

# Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

August 8, 2015

## I. Call to Order

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:00** a.m.

## II. Invocation

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

## III. Pledges

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The SAR pledge was led by **David Friels**.

## IV. Guest Introductions & Special Recognitions

There were **two** guests in attendance: compatriot **James Gibson** and compatriot **Mike Hutchins**.

## V. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month's Meeting

A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting. This motion was seconded, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## VI. Officer and Committee Reports

### A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer's Report**:

It was reported that a deposit had made to the checking account to reduce the amount of petty cash. It was recommended that the issue of raising chapter dues be deferred at this time. At present, chapter dues are \$9.50 annually.

### B. State Activities Report

District VP **Ron Carter** also presented the **State Activities Report**:

The State BOM will be held on the week-end of October 8-10. There will be various committee meetings held at that time. Online registration for this meeting is possible. **Ron Carter** and **John Anderson** will be attending the BOM which will be headed by Texas SAR President **Tom Lawrence**. Additionally, the topic of the **SAR poster contest for 2016** has been announced as "*The Winter at Valley Forge – December 1777 through June 1778.*" The Texas SAR will also be promoting the **CAR essay contest**.

There are two upcoming events of particular interest to our Arlington chapter. In September, Lynde Myner will be make a presentation related to the war in Viet Nam. In October, there will be a major genealogical event at the Library in Waco on October 16<sup>th</sup> -the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday night. This event is located near the Heart of Texas SAR chapter.

### C. Registrar's Report

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report**:

1. There has been no change in membership since last month. According to the Texas SAR online roster, our Arlington chapter has **33** active compatriots, including **6** junior chapter members as of August 8, 2015.
2. Current applications in progress are: **John "Jack" Davis**, husband of DAR Nancy Davis, and **Corey Walker**, father with 2 sons and 2 grandsons

### D. Webmaster's Report

Webmaster **John Anderson** presented the **Webmaster's Report**:

1. Our chapter homepage is at [www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington) or [www.texassar.org/Arlington](http://www.texassar.org/Arlington)
2. Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,867+ total hits (accesses) to this website.
3. Please click on your Compatriot Profile at <http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/roster.php> and contact me if it needs revision.
4. Also, contact me if you wish to be added to the "Speakers Bureau" at <http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/speakers.php>
5. Recent pictures are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php)
6. Scrapbook videos are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php)
7. Also, included is the link to the "TX SAR and You" by Bob Cohen.
8. John Anderson thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
9. Once enrolled, the online **private** chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com>

10. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions.

## E. Grave Marking Committee Report

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Grave Marking Committee Report**:

1. The Arlington chapter has two Texas Society SAR Past Presidents both buried in the Arlington Cemetery at 801 Mary Street. They are cousins and are: **Benton Carter Collins**, 1893-1972, TX SAR President 1942, unmarked. **Dr. Valin Ridge Woodward**, 1890-1969, TX SAR President 1938, previously marked.
2. Both descend through maternal lines to their common ancestor Patriot **William Terrell Lewis** of Surry Co, NC. He was active in the organization of troops in Hanover Co, VA and the suppression of Tories in Surry Co, VA. Both descend through paternal lines to their common ancestor **Mary Susannah Wallace** 1742-1781, wife of **Thomas Collins**. She is identified as a cousin in my line. Therefore, I am related to both these Compatriots, but have no relationship to **William Terrell Lewis**.
3. The grave marking is not yet scheduled, but due to other conflicts will probably be scheduled by the North Texas SAR Color Guard to be in the February-April 2016 timeframe.
4. It is currently estimated to have expenses of approximately \$100 per marker, and \$75 for supplies. More on this will follow in the coming months. Fund raising options being considered include "Pass the hat", or "Raffle an extra marker."
5. Suggested invitees are Collins & Woodward families, Arlington Historical Association, Arlington Genealogical Society, local city government, local DAR chapters and BSA scouts, N. TX SAR Color Guard, and local area SAR chapters.

## F. Historian's Report

Historian **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

<sup>11.</sup> **Kevin Jorrey** noted that there was no additional information to add at this time.

## G. Veteran Coordinator's Report

President **David Friels** presented the **Veteran Coordinator's Report**:

President **David Friels** described the Veteran's Welcome Home celebration parade, with emphasis on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war in Viet Nam. The parade and subsequent events took place in a small park near the Carswell Base. There were twenty to thirty booths with groups including three or four chapters of DAR and SAR, and other veteran-related organizations. One of the exhibits included a dart throw at "Hanoi Jane."

## VII. New & Unfinished Business

### A. Treatment of Historical Figures

Based on a previous Arlington chapter discussion of the unfortunate public treatment of certain historical figures, a draft of a more formal document of support is now being considered. This chapter concern will then be forwarded to the state chancellor for statewide consideration.

### B. Kroger's Support of Non-Profit Organizations

**Richard Coffey** attended a meeting of the Arlington Genealogical Society. It was noted that Kroger has donated funds to support such non-profit organizations (Form 501c)

### C. Eagle Scout Ceremony

Compatriot **Kyle Rankin** was recently awarded with the rank of Eagle Scout with three palms. Compatriot **Ron Carter** recognized two Eagle Scouts with SAR certificates for their accomplishments at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

### D. SAR Chapter Dues

The Fort Worth SAR Chapter has proposed raising chapter dues. The issue of raising chapter dues for the Arlington SAR chapter was tabled for further discussion at the September chapter meeting.

## VIII. Presentation by Bill Covington

Compatriot **Bill Covington** gave a presentation on the **Frigate South Carolina**. Ten facts that Bill Covington has written on this topic include:

**When the frigate South Carolina was captured on December 20, 1782 just off Cape Henlopen and taken to New York City, it was found that among her crew members were about fifty former Hessian soldiers.** It was not unusual for men to desert during the American Revolution and join the other side in the conflict. There are records of this happening until late in the war. But, what is so unusual about this is that these men had all been captured with General "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne at Saratoga over five years earlier.

Also, the means by which these men came to be on board the ship is a story in itself. According to Dr. Lewis's book, Neptune's Militia, page 89, **the Germans/Hessians were all members of regiments or units that had surrendered**

**with John Burgoyne at Saratoga on October 17, 1777.** They had been in captivity for about five years at this point in time, so there was a bond or cohesiveness between them.

Again, according to Neptune's Militia, **there were four regiments that were represented among these "volunteers"**.

The Regiment Erbprinz was represented by thirty, at least, with the von Reidesel Regiment being represented by fourteen. The balance of these troops were made up of members from Lt. Col. de Menges Battalion of Grenadiers and the von Specht Regiment.

**After the frigate *South Carolina* was taken into New York City, a board of investigation was formed by the Crown Forces, then occupying the city.** The purpose for this board of investigation was twofold. First, it was "...appointed to examine the causes of the German soldiers entering into the rebel service on board the frigate *South Carolina*." Second, it was to inquire as to the treatment received from the enemy." All the information this board gathered from interviewing the captive Hessians were written in the form of a deposition and sent to their higher military authorities. Their story, contained in this deposition, is an example of the types of conditions as well as pressures exerted on prisoners of war by the rebel jailers.

**On July 30, 1782, the captive Hessians were visited by an American clergyman.** He said that, "The King of Great Britain refused to pay for their maintenance, their Tyrant princes also had abandoned and sold them, the Congress did therefore leave it to their choice, either to enlist in the American Service, or pay 30 pounds currency of Pennsylvania for their past maintenance in hard money, which sum if they would not afford to pay, the farmers would advance for them on binding themselves to serve them for three years, in both cases they must take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States."

**This clergyman did strongly advise them to "...enter into military service,** than submit to the disposal of the farmers, to which he added, that everyone who should enlist as a soldier, was to receive eight dollars bounty, and one hundred acres of good land in America after the war."

**Slightly more than a week later, on August 8, 1782, the captive Hessians received two visitors rather than one.**

These visitors were General Benjamin Lincoln and Brigadier General Moses Hazen. They delivered the very same proposal but, with a bit more forcefully and succinctly.

**According to the statements given by the men that formed this written deposition, "...as to the serving on the [frigate] *South Carolina*, they had been urged to do this by the American Commodore for six months, after which time they were assured they would have their liberty and allowed to go where they pleased."** This "American Commodore" is almost certainly a direct reference to Commodore Alexander Gillon. Gillon was fluent in both Dutch and German and could have easily and forcefully made a plea for the service of the Hessian prisoners of war on board the frigate *South Carolina*.

**Even "...many of the King's friends advised them to do this in the hope that the frigate would soon be taken by the King's ships."** Where and how these prisoners of war would have had contact with "the King's friends" or loyalists is somewhat interesting. These could have been local people who kept quiet about their true sentiments during the war or possibly, even spies who stayed close to the Hessian prisoners as they saw the war drawing down to a conclusion.

It is uncertain how many of the German prisoners of war, if any, indentured themselves to the farmers of the environs of Lancaster and Reading. **But, at least 50 of these same Hessians chose to enlist as marines on board the frigate *South Carolina*.**

## **IX. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction**

At approximately 10:30 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition, and Chaplain **Bill Covington** gave the benediction.

## **XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information**

**Attendance for the August meeting** included **two** guests and **ten** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, Bill Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, & Ray Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **September 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr  
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