



# Pine Shavings



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

## SEPTEMBER 2015



Joe Potter, President

On August 22nd a District Workshop was held at the Greenspoint Marriot with chapter presidents and members from Districts 7, 8, and 9 attending, including VP District 7 Larry Casey, VP District 8 Larry Blackburn, VP District 9 Art Munford, and TXSSAR President Larry Stevens.

The following items were discussed:

- A need to develop chapter Registrars to aid chapter applicants.
- Recognition of our Public Servants.
- Increase in our Youth Contest Award entries.
- Recognition of businesses and individuals displaying the US Flag.
- Education on the state website.

State Education Chair Bill Watts presented a program on educational programs for schools. State Webmaster Ray Cox presented a program on navigating the state website.

This was the third workshop scheduled by President Larry Stevens. These have been well received and will become a useful tool in communication with members and chapters.



## Calendar of Events



Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Fall Leadership/Trustees, the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Ky
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Texas Society BOM at the Hilton Hotel Boardwalk, Galveston.
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Annual George Washington Parade in Laredo Texas
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Spring Leadership and Trustees meeting in Louisville
March 31-April 3	122nd Texas Convention Hyatt North Plano
July 8-14, 2016	126 <sup>th</sup> NSSAR Congress, Westin Copley Place Hotel in Boston
Oct. 14-16, 2016	Fall BOM at Holiday Inn Midtown Austin

### Meeting - September 17th, 2015 Member/Guest Only

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 names by Wednesday before the meeting date.  
ASAP to John Beard  
johnbeard@suddenlink.net or 281 258-2970

# August 2015—Piney Woods Meeting

## Piney Woods Chapter 51 Texas Society SAR Members Meeting at Jimmy G's at Greenspoint, Houston, Texas

### Members Present:

Joe Potter,  
John Beard,  
Jim Pinkerton,  
Ray Cox,  
John Kenton Thompson,  
Karl Falken,  
Ben Stallings,  
Jeff Larochelle,  
Cannon Pritchard,  
Larry Blackburn, and  
Kermit Breed

Guest: Roney Kirkland

President Potter called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

After invocation by Chaplain Cannon Pritchard, members recited the pledge to the US and Texas flags followed by the SAR pledge.

### MINUTES:

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

### TREASURE REPORT:

Treasurer Pinkerton reported we have \$9,680.70 on hand. The additional \$1000.00 to the Patriot Fund will be deducted from this total. Certificate of deposit value is \$5,106.42. Medals and Awards value as of 4/01/2015 \$2,113. Treasure's report was approved.

### REGISTRAR REPORT:

Kermit Breed reported that Wendell Melrose's application arrived at National the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2015.

Andrew Kodak application should be mailed within a month.

He is starting work on Andrew Webb's application.

Supplements for Kim Morton and Kermit Breed have been sent in.

### NEWSLETTER REPORT:

The August newsletter has been distributed by email and snail mail and has been posted on-line.

### WEB MASTER REPORT:

Webmaster Cox reported all is well.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Larry Blackburn reported that TXSSAR gave out 400 ROTC awards state wide. PineyWoods awarded 31 of these.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Karl Falken was installed as new a compatriot and presented with his rosette. Karl gave a short an inspiring talk on why he joined the SAR.

### OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

After the benediction by Cannon Pritchard. Members joined together in the SAR closing.

President Potter adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM



### Connecticut Society SAR

*Pictured above, Drew Shuptar-Rayvis portrays the life ways of Algonkian people in Connecticut and New England during the time of the American Revolution. The CTSSAR posted a notice on their Facebook that he would be appearing at the Woodbury Colonial Fair & Muster Day, in Woodbury, CT. Wouldn't it be great to live closer to some of these events.*



# This Month in the Revolution



**September 3, 1776** Continental Congress adopted the Grand Union; some report December 3, 1775. During the first year of the revolution, the Second Continental Congress operated as a de facto war government and authorized the creation of an Army, Navy and the Marine Corp. Congress agreed that a new flag was needed to represent the Congress and the “new nation”. The first flag of the colonists to have any resemblance to the present Stars and Stripes was the Grand Union Flag, sometimes referred to as the Congress Colors, the First Navy Ensign, and the Cambridge Flag. Its design consisted of 13 stripes, alternately red and white, representing the Thirteen Colonies, with a blue field in the upper left-hand corner bearing the red cross of St. George of England with the white cross of St. Andrew of Scotland. As the flag of the revolution it was used on many occasions. It was first flown by the ships of the Colonial Fleet on the Delaware River. On December 3, 1775, the flag was raised aboard the ship Alfred by a young Lieutenant John Paul Jones.



**September 7, 1775** In New York, New York, the Provincial Congress orders the Quakers to submit a list of all men from the age of 16 to 60 who are living in the city and county. The Quakers refused saying this violated their religious beliefs. Quakers, Moravians and the United Brethren were enrolled, but exempted from service upon payment of money. The amount paid varied until 1780 when the amount was fixed at 160 pounds per year.



**September 6 1776** Continental Congress elected John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Edward Rutledge to a committee to confer with Lord Howe. *“This day, I think has been the most remarkable of all.”* wrote John Adams to his wife Abigail. He did not believe the conference would produce any tangible results but he felt obligated to undertake the assignment since the same committee *“will be directed to inquire into the State of the Army, at New York.”*

**September 1, 1777** In what is known as McCulloch’s Leap, American Major Samuel McCulloch rides his horse down a 150 foot cliff to escape Fort Henry, Virginia which under siege by Indians, escaping across Wheeling Creek and leads reinforcements back to the fort. In 1917, the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a monument on the hill to commemorate McCulloch's bravery. The monument still stands near the top of Wheeling Hill, next to U.S. Route 40 (National Road).





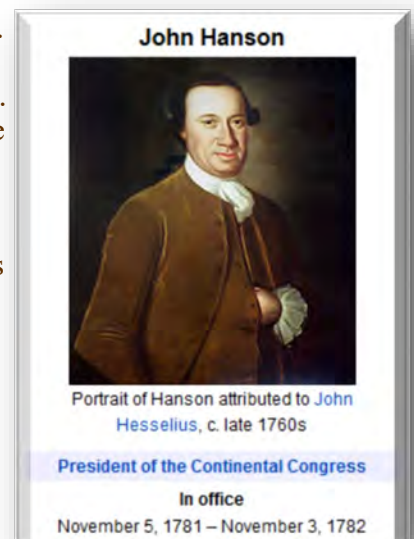
# “George Washington or John Hanson: Who Was the First President?”

In a post on August 25, 2015, Ray Raphael, posed the question, “George Washington or John Hanson: Who Was the First President?” This is an interesting question and not one that I have heard discussed.

His points start with the logical question, “*But think back to your history books – The United States declared its independence in 1776, yet George Washington did not take office until April 30, 1789. So who was running the country during these initial years of our young country? “*

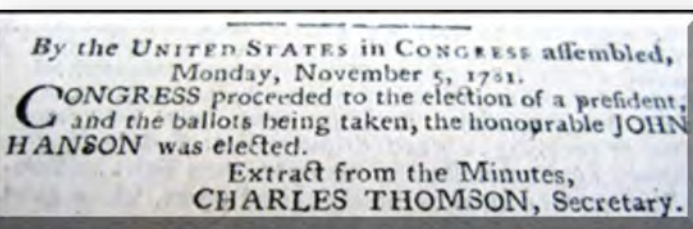
We honor our history and ancestor’s contribution to that history. So, who was leading them in this interim? Raphael state that may consider the first “President,” the officer elected under the provisions of the Articles of Confederation adopted in 1781. This officer was elected to preside over the “United States in Congress,” and was termed the president. That officer, a member of Congress, was to be appointed by the assemblage. He was to serve in the office of president (the only time the term is used) one year of the three years of the term. His authority was limited to that of presiding officer of the Congress. In that office he signed acts and letters, but only with the authority of the sitting body.

The first person elected to preside over the Congress in 1781 was John Hanson. John Hanson was born in 1721 in Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland. His family were wealthy plantation owners and prominent in Maryland politics. He was a plantation owner. His political career began in 1750 when he became a sheriff. He had served twelve years in the General Assembly. When the Stamp Act was passed in 1765, he became a leading opponent of the act. In 1769 he left Charles City County and moved to Frederick County. He was active there as sheriff, deputy surveyor and county treasurer. When the hostilities broke out with England, Hanson became a leading patriot. His actions included both actively organizing troops, personally paying troops, amassing arms and powder, and raising money. He served on the Maryland House of Delegates and as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. When he began his term in Congress, Maryland was not in support of ratification of the Articles of Confederation. Their objection to the Articles was tied to states cession of western land claims. Maryland finally ratified in January of 1781. When the Articles were enacted its provisions were not immediately adopted. Samuel Huntington, who was the presiding officer of Congress, continued in that role until in July when Thomas McKean was elected. McKean served until October. In November of 1781 John Hanson was appointed by the delegates.



John Hanson retired from office after his term as “President” of Congress. He lived just two years after this, dying on the 15th of November 1783.

So the question is, “Was John Hanson, the first President of the Untied States?” It appears that he was not, in fact the first “president” of Congress, both Samuel



Huntington and Thomas McKean, served in that capacity before him. The assertion also ignores those “presiding” officers of the preceding Congresses and Conventions, from 1776—1781. A bigger issue, one that Raphael points out, is the role and title of “President.” Though the Articles of Confederation did create a role of president, that office was a presiding officer of the Congress, without the powers or authority to do anything other that act at the direction of the Congress. The office of President of the United States, as established under the Constitution of the United State of America was very different. It was the chief executive of the country, given powers and responsibilities. George Washington was elected as the first President of the United States of America. If the question is posed correctly, the answer is George Washington.



# Piney Woods Meetings

The Piney Woods Chapter #51 meets at 6:30 pm at Jimmy G's Cajun Restaurant located at Greenspoint at Beltway 8 and I 45 in Houston on the third Thursday of each month except for the months of June and July. The December meeting subject to change due to the Christmas Holidays.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULE

September 17, 2015	Members/Guest Meeting with a guest speaker.
October 15, 2015	Members Meeting
November 19, 2015	Members/Guest Meeting with a speaker
December 17, 2015	Members Christmas Meeting
January 21, 2016	Member/Guest Meeting with Speaker
February 18, 2016	Members Meeting
March 17, 2016	Members/Guest Meeting with Speaker

