



# Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

# The Rankin Register



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## Our April Meeting

by Steve Tanner, President (2011-2012)

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The first month as President is a busy one as a number of tasks await a new president. The budget for the year must be prepared and Committee Chairmen interviewed and appointed. The work of the chapter is accomplished through the initiative of our committee chairman and is the reason why our chapter is the best in the state in its size category.

On top of these activities a speaker for the meeting must be found, an agenda drawn and distributed to Compatriots, prospective members, and friends of the chapter. All of these steps were completed this month and I know that any who attended our meeting were well pleased.



Stephen Tanner shown above presiding over his first meeting as President.

He is the ninth compatriot to hold this position.

A principal order of business at our April meeting is the appointment of Committee Chairmen. President Steve Tanner appointed the following slate,

President Stephen Tanner  
(Defacto member of all committees)

District V.P. John Thompson  
(Defacto member of all committees)

### Chapter Duties:

Awards	Stephen Tanner
Membership	Frederick Jackson
Newsletter	Thomas Jackson
Nominations	Bobby Smith
Program	Allen Greene
Publicity	Stephen Tanner
Wal-Mart Grant	open

### Americanism:

Eagle Scout	Randy Pearson
History Teacher	open
History Student	open
Knight Essay	Gus Mistrot
Oratory	Thomas Jackson
Poster	Edwin Raines

### Other Chapter Programs

CAR	Bobby R. Smith
Color Guard Com.	Stephen Tanner
Flag Certificate	Theron McLaren
Flag Presentation	Edwin Raines
JROTC	Stephen Tanner
Public Service	Thomas Jackson
SAR-DAR	open
Sea Cadets	Randy Pearson
Veterans	Bobby R. Smith
Wounded Warrior	open



District VIII Vice President John Thompson is standing while President Stephen Tanner is shown seated in the background.

John Thompson is the third District Vice President who has served the Rankin Chapter. He was preceded by Raymond Cox and Allan Henshaw.

A Rankin tradition is to have a review of the state convention at our April meeting and this year was no different. Compatriot Thompson noted, “I am quite proud of the work of the Rankin Chapter. Once again, Rankin members were the best in the state for their size and your chapter is a model that all other chapters should emulate.”



Compatriot Fred Jackson is shown above giving another one of his blockbuster presentations on “This Day in History.”



I swear, you swear, we all swear together. Not all of the officers were sworn in during our meeting in March. Those who were missed, from left to right, include Thomas Jackson (Historian), Terry Richardson (Vice President), Ed Raines (Sgt at arms), and Stephen Tanner (Historian). Pronouncing the invitation to swear is District VIII VP John Thompson.



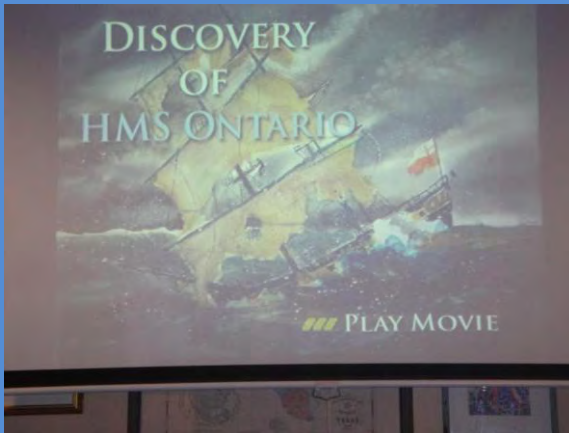
**Flag  
Certificates  
Issued**



The Rankin Chapter takes great pride in thanking individuals for flying the American flag properly.

From left to right are, Compatriot Tom Jackson, Spring Creek Manager, and Transocean engineer Dan Scoville.

## Our April Speaker



The evening presentation centered on the Discovery of the Ontario by divers Dan Scoville and his partner Jim Kennard.

The *HMS Ontario* was a British Sloop-of-War, which was constructed at the dockyard on Carleton Island in 1779. Carleton Island is located in the St Lawrence River close to the intersection of New York and Canada. This island was a center of shipbuilding and was protected by Fort Haldimand that was controlled by the British during the American Revolution. The ship was approximately 80 feet in length with a 25-foot beam and carried 22 cannons. Her burden weight was approximately 226 tons. After six months of construction, she set sail on May 10, 1780 and was immediately the largest warship on the Great Lakes.



Diver Dan Scoville (standing) tells of his discovery of the HMS Ontario while Compatriot Tanner is seated paying rapt attention.

Dan Scoville and his partner were avid divers with a number of other discoveries to their credit. They were on the trail of the Ontario for over five years and utilized an underwater remote operated vehicle that was designed and built by Scoville. The HMS Ontario was intact, except for one mast, and is the oldest confirmed shipwreck in Great Lakes.



Compatriot Ed Raines, left, a retired U.S. Navy Commander, is shown helping to set the stage for the topic of the speaker. Portions of his comments appear above.



The Discovery was confirmed with the photograph of the ship's bell, which contained the name of the vessel.

In one of the earliest NSSAR national conventions held in the 1800's, the speaker, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was presented with a silver engraved chalice. The Rankin chapter has capitalized upon that idea and has a tradition of presenting every speaker with a NSSAR coffee mug and a Certificate of Appreciation. Dan Scoville has truly earned the receipt of both!



Dan Scoville (left) holds his COA, which he has received from Rankin Vice President Allen Greene.

Editor's note:

The color scheme is typically red and blue. In this issue, the color of green was picked as a matter of whimsy to coordinate with President's Tanner "other uniform." It has been observed that the President wishes to have as many different uniforms as ladies wish to have different pairs of black shoes!



From left to right, Compatriots Jackson and Tanner, Tara Power, and Leslie Power.

For the last six years, the Rankin Chapter has been recognized as one of the most active chapters in Texas with its interaction with CAR societies. Tom & Stephen were invited to a meeting of the James Bates Society of the Children of the American Revolution during their April meeting.

While there, they presented Tara Power with her certificate for second place in the CAR Essay contest in the State of Texas.

#### *Upcoming Events:*

*May 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting*  
*No Chapter meetings in the Summer*

*Board of Managers Meeting*  
*July 29<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup> Conroe*

*Check State Website*

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