



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register



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Election Time

by David Jones, President (2009-2010)
(5thsfga@att.net)

February is the month where we vote on officers and their term runs from March of the current year to February of the year following. The elected officers will be sworn in during our March meeting and will then assume their duties and responsibilities. Two words: be prepared! I have restructured the content of the meetings somewhat and have moved essay judging from February to January and Compatriot Certificate presentation from March to February. This should mean that it will be easier to run our March meeting on schedule.

New Officers:

President	Bob Smith
VP/Treasurer	Steve Tanner
Secretary	Ed Raines
Chaplain	David Crum
Sgt at Arms	Ed Raines
Registrar	Fred Jackson
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw
Historian	Ralph Aniol

The officers listed above were elected by acclamation.

Past President Kelly McBride responded to a challenge issued by state officers that meetings should be more than meet and eat and decided that each meeting should have three presentations to address our national goals, educational, historical, and patriotic. This approach is still followed.

Our Meeting

Sam Houston IV, the great grandson of General and Republic of Texas President Sam Houston (and shown below), gave us a most intriguing historical presentation on Temple Lea Houston. He was the youngest son of General Sam and the first child to be born in the Governor's Mansion.

Temple was admitted to the State Bar at the age of nineteen and quickly won high praise as a prosecutor in Texas and as a defense attorney in both Texas and Oklahoma. His renown as an expert without peer was rivaled by his skill with his twin ivory handled colt revolvers and perhaps exceeded only by his oratorical skills.



President-elect Bobby Smith, in the bottom photo is shown standing and is presenting Mr. Houston with a SAR coffee mug and a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation. He is also Bobby Smith's 1st cousin 4 times removed.

Compatriot Ralph Aniol, below, provided the assembled avid amateur historians with tidbits of information with his historical presentation about George Washington.

Who remembered that our first President was of the Episcopalian faith and possessed as much formal education as he had adult teeth!



On April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States in New York City, the nation's capital. During 1790 the last of the original thirteen states, Rhode Island, ratified the Constitution and later in 1791 the Bill of Rights was ratified.



Steve Tanner, on the left, satisfies the Patriotic meeting component with his ancestor presentation. *(Editor's note: Past president McBride decried that our ancestors would be honored at every meeting.)*

Secretary Tanner's ancestor, Casper Read, immigrated to New York in 1710 from the German Palatinate. He was a prominent citizen in Berks County Pennsylvania and served as paymaster in Col. John Patton's Berks County Battalion of Foot, Pennsylvania Militia in 1776.

Registrar Fred Jackson, on the left in the photo below, is shown introducing our newest member, James Davidson. Compatriot Davidson revealed his ancestor as James Davidson who joined the 1st Regiment of the Maryland Line. He also served in the 3rd Maryland Militia as a substitute and was wounded in the Battle of Yorktown.



Vice President Bobby Smith has just administered the Oath of Membership and is presenting new Compatriot Davidson with a member's pin and certificate in the photo below.



Recognitions

What is a Rankin Chapter meeting without recognitions? Starting with former President McBride and continuing through Presidents Kerr, Jackson, and now Jones, the Chapter has sought to say thank you to those Compatriots and Friends of the Chapter who have stepped up and contributed in the past year through the issuance of a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Abigail Adams Award



The Abigail Adams Certificate expresses appreciation to those ladies who have given service to the Chapter and include, from left to right, Sue Crum, Sylvia Kerr, Nancy McBride, and Karen Tanner. Bobby Smith is in the center and is doing his best Debbie Henshaw imitation. Debbie was not present to receive her certificate.

Thomas Paine Award



The Thomas Paine Certificate is for excellence in media and was presented to Thomas Ash Jackson (l), Stephen Tanner(r) and Ray Cox (absent). Compatriot Bobby Smith is in the center. Steve, our publicity chairman, was responsible for submitting articles which were published in both the National and Texas SAR magazines. Ash was recognized for having an article published in his firm's national newsletter regarding the Rankin Chapter. Ray was recognized for his exemplary work on the chapter's website.

This is the fourth year for this award with Ash Jackson (our first webmaster) and Ray Cox (current webmaster) having received the award last year while Patrick Kerr and his sister Nancy Brandli were recognized previously for their work with radio and print publicity. Gus and Bernice Mistrot were the first awardees for their advice and review of our newsletter and yearbook.

The Robert Morris Award



This certificate, also in its fourth year, is to recognize those compatriots who have provided financial support to the Chapter in excess of \$250 and includes (l to r) Patrick Kerr, Bobby Smith, Tom Jackson, and absent are David Jones and Ed Raines.

Speaker Certificate



Speaker Certificates were given to Thomas Ash Jackson and Fred Jackson. In the photo above left to right is Thomas the Dad, Bobby Smith, and Fred Jackson. This is the first year for these to be issued.

Samuel Adams Certificate



This award is to Committee Chairman and from left to right, back to front, Ash Jackson (Eagle Scout), Stephen Tanner (Publicity), Patrick Kerr (Color Guard), Bobby Smith (Veterans), Allan Henshaw, Fred Jackson (Membership), Tom Jackson (CAR, Sea Cadets, Oratory, Flag Certificates), and Gus Mistrot (Public Service). Both David Jones (Essay, History Teacher) and Ed Raines (Posters, Flag Shows) were absent.

Vice President Bobby Smith presented Patrick Kerr (top) and Fred Jackson (bottom) with the 5 year membership pin with certificate and 10 year pin with certificate, respectively.



Other Recognitions



In the photo above, Compatriot Bobby Smith (center) has just awarded color guard certificates to Rankin Chapter Color Guard Commander Patrick Kerr (left) and Stephen

Tanner (right). Not present are Ed Raines, Ray Cox and David Jones.

Compatriot Jackson (right) distributed flag certificates to David Crum (center) for flying the American Flag and David Jones (absent) and Patrick Kerr (left) for their contributions to the flag presentation program. Rankin Chancellor Allan Henshaw authorized the issuance of these certificates for participation in this program. Ed Raines and Richard Shanks were previous recipients.



And the night wasn't over yet...



Sylvia Kerr (left) has received a Certificate of Appreciation from Past President Tom Jackson (right) for her work with wounded veterans while Future President Bob Smith looks on from the center.

Dickens on the Strand



During December, 2009, our color guard participated in the Galveston parade as well as Dickens on the Strand. From the left are Commander Kerr, President Jones, and Galveston Compatriot Steve Whatley.

From the pen of Compatriot Jack Manning:

Jack recommends several books to read regarding the early navy of the United States. Historians tell us that the United States Navy was created on October 13, 1775; however, privateers were an important separate part of our navy as well. Read about this chapter in our history in *Washington's Wolfpack: the Navy before There Was a Navy*, by Edgar Stanton Maclay.

Then there is Jack's favorite: *George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea* by James Nelson. Read and Enjoy!

CAR news:

From the pen of Shannon Johnson, "The James Bates Society is in need of senior leaders too... if you would like to be considered for a senior officer, please let me know as well!" car_jamesbates@tejasdar.org

CAR National recently announced the candidates for National and Senior National office. James Bates' very own Greg Thorne (**brother of Rankin member Brian**) has been nominated for second Vice President! In addition, former Texas State President, Ben Hinkely, has been nominated for National President. The Rankin Chapter sends congratulations to both gentlemen on their nominations.

Member Spotlight



*James S. Davidson III (Jim)
Member, Robert Rankin Chapter*

Personal:

James S. Davidson III (Jim) was born in Washington, D.C. He married Karen Kenerick in June of 1959. Karen graduated from Duke University, class of 1959. They have three children and ten grandchildren, living in the Houston area and Virginia.

Jim enjoys many activities; among them are duck hunting, fishing, skiing, scuba diving, genealogy, woodworking, stamp collecting, neighborhood and church volunteering, traveling and grand parenting.

Education:

Jim graduated from Lehigh University, in Pennsylvania, in 1958 with a Bachelors degree in Industrial Engineering.

Military and Professional:

After graduating from Lehigh University, Jim became a Lieutenant in the United States Army (Armor) in Germany, where he was stationed from 1959 to 1961.

He worked as an engineered products salesman for Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company for eleven years in Los Angeles and Houston. He was also part owner of PME Equip, Inc, an industrial distributor. In 1984, Jim formed a manufacturer's representative company to sell industrial equipment. He continued to work with that company until his retirement in 2001.

Genealogical:

Jim's Patriot ancestor is James Davidson. Davidson was a soldier in the American Revolutionary Army, Maryland Line. He enlisted on 20 April 1778 as a private in the 1st Regiment, as a Maryland Volunteer. He was captured at Elizabethtown on 25 January 1780 and jailed in New York for eleven months. He served 9 months as a substitute (reenlistment in the 3rd Maryland Militia). He was wounded during the siege of Yorktown, Virginia and had to remain there until he was able to return home. He mustered out 15 November 1783 as a private. Jim thinks he must have been a party animal or a bit undisciplined!

(Editor's note: The highlighting color on the membership spotlight page is a selection choice by the member; if no choice is made, then the color represents the school attended. In this case, Lehigh University has colors of brown and white.)

Upcoming Events:

Mar 10th Annual Chapter Meeting, President General Judge Ed Butler will be present

Mar 18th to 21st

State Convention. in Houston,

Check State Website

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