

April Meeting

April 10, 2019



Newly installed President of the Robert Rankin Chapter, Bruce McMordie, introduces our guest speaker.

*Robert Rankin, Texas SAR
Spring Creek Barbecue
Patriots Day Celebration
April Meeting Highlights*

- ❖ We celebrate Patriots day with a presentation for This Day in History on “John Paul Jones Sets Out to Raid British Ships” by Compatriot Fred Jackson
- ❖ Our guest speaker is Dr. Ann Plane
- ❖ Texas SAR President Tom Jackson summarized the events at the 2019 Texas SAR Annual Convention held in Austin
- ❖ Edward Semler gave the Ancestor Presentation

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Compatriot Allen Greene



Edward Semler gave the Ancestor Presentation.

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Fred Jackson give This Day in History and talks about Commander John Paul Jones. This was the first mission of its kind during the Revolutionary War.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY: John Paul Jones attacks Whitehaven, England

On this day in history, April 23, 1778, John Paul Jones attacks Whitehaven, England, the only attack of the American Revolution on the British homeland and the first successful invasion of England in more than 700 years.

Jones put 30 men into two small boats and rowed toward the shore. Two forts guarded the entrance to the harbor. Jones' boat headed toward the southern fort, while the other ship headed to the northern fort. Each ship was supposed to capture its fort, then set the nearby ships ablaze.

Heavy winds caused the short journey to shore to last for hours. The sun was already coming up on the 23rd when Jones reached his fort. He quickly captured the small security force and began to spike the cannons to prevent them from being used against them on their retreat. He sent the others to burn the ships, but their only light had gone out and they were forced to get a light from a nearby house. The small force boarded the nearest ship, called the Thompson, captured its crew and set the ship on fire. The under parts of the ship were soon in flames and Jones' sailors threw "matches" made of canvas and sulphur onto other nearby ships.

Unfortunately, one of Jones' crew snuck off and warned the townspeople, who soon came running to put out the fire. Jones and his men escaped with several prisoners, but the townspeople were able to put out the fire on the Thompson before it spread to other ships. When the other boat from the Ranger landed at the northern fort, the sailors went into a nearby pub and helped themselves to the liquor. By the time they came out, the sun was already shining and their light had also gone out. Rather than getting another light and trying to set the ships ablaze, they abandoned their mission and rowed back to the Ranger.

The entire Whitehaven raid caused little damage to the British mainland in the end. It did, however, have a major impact on the British consciousness. Britons realized their island was not safe from attack and that their navy was not invincible. Great strides were made across England to strengthen harbor defenses and increase the size of local militia groups to deal with future attacks. John Paul Jones was celebrated in America after the attack, but excoriated as a villainous pirate in England. He would go on to perform other exploits in the war, including the taking of the HMS Serapis at the Battle of Flamborough Head, and be celebrated as one of America's greatest naval heroes.

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Our Main Speaker

Ann Marie Plane is a cultural historian and practicing clinical psychoanalyst in Santa Barbara. She serves on the faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She specializes in Colonial North American history, with emphasis on gender, colonization and the lives of Native Americans in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century New England and her current research explores dreams and visions as they reveal the processes of colonization in seventeenth-century New England.



Fred Jackson introduces the speaker for the evening, Dr. Ann Plane. Dr. Plane spoke on the books "The Shoemaker and the Tea Party" by Al Young, "Masquerade" by Al Young, "The Salem Witchcraft Papers" by Bernard Rosenthal, and "The Devil's Snare" by Mary Beth Norton.



Texas SAR President Tom Jackson thanks Dr. Plane for joining the chapter for the evening.

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President Bruce McMordie (L) presents a Certificate of Appreciation for Grave Marking to Michael Bierman. Michael participated in the grave marking for Compatriot Benjamin Anderson at Glenfawn Cemetery.



President McMordie (L) presents a Flag Certificate to guest speaker Dr. Ann Plane, who receives it on behalf of University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Certificate of Appreciation for Dr. Plane, which Compatriot Fred Jackson holds.



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Patriots Day Celebration



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The meeting was opened by President Bruce McMordie at 6:45 pm which was preceded by dinner commencing at 7:00pm. Programs presented by SAR members were: Historical (1), Educational(1), and Patriotic (1). Those chapter members and guests in attendance are noted on the attached sign in sheets that are incorporated by reference in these minutes. 27 were present including 15 Compatriots and 12 guests. Color Guard members in attendance and in uniform: Allen Greene, and Tom Jackson.

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda, a copy of which is attached and is incorporated by reference in these minutes. In addition, any awards that were presented are also attached complete with the reasons for the award. The Minutes of the prior meeting were presented.

The invocation was given by Compatriot Alex Thorne.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Compatriot Bruce McMordie.

The Pledge to the Texas Flag was led by Compatriot Bruce McMordie.

The SAR Creed was led by Compatriot Bruce McMordie

This Day In History: Compatriot Fred Jackson spoke about “John Paul Jones Sets Out to Raid British Ships”.

Educational Presentation: Tom Jackson spoke about what happened at the State Convention. Dr Ann Plane gave an excellent presentation on Bridging the Gap Between Historians and Genealogist.

Patriotic Presentation: Ed Semler gave an ancestor presentation on Richard “Derrick: Gunsalus.

Compatriot Allen Greene led the recessional and the Benediction was given by Compatriot Bobby Smith. President Allen Greene adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted this date of *April 15, 2019.*

Michael Bierman
Secretary

Bruce McMordie
President



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In Attendance

Compatriots present (9):

Bruce Alfredson
Michael Bierman
Murray Greene
Jim Hoffman
Tom Jackson
Bruce McMordie
Bill Sorrells
Norman Strey
Alex Thorne

Guests (6):

Anne Lindemann
Dr. Ann Plane
Ralph & Linda Reed
Andrew Sloss
Nelma Strey

Compatriots with spouses present (12):

Allen & Linda Greene
Fred & Brenda Jackson
Theron & Olga McLaren
Jack & Jennie Muggli
Ed & Jana Semler
David & Judy Zachmeyer

Awards & Recognitions (SAR):

Flag Certificate: University of California – Santa Barbara

Certificate of Appreciation: Dr Ann Plane

Grave Marking Certificate of Appreciation: Michael Bierman