



# Pine Shavings



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

March 2013

Volume 23, Issue 3



Compatriots –

Dear fellow PineyWoods 51 Compatriots, hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying this spring weather. Hard to believe another year has gone by and it is time to hand the baton off to Compatriot Ben Stallings as the 2013-15 Chapter President. Ben and the rest of our chapter officers will be the first group to serve a two-year term. Our March 21 meeting will be exciting. The special guest speaker is TXSSAR State

President-Elect Stephen Rohrbough. Having the State President-Elect attend our meeting and officiate the induction of the new chapter officers is a long standing tradition here at PineyWoods. I encourage everyone to attend. Once again, we will have an exceptional group to lead us forward.

It is also time to recognize the outstanding young men and women

of the JROTC programs in our jurisdiction. I will be handing out the Bronze Medals and Certificates for the upcoming JROTC Awards Banquets. This year, we are adding the SAR U.S. Flag Certificate award to these high school programs. I will e-mail out the presentation schedules soon. Thanks to your willingness to participate, we now present 27 of these awards.

This is my last message as Chapter President and, as always, I will keep it short. It is my privilege to be a member of the PineyWoods group and I've been honored to serve as President. To my friend Compatriot Ben Stallings and the rest, I wish you all well and good luck.

To our membership – come on out gentlemen and bring your guests. Thanks and God bless.

*Best Regards,  
Larry Blackburn, PhD*

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## PineyWoods - Meetings - 2013

March 21st	Member/Guest	August 15th	Member only
April 18th	Member only	September 19th	Member Guest
May 16th	Member Guest	October 17th	Member only
		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](mailto:johnbeard@suddenlink.net) or call John at 281-358-2970 OR Kim Morton at [Genmorton@usa.net](mailto:Genmorton@usa.net). OR Larry Stevens [wardtracker@aol.com](mailto:wardtracker@aol.com) (281-361-2061) Please RSVP to one person only.

## This Month in the Revolution

**March 22, 1765** – Though a decade before the declaration of war against the king, the **Stamp Act** and other acts by Parliament during this period caused dissention in the colonies. Great Britain was faced with an enormous debt following the French-Indian War (Seven Years War in Europe) Debt had almost doubled during the war. English citizens in Britain were heavily taxed. The Stamp act called for taxes (stamps) on printed paper (newspapers, playing cards, court records & pleas, invoices etc.) Two days later Parliament passed yet



another act which was also unpopular, the Quartering Act. The Quartering Act was passed as, “An act for punishing mutiny and desertion, and for the better payment of the army and their quarters.” The **Quartering Act** required the colonial assembly to provide for the basic needs of the soldiers stationed within its borders. It included in 1766 billeting soldiers in taverns and unoccupied houses. These acts were part of the Intolerable Acts.

**March 5, 1770** — On this date the **Boston Massacre** occurred between a patriot mob and a squad of British soldiers. Five colonists were killed and six were wounded. The British soldiers were brought to trial and John Adams and Josiah Quincy II acted as their defense council. The soldiers were acquitted.



**Editor's Note:** Most school children, at least of our generation, would recognize this as an engraving of the Boston Massacre by Paul Revere. But most historians will correctly ascribe the engraving to the category political propaganda and not eye-witness reporting. It was based on an engraving by Henry Pelham. [No copyright laws.] In the actual event the mob first surrounded one lone sentry then eight British soldiers. The crowd pelted the soldiers with snowballs containing rocks. The ensuing violence that day began after one ruffian attacked a British soldier with a club. While the patriots claimed that the British officer ordered his men to shoot it was alleged by many that the shout came from another direction. Revere's depiction of the scene was fuel to the fire, however, irrespective of its veracity.

There is another interesting note about the Boston Massacre which shows fairness of many of our forefathers, John Adams represented the British soldiers during these trials. He knew his actions would not be popular within his circle of patriots but his values would not allow the men to be tried for an incident beyond their control.

### President

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## EVENTS



**National :** [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

**July 5-10, 2013**

NSSAR National Congress—Kansas City, MO



**State:** [www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org)

**April 4-7**

TXSSAR Annual Meeting  
Wyndam Hotel, Dallas, TX

### Officers for 2013-2015

#### Installation at the March Meeting

**President - Ben Stallings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Greg Goulas**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Gordon Severance**

**Secretary - Joe Potter**

**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**



## February Meeting

Our February Members only meeting was held at Jimmy Gee's in the Greenspoint area. There were nine members in attendance.

The February when the chapter elects officers. The slate of officers, presented at the January meeting was voted on with one amendment. That amendment was to add the name of Compatriot Joe Potter as the Secretary. The vote was taken and the slate elected unanimously. The new officers are listed on page 3. This is the first year of the two year terms of office..

The logistics of the March 21st meeting were discussed. The TXSSAR President Elect has always in-

stalled our officers. This year an invitation was extended to President Elect Stephen Rohrbough and his wife Marie to attend and install our officers. This was accepted. He will be in town to install officers in several Houston area chapters.

President Blackburn discussed our JROTC program and the upcoming awards season. Compatriots are urged to sign up to present the award in a high school in our area. Greg Goulas is the first on deck and presented an award in February.

The officers reports were given. Dinner was enjoyed and the meeting adjourned.



## From the Editor

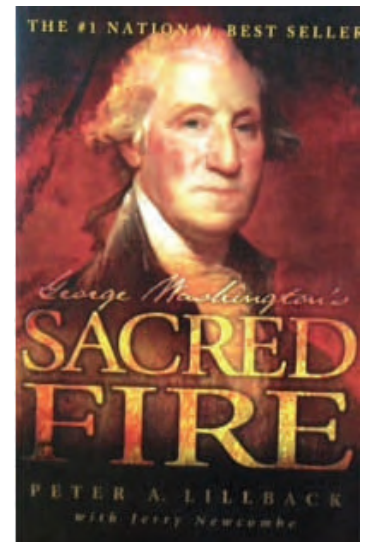
This Thursday evening at Jimmy G's Restaurant located at Greenspoint, President Elect Stephen Rohrbough who lives in San Antonio will swear in our 2013 – 2015. This will be the 19<sup>th</sup> Officer Panel for this Chapter which was found in 1993 and chartered in February 1994. Three founding members still attend PineyWoods meetings and serve as chapter officers. Allan Henshaw has served as our Chancellor since the beginning. Kim Morton has been our Genealogist from the beginning. And, I am the third. I have served in as a chapter officer since 2003; every position except the Treasurer.

I am glad to say we have a new group of men coming forth to help our chapter succeed and continue to support SAR programs at all levels. I hope you have enjoyed the Newsletters.

**If you have contributing articles about your ancestor or maybe a trip you took to a Revolutionary War Battle site, please send these to me so I can include them in the newsletter.**

I was so delighted to have attended the lecture by Dr

Peter Lillback, author of *George Washington's Sacred Fire*. The program, introduced by our own Dr. Diane Severance, Director of the Dunham Bible museum was awesome. Dr. Lillback is the President of Westminster Seminary and President of the Providence Forum. His work for this book has spanned years encompassing over 2,500 documents and letters from Washington and his associates over the time. His work should at last put to rest the claim that George Washington was a Deist. What was amazing was the question and answer period afterward. Dr. Lillback's responses demonstrated his depth of knowledge of the primary sources he used in this work.



## Leadership Meeting

On March 1st -3rd several PineyWoods members traveled to Louisville to attend the Spring NSSAR Leadership Meetings. Compatriots John, Beard, Jim Jones, Jim Mitchell and Larry Stevens, and Ron Barker (our California dual member) were in attendance. Wives Conni Barker, Dianne Jones and Barbara Stevens also attended this meeting with their husbands.

Each PineyWoods Compatriot is on several National Committees, including Finance, Auditing, Education, Color Guard, Patriot Grave Marking, and the list goes on.

The holdings of the new SAR Library continue to increase and the Stevens and Barkers spent an eventful afternoon researching there. A chance meeting of the DeVenney's of Missouri opened another avenue of service there. For several hours the DeVenneys, Barkers and Stevens volunteered in Merchandise repackaging medals. While working at the Library we were please to witness PG Leishman signing a contract for the Phase II development (see photo at left.)



*Above: Russ DeVenney, Ron Barker, Conni Barker and Barbara Stevens all hard at work*



*John Beard ,Ron Barker, Larry Stevens and Conni Barker*



*John Beard and Ron Barker enjoy dinner*





# Color Guard & Community Events



## Elementary School Presentation



On March 8, 2013—Larry and Barbara Stevens and Ray Cox participated in “Patriots Day — A Celebration of Our History,” at Eagle Springs Elementary

School in Atascocita. Eight thirty minute presentations on Colonial Life and the Fife as an Instrument of War were presented to the fifth grade classes.



# Revolutionary War Pensions

*Pension records are on microfilm at the National Archives in Washington DC. To rent these film, please contact the National Archive Rental Program, P.O.Box 30, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701, or call 301-604-3699 to find out the participating library nearest you.*

For more than a century before the beginning of the Revolutionary War, British colonies in North America provided pensions for disabled soldiers and sailors. During and after the Revolutionary War three principal types of pensions were provided by the U. S. Government for servicemen and their dependents: "Disability" or "invalid pensions" were awarded to servicemen for physical disabilities incurred in the line of duty; "service pensions," to veterans who served for specified periods of time; and "widows' pensions," to women whose husbands had been killed in the war or were veterans who had served for specified periods of time.

On August 26, 1776, the first pension legislation for the American colonies as a group was enacted. A resolution of the Continental Congress provided half pay for officers and enlisted men, including those on warships and armed vessels, who were disabled in the service of the United States and who were incapable of earning a living. The half pay was to continue for the duration of the disability.

On May 15, 1778, another resolution provided half pay for 7 years after the conclusion of the war to all

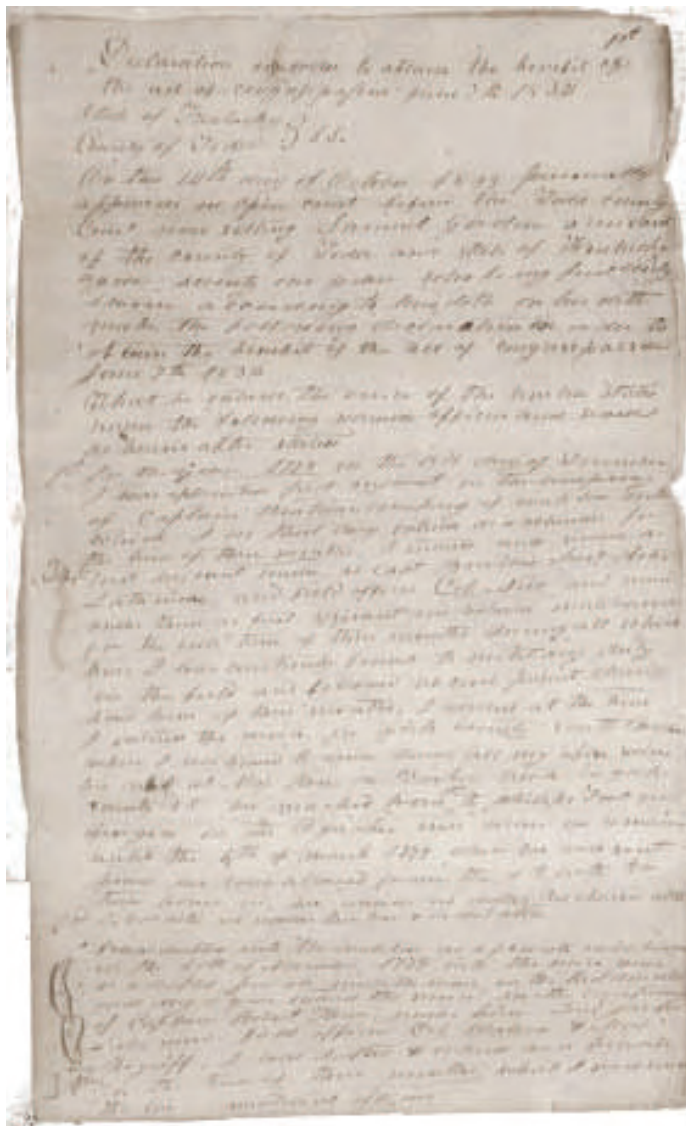
military officers who remained in the Continental service to the end of the war. Enlisted men who continued to serve for the duration of the conflict were each to receive a gratuity of \$80 after the war under the terms of the same enactment. The first national pension legislation for widows was a Continental Congress resolution of August 24, 1780, which offered the prospect of half pay for 7 years to widows and orphans of officers who met the requirements included in the terms of the resolution of May 15, 1778. On October 21, 1780, the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, was amended to provide half pay for life to officers after the war; but on March 22, 1783, the half-pay-for-life provision was changed to 5 years' full pay.

Pension legislation during the Revolutionary War was designed to encourage enlistment and acceptance of commissions and to prevent desertion and resignation.

After the war, pensions became a form of reward for services rendered. Both during and after the Revolution, the States as well as the U. S. Government awarded pensions based on participation in the conflict. The records reproduced in this microfilm publication pertain only to pensions granted or paid pursuant to public and private acts of the U.S. Government. Public acts, under which the majority of such pensions were authorized, encom-

passed large classes of veterans or their dependents who met common eligibility requirements. Private acts concerned specific individuals whose special services or circumstances merited consideration, but who could not be awarded pensions under existing public acts.

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On September 29, 1789 (1 Stat. 95), the First Congress of the United States passed an act which provided that invalid pensions previously paid by the States, pursuant to resolutions of the Continental Congress, should be continued and paid for 1 year by the newly established Federal Government. Subsequent legislation often extended the time limit. An act of Congress approved March 23, 1792 (1 Stat. 243), permitted veterans not already receiving invalid pensions under resolutions of the Continental Congress to apply for them directly to the Federal Government. On April 10, 1806 (2 Stat. 376), the scope of earlier invalid-pension laws pertaining to Revolutionary War servicemen was extended to make veterans of State troops and militia service eligible for Federal pensions. The act superseded all previous Revolutionary War invalid-pension legislation.

Before 1818 national pension laws concerning veterans of the Revolution (with the exception of the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, granting half pay to officers for service alone) specified disability or death of a serviceman as the basis for a pension award. Not until March 18, 1818 (3 Stat. 410), did the U. S. Congress grant pensions to Revolutionary War veterans for service from which no disabilities resulted. Officers and enlisted men in need of assistance were eligible under the terms of the 1818 act if they had served in a Continental military organization or in the U. S. naval service (including the Marines) for 9 months or until the end of the war. Pensions granted under this act were to continue for life.

The service-pension act of 1818 resulted in a great number of applications, many of which were approved. Congress had to appropriate greater sums than ever before for Revolutionary War pension payments. Financial difficulties and charges that applicants were feigning poverty to obtain benefits under the terms of the act caused Congress to enact remedial legislation on May 1, 1820 (3 Stat. 569). The new law required every pensioner receiving payments under the 1818 act, and every would-be pensioner, to submit a certified schedule of his estate and income to the Secretary of War. The Secretary was authorized to remove from the pension list the names of those persons who, in his opinion, were not in need of assistance. Within a few years the total of Revolutionary War service pensioners was reduced by several thousand. An act of Congress approved March 1, 1823 (3 Stat. 782), resulted in the restoration of pensions to many whose names had been

removed under the terms of the 1820 legislation, but who subsequently proved their need for aid.

Congress passed another service-pension act on May 15, 1823 (4 Stat. 269), which granted full pay for life to surviving officers and enlisted men of the Revolutionary War who were eligible for benefits under the terms of the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, as amended.

The last and most liberal of the service-pension acts benefiting Revolutionary War veterans was passed on June 7, 1832 (4 Stat. 529), and extended to more persons the provisions of the law of May 15, 1828. The act provided that every officer or enlisted man who had served at least 2 years in the Continental Line or State troops, volunteers or militia, was eligible for a pension of full pay for life. Naval and marine officers and enlisted men were also included. Veterans who had served less than 2 years, but not less than 6 months, were eligible for pensions of less than full pay. Neither the act of 1832 nor the one of 1828 required applicants to demonstrate need. Under the act of 1832 money due from the last payment until the date of death of a pensioner could be collected by his widow or by his children.

The time limit for making claims under the Continental Congress resolution of August 24, 1780, which promised half-pay pensions to widows and orphans of some officers, expired in 1794. For many years thereafter, unless a private act of Congress was introduced on her behalf, a widow of a veteran was limited to receiving only that part of a pension that remained unpaid at the time of her husband's death. By an act of Congress approved July 4, 1836 (5 Stat. 128), some widows of Revolutionary War veterans were again permitted, as a class under public law, to apply for pensions. The act provided that the widow of any veteran who had performed service as specified in the pension act of June 7, 1832, was eligible to receive the pension that might have been allowed the veteran under the terms of that act, if the widow had married the veteran before the expiration of his last period of service. An act of July 7, 1838 (5 Stat. 303), granted 5-year pensions to widows whose marriages had taken place before January 1, 1794. These pensions were continued by acts of March 3, 1843 (5 Stat. 647); June 17, 1844 (5 Stat. 680); and February 2, 1848 (9 Stat. 210).

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On July 29, 1848 (9 Stat. 265), Congress provided life pensions for widows of veterans who were married before January 2, 1800. All restrictions pertaining to the date of marriage were removed by acts of February 3, 1853 (10 Stat. 154), and February 28, 1855 (10 Stat. 616). On March 9, 1878 (20 Stat. 29), widows of Revolutionary War soldiers who had served for as few as 14 days, or were in any engagement, were declared eligible for life pensions.

During the Revolution and in the period between the conclusion of the war and the establishment of the Federal Government, administration of the pension laws enacted by the Continental Congress was left largely to the individual States. The act of Congress approved September 29, 1789 (1 Stat. 95), which provided for the continuance of such pensions by the newly established Federal Government, stipulated only that they should be paid "under such regulations as the President . . . may direct." The act of Congress approved March 23, 1792 (1 Stat. 244), which permitted the addition of new names to the existing list of Revolutionary War pensioners, specified that the Secretary of War was to administer its provisions. For most of the period between 1793 and 1819, Congress reserved to itself the power of final decision with respect to the allowance of claims. Thus an act of February 28, 1793 (1 Stat. 325), required the Secretary of War to send lists of claims to the Congress for action. The service-pension act of March 18, 1818 (3 Stat. 410), gave the Secretary of War the authority to approve applications submitted under that law, and by an act of March 3, 1819 (3 Stat. 528), he was similarly empowered to place invalids on the pension list without prior Congressional approval.

Within the Office of the Secretary of War, pension matters were handled as early as 1810 by a unit called the Office of Military Bounty Lands and Pensions. Between 1810 and 1815 the unit was also referred to as the Section (or Branch) of Military Bounty Lands and Pensions. In 1815 the Branch was divided into two units; a Pension Bureau and a Land Warrant Bureau; after 1816 the Pension Bureau was generally referred to as the Pension Office. Not until March 2, 1833 (4 Stat. 622), did Congress formally provide for the appointment of a Commissioner of Pensions to execute pension laws under the general direction of the Secretary of War. When an act of Congress provided for the establishment of the Department of the

Interior on March 3, 1849 (9 Stat. 395), the Pension Office was transferred to it. On July 21, 1930, by Executive Order 5398, the Bureau of Pensions (formerly called the Pension Office) was consolidated with other agencies also serving veterans, and the Veterans Administration, an independent executive agency, was established.

Two pension acts pertaining to Revolutionary War servicemen were not initially administered by the Pension Office. Responsibility for executing the provisions of the act of May 15, 1828 (4 Stat. 270), was vested in the Secretary of the Treasury until authority was transferred to the War Department on March 3, 1835 (4 Stat. 779). The Secretary of the Treasury was also named to administer the act of June 7, 1832 (4 Stat. 530), but a Congressional resolution on June 28, 1832 (4 Stat. 605), relieved him of that function and transferred it to the Secretary of War.

Application procedures followed by would-be pensioners varied according to the acts under which benefits were sought. Generally the process required an applicant to appear before a court of record in the State of his or her residence to describe under oath the service for which a pension was claimed. A widow of a veteran was required to provide information concerning the date and place of her marriage. The application statement or "declaration," as it was usually called, with such supporting papers as property schedules, marriage records, and affidavits of witnesses, was certified by the court and forwarded to the official, usually the Secretary of War or the Commissioner of Pensions, responsible for administering the specific act under which the claim was being made. An applicant was subsequently notified that his application had been approved, rejected, or put aside pending the submission of additional proof of eligibility. If an applicant was eligible, his name was placed on the pension list. Payments were usually made semiannually through pension agents of the Federal Government in the States. An applicant rejected under the terms of an earlier pension act often reapplied for benefits under later, more liberal laws.

*The above information was taken verbatim from the American Revolution message board for genealogy.com. It was written and posted as message #3250 by Ed, a historian on the American Revolution.*

## SAR Annual Convention— Dallas, Texas

### Dallas, Texas — April 4-7, 2013

Our annual convention will be held in Dallas this year. lent activities. These include the following:

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-

- 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, Orations 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	
<b>TOTALS (Include check to TXSSAR)</b>	<b>Calculate</b>		<b>35.00</b>

**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/Mar13ConfSilentAuctionFlier.pdf>

Registration form can be found at the following site:

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