



**Pine Shavings
PineyWoods chapter 51
Texas Society
Sons of the
American Revolution**



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR or NSSAR) is an American congressionally chartered organization, founded in 1889 and headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky.



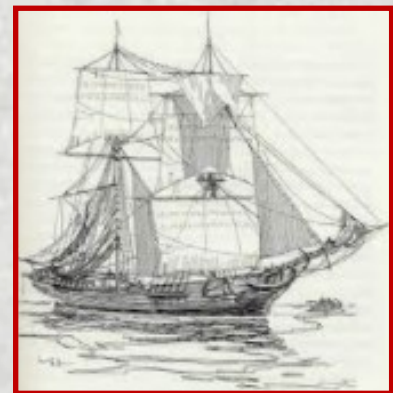
The PineyWoods Chapter #51 was chartered on February 3, 1994, and is named for its geographic location in the state. We draw members from Houston (S) to Livingston (N) and from The Woodlands (W) to Liberty (E). PineyWoods meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month except June and July at Union Kitchen Kingwood Tex-



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FARMING AND RANCHING

by Davena Liepman

Organized in 2019 by founders Janisue Rigel and Davena Liepman of Texas, The National Society Descendants of American Farmers honors American farmers by recognizing the unlimited contributions they have made in the development of our country, the bread basket of the world. Ancestors must have been farmers from July 4, 1776 to July 4 1914.



250 years ago 9 Jun 1772 Burning HMS GASPEE in Rhode Island

Texas Sons of the American Revolution

***127th Annual Convention
March 31-April 3, 2022***

Hilton Richardson Dallas - 701 East Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75081
Phone: 972-231-9600

Registration Form on the Public Site-Printable or PayPal

The Texas Society is inviting all members to attend. This is the first IN PERSON Annual Convention since 2019

Our current Officers have served for two years. Their "1" Year Terms will end with the Election of New Officers for 2022-2023

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From the President:



Members and Friends,

So, we begin March. As the old proverb goes, “*March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb*”. This was particularly true when I was growing up in Kentucky where March could be a very cold month, but the cold often began to break before the beginning of April. While some places receive their largest amounts of snow in March, it is a transitional month in much of the United States, although not so much here on southeast Texas where the average high and low for the month are 73 and 54 respectively. The old saying can be traced back to physician Thomas Fuller’s 1732 compendium, “*Gnomologia; Adiaiges and Proverbs; Wise Sentences and Witty Sayings, Ancient and Modern, Foreign and British.*” It is believed the saying originally had more to do with the heavenly stars above because the constellation Leo (the lion) rises in the east to start March, and the month ends with the constellation Aries (the ram/lamb) setting in the west.

The saying was adapted at some point to include the weather because March generally has such wild meteorological swings.

March in Houston also signals the arrival of the Houston Livestock Show and Rode (HLSR). In December, HLSR Chairman Brady Carruth spoke at the Houston Chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI meeting and provided some interesting facts about Houston’s signature event which is comparable to Mardi Gras and the Texas State Fair. The 501(c)(3) charitable organization has awarded more than \$500 million in scholarships since it began in 1932 as a regional event to showcase agriculture and livestock in the area surrounding Houston. Of the scholarship recipients, 44 percent are the first in their family to attend college and 24 percent are the first in their family to graduate from a high school. The 21-day event results in more than \$220 million in economic impact to the City of Houston. Chairman Carruth discussed the mid-show cancellation of the 2020 event and total cancellation of the 2021 show. The HLSR pivoted to online animal auctions to award scholarships to students raising show animals. The 90th HLSR is scheduled for February 28 - March 20th and is an in-person event. I hope you get a chance to go out and see the rodeo, and perhaps catch the night’s concert performer.

March is rich with American historical events. One I will cite is Britain’s passage of The Stamp Act on March 22, 1765. The Act taxed all papers and official documents in the colonies, though not in England. It required legal documents, newspapers, magazines and even playing cards be printed on paper produced in London that had the official tax seal. Britain imposed the tax to pay for war expenses incurred because of struggles with France and Spain. The Act was very unpopular in the colonies, and many refused to pay the tax. Ben Franklin and members of the Sons of Liberty argued the British Parliament did not have authority to impose the tax. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act on March 18, 1766.

Our next meeting will be on March 19th at the Union Kitchen and Janisue and Davena Rigel will speak about the National Society Descendants of American Farmers. I look forward to seeing you there. Please RSVP to me confirming your attendance.

Michael Anderson

SAR ROTC AWARD DATES

THESE ARE THE SCHOOLS THAT HAVE SCHEDULED AWARD SHOWS AND WOULD LIKE A REP FROM OUR CHAPTER TO PRESENT THE AWARD. *I HAVE SENT AWARDS/CERTIFICATES TO THEM*

DEKANEY HS 31 MAR 2022 1830
KINGWOOD PARK HS 18 APR 2022
KLEIN COLLINS HS 23 APR 2022
TOMBALL HS 27 APR 2022 AT HS 5- 7PM
SPLENDORA HS 29 APR 2022 HS CAF 5:30 PM
NEW CANEY HS 30 APR 2022
KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 5 MAY
ATASCOCITA HS MAY 6
PORTER HS 6 MAY 2022
KLEIN FOREST HS MAY 13 2022
SPRING HS WAITING DATE
TOMBALL MEMORIAL LATE APRIL
DEER PARK HS 11 MAY 2022
DAYTON HS 11 MAY 2022 TIME 1830



PineyWoods Members

It is a great honor to present these medal to deserving young High School JROTC Cadets. It is the highest national award Cadets can be presented from organizations such as the DAR, VFW, and others and one of only a couple that the Cadet can wear on their dress uniform as authorized by the US Congress.

If you are available to present this ROTC Bronze Medal please contact our Chapter ROTC program chairman Randy Hall or president Mike Anderson

PineyWoods Chapter Officers

2021-2023

President—Michael Anderson

1st VP—Abe Abdmoulaie

2nd VP—Bernie Kent

Secretary—Jim Pinkerton

Treasurer - B Ray Mize

Chancellor - Allan Henshaw

Parliamentarian-Mark Anthony

Genealogist -Kermit Breed

Registrar - Larry Stevens

Registrar - Joe Potter

Historian - Kermit Breed

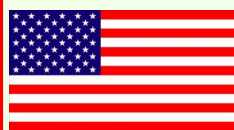
Chaplain -Alan Bowman

Sgt. at Arms—Randy Hall

Newsletter Editor- Larry Stevens

Web Master - Ray Cox

Events Calendar



NSSAR

SAR 132 Congress Savannah, GA—
July 9-15, 2022

TXSSAR



2022 Annual TXSSAR Convention
Mar 31 to Apr 3, 2022 Richardson
Texas

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER 51



Meetings at Union Kitchen

March 19, 2022

April 16, 2022

May 21, 2022

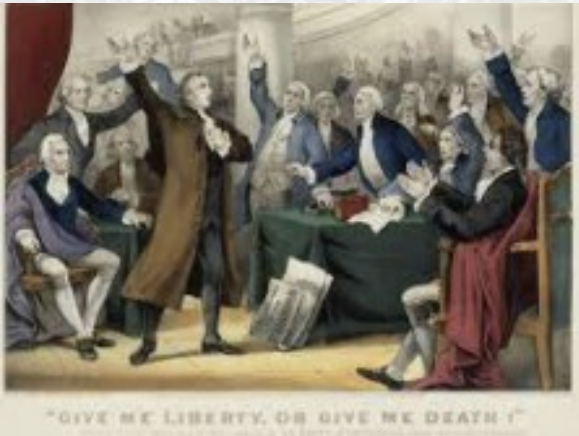


**Official Newsletter PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution**

Kingwood, TX 77325

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

2022 Issue 3 Editor—Larry Stevens



The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776 will be 250 years ago in 2026. There is an NSSAR Committee dedicated to helping plan patriotic celebrations and events for our Chapters, our State Societies, and our National Society, to tell the American Public about our ancestors and our history. In light of world events recently, I believe we need to step back and look at where we are today. Working at schools presenting Historical and Education Programs on the Colonial American period up to and during the American Revolution, has allowed me to see how much our educators and our children and their parents want to know more about the history of this country. “I did not know that,” is a common comment when discussing even basic hygiene in the eighteenth century. When talking of the size of “America, only a few know most European settlers that made up the colonial population

only lived within 200 miles of the Atlantic; some areas, much closer.

When Patrick Henry shouted, “Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death,” I think **few today** knew that he really meant it. Being an outspoken Rebel decrying the wrath of an overbearing King and Parliament was a treasonous act. Henry could have been arrested and hung for preaching revolt. Royal Governor Dunsmore heard the speech. He had the gunpowder removed from the Arsenal in Williamsburg.

St. John’s Church, Richmond Virginia March 13, 1775, the 2nd Virginia Convention met here instead of the capitol in Williamsburg to avoid interference by Governor Lord Dunsmore. Henry was to talk of raising and establishing a militia for their defense to put Virginia in a posture of defense. Delegates warned Henry, that he should wait, until this action was approved by Dunsmore. Henry addressed the Convention!

“MR. PRESIDENT: No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do, opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely, and without reserve. This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfil the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offence, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the majesty of heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.”

Ending, Henry shouted, ***“It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”***

“Teach Our Children” why and how our Colonial Ancestors banded together in rebellion to build new Republic of Free Men and Women and declared their intent on July 4, 1776!

Your Editor—Larry G. Stevens

Revolutionary War

1776 March 27 – British complete evacuation of Boston with 11,000 British Servicemen and hundreds of Loyalist sailing to New York.

1776 April 4 - Washington leaves Cambridge and marches to New York. Washington forecasted this move by the British, so he and Martha packed up and started for New York.

1777 April - General Lord Cornwallis begins the New Jersey campaign in an attempt to draw George Washington out of winter camp at Morristown New Jersey.

1777 April 17—G. Washington writes of General William Maxwell, commander of the light infantry and the New Jersey Militia *“Morristown April 17th, 1777. Sir, That the enemy are upon the point of opening up a campaign, can scarce and admit of doubt, where and in what manner is uncertain, it behoves us however, to be as prepared as possible...”*, and that Maxwell should prepare. He should have *“Ogden’s, Shrive’s, Marlin’s, and Spencer’s regiments see that the commanding officers of them are every possible means to get them completed, and that they have the men carried through the small pox by inoculation as fast as the surgeons, under direction of the hospitals can possibly accomplish”..... G. Washington.*

1778 March 1 – Continental Congress approves recruiting Indians into the Continental Army. Washington writes a letter explaining how they should be used on 13 March 1778 to Phillip Schuyler, James Duane, and Volkert Douw. In his letter Washington said, *“The Oneidas and Tuscaroras have particular claim to attention and kindness, for their perseverance and fidelity.”* The warriors arrived in valley Forge on May 15, 1778.



1778 March The Colonial Secretary in London, Lord Germain, George Sackville, sends General Henry Clinton a letter stating there are more loyalists in the south than the north and the direction on the war in the north should be of limited raids and blockages along the coast. In

May of 1778 Clinton replaces General Sir William Howe as commander of British force in North America.



I would have you attend particularly to the care of Ogden's, Shrive's, Martin's and Spencer's Regiments; see that the commanding officers of them use every possible means to get them completed; and that they have their men carried through the small pox, by inoculation, as fast as the surgeons, under the direction of the Hospital, can possibly accomplish it. Cause the



NEW MEMBERS 2021

Welcome new members.

We continue to get inquiries for Membership. These are referred to our Registrar (s) - Larry Stevens, Kermit Breed, Joe Potter. If other members would like to help, please let me know. Helping someone PROVE their PATRIOT Ancestor can be challenging but fun researching.
President Mike Anderson



NEW APPLICATIONS: New Members 2022

Hartwick, Mervyn Lester ANC #100433 SAR # 221542 Anc. HART, Gilbert NY Approved Jan 28, 2022 SARAH LINSLEY

King, Darren William ANC # 100459 SAR # 221548 Anc. KING, JAMES DE Approved Jan 28, 2022 NANCY FARQUHAR

King, Evan Darren ANC# 100461 SAR# 221550 Anc. KING, JAMES DE Approved Jan 28, 2022 NANCY FARQUHAR

King, Ryan Elliot ANC# 100460 SAR# 221549 Anc. KING, JAMES DE Approved Jan 28, 2022 NANCY FARQUHAR

PineyWoods Chapter Membership: a/o 21 Feb 2022

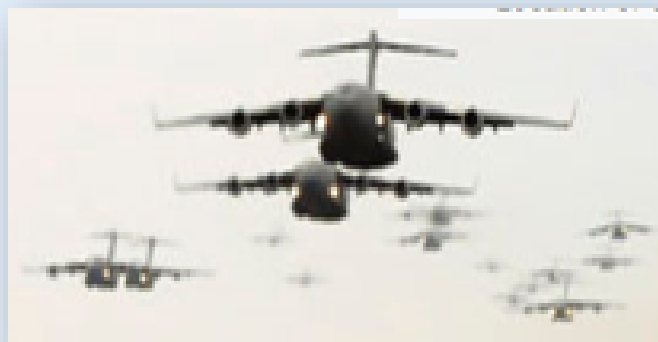
Regular- 87 New - 3 Dual- 4 Youth-4 Reinstated 4 Total 98

VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

CHAPTER PROJECTS

Chapter Coupon Project

Coupons for Overseas Military Families program. All that is required is for you to CLIP the manufacturer's coupons that appear in the newspapers, and mail them to:



**John Beard
3738 Palmetto Creek Dr
Kingwood, Texas 77339**

PineyWoods Chapter 51 extends Thank You John Worm for starting this wonderful project helping our service men and women and their families located at bases and posts overseas. On nearly all bases, there is only one place to buy groceries, laundry supplies, and personal items: from Base Commissaries.

Pledge to the United State of America

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



Texas Pledge

Honor the Texas flag, I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



AGENDA—March 19, 2022 — 11:00 AM

INVOCATION

PLEDGES; USA & Texas Flag and SAR Pledge

OFFICERS 2021-2023

President Mike Anderson

Introductions

1st Vice President—Abe Abdmoulaie

2nd VP --- Bernie Kent

Secretary—Jim Pinkerton

Treasurer — B. Ray Mize

Genealogist — Kermit Breed

Chaplain—Alan Bowman

Chancellor—Allan Henshaw

Parliamentarian—Mark Anthony

Registrars—Larry Stevens, Joe Potter

Historian—Kermit Breed

Sgt. At Arms—Randy Hall

Newsletter Report—Larry Stevens

Webmasters Report -- Ray Cox

NEW BUSINESS

BENEDICTION

SAR CLOSING—Abe Abdmoulaie

SAR PLEDGE

“We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”

SAR CLOSING

“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.”

Piney Woods Chapter #51 Business Meeting

Union Kitchen Restaurant

February 19, 2022

President Michael Anderson opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Chaplain Alan Bowman gave the invocation. The invocation was followed by President Anderson, leading members, and guests in the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags. The members then recited the SAR pledge. Members and guests introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their patriot ancestors.

Attendance: Compatriot's present (15) Michael Anderson, John Beard, Alan Bowman, Kermit Breed, Ray Cox, Ken Fleming, Norman Funderburk, Randy Hall, James Jones, Bernie Kent, William King, Jim Pinkerton, Joe Potter, Cannon Pritchard, Larry Stevens.

Attendance: Guests present (7) Carolyn Bowman, Joan Grater, Di-
anne Jones, Ann Kent, Barbara Stevens, Christiana Lesher (speaker),
Kirby Lesher.

Secretary Report: The report was posted in the January newsletter.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer B. Ray Mize was not in attendance.

Registrars Report: Applications for Compatriot Bill King's two sons and grandson have been approved. Merv Hartwick's application has been approved. President Anderson noted he has received SAR certificates for the three Kings and Merv; they will be inducted at an upcoming chapter meeting. Registrar Larry Stevens stated another prospective member has contacted him for information about becoming a member.

JROTC Report: Compatriot Randy Hall gave a report on possible JROTC presentations this spring at numerous high schools.

Old and New Business: Piney Woods Chapter bylaws state officer terms are for a one-year period; however, the chapter has allowed officers to serve two-year terms following a motion and vote prior to the start of the second year. Larry Stevens read the slate of officers; John Beard motioned the current officers serve another year, and attending compatriots thereafter voted and approved the motion.

Last month Piney Woods Chapter, along with Freedom Chapter, DAR, and other community members presented a Patriotic Revolution War program at the Humble Museum. The program included musket firing, traditional food presentations, and a skit by Humble I.S.D students in period costumes. More than 400 people signed the Museum Entrance log and many more were in attendance.

John Beard gave coupon report on the ongoing collection of coupons for Air Force Bases in the Pacific. Ray Cox gave a report on the registration for the upcoming State Convention to be held in Richardson. Kermit Breed gave a short presentation on the chapter yearbook for 2021.

Presentation: Attorney, Christina Lesher, gave an interesting presentation on Elder Law. Topics included Long Term Health Care, Financial Power of Attorney, Living Wills, Medical Power of Attorney and HIPA information.

Adjournment: Chaplain Alan Bowman gave the Benediction, this was followed by the recitation of the SAR Closing and, President Michael Anderson adjourned our meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Jim Pinkerton-Secretary



The Price of Rum: The Gaspee Affair

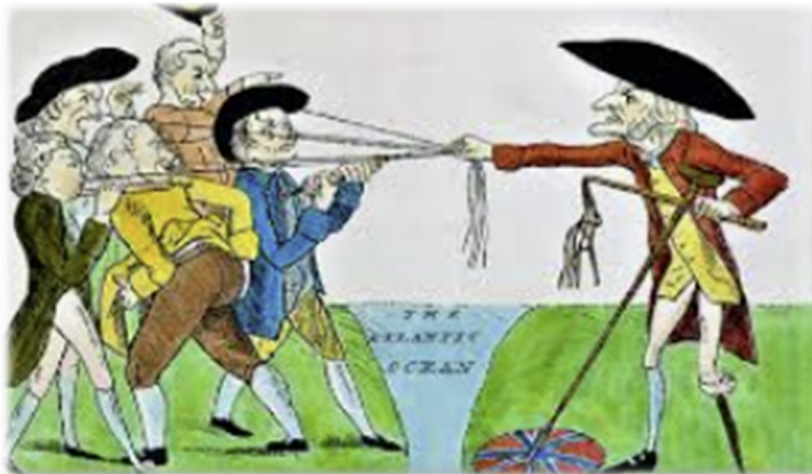
By Larry G. Stevens

The American Colonist inherited an insatiable sweet tooth for sugar, and this was easily satisfied with molasses, which could be imported from the sugar cane plantations of the Caribbean. This dark sweet fluid was used for sweetening beans and baking brown breads. However, the main use of molasses was distillation to make rum. By the mid 1600's, Rhode Island had a least twenty-four distilleries while Massachusetts had over sixty. Not only was rum made for locals, but it became an important trade product in European markets as part of what is known as the "Triangular Trade." *New England Rum was a turning point in transatlantic commerce and a brazen step toward liberty.* (1) Using the skills of their European ancestors and the products of the new world, America established a niche in 18th century spirit sales. The colonists themselves were believed to have consumed around five gallons of rum per person each year at just a few shillings per gallon. (1)



In 1733 Britain passed the first Sugar Act in an attempt to channel colonial trade to Britain. The Act taxed each imported gallon of molasses six pence and was to be strictly enforced by customs agents in the American ports. Distillers, merchants, and traders were incensed with this tax; and angry enough to seek other methods of obtaining cane products. The thirsty colonists ignored the Law and became rum runners and smugglers affecting the culture of New England long before Revolution.

The French and Indian War or The Seven Years War between French and England depleted the English Treasury. Britain's debt at the beginning of the wars was estimated and 74 million pounds and at the end, 133 million pounds (some say 122 million) and interest on the debt at 4.4 million pounds per year. On the onset of the conflict in Albany, Britain advised the colonial government representatives that they must help pay for the War in North America. In April 1763, when George Granville became Prime Minister, he was faced with a debt of



200,000 pounds a year just for the 10,000 British soldiers stationed in American. In May 1763, the Pontiac Rebellion in the Ohio Country made it clear that soldiers must remain in the colonies.

Parliament, reacting to the Board of Trade opinion that the French and Indian War was justification for clamping down on smuggling and other activities which ignored the Navigations Acts, passed the Revenue Act of 1762. This act abolished absentee customs agents who resided in England who relied on

deputies in the American colonies. Custom officials would now be in the colonies. One of the purposes was an attempt to block the trade with the French Sugar Islands. Colonial importers had long received shipments of sugar and molasses from the French, smuggled, even during the French and Indian War. During the early 1760's after the duties were in force, there was an increase in revenue from 2,000 pounds collected all of the time before the Acts to more than 30,000 pounds collected by the new custom officials after. (Tax History Museum 1756 to 1766-The Seven Years War to the American Revolution: TAX NOTES Website)

With the 1733 Molasses Act about to expire in 1763, Granville began revising the Act, and on April 5, 1764, a revised Act was approved effective in September 1764. While the new Sugar Act reduced the duty on a gallon of molasses from six pence to three pence into the colonies, it increased duty on refined sugars, and banned the importation of foreign rum into the colonies. This Act meant New England distilleries could no longer distill sugar and molasses into rum. The Act also taxed coffee, textiles, wine, and even timber shipped to England. Further, on April 19, 1764, the Currency Act passed banning colonial printed money for paying the taxes, pay-

ments had to be in gold and silver. (Note: twelve pence equaled one shilling, twenty shillings equaled one pound in the 1700's)

“On May 15, 1764, the Boston Town Meeting representatives to the Massachusetts General Court were asked [Legislature] to...*use your power and influence in maintaining the invaluable Rights and Privileges of the Province...For if our Trade may be taxed why not our Lands? Why not the produce of our Lands, and every Thing we possess or make use of?....If Taxes are laid upon us in any shape without ever having a Legal Representative where they are laid, are we not reduced from the Character of Free Subjects to the miserable state of tributary Slaves... (2)*”

As the language from the Boston Town Meeting suggests, the American Colonies attitudes had changed. They wanted a greater say in their governance. They protested any new duties or taxes

imposed by Parliament without their input. The new Acts were passed because Britain wanted to recoup revenue lost due to smuggling. The money was needed to pay off debts incurred by the Seven Years War. The new traffic included increasing the number of customs agents and deputizing Royal Navy Sea Officers which authorized them to seize and search ships at sea.

The British Admiralty purchased six French sloops and schooners just after the French and Indian War for this purpose. These were the St. John, the Magdalen, the Gaspee, the St. Lawrence, the Hope, and the Chaleur. These were retrofitted and renamed with angelized names in His Majesty's Service or HMS Gaspee, etc.

In 1764, the schooner HMS St. John, commanded by Lt. Hill, was stationed in Rhode Island to aid in enforcing the new duties on goods with orders to stop and search ships at sea. After a brig off loaded cargo near Howland's Ferry, and headed to sea, the St. John stopped the vessel, made prize of her, and then sailed back to Newport.

This and other of St. John's activities angered the Rhode Islanders to the point where they armed a small ship with the intent of destroying the St. John. But the presence in the harbor of the large HMS Squirrel prevented this, so, instead, they seized the Battery on Goat Island and fired the cannons at the Squirrel. (3)



SUGAR ACT 1764

During the same year, 1764, the HMS Maidstone lay for months in the Newport Harbor. The ship searched small and large craft in Narragansett Bay. Late in the year a brig from Africa entered the Bay. Royal Navy Officers and the entire crew boarded the brig was pressed into service of the Royal Navy. That evening a mob of more than five hundred dragged a small boat that was tied to the wharf and belonged to the Maidstone through the streets of the Common, in front of the Court-house, and burned it with a large shouting crowd watching. The British Navy and Customs Agents continued checking cargo at the docks and stopped ships and sea the search for unclaimed cargo along the New England Coast.



Joseph Walton

In Boston, June 1768, the ship Liberty, owned by John Hancock, was boarded by a custom agent, possibly two, to inspect the shipping manifests against the actual cargo in the hold. The British claimed the Liberty crew locked them up on board and unloaded the ship. After, the agents claimed retaliation and were beaten and bruised by those on the docks. The British seized the Liberty and towed in out of the harbor by the HMS Halifax and then sailed it to Rhode Island and renamed the HMS Liberty. On July 19, 1769, in Newport Rhode Island the crew of the HMS Liberty, serving under Captain William Reid accosted New London ship Captain Joseph Packwood and the towed two Connecticut ships to Newport. Retaliating, Captain Packwood with his men and more Rhode Islanders confronted Reid, then scuttled the HMS Liberty, and burned it on the end of Goat Island, Newport. (4)

The Eight Gun Schooner HMS Gaspee, commanded by Royal Navy Lt. William Dudingston, sailed into Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island in February 1772, to enforce the collection of duties and perform mandatory cargo inspections. After meeting with Rhode Island Royal Governor Joseph Walton, he began patrolling the Bay. On February seventeenth, he boarded the merchant ship Fortune and found twelve Hogshead, about 756 Gallons of undeclared rum. Dudingston ordered the Fortune sailed to Boston believing the Rhode Islanders would seize the rum. The Colonials were infuriated, since any court action would be in Boston, and not Rhode Island, where the seizure took place. Even Governor Walton was powerless. This action violated the Rhode Island Royal Charter of 1663 which stated any arrest that took place in Rhode Island must be tried in Rhode Island.

Dudingston increased his searches including even ships ashore. Citizens protested that these searches and seizures exceeded his authority. When **Governor Joseph Walton** requested to meet with him, he refused to leave his ship. In his book published in 1861, John Russell Bartlett copied the following from the Rhode Island Journals.

“The Governor of Rhode Island to Lieut. Dudingston

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, MARCH 23, 1772

SIR:—Yours of this day I have received, which does not give me that satisfaction I had a right to expect; neither was the bearer of the letter qualified to give me any authentic information respecting the legality of that authority you have presumed to exercise within this colony. I expect that you do, without delay, comply with my request of yesterday; and you may be assured, that my utmost exertions shall not be wanting to protect your person from any insult or outrage, on coming ashore. I am your humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To Mr. W. Dudingston, of the Schooner Gaspee.” (3. P. 10)



On the morning of June 9, 1772, Captain Benjamin Lindsey sailed his ship The Hannah from Newport on his regular run up the Narragansett Bay toward Providence. Lt. Dudingston spotted the Hannah and ordered the cannon crew of the Gaspee to fire a shot across the Hannah’s bow to stop her. Captain Lindsey ignored the warning and sailed on with Lt.

Dudingston in hot pursuit. When Lindsey sailed out around a point, he turned sharply behind the point of land. Dudingston decided to cut the distance so changed course directly toward Hannah. He soon ran aground in the shallows, now Gaspee Point, and could not free his ship.

When Lindsey sailed into Providence, news of the grounded Gaspee and Dudingston spread quickly. John Brown organized a group of about eighty men. With Militia Commander Potter, they planned to attack the Gaspee that evening before an early morning tide could possibly free the Gaspee. With oarlocks muffled, Brown and his men began rowing eight long boats, each could hold up to at least a dozen men, toward the grounded Gaspee. In the dark, Dudingston shouted whose there? Brown did not answer and soon the Gaspee was surrounded. When ready, the boarding began. Dudingston shot when the boarding began, in his arm and the shot lodged a few inches below is belly button by Joseph Buckin. He was treated for his wound in his cabin after the Gaspee crew surrendered. The crew of the Gaspee was rowed to Old-still House at Pawtuxet and put ashore. Dudingston was put in the house of John Rhodes. (3) The raiders rowed away except for one boat that went back to the Gaspee and set the ship on fire. It burned to the waterline by the morning of June 10, 1772.

The Gaspee boarders made no effort to hide their identity. However, when the complaints made it to the local courts, Dudingston was unable to prove his case. The judges had no good feeling towards the Royal Navy and their search and seizures. Instead, he was charged and prosecuted for illegally seizing goods.

When news reached the Parliament in England, they were outraged and appointed a special commission with authority of the vice-admiralty courts to apprehend the attackers of the Gaspee and haul them back to England for trial. The only testimony that seemed to implicate "John" Brown and just few others was from a Mulatto named Aaron. One deposition claimed he said he was asked to board one of the row boats by Brown and help row, and he helped row the pinioned captive to shore. He did not know Brown's first name. Depositions by others claimed he was not there, that he in bed at home. When some Gaspee crewmen were questioned, they said they did not know any of the attackers.



Col John Brown

*Deposition of Capt., William Thayer, of Mendon.
Colony of Rhode Island, &c.*

The examination of Capt. William Thayer, in the County of Worcester, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, Inn-holder, taken in Providence.....15th day of January.....1773, by Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor of said colony.

Question.- Do you know any circumstances relative to the attacking, taking, plundering and burning his Majesty's schooner called the Gaspee, and to the assembling, arming, and leading on the people concerned therein, and to the concerting and preparing said attack?

Answer.-No

Q.-Where were you when said schooner was destroyed, which was on the 10th day of June last?

A.-Home in Mendon.

Q.-How long a time after the schooner was destroyed were you in Providence?

A.-I was not there until the latter end of June or July.

Q.-Did you hear any person say, when you were in Providence, on any other time or place, that they knew any of those persons that were concerned with that affair?

A.-NO.

Q.-Did you know the names of any persons suspected to be concerned with the matter?

A.-I heard the names of one Potter and Brown, or Browns, but did not know them, nor where they lived. I don't recollect any other.

Q.-Do you remember who mentioned those names?

A.-No; it being only some rumor which I heard among people in my house, it being a public one.

William Thayer (3 p. 95)



Many depositions were recorded and many were just as this, so, even with the identities of the perpetrators widely known, the investigation led to no arrests.

In the Commissioners lengthy report is the followed excerpts,

...*“We further beg humbly to represent to your Majesty, that in the part of our duty contained under the inquiry into the assembling, arming, and leading on the people to attack the Gaspee, also the concerting and preparing the same, we have been particularly attentive.”*

“But after our utmost efforts, we are not able to discover any evidence of either, and therefore, are humbly of opinion, both from the unforeseen event of the Gaspee’s running on shore, the suddenness of the undertaking and its accomplishment, and the total want of evidence of even an intention to destroy her, though many witnesses of credit as well inhabitants of Providence as other places, were strictly examined on this head, that the whole was conducted suddenly and secretly”...

“May it please your Majesty, the civil magistrates being entrusted wit the power of apprehending and committing, and having determined against both, upon the evidence before them, and there being no probability of our procuring any further light on the subject determines our inquiry.”

“All of which is most jumbly submitted to your Majesty’s wisdom.”

Signed, J. Wanton, Fred. Smythe, Dan. Horsmanden, Robt. Auchmuty-Commissioners.

To. His Majesty.

Newport, Rhode Island, Jun 22, 1773 (3-pgs. 126-130)

The investigation ended with no arrests made. An angry Parliament passed an Act where anyone caught burning a ship would be arrested and punished.

In his journal of August 28th, 1839, Colonel Ephraim Bowen, stated he was the last survivor of the Gaspee Affair. He wrote his account of the incident, and mentioned that some of those who participated were Mr. John Brown, Captains Abraham Whipple, John B. Hopkins, Benjamin Dunn and five others he could not remember, and John Mawney, Benjamin Page, Joseph Bucklin who shot Dudingston, and Turpin Smith, who he said were his youthful companions. (3-p. 20)

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3. Bartlett, John Russell, Secretary of State, “*A History of the Destruction of His Britannic Majesty’s Schooner Gaspee, In Narragansett Bay, On the 10th of June 1772: Accompanied by the Correspondence Connected Therewith: The Action of the General Assembly of Rhode Island Thereon, and the Official Journal of the Proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry Appointed by King George the Third, on the Same*”. Providence: A. Crawford Greene, Printer to the State. 1861. Many Thanks to Dr. John Concannon, Webmaster, Gaspee Virtual Archives, August 2004., for providing this digital access to John Russell Bartlett work on the Gaspee.

4. “The Seizure of Liberty”, The American Revolution Alpha History

5. US History.org – “The Gaspee Affair” Copyright by the Independence Hall Association, a non-profit organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1942.

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