



Pine Shavings



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

November 2013

Volume 24, Issue 3



Compatriots,

The holiday season is fast approaching and our Chapter is participating and will participate in many activities. We have had some great Color Guard presentations as well as a highly successful Board of Managers Meeting. Ten members were present. Cannon Pritchard could not be with us so he could attend to a family member. We all send our best wishes for Cannon and his family. Kermit Breed who is transferring to us from Georgia joined us. Kermit has attended earlier meetings and we are working on getting his transfer finalized.

We need to thank our Color Guard for their presence at the Houston BOM, and especially for organizing and leading the US Flag Retirement Ceremonies by TXSSAR at the Hilton Garden with Larry Blackburn and Larry Stevens taking the lead. I would like to thank all of the Piney-Woods Members and spouses who worked diligently to make the Silent Auction and the BOM event a success. Larry Blackburn was in charge and did a great job.

We have a much anticipated presentation at our upcoming Member-Guest on November 21 meeting at Jimmy G's with Ray Cox telling us the history of the Fife! I'll see you there.



Best Regards,
Ben Stallings

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Meetings - 2013	
December 19, 2013	Member
January 16, 2014	Member-Guest
February 20, 2014	Member
March 20, 2014	Member-Guest (Officer Induction)
April 17, 2014	Member
May 15, 2014	Member Guest

**Meeting—November 21st
Jimmy G's
307 N. Sam Houston E. Parkway, Greenspoint
6:30 p.m.**

RSVP FOR THE MEETING

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday before the meeting date. Please RSVP ASAP, to Ben Stallings bbstallings@gmail.com or John Beard Johnbeard@suddenlink.net
NOTE THAT THIS IS A MEMBER/GUEST MEETING AT JIMMY G'S.

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Winter in the Revolution

November, 1775—British form an alliance with patriots' slaves

— The British governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, issues a proclamation offering freedom to any slaves of rebellious Americans who are able to enter British lines. Throughout the course of the war, tens of thousands of African Americans will seek their freedom by supporting the British. A smaller number will fight on the patriot (pro-independence) side, despite policies that discourage their enlistment.



December 1776 - January 1777 - Washington crosses the Delaware

- In a bold move, Washington moves his troops into New Jersey on Christmas night. The patriots then surprise a force of German troops fighting for Britain at Trenton on December 26. They achieve a similar victory over British troops at Princeton on January 3, reviving hopes that the war just might be winnable. The army then encamps for the winter at Morristown, New Jersey.



December 1777 – Winter of change for the Continental Army —



With the British occupying Philadelphia just 20 miles away, the Continental Army enters winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. During the winter, supply arrangements will be improved and the Continental troops will be drilled and emerge as a more disciplined, unified fighting force.

May - December, 1778 — George Rogers Clark attacks the British in the Ohio country —

With barely 150 men, Virginian George Rogers Clark captures several British posts in the Ohio Territory (present-day Illinois and Indiana) and convinces French-speaking inhabitants of Kaskaskia and Cahokia to support the patriot side. Although Indians will continue to oppose white settlement for three decades, Clark's exploits pave the way for the expansion of the U.S. north of the Ohio River.



UPCOMING EVENTS

National Events

George Washington Parade Laredo February 22, 2014

Spring Leadership and Trustee Meeting Brown Hotel Louisville February 28 - March 1

NSSAR 124th Congress Greenville, South Carolina July 18 – 24, 2014

Texas Events

TXSSAR 119th Annual Convention at the Omni Hotel, 9821 Colonnade, San Antonio

TXSSAR Fall BOM October – Location Not Selected



October Meeting

Our October meeting was a member's only meeting. Members in attendance were President Stallings, John Beard, Greg Goulas, Ray Cox, Jim Jones, Kim Morton, Joe Potter, Larry Stevens and John K. Thompson. We discussed the details of the BOM which we were hosting with the Robert Rankin and Freedom chapter. In addition to other responsibilities PineyWoods was responsible for the Friday night program and coordination of the Silent Auction. [Both of these activities went quite well.] Compatriots Larry Stevens and Larry Blackburn were presented their supplemental certificates. We also welcomed transfer member, Kermit Breed, from Georgia.

Educational Programs

Pin Oak Middle School—Bellaire

We have had several opportunities to participate in school programs this fall. On October 19 we were again part of the Pin Oak Middle School Seventh Grade Patriot Day celebrations. Ray Cox, Barbara and Larry Stevens participated from PineyWoods. Other TXSSAR members attending were Alan Greene and Ed Raines from Robert Rankin, Tom Green from Alexander Hodge. These programs are great as we have eight 45 minutes sessions which include all the seventh graders. The students have worksheets that they must complete for each lecture.

Willow Creek Elementary School—Bellaire

On November 14, Larry Stevens did his Colonial Trunk program from Willow Creek Elementary School. This was one of those 38° nights and the table was outside in the basketball court. This is usually an activity shared by wife Barbara, but the cold weather dampened her enthusiasm for education. So Larry was flying solo for this day of fun in the cold.



FLAG PROGRAM TXSSAR BOM



Members of the Texas Color Guard assembled at 3:55 PM on October 11th with President Stephen Rohrbough and acting Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough at the Hilton Garden Inn NW for a Flag Retirement Ceremony. At 4 PM, PineyWoods member Larry Stevens commanded the Color Guard to attention and then marched the guard to their positions in front of the Hotel Flag Poles.

Texas Staff Secretary Stevens then called those assembled to attention and instructed Compatriot Larry Blackburn to begin lowering the tattered and torn US Flag while he read the Flag Retirement Ceremony introduction while Past Color Guard Commander Thomas B. Green played TAPS. As Robert Rankin Chapter member Allen Greene read the U S Flag retirement folding,

Paul Carrington President Col Terry McKee and Dist 8 VP and Freedom Chapter member John Thompson began folding the Flag assisted



by Sam Massey, Paul Carrington Chapter, and Larry Stevens. When the Flag was folded, John Thompson presented it to Frank Rohrbough who in turn presented the Flag to President Stephen Rohrbough. While Stephen Rohrbough led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag a new U S Flag was raised. Compatriot Larry Blackburn later received the Flag which he will take to the BSA for their Flag Ceremony.



The Texas Flag was then replaced with Compatriot Allen Greene reading the Texas Flag retirement Ceremony. The weathered Texas flag was folded and presented to Tom Green a member of the Son of the Republic of Texas and a San Jacinto Knight. The new Texas Flag do-

nated by the Freedom, PineyWoods, and Robert Rankin Chapters was raised by Larry Blackburn while the crowd recited the Texas Pledge.

The Hilton Corporate Flag was lowered and presented to the Hotel Manager.

Larry Blackburn with the assistance of Jim Kuykendall then raised the Sons of the American Revolution Flag for the duration of the Texas Board Meeting.





Public Service Awards



The Saturday Luncheon at the November BOM honored local law enforcement. Each of the hosting chapters honored a member of the law enforcement community.

In addition Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia, who was the speaker for the luncheon, was presented the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate by Stephen Rohrbough.



Pictured at right: Piney Woods Compatriot Larry Blackburn, TXSSAR President Stephen Rohrbough, SGT Larry Franks and Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia



Chief Alan Bragg, Sheriff Adrian Garcia with TXSSAR Stephen Rohrbough



Tom Green, Stephen Rohrbough with Deputy Warren Kelly and Sheriff Adrian Garcia



Stephen Rohrbough, Sgt Larry Franks, Deputy and Mrs. Kelly, Chief and Mrs. Alan Bragg



Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia with TXSSAR President Stephen Rohrbough

Patrick Ferguson

Major Patrick Ferguson (1744 – 7 October 1780) was a Scottish officer in the British Army, an early advocate of light infantry and the designer of the Ferguson rifle. He is best known for his service in the 1780 military campaign of Charles Cornwallis during the American Revolutionary War in the Carolinas. There he aggressively recruited Loyalists and harshly treated Patriot sympathizers. Some dispute this characterization of Ferguson as showing pro-Patriot bias, however, and other accounts praise him for his humanity and unwillingness to follow orders he considered barbaric. It is clear that he was no Tarleton.



the Ferguson rifle, a breech-loading flintlock weapon based on Chaumette's earlier system. This weapon would have changed the course of the war if the British had developed it, which fortunately, it never did.

In 1777, Ferguson went to the colonies to serve in the American War of Independence with his experimental rifle corps. However, after initial success, he was shot through the right elbow joint at the Battle of Brandywine on 11 September 1777 in Pennsylvania. Shortly before, he had had the chance to

The Patriot militia killed him in the Battle of Kings Mountain, at the border between the colonies of North and South Carolina. Leading a group of Loyalists whom he had recruited, he was the only regular army officer participating on either side of the conflict. It is reported that the victorious Patriot forces desecrated his body in the aftermath of the battle.

Patrick Ferguson was born at High Street Edinburgh on 25 May 1744. Some accounts incorrectly identify his birthplace as on his father's estate in Pitfour in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He was the second son and fourth child of attorney James Ferguson of Pitfour (who was raised to the judges' bench as a Senator of the College of Justice, so known as Lord Pitfour after 1764) and his wife Anne Murray, a sister of the literary patron Patrick Murray, 5th Lord Elibank.

Ferguson began his military career in his teens, encouraged by his maternal uncle James Murray. He served briefly in the Holy Roman Empire with the Scots Greys during the Seven Years' War, until a leg ailment forced him to return home. After recovering, now in peace-time, he served with his regiment on garrison duty. In 1768, he purchased a command of a company in 70th Regiment of Foot, under the his cousin Colonel Alexander Johnstone. He served with this regiment in the West Indies until his lame leg again began to trouble him.

At home in 1772, he took part in light infantry training. During this time he came to the attention of General Howe. It was also at this time that he developed

shoot a prominent American officer, accompanied by another in distinctive hussar dress, but decided not to do so, as the man had his back to him (Ferguson) and was unaware of his presence. A surgeon told Ferguson in the hospital that some American casualties had said that General Washington had been in the area at the time. Ferguson wrote that, even if the officer were the general, he did not regret his decision. The officer's identity remains uncertain; historians suggest that the aide in hussar dress might indicate the senior officer was Count Casimir Pulaski.

For some months after being wounded, Ferguson was at risk for amputation of his arm. During this time, he received news of his father's death. Ferguson eventually recovered, although his right arm was permanently crippled. He resumed his career in May 1778, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton.

In October 1778, Ferguson was assigned to lead a raid in southern New Jersey to suppress privateers who had been seizing British ships. They were based around the Little Egg Harbor River, which empties into the Great Bay. Ferguson attacked their base in what is known as the Battle of Chestnut Neck.

About a week later, Ferguson was notified by a Hessian defector, Lieutenant Carl Wilhelm Juliat, who had returned to the British side after a furious argument with the American Lieutenant Colonel Carl Von Bose that a detachment of Count Pułaski's troops, under Von Bose's command, was located nearby. Ferguson marched his troops to the site of Bose's infantry out-

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post, which comprised fifty men and was a short distance from Pulaski's main encampment. At first light on October 15, 1778, Ferguson ordered his men to use bayonets to attack the sleeping men of the American force. Pulaski reported that Ferguson's Tories killed, wounded or took prisoner about 30 of his men in what the Americans called the Little Egg Harbor massacre.

Ferguson's account, under the pen-name Egg-Shell, expresses his dismay at Pułaski's lack of preparations and failure to post look-outs. He said in his official report that little quarter could be given, and his men took only five prisoners. Ferguson reported that he did not destroy the three houses which sheltered the Americans because they were the dwellings of inoffensive Quakers, who were innocent civilians. Pułaski eventually led his mounted troops (Pułaski's Legion) forward, causing Ferguson to retreat to his boats, minus a few men who had been captured. Ferguson reported his losses as two killed, three wounded, and one missing.

Ferguson was commissioned on October 25, 1779 as a Major in the 71st Foot. In 1780, the British Army sent General Lord Cornwallis to invade South Carolina and North Carolina. His mission was to defeat all American forces in the Carolinas and keep the two colonies within the British Empire. A key part of Cornwallis's plan was to recruit soldiers from local Loyalists. To achieve this goal, General Clinton appointed Major Ferguson as Inspector of Militia in South Carolina. Ferguson's mission was to recruit Loyalist militia in the Carolinas and Georgia and to intimidate any colonists who favored American independence.

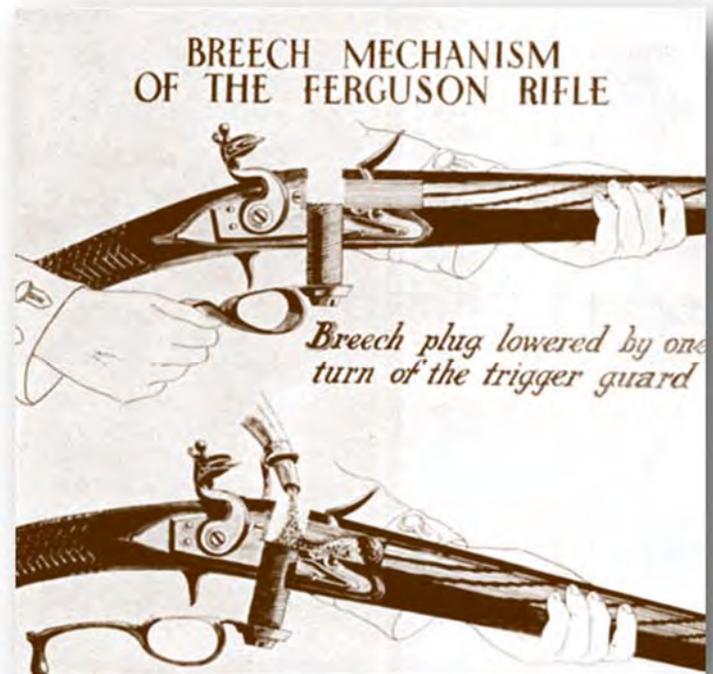
After winning several victories over American forces, Cornwallis occupied Charlotte, North Carolina in the summer of 1780. He divided his army and gave command of one section to Ferguson. Ferguson's wing consisted of Loyalists he had recruited to fight for the British cause. Ferguson may have ensured his defeat at King's Mountain when publicly threatened to invade the mountains beyond the legal limit on westward settlement unless the colonists there abandoned the cause of American independence. Infuriated by this pronouncement over-mountaineers organized a militia to fight him and his Loyalists at King's Pinnacle, an isolated ridge on the border between the Carolinas. On 7 October 1780, the two armies met in the famous Battle of Kings Mountain. The battle went badly for the Loyalists, and during the fighting, Ferguson was shot from his horse. With his foot still in the stirrup, he was dragged to the rebel side. Accord-

ing to Rebel accounts, when a Patriot approached the major for his surrender, Ferguson drew his pistol and shot him as a last act of defiance. Other soldiers retaliated, and Ferguson's body was found with eight musket holes in it. Patriot accounts said their militia stripped his body of clothing and urinated on him before burial. They buried him in an ox hide near the site of his fall.

One of Ferguson's two mistresses, 'Virginia Sal', was also killed in the battle and was buried with the officer. In the 1920s, the U.S. government erected a marker at Ferguson's gravesite, which today is a part of the Kings Mountain National Military Park, administered by the National Park Service.

Ferguson's personal correspondence reveals a man of intelligence, humor and charm. He also wrote several articles, satirical in tone, for publication in Rivington's Royal Gazette, under the pseudonyms Egg-Shell, Memento Mori and John Bull.

He was survived by his mother, his brothers James and George, and sisters Annie, Elizabeth (Betty) (Mrs. Scrymgeour-Wedderburn of Birkhill), and Jean.



Sources:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Ferguson
2. <http://www.ushistory.org/brandywine/special/art09.htm>
3. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/historyculture/ferguson-rifle.htm>
4. <http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/personalities/ferguson/ferguson.shtml>



Ladies Auxiliary Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



The LATXSSAR met at the November BOM. Treasurer Syla Marrs resigned her position. The Board appointed PineyWoods LATXSSAR member Mary Claire Beard as the new Treasurer. The ladies outing was hosted by Diana Severance, Director of the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University. The ladies were completely awed by the vast collections of Bibles including a room of Bibles owned by our Founding Fathers. Everyone wanted a second trip and to take their husbands. Thank you Diana. Spouses of members are encouraged to become members of the LATXSSAR, it is only \$5/year.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM			
<i>[Please fill out this form and submit with your dues]</i>			
Member Information			
Date:			
Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
e-mail	Telephone:		
	Cell:		

TXSSAR Information	
SAR Chapter Affiliation	
SAR City:	
SAR Contact:	
SAR Contact Relationship:	

Dues Submission	
<i>Please select annual dues or lifetime membership</i>	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Annual Dues	\$5.00
<input type="radio"/> Lifetime Membership	\$100.00
Amount Paid:	



Center: Mary Claire Beard



Back: unknown, Judy West, Barbara Stevens, Cilla Tomme, Eilene Walik, unnamed, Mary Claire Beard, Catherine Massey Front: Jane Cohen, JoAn Alderman, Diana Severance, Sue Lenes, Marie Rorhbough, Carol Radcliff, Mary Thompson, Robin Butler