



Pine Shavings



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

September 2012

Volume 22, Issue 7



Larry H. Blackburn, Ph.D.
President

Gentlemen Compatriots,
I am looking forward to our meeting September 20th for many reasons. TXSSAR District 8 VP Compatriot John K. Thompson will present his program on Patriot Paul Revere. We have several new members to welcome and initiate into our chapter. There will be presentations honoring current members. We will have an open discussion regarding future events including our invitation from the State President to participate in the planning and presentation of the 2013 TXSSAR State BOM to be held in Houston.

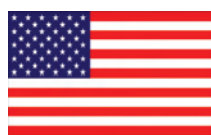
of our members to enjoy and participate in our activities. Finally, special recognition goes to Compatriot Gordon Severance, Chapter 51 2nd VP, for adding nine of his children and grandchildren to membership in TXSSAR. Also, Gordon has become a bit of a celebrity. His picture made while he along with Compatriot John K. Thompson and his grandchildren, while all were in Continental dress, participated as the Color Guard at The Woodlands 4th of July parade. This photo was circulated by the AP in hundreds of newspapers across the country. What a great picture!

I encourage everyone to attend and take part in the growth of our Chapter. Piney Woods Chapter 51 membership has reached an all time high and we invite each

Hope to see all of you at the meeting.
Thanks.
Kind Regards,
Larry Blackburn, Ph.D.

EVENTS

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National : www.sar.org
Sept 28-29, 2012
Sept 14 -15, 2012

Fall Leadership Meeting held in Louisville, KY
Philadelphia – 225 Anniversary of the Constitution



State: www.txssar.org
Oct 5-6, 2012

Fall TXSSAR BOM—Temple, TX
Hilton Garden Inn—Registration on TXSSAR website

Piney Woods - Meetings - 2012

Sep 20 — Member/Guest Nov 15—Member/Guest
 Oct 18—Member Only Dec 20—Member Only
 (tentative date)

MEETING LOCATION

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

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 Summer

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July 8, 1777 – Delegates of Vermont met in Windsor and established a republic first called New Connecticut then in June 1777 Vermont and adopted a constitution, the first in what is now the territory of the United States to prohibit slavery – Vermont became a state in 1791. Vermont called itself an “independent state” rather than a country. As an independent state it ran its own postal service and minted its own money. The money was called “Vermont Coppers.”



Sept 11, 1777 – The Battle of Brandywine Howe occupies Philadelphia. [Covered elsewhere in the PineShavings]

Sept 19 and Oct 7, 1777— The Battles of Saratoga—In a field 9 miles South of Saratoga New York two battles were fought 18 days apart; September 19 and October 7, 1777, where Gen Horatio Gates and his officers Benedict Arnold, and Daniel Morgan, defeated Gen John Burgoyne “Gentleman Johnny” Burgoyne. Surrounded on all sides, Burgoyne surrendered himself and 6,222 men to Gates on October 17, 1777 ending the British invasion from Canada.



Sept 20, 1777 – The Battle of Paoli Tavern, Malvern, PA—Washington and Howe prepared to face off again at Goshen on September 16, 1777, but it rained, thus, “The Battle of the Clouds”. Howe went on to Tredyffrin when learning Gen Anthony Wayne was attempting to get behind him with 9 Regiments. In a grain field a mile and a half from Paole Tavern, Wayne set up his camp on Sept 19th. At midnight, September 20 - 21, 1777. Lord Cornwallis’ force attacked Anthony Wayne’s camp. Although referred to as a “Massacre” and the annuals and propaganda of the time, Wayne lost 55 killed . “The Enemy last Night at twelve o'clock attacked ... Our Men just raised from Sleep, moved disorderly — Confusion followed ... The Carnage was very great ... this is a bloody Month. “ Col. Thomas Hartley, 1st PA Regiment



12 June 1779 – Spain declares war on England. Spain was allied with France through the “Bourbon Compact” which had caused Spain losses during the Seven Years War and Spain was looking for an opportunity to weaken the British Empire. March 1777, newly appointed Spanish Minister Jose Monino y Reydondo, Conde of Floridablanca said, “the fate of the American colonies interests us very much, and we shall do for them everything circumstances permit.”

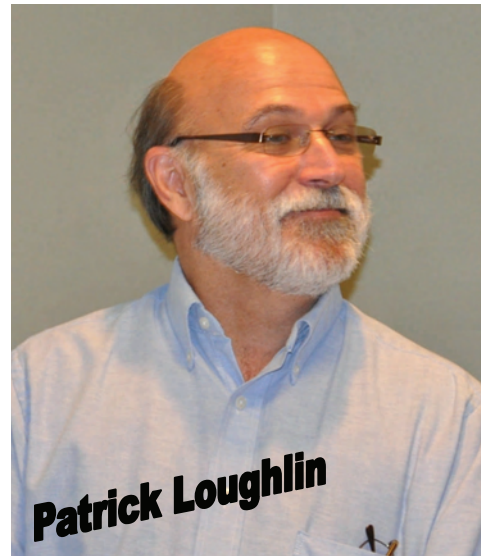


Chapter Registrar Report — Larry Stevens

In the past year, PineyWoods Chapter 51 has added 43 New Members bringing chapter membership to 83 as of the end of August 2012. This is the largest PineyWoods Chapter membership for several years. One of the greatest problems we have is retaining members. Each year we lose several members for non-payment of dues. During the same period, 7 Supplemental Applications were approved. Currently, we have 3 new applications in progress.

New Member

At our last meeting we welcomed transfer member Patrick Loughlin. Compatriot Loughlin was a member of the Louisiana SAR Society. He resides in Onalaska.



Patrick Loughlin



Past TXSSAR State President Jim T. Jones, Jr. presents PineyWoods President Larry Blackburn with the Partners in Patriotism Award at the August 16, 2012 meeting. This award is given by the NSSAR to chapters for outstanding work in partnering with veteran's organizations. (See photo at right)



Youth Programs

Now is the time to think about our youth programs. At the convention in Phoenix many of the programs were kicked off for next year. Getting the information to the schools as early as possible will help. The NSSAR website has details on all these youth programs.

Poster Contest: This is open to 3rd-5th graders (depending on the year the American Revolution is taught in their school) and to Boy and Girl Scouts. The topic for this year is the "Declaration of Independence."

Oration Contest: Open to high school aged students.

Essay Contest: Open to high school aged students in sophomore through senior grades.

Eagle Scout Scholarship Open to eagle scouts who have not attained the age of 19.

JROTC Award: Our chapter awarded 25 Bronze JROTC medals last year. In a second contest JROTC cadets can submit an essay and compete for a monetary award.

PineyWoods has a good history in the last two contests but little success in the other programs. Suggestions welcomed.



Color Guard & Community Events



Stay around a group of SAR Compatriots, particularly color guardsmen, and you will hear the plea to get out and let the community see you and learn about SAR. In PineyWoods, we are so proud of our active Color Guard of six compatriots.

The 4th of July Parade in The Woodlands is a prime example of the value of getting the SAR name out. Compatriots Gordon Severance and PineyWoods President Larry Blackburn joined color guardsmen from the Freedom Chapter and CAR members in the 4th of July parade there.

The publicity from this event was astounding. Their photo was circulated in newspapers throughout the United States with a caption proclaiming celebration of the Declaration of Independence by SAR. The French, who recognize this day also, picked the photo up as well and it ran in French news. It appears that they picked up the news and photos from an article about the event that ran in the Sacramento Bee, from California.

Thank you Gordon and Larry B. for a job well done!

Gordon Severance pictured at left in both photos, Larry Blackburn behind him in photo on right and behind John Thompson and the flag in photo below.



NSSAR - Phoenix

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held its annual convention in Phoenix on the 7th—11th of July. PineyWoods primary members attending included James T. Jones, Jr. and wife Dianne and Larry Stevens and wife Barbara. Our California PineyWoods members Ron and Conni Barker also attended. The Congress was held in the Historic Arizona Biltmore. While the art deco style and amenities provided by the old resort complex were incredible, they were somewhat offset by the sweltering heat of Phoenix.

Texans receiving honors during the Congress included:

- Former TXSSAR President Tom Green was awarded the National Color Guardsman of the Year. This award is for outstanding color guard performance and there is only one awarded each year.
- Former TXSSAR President William Marrs was inducted as a member of the elite Minutemen.
- Former TXSSAR President Tom Lawrence was reelected NSSAR Chancellor General.
- TXSSAR Registrar Mike Radcliff continues his role as NSSAR Color Guard Adj. Gen.

Our Former PineyWoods President John Beard became a member of the NSSAR Audit Committee.

The State of Texas won first place in several awards.

- John C. Haughton Award—State society sponsoring JROTC winner.
- William M. Melone Award—State society sponsoring the most new and approved supplemental memberships (Texas had 91) [note: we like to think that PineyWoods contributed significantly to this award]
- Eugene C. McGuire Award—State society enrolling the largest number of sons, grandsons and nephews of SARs and DARs—Texas 154 [We think Gordon Severance will have greatly helped our chances to win again next year!]
- Arthur J. Tremble Award—1776 Trophy —State Society with largest number of reinstated members
- Len Young Smith Award — State society enrolling the most new members under 40 years of age
- Robert L. Sonfield Award — State society with largest numerical increase in membership
- Senator Robert A. Taft Award — State society enrolling largest number of new members.
- USS Stark Memorial Award—Service to Veterans
- There were others as well and you can see this in the latest edition of the SAR Magazine

New NSSAR officers were elected. Stephen Leishman of Wilmington, Delaware was elected the President General for the 2012-2013 term.



TXSSAR Color Guard— Phoenix July, 2012



PG Larry Magerkurth, William Marrs (newly installed Minuteman), PPG Ed Butler and PPG Nathan White



New George Washington Fellowship Memberships were award to Di-
anne Jones (see above) and Barbara Stevens (see below)



Below Right:
President General Larry
Magerkurth, a Oklahoma
boy, was inducted into the
Sons of the Republic of
Texas by the
TXSSAR/SRT compatriots
present at the Cong-
ress.

Pictured: Marvin Morgan,
Larry Stevens, P.G.
Magerkurth, Nathan
White, Tom Green, Jim
Johnson and Tom Jackson



Jim T. Jones, Jr. escorts Thomas B. Green to receive
his NSSAR Gold Color Guard Award. Below PG
Magerkurth awards Jim Jones the Meritorious Service
Medal



TXSSAR President Robert
Clark poses with the nu-
merous awards won by the
Texas State Society, during
the Jones and Marrs Ad-
ministrations.



Jimmy Gs' Menu Survey

John Beard has taken the results of the survey to Jimmy Gee's. His meeting with the manager resulted in a menu that reflects the wishes of members and is somewhat expanded from the previous menu selections. We owe John a round of applause for working to keep our meetings "member-friendly."



Quartermaster General



On the 16th June 1775 The Second Continental Congress passed a resolution providing for “one Quartermaster General”, which became the Quartermaster Corps, the oldest logistics branch of the US Army.

Major Gen Thomas Miffin, a champion of Colonial rights, one of the youngest, most radical members of the Continental Congress, appointed General Washington’s Aide-de-camp June 23, 1775, was appointed the Continental Army’s first Quartermaster General on August 14, 1775.



Maj Gen Miffin

Thomas Mifflin, merchant, member of the Continental Congress, Revolutionary soldier and Governor of Pennsylvania, was born in Philadelphia, PA on January 10, 1744. He graduated, at the early age of sixteen, from the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation he spent four years working in the counting-house of a prosperous Philadelphia merchant. Later Mifflin started a very successful business as a merchant in partnership with his brother.

Mifflin's talent as a speaker drew him into politics. In 1772 he was elected to the provincial assembly and became recognized as a champion of Colonial rights. He was also elected to the Second Continental Congress but after the battle of Lexington he turned his attention to recruiting and training troops for the Continental Army. Upon his appointment as a Major in May 1775, John Adams declared that he, "ought to have been a general" because he was the "animating soul" of the revolutionary movement.

On June 23, 1775, Mifflin was appointed as General George Washington's aide-de-camp. On August 14, 1775 Washington selected him as the Continental Army's first Quartermaster General. He was a faithful and efficient quartermaster, though he preferred the front line to administrative duties. An eyewitness declared he, "never saw a greater display of personal bravery" than Mifflin exhibited in his "cool and intrepid conduct" in leading an attack on a British foraging expedition at Lechmire's Point on November 9, 1775. The following month he was appointed to the rank of Colonel. He was promoted to Brigadier General on May 16, 1776 and at his own request was relieved of his duties as Quartermaster General.

In in October 1776 he was persuaded by the General Wash-

At his own request he was relieved for these duties on May 16, 1776. He returned to the position at the insistence of Washington October 1776 and then resigned again in April 1778.

During 1777 supplies to the Army was suffering a major breakdown and was under investigation. The insistence of Gen Washington caused Major General Nathaniel Greene to be appointed the second Quarter Master General. [Editor's note: At this point in my Revolutionary War research I am convinced that there was very little that Nathaniel Greene did not excel in!]



Maj Gen Greene

ington and the Continental Congress to resume the duties of Quartermaster General, due to difficulties in finding a suitable replacement. He was present at the battles of Trenton, Princeton and assisted in the defense of Philadelphia. Mifflin was appointed to the rank of Major General in February 1777. Dissatisfaction and criticism from the Continental Congress as well as ill health, caused General Mifflin to resign from both his position as Quartermaster General and his rank of Major General in October 1777. Congress pressed him to continue as Quartermaster General temporarily.

From 1777 to 1778, he served as a member of the Congressional Board of War. His relationship with General Washington was strained when he favored Horatio Gates to replace Washington as commander of the Continental Army.

He joined the Congress again from 1782 to 1784, serving as its President from December 1783 to June 1784. Mifflin was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and is one of the signers of the United States Constitution. He was elected to the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania in 1788, and from 1789-90 was the chairman of the state constitutional convention. He served three distinguished terms as Governor of Pennsylvania from 1790-1799. Some of his accomplishments as Governor were construction new roads improvement of inland navigation, reform of judicial establishments and strengthening of the militia.

After retiring as Governor he served in the Pennsylvania legislature until his death on January 20, 1800 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is buried at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The Battle of Brandywine Creek

The American Revolution

The year 1777 was to prove a critical year for the Revolution for Independence in American British Colonies. The British Army commanded by Gen Sir William Howe was intent on putting a stop to the insurrectionist government seated in Philadelphia. Howe dispatched Gen John "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne from Canada down toward the Hudson River Valley and a force under Bevt. Gen Barry St. Leger into the Mohawk Valley of Indians and British. Howe planned to leave New York and March north but Washington blocked this maneuver by retreating to York and sending troops north to support Gen Horatio Gates. So Howe decided instead to attack Washington and take Philadelphia thus crushing the rebel Continental Congress stronghold. Howe learned after taking Philadelphia that Burgoyne had failed at Saratoga and the failed British siege of Ft. Stanwix by St. Leger in the Mohawk Valley. However, he had Philadelphia, the members of the Continental Congress basically in hiding, and Washington with his small depleted and poorly equipped army on the run just west of town. The beginning of this apparent rebel collapse was the Battle of Brandywine Creek.

The Battle of Brandywine Creek September 11, 1777

On the morning of September 9th as Howe advanced toward Philadelphia from Chesapeake, Gen Washington chose the high ground along the east side of Brandywine Creek located just a few miles southwest of Philadelphia. Washington placed troops at Chad's Ford, his command headquarters, Pyle's Ford, Gibson's Ford, Wistar's Ford, Buffington's Ford, and other points and was confident he had secured the area. Howe grouped his army at Kennett Square and formed his battle plan. He would send a force to face Washington at Chad's Ford, but he would send a much larger army north of Buffington's Ford commanded by himself and Lord Cornwallis, and cross the Brandywine at a ford not known to Washington. Howe possessed superior knowledge over Washington of the area gained from the local loyalists.

A heavy fog blanketed the area the morning of September 11th providing coverage for the British movements. This caused confusing reports of Howe's activities to Washington leading him to believe Howe would attack him at Chad's Ford with his main force. Instead Howe's main contingent had marched north and crossed the Brandywine River at Jeffries's Ford in the early afternoon, an unguarded ford, just west Birmingham Fields Meeting House.



Count Pulaski joins Gen Washington before the battle. The daring officer had been recommended to Washington by Ben Franklin. Franklin had met Pulaski in Paris.

At noon on September 11, Lt Gen Welhelm Knyphausen marched his British, Loyalist, and Hessian forces and Major Patrick Ferguson's Riflemen from Kennett Square to Chad's Ford and began a barrage of cannon fire at the American positions. During fight with Knyphausen, Howe's crossing became evident to Gen Washington, that his right flank was cut off, and so was the road to Philadelphia. In an attempt to save the day, Washington ordered his army to the high ground around Birmingham Fields Meeting House as a last defense. In the confusion of Howe's surprise, the Americans were not able to successfully defend that position. Count Casimer Pulaski, while scouting, discovered Howe's flanking movements. Gathering a mounted force he attacked Howe's advance, and when believing the day was lost, found a path for Washington's retreat. Pulaski had saved the day. The Americans fought bravely but had been outwitted among the rolling hills on the banks of the Brandywine. Washington lost more than 1,000 killed of the 8,000 men involved in the battle. Howe lost 550 killed and wounded of both British and Hessians.

Howe remained at Birmingham Fields for five days, and then began the march to Philadelphia entering on September 26th. Gen Washington's force of nearly 15,000 before the Battle of Brandywine had shrunk to about 6,000.

Larry Stevens

Ref:

1. US Park Service;
2. BritishBattles.com;
3. "Battles of the Revolutionary War, 1775-1781" by W. J. Wood, Da Capo Press 1990.