



Pine Shavings



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

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Larry H. Blackburn, PhD
President

My dear fellow Compatriot members of TXSSAR PineyWoods Chapter 51, this year has flown by and it is now time for our November meeting. November is a special time for all Americans. On November 10th we celebrated the 237th birthday of the "American Marines." On November 11th we celebrated "Veterans Day" and recognized everyone who served in our beloved military. Everyone in our organization has been touched many

times over by war beginning with our American Revolution Patriots, 1812, Civil War, WW 1 and 2, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, War on Terror, Iraq and Afghanistan and more to come. We also recognize the great sacrifice of the families who lost sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, best friends, husbands and wives and fathers and mothers.

At the end of this month we will celebrate Thanksgiving, a day of family gatherings to rejoice and reflect on what we hold most dear, the freedom that all of the past conflicts collectively guarantee. But vigilance remains a necessity and our loved ones are still on post, at-the-ready; to protect to serve is the American way.

I am looking forward to our monthly meeting. This month I am asking everyone

to wear their revolutionary uniform. The Chapter Color Guard will present the Colors at the start of the meeting. The guest speaker is U.S. Army Major Maury Millican, Brigade Chaplain at Fort Hood, Texas. I am most interested in what he will have to say. Maury is my nephew who I love and respect dearly. We will also discuss upcoming events which include the nomination and election of the 2013 Chapter 51 Officers, and the TXSSAR BOM in October which we will co-host.

May God bless you all.

Larry Blackburn, PhD
President, TXSSAR PineyWoods 51

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November 15 Speaker Major Maury Millican

Major Maury Millican is a Brigade Chaplain at Fort Hood, Texas. Major Millican is a native Texas who attended Scarborough HS. He and his wife Linda have three children, all in college. He graduated from UT, Austin. His military career began in the ND National Guard, then he joined the Army. He has served tours in Iraq and Kosovo. He serves the troops, mentors junior chaplains and advises senior officers. He is a boots on the ground rifle carrying no nonsense warrior.

Piney Woods - Meetings - 2012
Nov 15—Member/Guest
Dec 20—Member Only
(tentative date)

MEETING LOCATION

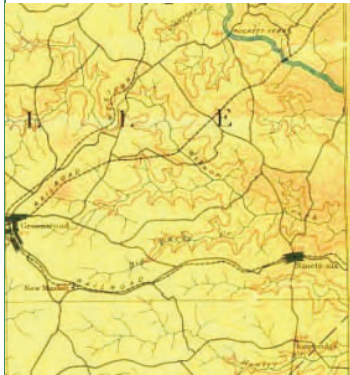
6:30 p. m. at Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway,
Houston TX 77060

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 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.

Revolutionary Timeline

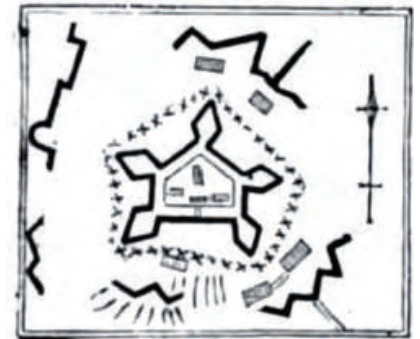
November 19-21, 1775— Siege of Savage's Old Fields—Interestingly enough, with all the activity in the North, the first land battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in the South. It occurred in the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina. It was Patriots against Tories. It began when Patriot Major Andrew Williamson was ordered to intercept gunpowder and ammunition in the



hands of loyalists. It being sent to the Cherokees to aid in their resistance against the revolutionaries. Major Williamson's five hundred patriots built an crude "fort" of wooden rails and bales of straw. They dug a well within the makeshift fortress to provide water and stored foods. The Tories, some 1,900 strong, surrounded the tiny stockade. After just two days of siege both parties called it a draw and the Loyalist retreated, followed by a retreat of the Patriots. Four Tories were killed and one Patriot was killed. The Patriots later captured or expelled most of the Loyalist leaders. [Trivia: Ninety Six was named for its location.

It was at the 96th milepost, estimated ninety-six miles from Keowee, the capitol of the Cherokee nation, a trading location in the early 18th century.]

November 16, 1776— Battle of Fort Washington—The Hessians capture Fort Washington in New York. Fort Washington was a small fort on the highest point of Manhattan Island (on the north.) This was perhaps a continuation of the bad times for the Patriot cause. The Continental Army under Washington had just suffered the loss at White Plains, and Washington had given General Greene orders to move the garrison of 3,000 men at Fort Washington to New Jersey. An unfortunate decision was made by the fort commander Col. Robert Magaw, who believed he could defend the fort against the British. On November 16 Howe assaulted the fort on three sides and the fort quickly fell. The result was 59 Patriots killed and 2,837 captured and held as prisoners of war. This loss caused Washington's troops to flee to New Jersey and into Pennsylvania and gave the British control of New York and eastern New Jersey.



November 20, 1776—British Capture of Fort Lee — The loss of Fort Washington was probably the precipitating factor in the loss of Fort Lee (location Bergen, NJ). Just four days after Lord Cornwallis, with a force of 4,000, men crossed the Hudson just a few miles north of Fort Lee, hoping to trap the Continentals between two rivers, the Hackensack and the Hudson. Recognizing the danger General Greene had already abandoned the fort and joined Washington near the Hackensack. Cornwallis followed. These were bleak times. Many enlistments were up and the disheartened soldiers began to leave the Patriot cause in droves. This was the beginning of a very hard winter and the morale was very low. In perhaps a stroke of luck for the patriot cause, in mid December Howe ordered Cornwallis to abandon the chase, leaving the patriots to rebuild their strength and resolve. [Trivia: Fort Lee was first named Fort Constitution. It was named for the controversial leader Charles Lee]

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Chapter Registrar Report — Larry Stevens

New Member

New member Jeff LaRochelle of Kingwood accepts his Member Packet from Larry Blackburn. Jeff's Patriot was Simeon Hopkins who was appointed to the Committee of Correspondence, Committee of Inspection and Correspondence March 1780, Harpswell, Maine. Simeon was born 22 Dec 1732 in Truro, Barnstable, Mass., and died after 1821 in Harpswell, Cumberland, Maine. (See article of Committee of Correspondence in this Issue)



Pictured right: Larry Blackburn, Jeff LaRochelle, and John Beard

Supplemental Approval

President Larry Blackburn presents Ben Stallings with his 1st Supplemental Star. Members receive a Star for each supplemental ancestor approved by SAR. Ben's ancestor was Major James Hunter of the North Carolina Militia, serving under Gen. Nathaniel Greene. James Hunter was born in Penn. 8 Apr 1740 and he died 30 Jan 1821 in Rockingham Co., NC. He is listed in the "Revolutionary War Graves Registry" by Clarence Brakebill; SAR, 1993.



EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

March 1-2 , 2013

Spring Leadership Meeting held in Louisville, KY

July 5-10, 2013

NSSAR National Congress—Kansas City, MO



State: www.txssar.org

April 4-7

TXSSAR Annual Meeting

Wyndam Hotel, Dallas, TX



Color Guard & Community Events



On November 3rd Color guardsmen Larry Stevens and John Thompson presented colors and gave a musket salute at the grave marking of Mrs. Verna Lee Bandy. The Seth Hurin Bates Chapter, DRT; James Tull Chapter, DAR; and Joseph Underwood Chapter CDXVIIC combined to mark the grave of Mrs. Bandy. The three volley musket salute was a moving moment for the attendees.

Pictured at right: family and chapter members with John and Larry



Larry Stevens of PineyWoods presented a flag certificate to the administrator of Pin Oak Middle School. Pictured below: Allen Green, Tom Green, Larry Stevens.



The SAR provided a color guard for the DAR National Defense Luncheon held on November 10th at the River Plantation Country Club in Conroe. The two pictures left above were taken at this meeting. Pictured in the lower photo: Larry Beal, Don Stone, John K. Thompson (all of Freedom Chapter) and Larry Stevens. (PW) This was a wonderful opportunity to thank our DAR sisters for all they do to further our common goals.



Pin Oak Middle School—October 19, 2012 -Pictured above: Compatriot Larry Stevens and his wife Barbara, for the second year participated in Patriot Day at Pin Oak Middle School in Bellaire. DAR and SAR members presented 45 minute lectures to eight seventh grade classes. The students were given study materials and were expected to complete sections on each lecture. Unfortunately, Compatriot Cox could not present his program on the Flute and Drum this year. The students are very eager to learn at this age and ask great questions.



Willow Creek Elementary School: On October 20th, Ray Cox, Larry Stevens and Barbara Stevens presented programs to the fifth grade students at Willow Creek. Students rotated through segments on The Fife and Drum during the Revolutionary War (Cox), Colonial Life (Stevens) and Colonial Games. The children were dressed as colonials and seemed to enjoy the presentations. In an oh gosh moment, when asked where the wax for candles came from, one student replied, “Ear wax.”



Pictured above: l-r—Tom Jackson (Robert Rankin), James Heath (Blue Bonnet) Larry Stevens (PW), Ray Cox (PW) B. J. Thompson and John K. Thompson (both Freedom) and Russell Cox (Freedom)

PineyWoods Color Guardsmen Ray Cox and Larry Stevens joined area color guard to post the colors at a meeting of the Joann Trautman DAR chapter in Tomball. The speaker for the evening was former TXSSAR President James Heath. His presentation on Colonial Medicine was very informative.

Scouting Report



Compatriot Jeffery Advancement Chairwoman, Jayne Brandon. On Thursday November 1st he attended the Flaming Arrow Scouting Liaison, row District Roundtable. Compatriot LaRoche has reported progress in contacting the Scouting leadership and getting the information out on the SAR Eagle Scout Contest. He began work after our last meeting and has had conversations or e-mails with the Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC), the Boy Scout District Executive Chad Srader, and the Flaming Arrow District

It is so encouraging to see the hard work Jeff has put into this program in such a short time. It is also encouraging to see such a good response from the scouting community. Hopefully PineyWoods will have candidates to submit this year to the State contest.

and the Flaming Arrow District

Committee of Correspondence



Benjamin Franklin, the darling of the French, 1777, engraving

What if a cell phone was available in 1775? Burner phones around two for Franklin, he needed one to keep track of his amorous affairs, another to keep track of his political work. Given the clandestine nature of the communication we can assume a Facebook page and Twitter

would be out right? But communication was vital to the patriots as they began their task.

Congress initially established the Committee of Correspondence on November 29, 1775 to communicate with colonial agents in Britain and "friends in ... other parts of the world." Given the contacts of Mr. Franklin, one is not surprised he was one of the first members. Also on the committee were Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Johnson, John Dickinson, and John Jay and Robert Morris. The Committee was given the major role in foreign policy matters including authority to conduct international diplomacy, including the negotiation of clandestine shipments of arms and other similar activities. It soon became known as the Committee of Secret Correspondence due to the nature of the work of its members. As its diplomatic duties grew, Congress eventually renamed it the Committee for Foreign Affairs on April 17, 1777.

Not surprisingly, Benjamin Franklin was the most connected and respected in Europe, so he became the most active. He was able to get the European community to back the American cause. On December 12, 1775 Franklin wrote to Don Gabriel de Bourbon, a

scholarly associate, and, more importantly, a prince of the Spanish royal family. In his letter, Franklin strongly hinted at the advantages of a Spanish alliance with the American revolutionaries. Franklin also dispatched similar letters to France. Franklin sent these letters through trusted associates whom he trusted to protect the communications from interception by the British.

The Committee was also aided by Arthur Lee, a Virginian living in London whom Congress would later officially appoint as a commissioner. Lee had come into contact with the French playwright Beaumarchais, who was then working as a secret French agent investigating British troubles with the colonies. Lee provided him with information about American successes that would influence the French foreign minister Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, to provide the colonies with clandestine shipments of gunpowder and war materiel.

In one of what some consider their best move, the Committee of Correspondence enlisted the assistance of Silas Deane of Connecticut. In March of 1776 he traveled to France, there obtained ships and military supplies from the French. He also recruited the marquis de Lafayette, convincing him that his military experience would be invaluable to the patriot cause. Deane served as the "set-up" man for Franklin, who arrived in France in October of 1777 to seal the deal with the Treaties of Amity and Commerce and Alliance in February of 1778.



Dunham Bible Museum: Thursday, March 7, 2013: "The Bible and George Washington" by Dr. Peter Lillback, author of *George Washington's Sacred Fire*, President of Westminster Seminary, and President of the Provident Forum, 7pm, Belin Chapel.

Washington's Thanksgiving after Yorktown

Dr. Diana Severance

When the members of the Continental Congress approved the American Declaration of Independence that hot, humid day in July of 1776, the last line of that important document read, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." The signers were willing to pledge everything they had to secure independence; and they recognized that without God's Providential working in history, independence could never be achieved.

The war dragged on with some American successes, but mostly failures. Somehow George Washington was able to keep an army in the field, but by the spring of 1781, the situation looked grim. Provisions for the army were scarce, ammunition was low, the transportation of supplies was inefficient, and there were not enough men in the army to effectively conduct an offensive campaign. In May, 1781, Washington wrote in his journal, "instead of having the prospect of a glorious campaign before us, we have a bewildered and gloomy defensive one, unless we should receive a powerful aid of ships, land troops, and money from our generous allies; and these, at present, are too contingent to build upon."

However, what seemed a wishful dream in the spring, became a wondrous reality by the fall. The French, with a small army under Rochambeau, joined Washington's forces on the Hudson River in August, 1781. Rochambeau persuaded the French Admiral De Grasse in the West Indies to bring up a fleet of ships to aid the American cause. The British general Cornwallis had been fighting across the American South, and on August 2 he occupied Yorktown, Virginia, on the Chesapeake Bay, to hold a port for the British fleet's use. The next day, without knowing of Cornwallis' move, Admiral De Grasse sailed for the Chesapeake Bay area.

Washington and Rochambeau combined their forces in New York and made a rapid march down to the Chesapeake Bay region. Within a month the troops marched four hundred and fifty miles. By the end of September the French fleet had trapped Cornwallis by sea while Washington and Rochambeau had the town of Yorktown under siege. Washington and Rocham-



beau were both amazed at the success of the combined troop movements. American artillery began to bombard Yorktown, and Cornwallis' situation worsened. He tried to evacuate his troops, but a squall blew up and made this impossible. At 9 A.M. on October 17, Cornwallis sent a messenger asking to surrender. The formal surrender occurred two days later on Friday, October 19,

with the British band playing the popular song "The World Turned Upside Down" as they stacked up their arms. The last major fighting of the American War for Independence had ended in a resounding Franco-American victory.

Washington and others saw God's hand in the victory. When the American forces were weakest, it seemed to him that God had worked to bring about the British defeat. On this day, Saturday, October 20, 1781, George Washington released soldiers who was under arrest or confinement so that they might celebrate. As the next day was Sunday, he issued orders to the army that "Divine service is to be performed tomorrow in the several brigades and divisions. The commander-in-chief recommends that the troops not on duty should universally attend with that seriousness of deportment and gratitude of heart which the recognition of such reiterated and astonishing interpositions of Providence demand of us."

Dr. Diana Severance, is the Director of Dunham Bible Museum, of HBU. She is a noted author of several works on Christianity, including *A Cord of Three Strands: Three Centuries of Christian Love Letters* and *Feminine Threads: Women in the Tapestry of Christian History*.

She and husband Gordon authored a book on the life of his great grandfather in Turkey in the nineteenth century. This work is entitled, *Against the Gates of Hell: The Life & Times of Henry Perry, a Christian Missionary in a Moslem World*.

Bibliography:

1. Adapted from an earlier [Christian History](#) Institute story by Diana Severance, Ph.D.
2. "Surrender at Yorktown." publicbook-