



Pine Shavings

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

September 2008

Volume 18, Issue 10

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PAST PRESIDENTS

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

A Message from the President



Summer was eventful. Barbara and I flew out to Sacramento to attend the NSSAR National Congress July 1, 2008. Our daughter Samantha, husband, and grand children live in Fair Oaks, not far from downtown Sacramento. Ron and Conni Barker, Dianne and Jim Jones, Tom and Micki Lawrence, and Jim Mitchell all were there representing Piney Woods Chapter 51, TXSSAR.

The Jones, Barkers, and Stevens arrived early and spent two nights at the Dever Winery B&B just outside of Plymouth, California, or around 50 miles East of Sacramento. The days were spent wine tasting, eating good food, and touring the area. Jim and Dianne had never seen the Giant Sequoia Trees. So, the morning of July 4th, I drove us all to the Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Trees that grow to 14 to 20 feet in diameter, 270 to 300 feet tall, and are at least 3500 years old are, simply put, awesome. (See Photo) The lodging at the winery was distant enough from the Sacramento area so as not to be effected by the smoke from all of the fires ablaze in Northern California.

Ron, Jim Mitchell and I joined the National Color Guard at the Sunday afternoon Memorial Service honoring those Compatriots who have passed away in the past year. We marched from the Hotel the two blocks to the church. There were about 60 guardsmen with US Flags

and State flags. Lots of people turned out to watch.

Jim and Dianne Jones (pictured below) took a chance before they traveled home to lunch with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. They were spotted at a table nearby him at a local Sacramento restaurant. The Governor's lodging was in the Convention Hotel where we stayed.



David Appleby from Missouri was sworn in as the new NSSAR President July 8, 2008, succeeding Bruce Wilcox. Our Chapter Register Robert McKenna was awarded his second Liberty Medal, represented by an Oak Leaf Cluster, for his work getting new applications approved. The Chapter will present this award to him at our September 18th meeting.

At the National meeting, Ron Barker

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EVENTS

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Sgt. at Arms
Ray Cox
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Newsletter Editor
Jim Mims
jhmims4@aol.com

Web Master
Ray Cox
coxmr@earthlink.net



State

www.txssar.org

TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting - Temple-Killeen, TX - October 24-26, 2008

TXSSAR Annual Convention, Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches, TX- March 19-22, 2009



National

www.sar.org

Fall 2008 Leadership (Trustees) Meeting - September 25-27, 2008 - Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY



The Revolution

September 15, 1776 - British Admiral Richard Howe landed at Kip's Bay and entered the city of New York virtually unopposed.

September 16, 1776 - Battle of Harlem Heights, NY, Maj. Gen. William Howe defeats Gen. George Washington.

September 19, 1777 - Battle of Freeman's Farm, NY, Maj. Gen. John Burgoyne defeats Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates.

September 25, 1778 - Continental Congress appoints Maj. Gen Benjamin Lincoln Southern Department Commander, replacing Maj. Gen. Robert Howe.

New Members

PineyWoods Chapter welcomes our newest recruits this summer:

- Kenneth Murphy - National No. 171842 TXSSAR 10217
- Richard Murphy - National No. 171841 TXSSAR 10216
- Donald Wayne Stallings - National No. 172178 TXSSAR 10243
- Paul Alan Herring - National No. 172176 TXSSAR 10241

Website

Note—Our website address has changed to :

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

Meetings

Haven't been to a meeting lately? Come see what you've been missing: learning about the Revolution and your ancestor's way of life; camaraderie; good dinner and more! Help make our Chapter better than it already is by being an active participant.



PineyWoods Chapter 51 Meeting Schedule 2008



September 18	Guest Speaker and Dinner
October 16	Members Only Meeting and Dinner
November 20	Guest Speaker and Dinner

Color Guard Activities



PineWoods Color Guardsman Jim Mitchell, Ron Barker, and Larry Stevens (below) participated in the Sunday Memorial Service at the Sacramento Cathedral in Sacramento, California in July while attending the NSSAR National Congress.



On July 16, 2008, PineWoods Color Guard members Richard Shanks, Jim Jones, and Larry Stevens participated in two Houston Naturalization Ceremonies at the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office in Houston.

Pictured left to right (above) with a new citizen are: Richard Shanks (Robert Rankin and PineWoods Chapters), Don Stone (Freedom Chapter), Dale Williamson (SRT Member), Tom Green (William Hightower, Alexander Hodge and Cradle of Texas Chapters), Pat Kerr (Robert Rankin Chapter), Jim Jones (PineWoods and Independence Chapters), and Larry Stevens (PineWoods Chapter).

The Center For Advancing America's Heritage

NSSAR is asking all members to donate to this worthy project. Only 9% of Members have donated money which is jeopardizing the ability to obtain donations and grants from the private sector. The NSSAR funding committee says the lack of support of the project by members is sending the wrong message to foundation donation managers. Information about the Center and how to donate can be found on the National Website.

Our largest expenditure is the cost of our newsletter. We want to eliminate mailing newsletters. We need your email addresses. Help us save money on mailing so we can better manage what we have! Please send your e-mail address to Ron Barker at ron.barker@hp.com and/or Jim Mims at jhmims4@aol.com and/or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com.

Happy Birthday			
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
James Jones, Jr. David Mahavier Ross Miller	Bernie Balser Raymond Cox Kenneth Fleming Larry Stevens Larry Cheatum James Craig Reese, DDS Jeff O'Neal	Ron Austin Allen Henshaw Paul Luther Worthy Warnack, Sr. James Mims Donald McKenna Thomas McKenna John Albright	John Dorsey Clay Warlick Charles McKim, Jr. Edwin Pierson, Jr. Pat O'Neal

August 21, 2008 Business Meeting



Our business meeting was held August 21 at Homewood Suites in Kingwood. Seven members were present and a variety of business topics were discussed.

dress will direct you to the new site for a while but please note the change and make the changes to your bookmarks.

Several members will be participating in a Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony at the Battleship Texas on November 10. All members are invited to attend the ceremonies.



Jim Mitchell

gave an interesting story which occurred during his tenure with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He related a story of an investigation he lead related to the Manhattan Project and the Uranium used to create nuclear weapons. He brought in a scrapbook of his life as an agent with the FBI.

Genealogist Kim Morton has three applications for membership under his review. Ray Cox may have another two members presenting applications.

Kim Morton will be bringing to the business meeting on November 20 several items from his father's WWII Japanese collection. His father was in Japan after WWII and collected these items while in Nagasaki after the war.

We have a new website address and Ray Cox will be adding pictures to the website. The old website ad-

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became a member of the NSSAR Veterans Committee, Jim Jones was selected to serve on a national task force, and I was made a member of the National Color Guard Committee. The three of us will attend the Fall Leadership meeting in Louisville Kentucky at the end of September.

The Summer TXSSAR Board of Management meeting was at Tyler, August 1-3, 2008. Ray Cox, Ron Barker, Jim Jones, Tom Lawrence, and I attended. We brought back information for our sponsored youth programs. There was a lot of concern due the low participation in our programs by young people throughout the state. Our youth programs with the application form and requirement are on our website, just type TXSSAR into your internet.

If you have or know an Eagle Scout, teenagers who can write an 1,000 word essay, or are members of their high school debate team. Let's get them signed up. TXSSAR has Scholarship money.

Our October member only meeting date will probably change because Homewood Suites has a conflict. I will advise you in the next few days. The December meeting which in the past has been a nominating committee meeting will be a dinner at my home of December 13th from 3 PM to 7 PM. This is still in the planning process.

Our next meeting is September 18, 2008. Our speaker will be talking about Confederate Specie.

PLEASE DON'T MISS IT!

See you then,

Larry Stevens



Conni Barker (right), PineyWoods, joined her husband, Ron, as a George Washington Fellow. She was pinned at the Monday luncheon at the National Convention in Sacramento, CA.

Guest Speaker for September 18, 2008

Jerry Fochtman, parent of two Eagle Scouts sponsored by the Piney Woods Chapter that have won recognition at the state and national level, will be making a presentation that shows how the field of numismatics, or coin collecting, relates to the history of our country, and in many ways, was influenced by events that also molded our nation.

Jerry first started getting involved with the field of Numismatics as many young kids do, by simply trying to fill the holes in a Whitman Lincoln cents coin folder. So began his life-long interest with this hobby some 50+ years ago.

The field of numismatics is very large, stretching from coins that were used for commerce before the birth of Christ up to the types of money found in modern times; from civilizations and countries that no longer exists, and through changes in form from mediums such as shells, wood, beads, gems, paper, precious and non-precious metals and the variety of markings that were placed on them. So most collectors discover a particular aspect of the hobby they enjoy and end-up specializing in that even though they may dabble in other aspects of collecting.

It was almost 40 years ago that Jerry discovered the area of Postage and Fractional Currency, which played a unique role for 14 years of our country's history beginning during the Civil War. Since then this has been his area of specialization. Many aspects of today's currency have their roots in this little-known part of our numismatic history. Jerry has received many awards for his exhibits covering this era, recently being presented 'Best In Show' for an exhibit at the 2008 Society of Paper Money Collector's Show held in Memphis, TN. He has also helped supplement museum displays to help educate others on this era in our country's history.



Jerry was selected to serve on the executive team heading-up the effort to take 10 Boy Scout Troops from the Sam Houston Area Council to the 2010 Boy Scout Jamboree where they'll help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouting in America.



L-R— Joseph, Jerry, Jason Fochtman. Joseph and Jason are both our Camps Eagle Scout Award winners. Jason was recently a runner up in the National Contest.

Genealogy

There have been many changes on the internet concerning genealogy. Many states and counties of the USGenWeb project has separated from RootsWeb.com. Also, the Latter Day Saints (LDS), have separated from RootsWeb.com. Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com have become one in the same. While maintaining separate databases, the two have merged. RootsWeb is still available at no cost and ancestry is still a subscription site.

The USGenWeb Project now has its own server. Access to the USGenWeb is still possible through RootsWeb by clicking through a few links or you can access the USGenWeb directly at:

<http://www.usgenweb.org>.

Many files such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, and death certificates are making their way over to the internet. Some are on government site while others are on university sites. All are accessible for no cost and the original documents are downloadable.

Colorado Historic Newspapers:

<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

NOTE: can be used to find various articles in newspapers. Good search engine.

The Olden Times (Historic Newspapers—free):

<http://theoldentimes.com/index.html>

NOTE: can be used to find various articles in newspapers. Good search engine.

Georgia's Virtual Vault):

<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/index.php>

NOTE: can be used for Death Certificates (1919-1927). Originals downloadable.

Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee records:

<http://register.shelby.tn.us/>

NOTE: can be used for Memphis and Shelby County area birth, death, marriage, divorce re-



A new meaning to digging the roots of your family tree. These National Convention travelers found their roots while in California, literally. Around a Sequoia tree root/stump are Ron and Conni Barker, Jim and Dianne Jones, and Barbara and Larry Stevens.

cords. Originals downloadable.

Missouri State Archives:

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/>

NOTE: can be used for death certificates. Originals downloadable.

Legacy.com (obituaries, some for fee)

<http://legacy.com/NS/>

NOTE: can be used for obituaries but some require a fee.

Oregon State Archives:

<http://genealogy.state.or.us/>

NOTE: Index to files. Originals not online but can assist with dates and locations.

BYU Idaho Special Collections (Northwestern US records):

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/index.cfm>

NOTE: Index to files. Originals not online but can assist with dates and locations.

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Genealogy (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 6)***FamilySearch (LDS) Pilot Program (Texas Death Certificates):**

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=0>

NOTE: NEW SITE!!—Original Texas death certificates (1890-1976) online and downloadable. Michigan birth and death certificates, many others coming.

Colorado Gravestones (photos):

<http://coloradogravestones.org/>

NOTE: Tombstone photos

SC Department of Archives and History:

<http://scdah.sc.gov/>

NOTE: Some original images online and downloadable.

The Portal to Texas History (Univ. of North Texas):

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

NOTE: Many images such as genealogy books and magazines for various locations are downloadable.

Library of Virginia:

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/>

NOTE: Many images online but search engine is difficult to learn.

A Calendar for dates past, present, and future:

<http://kaji.com/cal/>

NOTE: Calendars shown for years 1582-3000, shown by months of the year and includes days of the week.

Ancestors at Rest (England):

<http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/england.shtml>

NOTE: appears to be from England and has some images (pictures) and transcriptions of records.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors:

Actor Cliff Robertson was the Tuesday Night Speaker at the NSSAR National Convention in Sacramento, CA. Mr. Robertson is a member of the Sacramento Chapter of the CASSAR.

He attended the banquet on Wednesday night and many of the Texas Ladies attending were pleased to have their photos taken with the famous actor. (photo on left (l-r): Conni Barker, Barbara Stevens, Judy West, Susanne Fife, Shannon Smith, Wanda White, and Dianne Jones)

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

NOTE: provides index of those who served during the war between the states.

RootsWeb.com:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

NOTE: free genealogy links, files and website submitted by users.

Ancestry.com

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

NOTE: subscription required. Many original documents (census records, WWI Draft Registrations, WWII Draft Registration Index, etc.) available.

HeritageQuest

Accessed for free with either your Harris County or Houston Public Library cards. Census images, Rev. War Pension Ap's, books, etc., ALL FREE.

<http://www.houstonlibrary.org/>

<http://www.hcpl.lib.tx.us/index.htm>

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Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 18, Issue 10



Official Newsletter
PineyWoods Chapter, #51
Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325



UPDATE !

We're on the Web

UPDATE !

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods



PineyWoods Chapter #51
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution
P.O. Box 6524
Kingwood, TX 77325
TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RSVP FOR THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 MEMBERS DINNER MEETING
At Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Friday, September 12th. You can send an RSVP email to Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net or Larry Stevens at wardtracker@aol.com OR you can call Larry Stevens at 281-361-2061. Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$15.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.