



Pine Shavings



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

November 2011

Volume 21, Issue 5



A Message from the President

We had a meaningful meeting in October preparing for identifying contestants in all of the TXSSAR Patriot Fund sponsored competitions ending in December with the state awards being presented at the State Convention in March 2012. These are: Eagle Scout Contest; Oration Contest; Knight's Essay Contest; American History Teacher;

Historical Poster Contest; and the ROTC/JROTC Contests. It's never too early to identify contestants. Rules and requirements can be found at the TXSSAR website www.txssar.org. Please go to the site and see if you know someone that would be interested in competing.

We had several Piney Woods chapter members participate in the Fall 2011 Board of Managers meeting held on October 29 & 30th at the Galveston Hilton Hotel. The Galvez Chapter #1 did an outstanding job in hosting the event. Again, I would encourage each of you to attend a state level meeting. You can really get a glimpse, and sometimes more, into your state organization's operations. The highlight of the meeting for me was Compatriot Tom Green's remarks on Saturday evening. He brought his flag collection and shared the history of several of the flags with the group. He also went through the meanings of the US flag folding stages, 13 in all. Tom assembled his rendition of this ceremony from multiple sources. This was complete with relevant bugle calls. It was very informative and sometimes moving. Thank you Compatriot Green!

In November we'll be presenting some special awards to Compatriot Stephen Parker's family members: his wife and his son. Very special.

Our November meeting also features Doc Rice and his wife presenting a short play: First Feminist, Second President. I thought we could use a little background on Abigail and John Adams so here it is:

ABIGAIL SMITH ADAMS—1744-1818

Abigail Adams was born November 11, 1744 in Weymouth, Massachusetts to Elizabeth Quincy Smith and Reverend William Smith, pastor of Weymouth's First Church.

Like most girls of her time, she did not receive a formal education, but took advantage of her father's library and studied the Bible, history, philosophy, essays and poetry. Abigail's mother and Grandmother Quincy taught her social graces, as well as homemaking and handiwork skills. Such a background helped her to become a keen political observer, prolific writer, and influential First Lady.

On October 25, 1764 Abigail married John Adams, a Harvard graduate pursuing a law career. Their marriage was one of mind and heart, producing three sons and two daughters, and lasting for more than half a century. They first lived on John's farm in Braintree, and later in Boston. Long separations kept them apart, when John traveled as a circuit lawyer and later, when John served as delegate to the Continental Congress, envoy abroad, and elected officer.

Abigail struggled alone with wartime shortages, lack of income, and difficult living conditions. She ran the household, farm, and educated her children. Abigail's letters to John were strong, witty and supportive. The letters, which have been preserved, detail her life during revolutionary times, and describe the many dangers and challenges she faced as our young country fought to become

(Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

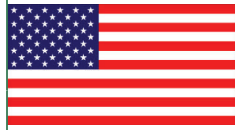
Events	2,3
This Month in the Revolution	2
Piney Woods Chapter News	3-5
President's Message	1,6
Revolutionary History	3,7
Color Guard	4

ATTENTION

The dues notices are in the mail. Some members have already received theirs. Please return your payment to our State Treasurer, John Beard, as soon as possible.

Thank you!

EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

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

Mar 2-3, 2012 - NSSAR Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY



State: www.txssar.org

Mar 22-25, 2012 - Annual Convention—San Antonio

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This Month in the Revolution

November 10-21, 1775 – The first land battle of the war fought in the South was at the prosperous village of Ninety Six in South Carolina. The siege lasted almost two weeks and ended in a truce. The area became a Loyalist stronghold in the early years of the war. In the spring of 1780 Patriot General Nathaniel Greene led a twenty-eight day siege against the loyalist there. The siege [Battle of Star Fort] was the longest of the war. Greene was unsuccessful in routing the loyalists. The site is now a National Historic Site.



16 November 1776: On this day in 1776, Hessian Lieutenant General Wilhelm von Knyphausen and a force of 3,000 Hessian mercenaries and 5,000 Redcoats lay siege to Fort Mifflin at the northern end and highest point of Manhattan Island. Among the 53 dead and 96 wounded Patriots were John and Margaret Corbin of Virginia. When John died in action, his wife Margaret took over his cannon, cleaning, loading and firing the gun until she too was severely wounded. The first woman known to have fought for the Continental Army, Margaret survived, but lost the use of her left arm. Margaret was given the nickname Captain Molly as was the title for other wives who were camp followers and shared similar duties. She was occasionally confused with Molly Pitcher (Mary Ludwig Hays) who was at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778

30 November 1782: After the British defeat at Yorktown, peace talks in Paris began in April 1782 between Richard Oswald representing Great Britain and the American Peace Commissioners Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and John Adams. The American negotiators were joined by Henry Laurens two days before the preliminary articles of peace were signed on November 30, 1782. The Treaty of Paris, formally ending the war, was not signed until September 3, 1783.



25 November 1783: Nearly three months after the Treaty of Paris was signed ending the American Revolution, the last British soldiers withdrew from New York City, their last military position in the United States. After the last Red Coat departed New York, Patriot General George Washington entered the city in triumph to the cheers of New Yorkers. The city was captured by the British in September 1776 and remained in their hands until 1783.

**PineWoods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2011**

Nov 17 Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)
Dec 15 Members Only
Jan 19 Members Meeting

MEETING LOCATION

**Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway
Houston TX 77060
6:30 PM
See ya'll there October 20!**

Revolutionary War—How Do They Know That?

There are so many sources for information about the Revolutionary War. Historians for centuries have used these records to add the color and meat to their accounts of the times. When one is looking for the first hand accounts of any certain battle the first placed to look is the reports to head quarters filed by the military leadership. Sometimes these are very detailed and can give a good account of the actual order of battle, losses and strategy. Often both sides took credit for the win! You will learn the names of the commanding officers of each unit and usually officers killed. These reports are essential for understanding the battle and when reading these it is important to take into account the personality and motives of the officer making the report.

If you are looking of the information on the individual soldiers participating in the battles this is another matter. Of all the soldiers of the Revolution only a small number have been documented. This documentation is usually in the form of unit rosters, militia lists, pay stubs, Revolutionary claims for goods or services provided, Revolutionary pensions or memoirs. The real details of the battles can be found in some of the pensions. One needs to remember that the pensioner needed to prove he [or she if a widow of a soldier] that they did not have property or wealth. This meant that many soldiers were not eligible for a pension, and their stories remain untold. Many soldiers did not survive, either dying in battle or of old age, to the times pensions were granted.

All that aside, one can find a wealth of information about the battles from these sources. There are two sources I often use to research battles and soldiers of the revolution. These are Fold3 (formerly Footnote) which has the images of the pension applications and is well indexed. This service is a subscription service. The second is Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Pension Statements which is online.

On page seven there is a story about the Battle of Blackstock's Plantation. Below are some excerpts from pensions which give details of the battle.

“at the close of the said year 1780 I was with General Sumpter whilst with him was in the Battle of Blackstock on the Tyger SC in which Sumpter was wounded by a ball, think in the right shoulder; this battle with Colonel Tarleton of the British, at the time of this battle Patrick Carr was his Captain (who however was at this point detached & not in the battle)” From pension application of William Hatcher (b. 25 Nov 1759, VA) of Meriwether Co, GA 6 Set 1832

“This applicant was sent out by Genl Sumpter as a scout of fourteen men to scour the county in search of the Tories and during their absence Genl Sumpter heard of the approach of Tarleton and retreated to Blackstocks on Tyger River where Tarleton came up with him & was defeated by him.” From pension application of Robert Long, Laurens Dist, SC, 31 May 1834

“Declarant cannot help relating a scene in which he participated -- it occurred at the Battle of Blackstocks. A British Dragoon came at half speed, declarant and one Richard Evans & James Wiley were standing -- when Evans & myself both firing at the same time shot him down. The Dragoons was hardly upon the ground before Wiley tore his cap from his head and his spurs from his heels and claimed them for his property” from pension application John Walker (age 79, Posey Co, IN, 1834)

For the Battle of Blackstock's one can find 25 pension applications describing it, soldier's recollections, military reports and other accounts of the Battle in just a quick search. My ancestor Lt. Col Patrick McGriff is mentioned in may of these pension applications. Many of these state he was in a regiment under Lacey attached to Sumter.

Happy Birthday

November

Jonathan Beard **Paul Luther**
Larry Blackburn **James Mims, IV**
Allan Henshaw



December

Edwin Pierson, Jr **James O'Neal**
Jonathan Hubbard **Clay Warlick**

Patriot Benjamin Head

PineyWoods Compatriot James Mitchell travelled to Virginia in October to visit family and to participate in a Patriot Grave marking sponsored by the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The patriot's death was marked with a cenotaph and a Veterans Affairs memorial grave marker. The patriot, Benjamin Head, is an ancestor of Jim. Descendants who made the ceremony reside at Dawsonville, GA, Cary, N.C., Charlottesville, Ruckersville, Arlington, VA, Washington D.C., Kingwood/Houston, TX, West Monroe, LA and Redlands, CA. They all joined in the descendant family photograph taken at the Westover United Methodist Church and cemetery located just a few miles east of the Shenandoah or Blue Ridge Mountains from Ruckersville, along Rt. 609 from the intersection of Hwy 29 called the Seminole Trail. The day was a very pleasant occasion with family, newly made friends and associates gathering upon the south bank of the Rapidan River.



Pictured above James Mitchell—third from left

Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr.—Virginia Patriot



On the 19th of October Ann and Jim Mitchell participated in a ceremony to lay a wreath on the grave of Gov. Thomas Nelson, Jr. Governor Nelson was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, War Governor of Virginia and Commander of Virginia Forces.

The event was sponsored by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown. Jim and Ann presented the wreath on behalf of the PineyWoods Chapter #51, of TXSSAR.

We have to thank Jim and Ann for their continued presence in Virginia on behalf of TXSSAR and PineyWoods.

Chapter Registrar Report

Larry Stevens & Bob McKenna

No application approvals were received in October. Seems like it is still taking a long time from submission to acceptance. At the Genealogy Committee at the state meeting our state Genealogists reported that preponderance of evidence arguments were not being accepted by the reviewers. This issue will be addressed at the national level.

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

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Joe Potter (L) | Michael Stallings (S*) |
| Baron Schneider (L*) | Rod Gorman (L) |

Eugene Shuffield (S) Eugene Shuffield, Jr (S)

The following applications are prepared and ready for signatures and submission to state registrar:

William McKinney David Work

We are also working on a few others in the preliminary stages. If you have any prospects, please contact us so that we can assist the prospective member with his application.

- S* - With applicant to be submitted shortly to state
 L* - Questions from national reviewers being addressed.

Education - Pin Oak Middle School

On October 21th members of the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution presented lectures at Pin Oak Middle School in Bellaire. The students participating were eight graders who were completing a module on the American Revolution.

The eight presentations included two conducted by PineyWoods members:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Fife/Drum – Communication Tools | - | Ray Cox (PineyWoods) |
| US Navy During the Revolution | - | Tom Green (Alexander Hodge) |
| Lexington/Concord | - | Al Greene (Robert Rankin) |
| History of the US Flags | - | Ed Raines (Robert Rankin) |
| Betsy Ross/Women of the Revolution | - | Ginny Evans (DAR) |
| Colonial Life- Food, Clothing etc | - | Larry & Barbara Stevens (PineyWoods) |
| History of the American Revolution | - | Cliff Egan |
| Music of the Colonials | - | Al Hayes |

Four groups of about 30 students attended the 45 minute lectures. Students were given workbooks with questions about each of the lecture topics and were very attentive. The school provided lunch for the lecturers. It was a wonderful experience. The school has already requested we put them on the calendar for next year. Larry Stevens prepared a flag certificate for presentation to the school.



Above: Pin Oak is presented a Flag Certificate from TXSSAR with lecturers; below B. Stevens with students



Above: Larry Stevens Below: Ray Cox



(Continued from page 1)

independent. Most of all, the letters tell of her loneliness without her “dearest friend,” her husband John.

Abigail followed John to his posts in Paris in 1784 and Great Britain in 1785, always observing and commenting upon politics, customs and society. They returned to a newly acquired house in Braintree (now part of Quincy) that would remain their home for the rest of their lives. From 1789 to 1801, Abigail, as wife of the Vice President and then as First Lady, became a trusted and influential political advisor to John, while she also fulfilled her role in official entertaining. Her unwavering support and encouragement of her husband in his career was apparent, as she fearlessly expressed her opinions in private and in public.



Abigail and John retired to Quincy in 1801, and for 17 years enjoyed the companionship that public life had long denied them. Abigail died on October 28, 1818, and is buried in the United First Parish Church of Quincy beside her husband, who died on July 4, 1826.

Abigail Adams is further distinguished as the first American woman honored as the wife of one U. S. President and the mother of another. Her husband John Adams, 2nd President, served from 1797 to 1801, and their son, John Quincy Adams, 6th President, served from 1825 to 1829.

Intelligent and broadminded, Abigail Smith Adams was often ahead of her time with many of her ideas. She opposed slavery, believed in equal education for boys and girls, and practiced what she learned as a child - the duty of the fortunate is to help those who are less fortunate.

JOHN ADAMS - 1735-1826



John *Adams* was an American lawyer, statesman, diplomat and political theorist. A leading champion of independence in 1776, he was the second President of the United States (1797–1801). Hailing from New England, Adams, a prominent lawyer and public figure in Boston, was well educated and represented Enlightenment

values promoting republicanism. A Federalist, he was highly influential and one of the key Founding Fathers of the United States.

Adams came to prominence in the early stages of the American Revolution. As a delegate from Massachusetts to the Continental Congress, he played a leading role in persuading Congress to declare independence. He assigned Thomas Jefferson the role of drafting the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, and assisted him in that process. As a representative of Congress in Europe, he was a major negotiator of the eventual peace treaty with Great Britain, and chiefly responsible for obtaining important loans from Amsterdam bankers. A political theorist and historian, Adams largely wrote the Massachusetts state constitution in 1780 which soon after ended slavery in Massachusetts, but was in Europe when the federal Constitution was drafted on similar principles later in the decade. One of his greatest roles was as a judge of character: in 1775, he nominated George Washington to be commander-in-chief, and 25 years later nominated John Marshall to be Chief Justice of the United States.

Adams' revolutionary credentials secured him two terms as George Washington's vice president and his own election in 1796 as the second president. During his one term, he encountered ferocious attacks by the Jeffersonian Republicans, as well as the dominant faction in his own Federalist Party led by his bitter enemy Alexander Hamilton. Adams signed the controversial Alien and Sedition Acts, and built up the army and navy especially in the face of an undeclared naval war (called the “Quasi War”) with France, 1798–1800. The major accomplishment of his presidency was his peaceful resolution of the conflict in the face of Hamilton's opposition.

In 1800 Adams was defeated for reelection by Thomas Jefferson and retired to Massachusetts. He later resumed his friendship with Jefferson. He and his wife, Abigail Adams, founded an accomplished family line of politicians, diplomats, and historians now referred to as the Adams political family. Adams was the father of John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States. His achievements have received greater recognition in modern times, though his contributions were not initially as celebrated as those of other Founders.

I hope to see many of my fellow Compatriots at this pre-Thanksgiving meeting. Remember your spouses or other special person is more than welcome. Please let us know if you're attending by contacting either Larry Stevens, Kim Morton, or me.

John Beard

The Battle for Carolinas—Part III

In the last issue of *Pine Shavings*, the Battle of Fishdam Ford was discussed. Following this battle in early November 1780 Cornwallis began moving troops into South Carolina. He was constantly harassed by Marion and winter was approaching. The British position in the up county had become precarious, prompting Cornwallis to recall Banastre Tarleton from his pursuit of Lt. Col. Francis Marion. The safety of the loyalist at Nine-Six was a concern, so Tarleton was ordered to find and scatter the approximately 1,000 man patriot force under the command of Brigadier General Thomas Sumter. Sumter had crossed the Broad River and joined Clark and Brennen threatening the Ninety-Six.

On November 19, 1780 the patriots were reinforced by some Georgia troops under Col John Twiggs. Sumter planned an attack on the Tory post located on the Little River, about 15 miles from Ninety-Six. The post was commanded by Col. James Kirkland. Around midnight, the patriots captured a British deserter who informed Sumter that Tarleton was advancing towards the American camp. Sumter immediately ordered a withdrawal of forces.



Gen Thomas Sumter

At dawn on the 20th, Tarleton continued his march moving in advance of his 71st and artillery with 190 dragoons and mounted infantry and about 80 of the mounted 63rd. He came upon a force at Enoree Ford, in Newberry County, which he dispersed with “great slaughter,” however the group was loyalist prisoners which had been held by Capt. Patrick Carr’s riflemen. Carr made his escape and in the confusion Tarleton took the Loyalists to be rebels.

Tarleton discovered the Americans were withdrawing and pursued them all afternoon. By about 4pm, he realized he would not catch Sumter with the size of his contingent. So he decided pursue Sumter with the 190 dragoons and 80 mounted infantry, leaving the rest of his force to catch up when they could. Within an hour Tarleton reached Sumter’s rear guard at Blackstock’s Plantation near the Tyger River. Dark was approaching and Sumter was concerned about his situation. At this point a local woman, who had been observing the British rode in to camp. She informed him that Tarleton’s artillery and main forces were still trying to catch up. Knowing he was favored with good defensive terrain, Sumter decided to make his stand at Black-

stock’s Plantation.

The Tyger River was to Sumter’s rear and right and the hill to his left had five log houses belonging to the plantation and were in an open field. Here he deployed Col. Hampton and his rifle men. Col. Twiggs and the Georgia sharpshooters were aligned along the fence from the log houses to the woods. On the wooded hill that rose on the right from the main road Sumter deployed the remainder of his troops. Col. Edward Lacey and Lt. Col. Patrick McGriff’s mounted infantry were to screen the right and Col Richard Winn was posted to the rear in reserve by the Tyger.

Tarleton approached Sumter’s position and saw the patriot line was too strong to attack with his current strength. He decided to wait until the remainder of his forces could arrive. He dismounted his men and sent the dragoons to his left flank and the infantry to the right.

In early evening, about five o’clock, supply wagons seen were approaching Sumter. Tarleton decided to attack this little convoy. His men charged pushing the convoy into Sumter’s camp. Col. Twiggs’ Georgia riflemen, situated at the fence line, fired at the dragoons. Sumter, deciding not to wait until Tarleton’s reinforcements arrived, took advantage of this incident to attack the British forces. He sent Col. Elijah Clark and 100 men to turn Tarleton’s right flank and block reinforcement. Clark’s men fired too early and the British countered driving Clark back. At the same time Sumter ordered Col. Lacey to attack on the left. Lacey got within 75 yards and his men killed twenty dragoons. The British regrouped and drove Lacey back. During this action Sumter was struck by a musket ball in the right shoulder. Twiggs took command. The patriot forces stopped the British driving them back. In the middle of this peril, British Major John Money launched a bayonet charge and drove the center of the patriot forces back in confusion. Major Money was mortally wounded in the attack by Co. Henry Hampton’s riflemen. Tarleton retreated two miles to join his reinforcements. By this time it was dark and raining. The battle raged for three hours, Sumter was taken from the field on a litter. Col. Twiggs ordered the Patriots to cross the Tyger River.

Tarleton spent the next three rainy days pursuing Sumter’s forces. Both sides claimed victory. Sumter would return to action from his wounds in February of 1781.

Winn and Tarleton both wrote accounts of this battle.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

As both sides claimed victory and the site was not further occupied by either force, it is difficult to determine the true victor. The engagement details as accepted by historians are given below:

Patriots under Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter

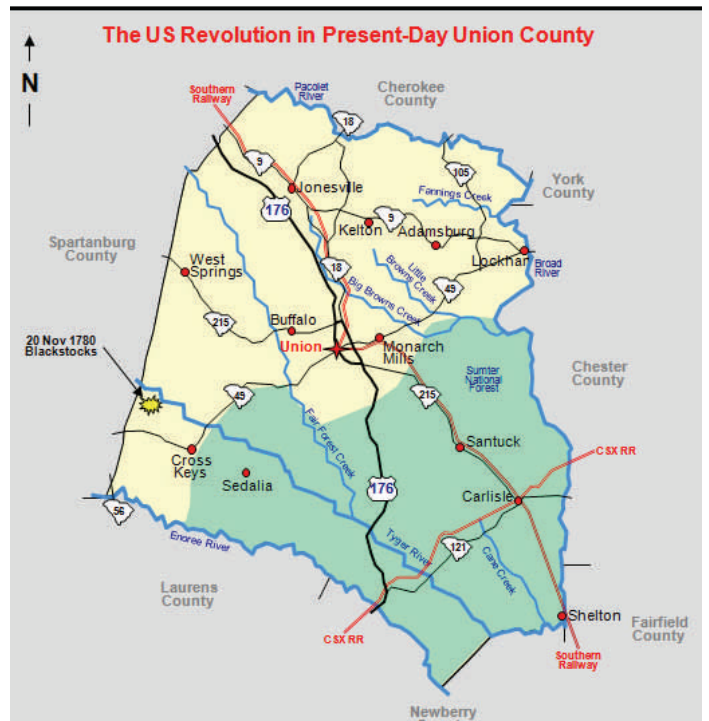
Size of Force:	420
Killed:	3
Wounded:	4
Captured:	50

British under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton

Size of Force:	270-350
Wounded & Killed:	52 (other accounts 190)
Captured:	0

In Tarleton's recollections he reported the strength of the patriot force as 1,000.

Larry Stevens



http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

The Battle of Blackstocks Plantation, located on the Tyger River in the far West of Union County, was a large battle between Gen. Thomas Sumter and Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. Both sides claimed victory, but it is clear that Tarleton lost the day. Even with winter settling in Carolina, the Patriots and British Loyalists continued fighting. Four of these battles or skirmishes were:

- Rugeley Mills, South Carolina, on December 4, 1780, Lt. Col. William Washington, under Gen. Daniel Morgan, with 60 troops bluffed 112 Loyalist into surrendering a strongly fortified homestead without firing a shot by the use of a "Quaker Gun", mounting a felled tree trunk on wagon axles to resemble cannon.
- At Long Canes, Edgefield County, on December 11, 1780, Col. Elijah Clarke was wounded and defeated by Loyalist Lt. Col. Isaac Allen. The Patriots lost 21 killed in a battle.
- Hammond's Store on December 27, 1780, Lt Col. Washington again routed 250 Georgia Loyalist, killing or wounding 150 and capturing the rest.
- Fort Williams or Williams Plantation, December 31, 1780, Col. Washington forces surprised some Tories killing 160 and taking 35 prisoners.

Note from the Editor: You will notice a change in the last page. For the e-mail issue we have removed the mailing block and used this space to expand the content of the newsletter. This issue it is history as we didn't have pictures or reports from the state meeting. However, we hope to have more chapter news to report in the next issue. This will give us more space to report.

**RSVP FOR THE November 17, 2011 MEMBER & GUEST MEETING
At Jimmy G's, 307 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Houston TX 6:30 PM**

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday, November 15th. You can send an RSVP email to John Beard at johnbeard@suddenlink.net or call John at 281-358-2970 OR Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net. OR Larry Stevens wardtracker@aol.com (281-361-2061) Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$25.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.