



## Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

# The Rankin Register



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### *The President's Corner*

by Stephen Tanner, President (2011-2012)  
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For those of you who missed the Fourth Annual Constitutional Celebration of the Robert Rankin Chapter you missed a real treat enjoyed by a crowd approaching forty.



Pictured in the photo is Mr. Bennett Greenspan. Mr. Greenspan is the President of Family Tree DNA and is speaking on the topic of DNA analysis and genealogy.

Family Tree DNA is a commercial genetic genealogy company based in Houston, Texas with its partner laboratory, Arizona Research Labs, housed at the University of Arizona. Family Tree DNA offers analysis of autosomal DNA, YDNA, and mtDNA to individuals for genealogical purposes based on DNA samples collected using a cheek swab method with a kit supplied by Family Tree DNA to its customers.

In February 2009, Family Tree DNA announced that they, in partnership with the

National Geographic Genographic Project, have tested over 500,000 kits.



In the photo are Bennett and Rankin Vice President Allen Greene. Mr. Greenspan has been presented with the Speaker certificate of Appreciation and the coveted SAR coffee mug by Allen.

President Stephen Tanner in the photo below is: (a) singing the strains of "The world turned upside down" or (b) recounting the Battle of Yorktown, or (c) falling asleep while standing. I guess you had to be there to know which it was!



## *Fire Safety Commendation Award*



In the photo above, Stephen Tanner (left) has just handed **Trevor Eynon** the fire safety award.



In the photo above, from left to right, are Stephen Tanner, Robert Miller and Tom Jackson.



In the photo(left to right) are District V.P. George Dershimer, Rankin President Stephen Tanner, Fireman Trevor Eynon, Fireman Robert Miller, Theron McClaren, and Thomas Jackson.

**Robert Miller** is a member of the Willowfork Volunteer Fire Department. He was a graduate of the first volunteer academy, which graduated in January of 2009 and is a founding member of the volunteer fire department. Robert has dedicated a large number of hours to the department as not only an active firefighter but also assists in all aspects of the fire service including public relations. He served as a committee member for designing and purchasing our new aerial apparatus and traveled with the committee for design and inspection meetings. Robert is currently a member of the committee assigned to meet with architects to design our new fire station, scheduled to open in November of 2012. Aside from these duties, Robert is a founding member of the Board of Directors for Fort Bend County ESD #2, the governing body for the Willowfork fire department. To make his schedule complete, Robert devotes his time to the Boy Scouts of America as a leader and advisor.

**Trevor Eynon** is also a member of the Willowfork Volunteer Fire Department. He was a graduate of the second volunteer fire academy, which graduated in early 2010. He has recently accepted the position of President for the volunteer fire department and spends a great deal of time assuring that the organization is running smoothly and accomplishing their goals. He serves as the liaison between the volunteer fire department, the members of the paid fire department and the administration. He is active in all aspects of fire service and spends considerable time either coordinating or participating in public relation events and training.

Each of the firemen received the highly coveted Rankin Flag Certificate on behalf of their respective fire stations!

## Our Newest Member



Above, District VIII VP John Thompson (left) administers the oath and inducts John Hadfield while in the photo below Rankin President Stephen Tanner (left) welcomes John into the chapter.

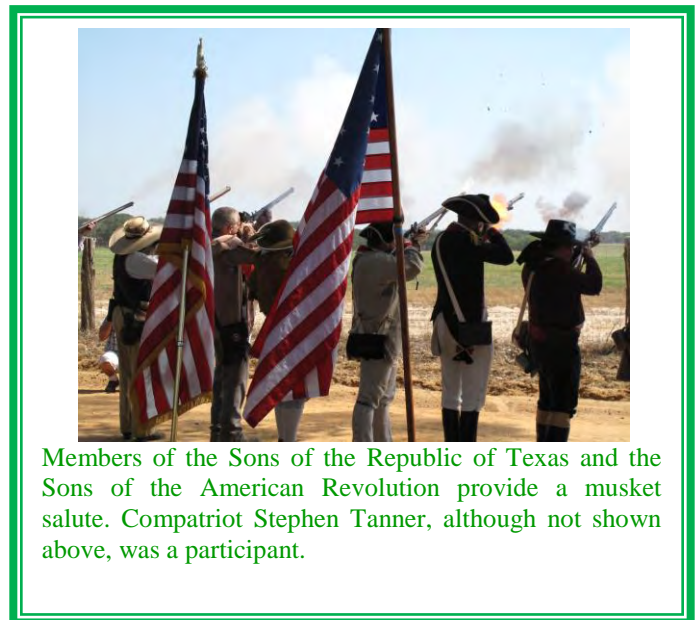


The Rankin Chapter welcomed thirteen new members thus far. They include Louis Forrest Wallner, Oscar Virgil Poe, David Allan Gillespie, Larry George Keast, James Brian Keast, George Garrett Keast, Lloyd Ted Poe, Bradley Todd Richardson, Taylor Lee Richardson, Trevor Jon Richardson, Eris Lee Richardson, John Rangley Hadfield, and David Lloyd Peterson

## The Battle of Medina

On August 20, 2011 on the old Applewhite Road in Atascosa County, the William Hightower Chapter #35 of the TXSSAR sponsored a patriot grave marking ceremony to commemorate the 198<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Medina. Overlooking the Galvan Creek is where it is believed between 800 and 1,300 men died August 18, 1813. This was the bloodiest and largest loss of life of any battle in Texas history, and it occurred about 20 miles south of San Antonio, Texas.

“Contrary to popular belief, the struggle for democracy in Texas did not begin with the Anglo-led revolution of 1835-36,” author and historian James Haley wrote in a recent *Austin American-Statesman* article. The Battle at Medina was a precursor to independence.



Members of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Sons of the American Revolution provide a musket salute. Compatriot Stephen Tanner, although not shown above, was a participant.

Numerous societies have joined to remember ancestors who died in this battle. The TXSSAR will rededicate their marker to American Revolutionary Patriot Peter Sides, the Sons of The Republic of Texas marker for Benjamin Allen, the Mayflower Society marker for Samuel Adams and all the other men who fought and died in this battle.

The SAR, DAR, SRT, DRT, The Daughters of the War of 1812 Society, and the Mayflower Societies will all re-dedicate their markers, making this one of the most honored and dedicated historic sites in Texas.

Thomas Green served as the Master of Ceremonies and is a Knight of San Jacinto and a Past President of TXSSAR. Tom Green, shown in the photo below dressed in revolutionary garb, “The Battle of Medina was between the Republican Army of the North consisting of approximately a 1,400 men, called the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition by historians, and a Royal Spanish Army commanded by General Joaquin de Arredondo consisting of approximately 1,800 men. **The Republican Army of the North flew an emerald green battle flag.**

The Republican Army of the North was truly a diverse group, consisting of Tejanos, Native Americans, and adventurers from the U.S.A. with at least one African-American named Thomas. This was at a time in history when only about 2,000 people lived in San Antonio, called San Fernando de Bexar at the time.

At least five Patriots of the American Revolution were involved in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, and at least one of these Patriots fought and died in the Battle of Medina. Peter Sides is one of over 50 Patriots of the American Revolution believed to have been buried in Texas.”



Many flags and uniforms were in evidence at the ceremony.

The Gutierrez-Magee Expedition formed the Republican Army of the North, and won all the preceding battles and declared Texas free from Spain, including a battle at Nacogdoches, a four-month siege of the Presidio La Bahia, the Battle of Rosillo, and the Battle of Alazan. The Republic of Texas ended with the Battle of Medina on August 18, 1813. After the battle, the Royalist Army went to San Antonio and imprisoned many of the residents of the city.

*Upcoming Events:*  
*Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting*  
*Veterans Day Celebration*  
*No Chapter meeting in December*

*Board of Managers Meeting*  
*Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Galveston*

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*Editor note: Special thanks Stephen Tanner for photos.*

