



Pine Shavings



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

October 2011

Volume 21, Issue 4



A Message from the President

We had a great turnout at Septembers' meeting to hear and witness the 'mock trial' that Compatriot Jim Mitchell orchestrated. Everyone thought the program was entertaining and informative. Later, Jim even shared some of his personal experiences during his tenure with the FBI. Our District VP John Thompson and his wife were also in attendance. John shared with the group many of the plans and activities that will be happening in District 8, our district, over the next few months. A major event is the Fall Board of Managers meeting to be held in Galveston, TX October 28-30, 2011. The hotel is the Galveston Hilton, very favorable rates. The theme is honoring our fire fighters, who have been extremely busy this Spring and Summer with all of the wild fires that have charred so much of East Texas.

We also welcomed new members to PineyWoods #51 — Joe Butterworth and Richard Wood. Richard Wood was sworn in and presented his member Rosette. Richard briefly talked of his ancestor William Edminson of North Carolina. Joe had been sworn in at an earlier date.

During the fall of each year, the chapter along with the TXSSAR focuses on recognizing those who serve the community in fire-fighting, law enforcement, and/or emergency medical services. If you know of an individual that you believe is deserving of recognition, please let one of your chapter officers know so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. In keeping with that theme, I would like to offer some information on the Texas Rangers, not the baseball team, the oldest statewide law enforcement agency in North America. These are special people.

The following is excerpted from the Texas Rangers website:

The Texas Ranger Division is a major division within the Texas Department of Public Safety with lead criminal investigative responsibility for the following: major incident crime investigations, unsolved crime/serial crime investigations, public corruption investigations, officer involved shooting investigations, and border security operations.

History: The Texas Rangers have existed almost continuously from the year of colonization to the present. In 1821, Stephen F. Austin, known as the "Father of Texas," called the citizens together and organized a group to provide the needed protection for his almost 1,000 colonists. Austin first referred to this group as the Rangers in 1823, for their duties compelled them to range over the entire country, thus giving rise to the service known as the Texas Rangers. On October 17, 1835, Daniel Parker offered a resolution creating a corps of Texas Rangers to protect the settlements against the incursions of Indians while Sam Houston and his army defeated the troops of Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

After the Revolution and up to 1840, the Rangers were used principally for protection against the Indians, and history shows that they were very active in this service. In 1840, many battles against the Indians occurred, such as the Council House Fight in San Antonio, the raid on Linnville, and the Battle of Plum Creek.

During the Civil War Terry's Texas Rangers, was organized in Houston under Colonel Benjamin Franklin Terry. Many of the Texas Rangers and former members enlisted in

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue

Events	2,3
This Month in the Revolution	2
PineyWoods Chapter News	3-5
President's Message	1
Revolutionary History	6,7
Ladies' Fund-raiser	6

PAST PRESIDENTS

- Tom Green
- Bernie Balsar
- Don Lemon
- Jeff Meadows
- McLeod Smith
- Robert McKenna
- Bob Smith
- Cannon Pritchard
- James Jones(2)
- Ray Cox (2)
- Ron Barker
- Larry Stevens (3)

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

Oct 29-30, 2011 - Fall—Board of Managers Meeting -Galveston

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

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This Month in the Revolution

20 Oct 1774 – The Continental Congress issued the **Association of 1774** which while declaring their allegiance to the crown avowed they would no longer purchase merchandise from Great Britain or Ireland.

11 October 1776: Benedict Arnold was defeated at Lake Champlain (the **Battle of Valcour Island.**) The battle was effective in delaying the British advance. Most of the American ships were either taken or destroyed.



17 Oct 1777: The first Battle of **Saratoga** was won by the British on 19th of September. The second was won by the Americans on October 7th. The second battle was such a decisive victory that on the 17th Burgoyne, with a troop strength of over 15,000, surrendered. The British casualties were reported at 440 killed and 695 wounded with American losses at 90 killed and 240 wounded.

7 Oct 1780: Battle of King's Mountain was won by American Patriots including Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina militia and the Overmountain Men of Tennessee. They defeated the legendary 71st of Col. Patrick Ferguson. The British had taken a position on the top of the hill and were surrounded by the Americans. The British losses were 290 killed (including Ferguson); 163 wounded and over 690 captured. The Americans had 30 killed and 58 wounded. This was a decisive battle for the South. [Reports vary as to numbers of losses on each side. No one really knows the actual numbers it seems]



19 October 1781: Surrender at Yorktown After a five-day bombardment, the combined American and French forces attacked and overwhelmed Cornwallis's fortified position on the night of October 14. The British commander was left with no choice but to surrender, which he did on October 19. General Cornwallis did not attend the surrender ceremony saying that he was not feeling well. His substitute, General O'Hara, first tried to surrender to the Comte de Rochambeau who directed the British officer to General Washington who in turn directed him to Washington's subordinate General Lincoln. During the ceremony a British band played the song "The World Turned Upside Down."

PineWoods Chapter 51 Meeting Schedule 2011

Oct 20	Members Meeting
Nov 17	Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)
Dec 15	Members Only

MEETING LOCATION

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



Pictured at right at Fall BOM Past TXSSAR President James T. Jones presents PW President with the Liberty Medal certificate and cluster awarded to Bob McKenna by the National Society .

Pictured right: President John Beard presents the certificate and cluster to Bob. The Liberty award is given for every ten new members signed up by a member.



Chapter Registrar Report

Larry Stevens & Bob McKenna

Since September 1, 2011 the following member applications have been approved.

Gary Housley—Patriot—Capt. Thomas Hardeman [NC]

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

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

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

Eugene Shuffield	Eugene Shuffield, Jr
William McKinney	

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.



Pictured above: New member Richard Glee Wood receives his member rosette. His wife, Taunya, is pinning it on his lapel while President John Beard looks on. Richard's patriot is William Edminson of North Carolina. Richard gave a short biography of his patriot.

Happy Birthday

September		October		November		December	
Alan Bowman	Ross S. Miller	Bernard S. Balsler	Larry Stevens	Jonathan Beard	Edwin Pierson, Jr	Jonathan Hubbard	James O'Neal
Todd Irion	Aaron Stevens	Raymond Cox	Gordon Waterman	Larry Blackburn	James O'Neal	Clay Warlick	
Thomas Liepman		Jeffrey O'Neal		Allan Henshaw			
James T. Jones		Stephen Parker		Paul Luther			
James Liepman		James C. Reese		James Mims, IV			

(Continued from page 1)

"Terry's Texas Rangers," and made an enviable record in the Confederate Army. Texas was readmitted to the Union on March 30, 1870.

The darkest period in the history of the organization, the Period of Reconstruction (1865-1873), was the re-regimentation of the Rangers as the "State Police". Under the administration of the Reconstructionist Governor E. J. Davis, while charged with the enforcement of the unpopular carpetbagger laws, the State Police fell into disrepute among the war-weary citizens of Texas. Reconstruction and carpetbag rule was ended in 1873.

In May 1874, under Governor Richard Coke, six companies of Texas Rangers, 75 to a company were organized. Rangers were given the status of peace officers, whereas before this date the service was a semi-military organization. During this era, the Ranger Service held a place somewhere between that of an army and a police force. When a Ranger was going to meet an outside enemy, for example, the Indians or the Mexicans, he was very close to being a soldier; however, when he had to turn to the enemies within his own society - outlaws, train robbers, and highwaymen, he was a detective and policeman. The Rangers' duties were not curbed by city or county boundaries, but included the whole state. Generally, the Ranger was called in where a case was considered too great a task for a local agency.

The later years of the 19th Century saw the Rangers involved in "detective" work, necessitated by a new group of violators known as fence cutters, and isolated cases of horse and cattle theft.

Four events - the Mexican Revolution, World War I, oil booms, and prohibition - made demands on the Texas

Rangers, which they could not meet. The Mexican Revolution filled the Mexican border with raiders; the World War brought with it spies, conspirators, and saboteurs; oil booms made West Texas a gathering place for gamblers and murderers; and prohibition filled it with smugglers and bootleggers. In January 1919, there was a cutback in the service to four companies of not more than 15 men. The Texas Rangers had served officially for more than a hundred years under the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Adjutant General of Texas.

On August 10, 1935, when the Texas Legislature created the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Rangers and the Texas Highway Patrol became members of this agency, with statewide law enforcement jurisdiction. The true modern-day Ranger came into being on September 1, 1935.

The Texas Rangers are the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction.

Currently: The Texas Ranger Division is comprised of 216 full time employees; including 150 commissioned Rangers and 66 support personnel; including administrative staff, Border Security Operations Center, Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers, and the Special Weapons and Tactics team.

As a reminder, we will have our October meeting, members only, on Thursday October 20th at Jimmy G's. The November meeting includes guests and will feature a play "First Feminist, Second President" put on by Dr. Joe Rice and his wife. It should be terrific. Don't forget to make your reservation!

John Beard

Summer BOM



The Freedom Chapter of Conroe hosted the TXSSAR Summer Board of Management meeting at the Crown Plaza Hotel at Greenspoint, Houston. There was a wonderful turn out and Piney-Woods was represented by the following members present: TXSSAR Treasurer John Beard; TXSSAR Past President James T. Jones, TXSSAR Historian Larry Stevens, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell and Jim Mims. Significant decisions at the meeting included the decision to have just one BOM meetings instead of two and the Annual Convention. [2012 will be in San Antonio in March.]

The luncheon speaker was U. S. District Judge David Hittner. He spoke of his years in scouting and the success that scouting brings in latter life. He was a wonderful speaker and kept the audience laughing. [Pictured at left Charles Luna, Judge Hittner and TXSSAR President William Marrs.]

September Meeting

We had a great September meeting with over 30 members and guests in attendance.

We had two new members in attendance Richard Wood and Joe Butterworth. Also in attendance was our District Rep John K. Thompson and his wife Mary.

Jim Mitchell presented a play on the trial of the alleged spy Dr. Benjamin Church. Church a member of the inner circle of the Patriots was a big catch. Testimony was provided by his mistress (Barbara Stevens) and her former lover a baker from RI played by Larry Stevens.



Jim Mitchell



Allan Henshaw, Cannon Pritchard, Jim Jones, Mary and John Thompson



Bob McKenna, Jansue Reigel, Ray Cox, Larry Blackburn, Jim and Mary Richards and Dianne Jones in foreground left



Barbara Stevens and Larry Blackburn



Left Table back: Ann Mitchell, Billie Pierce, Taunya and Richard Wood, Jim Mitchell, Dorothy and Joe Butterworth, Bill McKinney, Larry Blackburn; Center: John Beard and Larry Stevens; Right Table: Jim Jones, Diana Severence, Greg Goulas; Left Table inside: Dianne Jones and Mary Claire Beard.



The Fall Leadership meeting was held in Louisville, Kentucky on September 30—October 1. Attendants from PineyWoods were James T. Jones, NSSAR Trustee and Larry Stevens.

The candidates for national office had a candidates forum. Our own Judge Thomas Lawrence, Incumbent NSSAR Chancellor General, is running for another term in that office and spoke to members. Dual TXSSAR member Joe Dooley is also seeking office.

Pictured at above: James T. Jones and Mike Radcliffe, former TXSSAR Color Guard Commander.

Support the Ladies Auxiliary Project!

The LATXSSAR is offering chances on this quilt which is being made by PineyWoods Ladies Auxiliary member Barbara Stevens. The quilt is machine pieced, hand appliquéd and hand quilted. Chances are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased from Dianne Jones or Barbara Stevens. Help the ladies support the TXSSAR youth programs.



The Turtle: The Worlds First Combat Submarine

The *Turtle* was an odd shaped submersible invented by a Yale undergraduate, David Bushnell, between 1771-1775. It could submerge, navigate underwater, maintain adequate air for its one man crew and carry a small payload. It used water as a ballast to raise and lower the craft. It carried a “torpedo” or mine that could be attached to the hull of an enemy ship. Bushnell was the first to demonstrate that gunpowder could be exploded under water. To do this he had invented the first “time bomb.” He worked with a clock maker to devise a timer using a flint/steel mechanism like a flintlock gun uses. His attempts to

use the *Turtle* to attach a keg of gunpowder to ships were thwarted by the metal hull lining used to prevent parasites. In 1777 he tried to blow up the HMS *Cerebus* with a floating mine, but it struck a sloop before reaching the British ship blowing up the sloop. In 1778 Bushnell masterminded the “Battle of the Kegs,” in which a series of “mines” were sent down the Detroit River. This plan was also ineffectual, though the British expended much time and ammunition shooting the kegs. In 1795 Washington wrote Jefferson, “I then thought, and still think, that it was an effort of genius.”



The Battle for Carolinas—Part II

After the Battle at Ramsour's Mill in June of 1780, a company of militia was placed under the command of Gen Francis Marion. Marion began a series of guerrilla actions against the British and Tories in South Carolina. The British had pursued Marion unsuccessfully since the Battle of Camden causing his forces to dwindle to about only sixty. Marion went into hiding in the White Marsh Swamp on the border of North and South Carolina to avoid the British Major James Wemyss who was headquartered at Georgetown. Wemyss marched across the Pee Dee River Region of South Carolina plundering and destroying Patriot houses and killing cattle. Gen Marion was not idle in the swamp. On September 4 he attacked a force at Tarcote or



Tearcoat Swamp, one of at least three encounters at this location. Then on September 27th, Marion learned that Col John Ball's Loyalist were at Shepherds Ferry. Ball's pickets heard Marion's horse approaching; a line was formed firing at the patriots. The patriots dismounted and attacked from three sides, Major Horrey on the left, Capt Waites in the center, and a small mounted force to the right. Marion and a small force stayed in reserve. The Loyalists were soon

routed. The battle lasted 15 minutes and Marion captured much needed horses and supplies. Marion released his men taking a small force in safe retreat.

In response to Marion's activities, Cornwallis dispatched Major Patrick "Bull Dog" Ferguson, who had once had George Washington in his rifle sight, into the west of South Carolina, the 96, in September 1780, to raise havoc with the Patriots in the area. Major Ferguson marched his force of loyalist into North Carolina establishing a base camp at Gilbert Town. There he released a prisoner with a message to the local patriots lay down their arms or he would hang the leaders and burn their homes. This threat, rather than causing fear, only angered the Patriots and "fence sitters" in the surrounding areas. Patriot leaders summoned their militiamen; Campbell, Sevier, Shelby, McDowell, Williams, Cleveland, Lacey and others. From Sycamore Shoals, the upper Holston in Virginia, and North and South Carolina they came until about 3,000 gathered.

Meanwhile, Ferguson at first did not appreciate the force gathering and furloughed some of his force assuming they would promptly return, and he would have reinforcements

from Crager and Cornwallis. He had about 1,100 men in camp. Ferguson left Gilbert Town for the south. For a while the patriot force could not locate Ferguson. Therefore, they sent a smaller mounted force of 900 to 1,100 in pursuit with the others to follow. This smaller mounted force captured a British messenger from Ferguson and learned his location. At 3 o'clock on the wet afternoon of October 7, 1780, the patriot army who had just completely surrounded the ridge called Kings Mountain when fired upon by the loyalist militia. Loyalist charged down the north face only to be beaten back by deadly rifle fire. Major Ferguson rallied the force and charged down the steep embankment nearly to the bottom when driven back again. A third charge by the loyalist was thrown back. Ferguson attempted to bring his army together striking a white flag from the hands of one officer. But Patriots charged from all sides. Major Ferguson was mortally shot in the head. The loyalist surrendered. The battle ended just a little more than an hour long. A loyalist foraging party returned just as the battle ended and opened fire on the patriots. The patriots opened fire on the party and then began firing on prisoners, believing the truce was broken, they killed several of them before officers halted them.

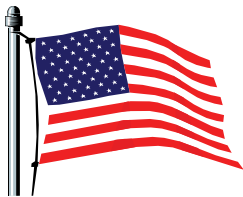
Patrick Ferguson was the only regular British soldier that fought that day on Kings Mountain. Patriot Col. Williams died on the north east slope making a total of 30 patriots lost and 58 wounded. Ferguson and some 290 loyalist and Tories lay dead or wounded, 690—763 were captured. This was a devastating defeat for Gen Cornwallis. He had lost about one third of his army.



The battle for the Carolinas did not end here. The Battle of Fishdam Ford in northern Chester county South Carolina followed on November 9, 1780. Major James Wemyss attempting to capture Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter attacked Sumter's position about midnight but was soundly defeated. Wemyss was seriously wounded and captured, and although this battle was not great in casualties, it was another blow to Cornwallis. Dragoon and mounted militia commander Wemyss would not return for action and Wemyss never fought again because of his injuries.

Larry Stevens

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Sons of the American Revolution



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Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325



We're on the Web

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

**RSVP FOR THE October 20, 2011 MEMBERS ONLY 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 Monday, Sept 17th. 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.