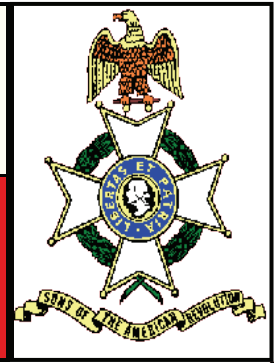




# Pine Shavings



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

October 2012

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Larry H. Blackburn, PhD  
President

Dear Compatriot Gentlemen and Friends. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming PineyWoods chapter meeting on Thursday, October 18. This is a scheduled “members” meeting and we will be discussing many of the business items that were presented at the TXSSAR BOM held in Temple, Texas, October 5- 7. I can once again report that PineyWoods Chapter 51 was very well represented. Those who attended were: John Beard, Jim Jones, Larry Stevens, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell, John K. Thompson and Larry Blackburn. Meetings and discussions included: Council of Chapter Presidents, JROTC, Color Guard, upcoming National and State events and others. Awards recognizing outstanding service were presented. We also heard a very interesting presentation from a retired U.S. Army General on the leadership of George Washington and his roles during the American Revolution. One of the more important topics discussed was getting our members to actively participate in Chapter, State and National events. There seem to be more and more “Certificate” members – those who apply, receive their membership certificate and then disappear. The goal is to encourage attendance, participation and increase our annual membership renewals. This is obviously a team goal. Our Chapter has grown over the past few years and we are recognized as one of the most

active in the State of Texas. Our leadership positions at the State and National level also continue to grow in number. I am encouraging all PineyWoods members to take an active role in our chapter.

I want to share something both special and personal. My Mom, Hollie Berniece (Nichols) Blackburn, age 93, passed away on Sunday, October 7. She was a blessing to many – more than I knew. Although she was not a member of the DAR or the DRT, she was eligible. I have used her personal research papers as my “proof” on many occasions. Her funeral service was held in Nacogdoches, Texas – known as the “Gateway to Texas”. I was deeply touched when Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stevens and Mr. and Mrs. James Jones came walking down the center aisle of the chapel to pay their respect to my Mom and to support me in an hour of personal grief. Gentlemen Compatriots, this organization of ours is far greater than some can imagine – we are a brotherhood of like minded, patriotic individuals who stand together in support of our forefathers who provided this great nation and the freedom we all enjoy. We also stand in support of one another.

May God bless you all.

Larry Blackburn, PhD  
President, TXSSAR PineyWoods 51

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**PineyWoods -  
Meetings - 2012**

**Oct 18—Member Only**  
**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](mailto:johnbeard@suddenlink.net) or call John at 281-358-2970 OR Kim Morton at [Genmorton@usa.net](mailto:Genmorton@usa.net). OR Larry Stevens [wardtracker@aol.com](mailto:wardtracker@aol.com) (281-361-2061) Please RSVP to one person only.

## Revolutionary Timeline

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**October 19, 1774** – The *Peggy Stewart* was a Maryland cargo vessel burned on October 19, 1774, in Annapolis as a punishment for contravening the boycott on tea imports which had been imposed in retaliation for the British treatment of the people of Boston following the Boston Tea Party. This event became known as *Painting by Francis B. Mayer, 1896, The the "Annapolis Tea Party"*.



**October 4, 1777** – On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, after learning Howe had split his force, Washington conceived a bold plan to attack Howe's garrison of 9000 men at Germantown commanded by Wilhelm von Knyphausen and General Howe. Washington sent four different units, one consisting of 3000 militia, John Sullivan's force, Nathaniel Greenes' force, and the forces of William Alexander. Lord Sterling commanded the reserve. The Patriots advanced that night to meet at dawn, October 4<sup>th</sup> just outside of Howe's camp and surprise the British. The battle started well but one of Washington's columns got lost in the dense fog and smoke and the others failed to coordinate together during the British retreat. The British defenses shored up after a fierce fight at Germantown's Chew (Cliveton) mansion causing Washington to retreat to Whitmarsh pursued by the British.



**October 22, 1777**— The **Battle of Red Bank** was a battle of the American Revolutionary War in which a Hessian force was sent to take Fort Mercer on the left bank (or New Jersey side) of the Delaware River just south of Philadelphia, but was decisively defeated by a far inferior force of Colonial defenders. Although the British did take Fort Mercer a month later, the victory supplied a sorely-needed morale boost to the American cause, delayed British plans to consolidate gains in Philadelphia, and relieved pressure on General Washington's army to the north of the city.

**November 15, 1777**— The **Articles of Confederation**, formally the **Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union**, was an agreement among the 13 founding states that established the United States of America as a confederation of sovereign states and served as its first constitution. Its drafting by the Continental Congress began in mid 1776, and an approved version was sent to the states for ratification in late 1777. The formal ratification by all 13 states was completed in early 1781. Even if not yet ratified, the Articles provided domestic and international legitimacy for the Continental Congress to direct the American Revolutionary War, conduct diplomacy with Europe and deal with territorial issues and Indian relations. Nevertheless, the weak government created by the Articles became a matter of concern for key nationalists. On March 4, 1789, the Articles were replaced with the U.S. Constitution. The new Constitution provided for a much stronger national government with a chief executive (the president), courts, and taxing powers

## Chapter Registrar Report — Larry Stevens

PineyWoods was delighted to be able to induct member Jack Taylor, in absentia. Joining our meeting was Jack's wife Nita and his daughter Sharon. Mrs. Taylor was presented with her husband's certificate and rosette. It was wonderful to get to welcome Jack into the chapter and we hope his health improves and that he may be able to join us in our meetings.



### *New Members*

*There are still several members who have not been sworn into the organization. We hope to swear in new member Jeffery LaRoche at our upcoming meeting*

## EVENTS



**National :** [www.sar.org](http://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](http://www.txssar.org)

**April 4-7**

TXSSAR Annual Meeting

**Wyndam Hotel, Dallas, TX**

## Piney Woods Meeting—September, 2012

District Vice President John K. Thompson presented the program for the September meeting of the chapter. His topic was, “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.” Using the excellent book by David Hackett Fischer, entitled, “Paul Revere’s Ride,” John helped dispel the many myths surrounding that night that led up to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Key points in his lecture included:

1. Paul Revere was a frequent courier used to communicate correspondence in the northeastern Colonies. He therefore had connections in most locations, which gave him an advantage when this fateful ride began.
2. He did not ride alone. William Dawes was also sent out that night. As Paul Revere delivered his message, he delivered it to the militia and town leaders as he went. This resulted in a multiplication of the number of riders with the message at each stop. [It was noted that Dawes did not have the same network of contacts so his message did not spread as rapidly or as effectively. His effort was as great, but his connections weren’t as good.]
3. Paul Revere and the other’s did not shout, “The British are coming.” Why, because at this time they believed they were British too. They called the British soldiers “Regulars” most often in conversation and print. They also used the terms, “Redcoats” or the “King’s Men.” or if college educated they may have called them the “Ministerial Troops.” But no one called them the British in April of 1774.
4. The true story was not told immediately for fear of reprisals. Paul Revere’s name was known, but not so many of the other participants, and the Whigs wanted it to stay that way.
5. When the Patriots gathered the many eye witness accounts of the battles, they did not wish to use Paul Revere’s account since he stated he was not sure who fired the first shot. He was not in a position to see, but the account was buried because it might be construed to point fingers at the colonials. It was finally published in 1891.



We all certainly enjoyed the presentation. It is so rewarding to learn the real facts of our historical events.



Paul Revere was born 21 December 1734/5 in the North End of Boston to Apollon Rivoire, a French Huguenot, and Deborah Hitchbourne, a Bostonian. By the time of his marriage Paul’s father had adopted the anglicized form of his name, Paul Revere. Paul was the third of twelve children born to Paul and Deborah Revere. He apprenticed at his father’s silversmith shop from the age of 13. When his father died he was not old enough to run the shop. Two years after his father’s death he joined in the French and Indian War and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the provincial artillery. After a brief stint he returned to run the silversmith shop. He was very influential in the Patriot cause in Boston. The author David Fischer pointed out that Revere belonged to five of the seven revolutionary groups of Boston, with only John Hancock belonging to that many and most noted revolutionary far fewer. It was one of Revere’s lifelong disappointment that he never received a commission in the Continental Troops but only served at the state level.

Our Fall BOM meeting was held on the 5-7 of October 2013. PineyWoods had the following members in attendance: President Larry Blackburn, Ray Cox, James Mitchell, James T. Jones, John Beard, and Larry Stevens.

During the meeting the following items were considered:

- By-Laws fine tuning or language corrections. One being a clarification to the TXSSAR Treasurer's position.
- The State Meetings Committee proposed hosting the National Convention in 2018 in Houston. This proposal was accepted and will be presented to National. It was also agreed that if the Tennessee society cannot host in 2017, Houston will be proposed for that timeslot instead of 2018.
- In the General session, the Long Range Planning suggested that the State Meetings Committee either become a subcommittee of the Long Range

Planning Committee or in some way have some coordination between the two committees. This structure will be considered.

The Long Range Planning committee added the oversight role for the TXSSAR Archives in UNT in Denton to their purview. This is primarily to ensure the preservation of the Archives. Funding of the preservation by digitization of the microfilm and other records was discussed.

The Archives and History Committee proposed, after consultation with Past Chairman and State Staff Secretary Larry Stevens, Treasurer John Beard, Past Treasurer Peter McLellan, Past TXSSAR President and Treasurer James T. Jones, funding of \$3,500 to start the organization and digitization of our archives material. This expenditure was approved. It is planned that this will be at least a 5 year effort at the same spending level.

Meeting minutes and officers reports will be posted shortly on the TSXXAR website.



Top Left: TXSSAR President Clark standing with Treasurer John Beard.

Top Right: Saturday Luncheon Speaker General David E. Palmer, Ret. with Ed Butler and John Beard

Bottom: Ray Cox in red in the center at a General Session.



# Color Guard & Community Events



## Captain James Moore Wreath Ceremony

Forty to sixty soldiers of Washington's Army are buried in the Washington Crossing State Park, the site of the historic Crossing of the Delaware, at McConkey's Ferry in Bucks County, PA. Of these soldiers the identity of only one man is known with certainty. Capt. James Moore's grave was marked, probably by his family, soon after his death. The tombstone, erected at that time read, "To ye memory of Capt. James Moore of ye N. Y. Artillery Sq. Son of Benj & Cornelia Moore of N.Y. He died Dec 25 A.D. 1776; age 24 yrs and 8 mos." He was known to have died from camp fever in the Thompson house on the day of the crossing. He was commissioned a Capt Lt. on February 10, 1776, upon a recommendation of Thomas Jefferson and served in Alexander Hamilton's Artillery Company.

Today there is a graveyard in the Park which has a simple tombstone for Capt Moore and 21 others to represent the many unknown soldiers. When the Delaware Canal came through in the early 1800's the ground disturbance surfaced many partial remains at that time. It is speculated that the remains of 40 to 60 unknowns are buried throughout the Park. The Thompson house served as a military hospital both before and after the Battle of Trenton. Capt. Alexander Hamilton was abed there before the crossing.

James Mitchell and his wife Anne organized a Wreath's of Remembrance ceremony commemorating Capt Lt. James Moore and those other unnamed soldiers of the Revolution. They handed out a very informative program with an extensive history of Capt. Moore. On the morning of September 14, 2012, members the following compatriots and wives conducted the ceremony: TXSSAR PineYwoods Chapter - James Mitchell and wife Anne, Larry Stevens and wife Barbara (James Tull Chapter DAR); James T. Jones and wife Dianne (James Tull Chapter DAR); CASSAR Gold Country Chapter/TXSSAR PineYwoods Chapter - Ron Barker and wife Conni; and of the CASSAR Orange County Chapter - James C. Fosdyck and his wife Un Hui Yi. All ladies are members of the SAR Ladies Auxiliary.



*Pictured: Jim Mitchell, Jim & Dianne Jones, Ann Mitchell, Barbara Stevens, Ron and Conni Barker and Larry Stevens*

Ron and Conni Barker, Jim and Dianne Jones, Russell and Laura DeVenney (MO), Anne and Jim Mitchell and Barbara and I all went to the Philadelphia area. The Barkers, Jones', DeVenneys and Barbara and I went a week early to see the historic revolutionary sites in the area. Our main purpose was to join the Philadelphia SAR chapter in a march on the Independence Mall to celebrate the 225th Anniversary of the Signing of the Constitution. Jim and Anne Mitchell had also arranged for a Revolutionary Grave marking at the Washington Crossing State Park.

We got to see many sites during this time. The highlights were The Old Barracks in Trenton, Valley Forge, Brandywine, Washington's Crossing, Old Town Philadelphia — Betsy Ross House, Bishop White's House, Second National Bank Portrait Gallery, the Philosophical Society, Independence Hall, the First Post Office, Ben Franklins privy (right by the well), and so many other sites it is hard to count.

On a Friday evening we caught the commuter at 3:24 PM at the Norristown STA [*Geo Washington's Army fought at Norristown in 1777.*] to ride to the downtown Market Street underground train station and Mall. We had a reservation with an evening tour of some Philadelphia Old Town sights which included a pub dinner 1775 at City Tavern and an after hours tour of Independence Hall. Independence Hall was the old Philadelphia Court House and Colonial State building prior to the signing of the Declaration.

To begin our tour a young man with a large backpack greeted us and said he was our guide for the evening. We followed him out the door and as we walked he described some of the buildings, especially one with a large wall relief likeness of Benjamin Franklin. Just as we were passing the old Philadelphia Bank, a man in 1770's clothes approached and said, "I am the printer John Dunlap, have you seen Thomas Jefferson? He was supposed to give me something to print.", pausing, he remarked, "You are dressed rather queer...Are you for King George?" As a group we answered a loud, "No." He said he guessed he could trust us, then said he was to print a single sided document, 200 copies, tonight, to be handed out to delegates in the morning. He asked where we were going. When he learned it was the City Tavern, he asked to join us. He thought he might find Mr. Jefferson there.

At the tavern we had chicken or beef pies and some braved ales of the period while being entertained by Dunlap and a tavern wench. Dunlap had only recently arrived from Ireland and being a printer, was able to go right to work.

Then he excusing himself, going to search for Jefferson. As quick as he left Mr. Jefferson appeared looking for him. Taking aback by our dress, he asked, "Are you for the King?" We responded, "No." Then he discussed Philadelphia politics and the task of writing and re writing the Declaration of Independence. He said he had been asked to write it, because after all he was a much better writer than speaker. "I need to find that printer Dunlap." We said he just missed him. "If you chance to see him again, inform him I can be found at Independence Hall, I bid you good eve."



Dunlap returned and when told of Jefferson, he said he must be off to the Hall. He asked if we would like to come, he knew the night watchman and he may be persuaded to let us in. It might be a chance to see some of the delegates at work. We did get in the Hall after some debate, and after looking at the old courtroom and the general session room, we heard voices from the floor above. We were led to an alcove and asked to sit and be quiet by the watchman. Above us appeared Jefferson, reading a line from his declaration. John Adams following him, commented loudly about word usage and the thought conveyed in the sentence. The two continued their discussion from the landing while coming down the stairs. During their debate, there was a loud tapping noise from a corner chair and up out of the chair arose Benjamin Franklin himself. He immediately began lecturing Jefferson on the language he had used expressing his thoughts and why he changes needed to be made. Eventually, Jefferson understood his point. It was an exciting time to eavesdrop on such an august little group.

*Larry Stevens*





**Washington's Crossing**—Larry Stevens, Jim Jones and Ron Barker at the site of Washington's crossing on the Delaware on 24 Dec 1776



**Trenton – Old Barracks:**( top right & below it) Built during the French and Indian War in 1756 as one of a chain of frontier defense forts, the Old Barracks housed some of the Hessian Forces just before the forces of Geo Washington attacked December 26, 1776. The SAR erected a memorial at the site in 1916. Pictured at the memorial — Russ DeVenney (MO), Jim Jones, Ron barker, Larry Stevens



**Valley Forge:** Above:: Replica lodgings for soldiers and officers. Below: Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge.



**Philadelphia—Independence Park:** To the right Stevens, DeVenney, Jones and Barker at the Liberty Bell with Independence Hall in the background.