



Pine Shavings



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



From The President

Our speaker for September is B. Ray Mize. B Ray was born and raised in Texas, the grandson of a tenant farmer and rancher. After serving in the U.S. Army as a non-commissioned officer during the Vietnam War, he used the GI Bill to attend college.

He is a former executive with a fortune 500 company in the petroleum industry. He has investigated million-dollar frauds, some of which arose from organized criminal activity. Mr. Mize is a retired investigative auditor. He lives with his wife Sharon, an attorney, Kingwood TX. (page 4)

B. Ray is an author of three books called the Comancheria Series.

I have asked B. Ray to give us some tips on "How to write your family History" I have always been a proponent of leaving notes to the generations that follow ours. I so enjoy reading about my ancestors. Census records, family bibles, marriage certificates and such are great. What I enjoyed most was the interviews I had with my older ancestors. Second best are notes written for or by them such as wills, revolution, and civil

war pension application.

I am fortunate enough to have an autograph album / diary of my great grandmother, Cordelia Harriett Mize, that covers from about 1880 to 1940. She was a young girl and made a trip to California and back. Yes, she would be a cousin to B Ray. For more on her trip go to:

<https://www.breedfamilypride.com/retta-leora-davis--harriett-cordelia-mize.html>

As I write this Hurricane Laura is off the Texas Coast so take care and stay safe.

Kermit Breed

**ZOOM
NEXT Meeting
September 19 , 2020
10:00 AM**

***Notice will be e-mailed
AGENDA—See Page 2***



The Pledge of Allegiance



“I pledge allegiance
to the Flag of the
United States of America
and to the Republic for
which it stands, one
nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.”



The Pledge to the
Texas Flag
Honor the Texas
Flag; I pledge
allegiance to thee,
Texas, one state
under God, one and
indivisible

WELCOME **RAY COX**

AGENDA

August 15th, 2020

INVOCATION **ALLEN BOWMAN OR JIM PINKERTON**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. **KERMIT BREED**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TEXAS. **KERMIT BREED**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION PLEDGE **KERMIT BREED**

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS **EVERY INTRODUCE THEMSELVES**

SECRETARY'S REPORT **BERNIE KENT**

TREASURER'S REPORT. **B RAY MIZE**

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **LARRY STEVENS**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS **JOHN WORM ON COUPTIONS**

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS **KERMIT BREED**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAR CLOSING. **KERMIT**

BENEDICTION. **ALLEN BOWMAN OR JIM PINKERTON**

SAR PLEDGE

SAR CLOSING

“We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”

“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.”

PineyWoods Chapter Officers

President Kermit Breed
1st VP—Jerrel “Buddy” Inman
2nd VP Jim Pinkerton
Secretary—Bernie Kent Treasurer - B Ray Mize
Chancellor - Brent Montelenone
Genealogist - Kim Morton
Registrar - Larry Stevens—
Registrar - Joe Potter
Historian - Abe Abdmoulaie
Chaplain -Alan Bowman
Sgt. at Arms Ben Baskin -
Newsletter Editor Larry Stevens -
Web Master Ray Cox

PineyWoods Chapter Newsletter Editor

*Origins of Revolution is an
article I wrote for this issue
that I hope you find inter-
esting.*

Larry G. Stevens—Editor



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Page 2—September Chapter ZOOM 10:00 AM Agenda
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Page 10—Origins of Revolution

Calendar of Events

National Events

NSSAR Louis-
ville Leader-
ship/Trustee—September 25-26,
2020 CANCELLED (ZOOM TBA)



South Central District—ZOOM
September 19th 2:00 PM

State Events

FALL BOM Hyatt
in Frisco Novem-
ber 13-15, 2020



Chapter Events

Chapter Meetings-Jimmy G's
September 19, 2020 – ZOOM
October 17, 2020—TBA
Chapter Meetings are on the 3rd
Saturday on the month..

Official Newsletter

*PineyWoods Chapter #51 Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325
www.txssar.org/PineyWoods
2020 issue 9 Editor—Larry Stevens*

Chapter Coupon Project-Coupons for Overseas Military Families program. All that is required is for you to CLIP the manufacturer's coupons that appear in the newspapers, and mail them to:

John Worm at 2130 Lexford Lane, Houston, Tx 77080. Or, bring the coupons to the next meeting.



How Do You Write Your Family History

By Mr. B Ray Mize

Our speaker for September is B. Ray Mize. B Ray was born and raised in Texas, the grandson of a tenant farmer and rancher. After serving in the U.S. Army as a non-commissioned officer during the Vietnam War, he used the GI Bill to attend college.

He is a former executive with a fortune 500 company in the petroleum industry. He has investigated million-dollar frauds, some of which arose from organized criminal activity. Mr. Mize is a retired investigative auditor. He lives with his wife Sharon, an attorney, Kingwood TX.

B. Ray is an author of three books called the Comancheria Series.

Big Spring, Texas



Clarksville, River County Texas



Upcoming Chapter Lunch Program Speakers

October 17th – Jerry Fochman on Civil War Currency. Jerry Fochman returns after many years to discuss and show Confederate Currency. Jerry’s hobby is collecting Civil War period Bills and Coins. Both of his sons entered and won the Texas Eagle Scout Scholarship Contests.

November 21th – Denise Bennett on “Women Suffrage”. Denise recently presented “The Woman’s Hour”, dressed in period attire from the 1920’s and entered the room as if in a suffrage parade”... (Pictured right).

December 12th—Annual Nominations Meeting and Christmas Lunch.



PineyWoods chapter 51 Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

15 August 2020 – remote Meeting via Zoom teleconference

President Kermit Breed opened the meeting at 12:30 PM. Alan Bowman led the prayer/invocation, and Kermit Breed followed leading by the pledge of allegiance to the United States & Texas flags, as well as the SAR pledge. Kermit Breed welcomed everyone, including our guest speakers – John Kenton Thompson & his wife, Mary Thompson. Kermit thanked all who recently participated in the remote Texas state SAR convention that was well-attended via Zoom.

Compatriots (15) Present:

Kermit Breed, Ray Cox, Bernie Kent, Abe [Abdmoulaie](#), Jim Jones, B. Ray Mize, Larry Stevens, Lee Bennett, Alan Bowman, John Thompson, Don Pourreau, Michael Anderson, John Worm, & Randall Skelton.

Guests Present: Justin Juneau, Mary Thompson, Sharon Mize

Guest Speaker Presentation:

John Kenton Thompson is an active and longtime SAR member, currently the 2nd VP of the Texas SAR Freedom Chapter, The Woodlands, TX. He is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) – State of Texas, graduate of the Texas A&M University – Kingsville (formerly Texas A&I) in Kingsville, TX with a BS degree in Natural Gas Engineering, 1972. John (& wife) Mary Elizabeth Thompson presented their educational program on Benjamin Franklin that is frequently shared in guest classroom appearances at primary schools in the area. Their program – *The Challenges of Science* – was an entertaining and educational presentation centered on the life and accomplishments of a well-known founder of our country - Benjamin Franklin and his common-law wife, Martha Read. Mr. Franklin was a curious everyman of Colonial America and one of the 8 founding fathers of the USA. He was a leading writer, printer, political philosopher, politician, Freemason, postmaster, scientist, inventor, humorist, civic activist, statesman, and diplomat. Benjamin Franklin (b: 1706; d: 1790) was a true polymath and entrepreneur, which is no doubt why he is often called the "First American."

Secretary's Report: [A motion to accept Minutes](#) (published in our last newsletter) from the recent July 2020 remote meeting [was proposed, seconded and voted in favor of acceptance.](#)

Treasurer's Report: B. Ray Mize presented the Treasurer's Report and noted that PineyWoods had recently received a \$1,000 check from David Temple in appreciation for the work of by chapter assisting the organization and preparation for the recent Texas state SAR convention. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was proposed, seconded and voted in favor of acceptance.

Registrar's Report: Our **Larry Stevens** is also the new VP South Central District for SAR National. He sent an e-mail to a new prospective member, John Miller, in Crosby, Texas and is awaiting a response. Mr. Miller was a referral from Communication Secretary Sam Massey who received his initial request for membership information. A new application for William King is 98% complete, just waiting for a Death Certificate he ordered.

Larry is also working on two applications: one for Steven Aaron McCauley (ancestor Isaac Hill), and one for Donald Richard Taylor III (ancestor George Ward).

Larry formally requests stories from members on what they have been doing with pictures related to SAR. The newsletter is formatted using Microsoft Publisher, a digital application; so there is no limit on the number of pages. Help preserve our history of membership and send me clear photos, etc., especially information on researching a new prospective Patriot.

Members Report - Chapter Membership as of April 7, 2020.

We have 81 Regular Members, 5 Dual w/Other Primary State, 4 Junior Members. Reported are 3 Non-paid Juniors, 17 Non-paid Regular Memberships, and 1 Non-paid Dual (Who has attempted to pay his).

Historian Report: Abe Abdmoulaie

Scrap book update Working on Scrap Book this summer and fall, any information or pictures you want included please send via email (scrap book parties postponed for now).

Members Ancestor will be included in the book (will send out template over summer to capture important info/pictures

PowerPoint- Digital Book through office depot (price est. TBD)

Coupon Report: John Worm

The first seven months of this year, January - July 2020, coupons with a total value of \$ 108,000 have been mailed to commissaries for our servicemen/women and their families. We are now sending coupons to Germany, Guam and a new location in Kunsan, South Korea.

Please send coupons ASAP so they will not have expired. Thank you for your support of our troops.

Chapter Coupon Project - *Coupons for Overseas Military Families program.*

- CLIP the manufacturer's coupons that appear in the newspapers, and mail them to:

John Worm @ 2130 Lexford Lane, Houston, Tx 77080.

Newsletter:

An electronic copy of our last PineyWoods "Pine Shavings" newsletter was emailed to members earlier this week, several days before this 15 August 2020 remote meeting.

PineyWoods Chapter 51, Texas SAR officers for 2020-2021.

President Kermit Breed , 1st VP Buddy Inman, 2VP Jim Pinkerton, Secretary Bernie Kent, Treasurer B. Ray Mize, Chaplain Alan Bowman, Chancellor Brent Monteleone, Parliamentarian David Cook, Historian Abe Abdmoulaie, Genealogist Kim Morton, Registrars Joe Potter and Larry Stevens, Sgt.-At- Arms Ben Baskin, Newsletter Larry Stevens, Webmaster Ray Cox.

Old Business, New Business & Announcements:

Motion to donate \$250 to The Fallen Heroes Charity was raised, seconded and so moved by voice vote.

The Freedom Chapter requests that we join with The Woodlands Township for a ceremony to honor the brave men and women who tragically lost their lives during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Location: The Woodlands Fire Dept. - Central Fire Station,
9951 Grogans Mill Rd, Spring, TX 77380

Time: Friday September 11, 2020, 7:30 AM-8:00AM

<https://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=6956>

Abe Abdmoulaie asks for your support as he coordinates the design and assembly of a digital scrapbook history for Texas SAR PineyWoods.

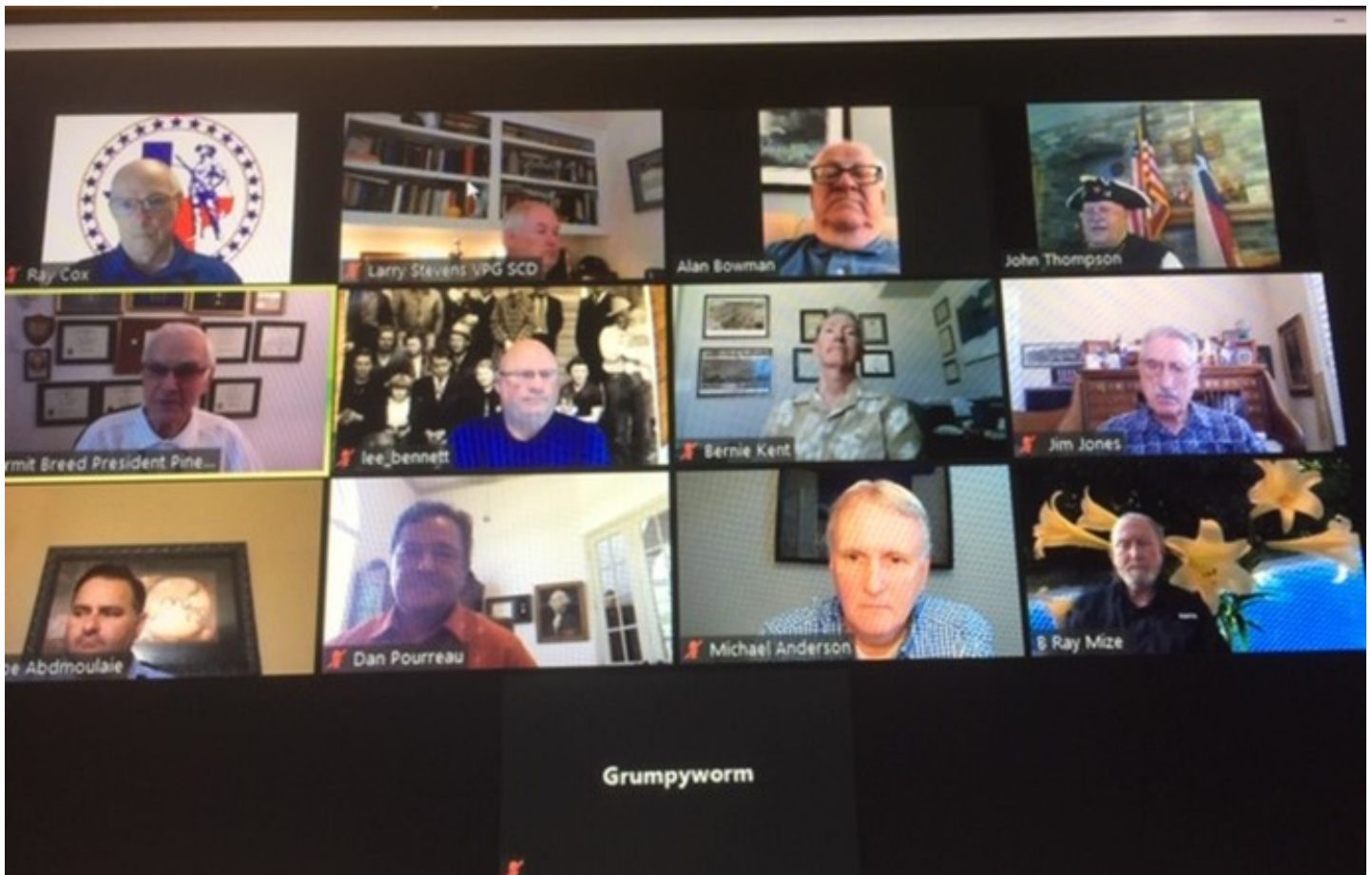
Benediction by Alan Bowman was followed by the SAR closing.

President Kermit Breed adjourned the meeting at 1:35 PM.

SAR PineyWoods Chapter 51 Secretary — **Bernie Kent**

NEXT MEETING IS AT 10:00 AM

Check your E-mail for the link. It will be sent a couple of days before the meeting by Ray COX!



ZOOM!—This view of my computer screens displays 13 attendees. John “Grumpy” Worm, the Coupon Guy, was having technical difficulties. If you have not joined a Zoom Chapter meeting, you should. From the comfort of your home, you can join on your computer or your smart phone. NOT IDEAL; NOT exactly in person; BUT, we have programs and conduct chapter business. KERMIT

New Members

Below Left—Meet new member Dr. Philmore Joseph (Ret) and Right Roland Skelton Jr. Both had Patriots serving in South Carolina. Philmore—Capt. Alexzander McAlpine; Roland –John Skelton—Independent Company South Carolina.



2020 NSSAR YOUTH PROGRAMS

COVID-19 has really thrown a monkey wrench into your youth programs for the Fall. All of the contest deadline line for submission come at the end of this calendar year.

Poster Contest—Brochure Contest—Eagle Scout Contest—Essay Contest—JROTC Scholarship Contest

Oration (Speech) Contest—American History Teacher Contest

EVEN WITH the COVID-19 Virus, **These Contests Can Take Place**. Youth entries still need to contact in a CHAPTER.



Jim Pinkerton is our VP Youth Programs. He certainly hopes we get a landslide of entries. Assisting him are Randy Hall with JROTC; Eagle Scout is Jeff LaRochelle, Essay and Oration is Larry Stevens. American History Teacher is Brent Monteleone.

OR, just refer any young person who wants information to President Breed or Larry Stevens

Check Out the Texas Website for information at TXSSAR.org

Brochure Contest - Grades 6-9

The Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School contest is to create a tri-fold brochure on a typical 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper. Theme is "The Founding Documents of the United States." Contest is open to middle school students, depending on when the American Revolution or Government is taught in their school system (includes public, private, parochial, charter and home schooled students.) The contest is also open to members of the C.A.R., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who are in the same grades if their school does not participate. Judging is based upon content, creativity and correctness.



<https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests-awards/sgt-moses-adams-memorial-middle-school-brochure-contest> <http://TexasSAR.org/brochure.htm>

Essay Contest - Grades 9-12

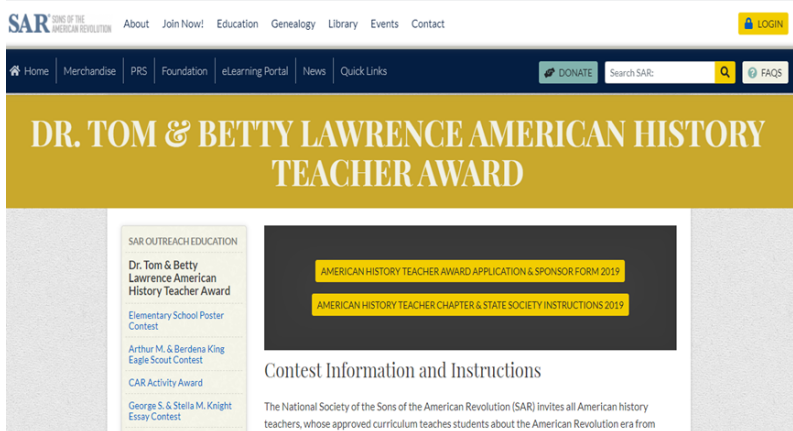
The George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest is an original essay, 800 to 1,200 words. based upon original research, dealing with a topic that shaped American history - an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Cash (Scholarship) award.

<https://www.sar.org/education/youthcontests-awards/george-s-stella-m-knight-essay-contest> <http://TexasSAR.org/essay.htm>

AMERICAN HISTORY TEACHER CONTEST

The **Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award** was started by our own

Texas Society Member, Paul Carrington and past PineyWoods VP Thomas Lawrence in the memory of his mother, who was a History Teacher. Some of our members associated with schools in the past and present could know a history teacher who could qualify for this rewarding award. Having met three NSSAR Award Winner, one accidentally on tour of Kings Mountain, in South Carolina, I can tell you how appreciative these educators are for the opportunity to be



recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution. If you know of such a teacher, one who bring COLOR to the classroom, to enhance the History of the colonial period of American through the Revolutionary period, you should discuss this award with them. Ask them to enter and be recognized, for teaching American History.

The following is the first descriptive paragraphs of The American History Contest which is found on the Texas Website or the NSSAR Website – EDUCATION. Entry information and application form are found at this site. Larry Stevens

“The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites all American history teachers, whose approved curriculum teaches students about the American Revolution era from 1750 to 1800, to apply for the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. The award is open to all teachers at the elementary, middle school or high school levels at a recognized public, private, or parochial institution. While the preliminary rounds of the award program begin at the local chapter level, teachers may eventually advance to the state and national levels.

The American History Teacher Award recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution. Teacher candidates interested in entering the local SAR Chapter contest must complete the required application and submit a written essay of not less than 1000 words discussing the importance of teaching the American Revolution era. The essay may also describe any extraordinary teaching techniques or innovative projects utilized by the teacher to teach the American Revolution. The contest is aimed at identifying a teacher who is still actively teaching, has taught for at least three years, and who is in the early or middle stages of his or her career, therefore having at least 15 years of productive classroom teaching remaining.



therefore having at least 15 years of productive classroom teaching remaining.

The program will feature a contest at each of the three educational levels so there will be a winner for the elementary school level, the middle school level and the high school level. An SAR Chapter may submit a contestant to the state from each school level and the state may hold a contest and select a winner from each school level to submit for the national awards. A state may submit a state winner for each level, or from only one or two educational levels. The national winner from each school level will receive potential benefits worth up to \$5,000.00 per winner.” (Go to NSSAR Website)

Origins of Revolution in the American Colonies

It was the middle of the Eighteenth Century, and in Europe the British and French age old conflict fires up once more. The British were concerned for their claims to the Backcountry in the American Colonies. The French claimed all the land from the Great Lake down the Mississippi and its valleys. They had trading settlements along the Mississippi and they mixed with the Indians well; they were their allies. To counter the British needed to insure the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy supported them and not the French.

From Benjamin Franklin's, Autobiography:

"In 1754, war with France being again apprehended, a congress of commissioners from the different colonies was, by an order of the Lords of Trade, to be assembled at Albany, there to confer with the chiefs of the Six Nations concerning the meaning of defending both their country and ours.

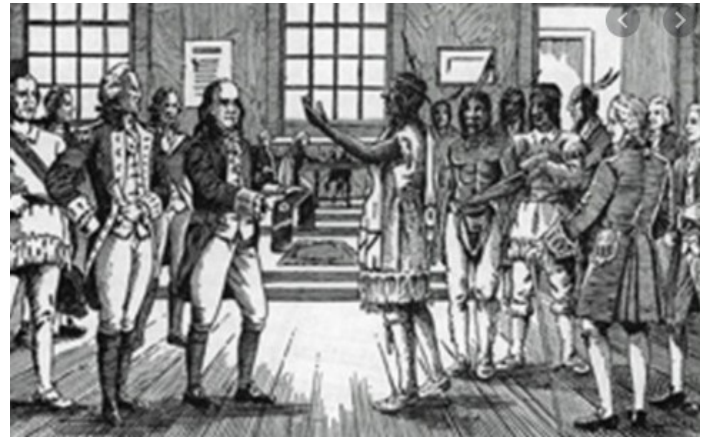


Governor Hamilton, having receiv'd this order, acquainted the House with it, requesting they would furnish proper presents for the Indians,

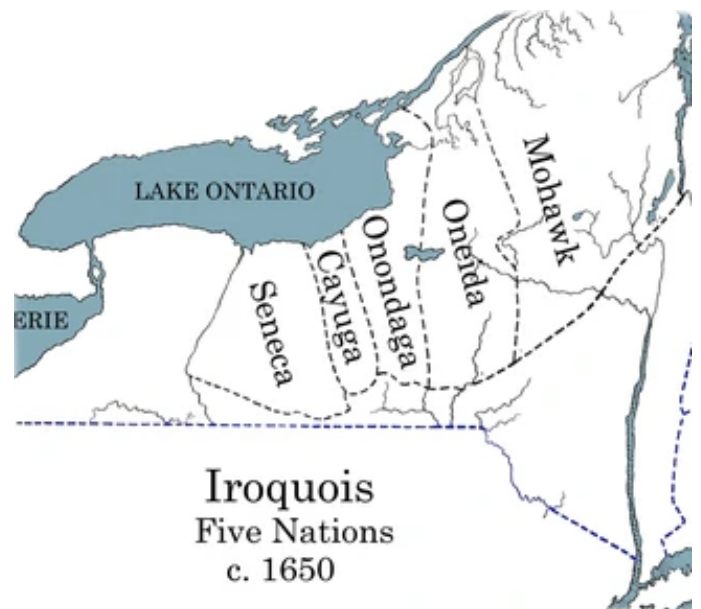
to be given on this occasion; and naming the speaker (Mr. Norris) and myself to join Mr. Thomas Penn and Mr. Secretary Peters as commissioners to act for Pennsylvania. The House approv'd the nomination, and provided the goods for the present, tho' they did not much like treating out of the provinces; and we met the other commissioners at Albany about the middle of June.

"On the way thither, I projected and drew a plan for the nation of all the colonies under one government, so far as might be necessary for defense, and other im-

portant general purposes. As we pass'd through New York, I had there shown my project to Mr. James Al-



exander and Mr. Kennedy, two gentlemen of great knowledge in public affairs, and being fortified by their approbation, I ventur'd to lay it before the Congress. It then appeared that several of the commissioners had form'd plans of the same kind. A previous question was first taken, whether a union should be established, which pass'd in the affirmative unanimously. A committee was then appointed, one member from each colony, to consider the several plans and report. Mine happen'd to be preferr'd, and, with a



few amendments, was accordingly reported."

Iroquois Confederacy, until 1722, was made of Five Nations, the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and Cayuga, and, then became the Six Nations with the Tuscarora, "People of Shirt," joined them. The

Iroquois had long battled the French who had allied with enemy Nations of the Iroquois; and they controlled the inroads of the Great Lakes in New York from Albany to the North and West. The British supplied them goods and bought their furs in Albany. With the War with France looming, an alliance between the British Colonies and the Iroquois Confederacy was vital to the British position in the Colonies.

In June and July of 1754, the eleven colonies were called to a Congress to consider their security and defense against attack by the French. During the conference, Benjamin Franklin presented his plan, "The Albany Plan", "By this plan the general government was to be administered by a president-general, appointed and supported by the crown, and a grand council was to be chosen by the representatives of the people of the several colonies, met in their respective assemblies."

Franklin, "The debates upon it in Congress went on daily, hand in hand with the Indian business. Many Objections and difficulties were started, but at length they were overcome, and the plan was unanimously agreed to, and copies ordered to be transmitted to the Board of Trade and to the assemblies of the several provinces. Its fate was singular: the assemblies did not adopt it, as they all thought there was too much **pre-rogative** in it, and in England it was judg'd to have too much **democratic**."

"The Board of Trade therefore did not approve of it, nor recommend it for the approbation of his majesty: but another scheme was form'd, supposed to answer the same purpose better, whereby the governors of the provinces, with some members of their respective councils, were to meet and order the raising of troops, building of forts, etc., and to draw on the treasury of **Great Britain for the expense, which afterwards to be refunded by an act of Parliament laying a tax on America**. My plan, with my reasons to support it, is to be found among my political papers that are printed."

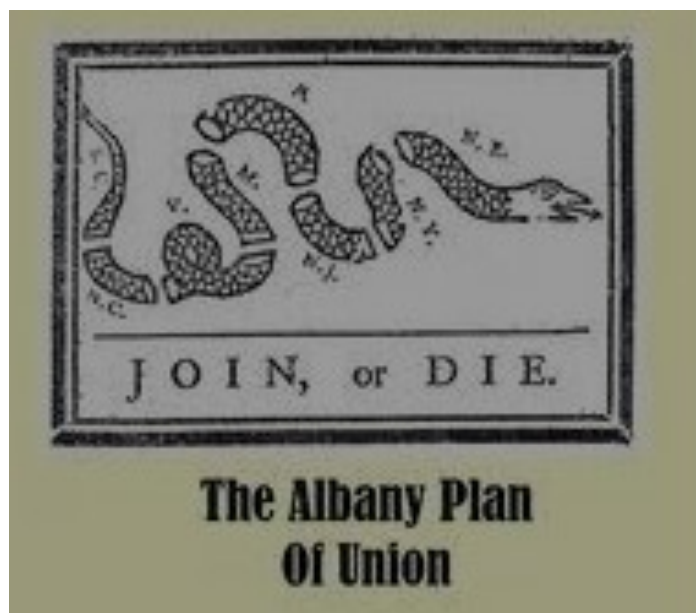
The conference began on June 19th, 1754, with 150 representatives of the Iroquois Confederacy, the British Board of Trade, and representatives from seven of

the eleven colonies: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Plied with provisions, presents, and promises of addressing grievances, the Iroquois left with no commitment to the British cause.

Benjamin Franklin wrote, "The different and contrary reasons of dislike to my plan made me suspect that it was really the true medium, and I am still of opinion it would have been happy for both sides the water if it had been adopted. The colonies, so united, would have been sufficiently strong to have defended themselves; there would then have been no need of troops from England; of course, the subsequent pretence for taxing America, and the bloody contest it occasioned, would have been avoided. But such mistakes are not new; history is full of the errors of states and princes "

"The best public measures are therefore seldom adopted from previous wisdom, but forc'd by the occasion."

Benjamin wrote, "**The British government, not chusing to permit the union of the colonies as propos'd at Albany, and to trust that union with their defense, lest they should thereby grow too military, and fell their own strength, suspicions and jealousies at this time being certain'd of them, sent over General Braddock with two regiments of regular English troops for that purpose.**"....



The Albany Plan of Union and Conference concluded on July 11, 1754. Their plan was sent to King and Parliament for consideration. It was ignored and the response was to loan the Colonies money to mount a resistance of the French. This may well have formed the seed of the deliberations two decades later.

Franklin's Plan was not about revolution! It was a solution for the colonies to address problems by forming a colonial parliament, with a president appointed and financed by the King, that would allow the colonies to govern themselves, and defend themselves, under his majesty.

The French and Indian War in North America ended with a French defeat at the Battle of Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland on September 15, 1762. The Treaty of Paris was signed February 10, 1763.

Shortly after the Treaty of Paris, Britain began addressing the colonial frontier and the cost of the War. On October 7, 1763, a royal proclamation was passed prohibiting the American colonist to settle past the Appalachia Mountains. This was an attempt to honor agreements with Indian tribes. However, many families had already settled "west" of the mountains.

Then in 1764, the British Parliament began passing a series of tax acts to address the War Debts. Sugar Act of April 5, 1764 was enacted by Parliament. This Act was a rewrite of the 1733 Molasses and Sugar. The new version was directed at stopping the smuggling trade of sugar and molasses from the French and Dutch West Indies to the Colonies. Customs enforcement was strengthened to imposed duties on imports of refined sugar and molasses to increase revenue. The change was not popular; however, it was nothing compared to the Stamp Act enacted March 22, 1765. This was the first direct tax on the America Colonist. Britain was looking to the American Colonies to pay more for their debt caused by the French and Indian War. This tax required that all printed materials to be printed on stamped paper from London carrying an embossed revenue stamp. There was little English coin in the thirteen colonies with which to pay the stamp tax. The Act denied colonial offenders trials by jury; when this

trial by jury was an inherit right in England. And, the colonist questioned the Crown's need to garrison troops in the colonies after the French and Indian War; why not during?

In the Virginia House of Burgess on May 30, 1765, twenty-nine-year-old, Patrick Henry, shouted, "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and



George the Third....", he was interrupted by representatives, "Treason". At this point it was clear that some colonists were serious about change.

In Boston, a group of men met, called themselves "The Sons of Liberty". They attacked the houses of the tax commissioners and the Governor Thomas Hutchinson. Among the Sons were John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and John Adams.

Benjamin Franklin had arrived in London in March 1765. There were shouts of joy in Philadelphia celebrating his safe voyage. Franklin openly did not oppose to the Stamp Act, believing the Crown had the right to collect taxes to pay off debt. He believe Parliament had the right to impose external taxes, such as duties and tariffs, to regulate trade. But he thought it unwise, perhaps even unconstitutional, for Parliament to levy an internal tax on people who had no representation in that assembly. Nevertheless, he did not fight the Stamp Act proposal with much vigor, instead he attempted to be a conciliator. (Isaacson)

Franklin wrote to his friend Charles Thomson in Philadelphia, "*I took every step in my power to prevent the passing of the Stamp Act, but the tide was too strong*

against us. *W might well have hindered the sun's setting. That we could not do. But since it is down, my friend, and it may be long before is rises again, let us make as good a night of it as we can. We may still light candles*". This letter became public and was a public relations disaster for Franklin. (Isaacson)

Franklin's thoughts had reached the colonies, and Philadelphia, in the late summer of 1765. Nearly overnight, he was no longer the American Hero. In Philadelphia, a group of men gathered at a coffee house. They accused Franklin of "advocating the Stamp Act", and they set out to level his new home along with the home of his friend John Hughes and others of his friends. John Hughes wrote in a log to Ben, "*If I live until tomorrow morning, I shall give you further account.*"

Deborah Reed Franklin, learning of the mob, sent her daughter to New Jersey. Deborah refused to leave. Her cousin Josiah Davenport arrived with twenty or



more friends to help defend her. She wrote an account of that night to Ben, "*Toward night I said he (Josiah Davenport) should fetch a gun or two, as we had none. I started to ask my brother to come and bring his gun. Also we made one room a maga-*

zine. I ordered some sort of defense upstairs as I could manage myself. I said when I was advised to remove that I was very sure you had done nothing wrong to hurt anybody, nor I had not given any offense to any person at all. Nor would I be made uneasy by anyone. Nor would I stir."

Franklin's house and his wife were saved by group of supporters called the White Oak Boys. They informed the mob that if Franklin's home and any others destroyed so would all the homes of everyone involved.

(Isaacson)

Diplomatically, the French had observers in the colonies ever since their defeat in the French and Indian War and in Europe. They carefully had watched the disagreements arising, and England taxing the colonies had only added fuel to the fire. However, when the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, "the French ministers began to lose Hope". (Bailey)

As the writing of Benjamin Franklin and others during this period of History tell of the rise of discontent by many of England's Colonial policy; many other colonials had yet to move toward thoughts of revolt. Men like Franklin still believed differences could be ironed out.

So, the beginning thoughts of colonial self-government; started at Albany in 1754, Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts 1765. And, firebrands such as Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock speak of separation.

By Larry G. Stevens

Sources:

"The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin", "Edited With Notes", by John Bigelow, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1889

"Benjamin Franklin, and American Life", by Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster, NY, 2003

"A Diplomatic History of the American People", 7th Edition, by Thomas A. Bailey, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Meredith Publishing, NY 1964

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