The reporters in late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century had their prejudices. And, just like Julius Caesar against the Gaul's, many leaders inflate their enemy killed and deflate their losses.

Eagle Scout Kyle Martin and his father Keith attended our meeting. Our chapter entered Kyle in the TXSSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship. Kyle did not win our state contest but

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EVENTS



National

www.sar.org

July 4-8, 2009 - 119th Annual Congress, Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

September 24, 2009—Fall Leadership (Trustees) Meeting



State

www.txssar.org

July 31, 2009 - “Cradle of Texas Historic Tour” (in conjunction with BOM meeting), Brazoria County, TX

August 1-2, 2009 - Board of Managers Meeting, Lake Jackson, TX



The Revolution

Following the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, colonial militia had surrounded Boston, pinning the British in. Lt. General Thomas Gage knew he was surrounded on land, so he had to control Dorchester Heights and Charlestown to keep the harbor open to British ships. The Americans were able to occupy the Charlestown peninsula before the British. On June 15, ramparts were ordered to be built on Bunker Hill. By the morning of June 17, extensive fortifications had been built on Breed's Hill by the colonials.

Lt. General Gage then sent British ships to bombard the hill, while Maj. General William Howe prepared to sail across the bay and retake the position that afternoon. At three o'clock in the afternoon, the British finally began an assault on the hill. The Americans repulsed them twice, but due to dwindling ammunition, they were forced to abandon the position during the third British assault. Though the British technically won, it came at a high cost and Lt. General Gage resigned his command.

SOURCE: www.patriotresource.com

Our largest expenditure is the cost of our newsletter. Help us eliminate mailing newsletters thereby saving money on mailing. Please send your e-mail address to Jim Mims at jhmims4@aol.com .

Meetings

Come and join us at the next meeting.

Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM



**PineyWoods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2009**



August 20

Members Meeting

September 17

Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)

October 15

Members Meeting

President

Larry Stevens
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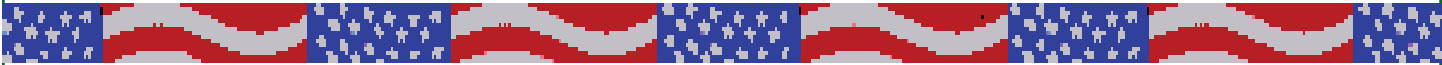
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Awards Presented May 21, 2009

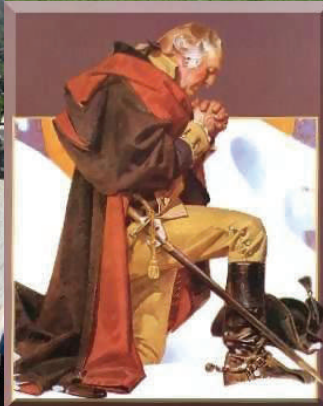


Bob McKenna received his second Liberty Medal for sponsoring (first line signer) 10 or men into SAR. He may be eligible for another. First 10 you get the medal, next 10 and so on an oak leaf cluster.



Jim Mitchell received the Meritorious Service Medal, well deserved, for his overall involvement in SAR Color Guard; Freedom Chapter President 2 years, Secretary PineyWoods, organized grave markings, one in Elbert Co., Ga. and two in Virginia, State Oration committee, etc.

Color Guard Activities



**Memorial Day
Texas State
Cemetery,
Austin, TX.
May 25, 2009**

Memorial Day Celebration – On Monday, May 25th four members of the PineyWoods Color Guard joined other Color Guardsmen from around the state at the State Cemetery in Austin. The Patrick Henry Chapter [SAR] and the Thankful Hubbard Chapter [DAR] both of Austin hosted the event to honor two Revolutionary Soldiers buried there. The soldiers were Robert Rankin and William Stephens. Stephens fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and as a grandfather accompanied his four grandsons to the Siege of Bexar during the Texas Revolution. The PineyWoods members attending were Ron Barker, Jim Jones, James Mitchell and Larry Stevens.



Happy Birthday



JUNE	JULY	JULY	SEPTEMBER
Scott Banewski Douglas Harper Charles Lightfoot Walter McCaine Woody Reese	John Albright Gerald Green Jonathan Marshall Robert Marshall Jim Mitchell Kim Morton Ross Partlow	Henry Marshall Jeffrey Meadows James McKim Richard Shanks	Jim Jones David Mahavier Ross Miller

Battle at Point Pleasant

by Kyle Martin

All things have a beginning. Planet Earth had its beginning as did man and Christianity-- and the formation of the American society that we call home. Most of those starts did not come easy and all of these beginnings are filled with controversy.

It is written by some that the start of the American Revolution began with the battle of Point Pleasant in West Virginia but not everyone agrees. In a publication titled "First Battle of the America Revolution", it describes some collusion between the British Army led by Lord Dunmore and the American Indians against colonial forces (Poffenbarger). According to Poffenbarger, there existed a dispute between the colonies and the Indians about some land claims and it was alleged that some tribes were not honoring a previous treaty providing access by the colonies to the disputed lands.

Mrs. Livia Poffenbarger on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) made the case that Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia and a British leader, conspired with the Indians to undermine the American colonial leadership with hopes to destroy the building tension between the colonies and British rule. During this period of time, disputes arose between how the British wanted to rule the new world and how the American colonies wanted to be ruled. It was suggested by Poffenbarger that Lord Dunmore intentionally split his troops into two distinct groups along British and colonial lines with the intention of attacking the Indians with two forces from the north and the south of the battle field. Poffenbarger makes the claim that Dunmore actually wanted the Indians to destroy or weaken the colonial troops led by Andrew Lewis thus strengthening British rule within colonies.

With a force of nearly 1,200 warriors, the

battle began on October 10, 1774 with the Indians attacking Lewis' smaller force. The battle, also called Dunmore's war, ended in the defeat of the Indians by Lewis's smaller but brave soldiers. Many America soldiers and Indians lost their lives. After the battle, according to Poffenbarger, Lewis was convinced that he was setup by Dunmore with Lewis later refusing any future orders from the British commander. Because of Lewis's actions against Dunmore he was prevented from writing an official report regarding the battle and thus no official record of the battle was put forward on the records in Virginia. Without an official report the battle of Point Pleasant on record, many historians actually refer to the Battle of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts during 1775 as the true start of the American Revolutionary war. In spite of the historical accounts, Poffenbarger later worked hard on behalf of the DAR to enact legislation to have Point Pleasant officially designated at the start of the revolutionary war. Poffenbarger's efforts resulted in an act passed by Congress on February 17, 1908, entitled, "A Bill to aid in the erection of a monument or memorial at Point Pleasant to commemorate the Battle of the Revolution fought at that point between the Colonial troops and Indians, October tenth, seventeen hundred and seventy-four" (West Virginia History, 1997).

Historical opponents to Poffenbarger claim that there is no evidence to support that Dunmore conspired with the Indians against Lewis and that the revolutionary war actually started in 1775 in Lexington, Massachusetts. The critics therefore called the battle at Point Pleasant a colonial war between the colonies and the Indians, not a dispute between British and colonial forces. These op-

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did win our chapter contest. Kyle was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a check from PineyWoods for \$200, thanking him for entering our SAR contest. Although Kyle was not asked to read his essay, his work was very well done. Kyle reviewed and commented on a publication, "The First Battle of the Revolution" by Mrs. Lavia Poffenburger, published on behalf of the DAR, in which Mrs. Poffenburger attempts to make the case that Lord Dunmore conspired with the American Indians and battled British soldiers and Indians against frontier colonist in a land dispute in 1774.

Lord Dunmore's War began in 1774 when Lord Dunmore, the Governor of Virginia asked the House of Burgess, to declare war upon the hostile Indians, the Shawnee and Mingo, in western Virginia, later Kentucky and West Virginia. The Shawnee, Mingo, and Delaware Indians did not sign the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix ceding their lands like the Iroquois. The war ended shortly after the Battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774. Mrs. Poffenburger argued this was the battle Dunmore supported the Indians against Major Lewis and the militia units from Virginia. If your ancestors lived in central Virginia from Montgomery County and North, you may want to check the militia rolls of Montgomery County, Virginia, and the lists of militia units you can find online for Dunmore's War. Many militia lists have been lost. My ancestors, Colonel Patrick McGriff, his brother John McGriff, and his father John, fought in Dunmore's War and are listed on the militia rolls of Montgomery County, Virginia.

Summer is the time to travel. Barbara and I, and Jim and Dianne Jones, will attend the Georgia Society SAR Grave Marking Ceremony of my ancestor Col. Patrick McGriff June 20, 2009, in Norristown, Emanuel County, Georgia. Jim Jones and I will join the Georgia Militia firing a musket salute in his honor. After, we are heading for Columbia, South Carolina, Chester County, Union County, York County in South Carolina, then Anson County North Carolina, and hopefully Lumpkin County, Georgia on the way to the National SAR Congress in Atlanta July 3-9, 2009. Others planning to attend the Congress are Jim

Mitchell, Ron and Conni Barker, and Don Stallings.

We are going in search of Patriots and lost roots, something Barbara and I have done since about 1980. We have met lots of great people researching and made lifelong friends. You never run out of things to talk about, and let's face it, what better topic is there than the history of our ancestors.

Thank you
Larry Stevens



"Doc" and Lynn Rice at the PineyWoods May 21, 2009 Meeting.



"Doc" presenting *April 19th, 1775, The First Day of the American Revolution*.

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ponent positions claim that the battle at Point Pleasant was initiated by the Indians to drive back the colonists away from the Indian hunting grounds, not a conspiracy led by Lord Dunmore.

The battle of Lexington, Massachusetts fought in early 1775 is recognized by many as the start of the revolutionary war. The wars fought from Lexington onward are considered to have occurred during the revolutionary period (1775 to 1783) and as such the sol-

diers who participated are considered revolutionary war soldiers eligible for government pensions. Strangely, those soldiers who fought in the battle of Point Pleasant are not officially recognized as revolutionary soldiers thus the ongoing dispute today. Regardless of the true start of the revolutionary war which began our country's independence from British rule, these brave soldiers endured the agonizing battles which make America a truly great country.



Eagle Scout Kyle Martin, left, and his father, Keith Martin at the PineyWoods May 21, 2009 meeting. Mr. Martin will be attending Baylor in the Fall.



PineyWoods Chapter President Larry Stevens presented the Eagle Scout Essay Contest award certificate to Eagle Scout Kyle Martin. Mr. Martin was also presented with a check for \$200.00. Mr. Martin's essay is printed on page 5 with his permission

Newsletter

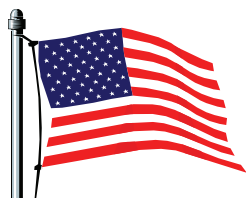
The PineyWoods Shavings is mailed to 25 members . Thirty-seven members have elected to receive their copy by e-mail. This has saved the chapter around half of the money budgeted for the newsletter. The PineyWoods Shavings is also posted on our Chapter's website at:

<http://www.txssar.org/PineyWoods/>

The Texas Society is attempting the same due to budget woes. Our State Secretary Bill Marrs is asking all of our 2400 plus members who can to provide him their e-mail address. The State will have enough money to mail one more hard copy to about half of our members this summer. The Fall Texas Patriot may just be available electronically.

Please help your SAR out.

Pine Shavings



Sons of the American Revolution



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

We're on the Web

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

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PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution
P.O. Box 6524
Kingwood, TX 77325
TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**RSVP FOR THE AUGUST 20, 2009 DINNER MEETING
At Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM**

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Friday, August 14th. You can send an RSVP email to Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com OR you can call Larry Stevens at 281-361-2061. Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$15.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.