



THE MINUTEMAN



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August 2000

President's Message

by J. Mark Hansen

A Revolutionary Diversity

Last month, in honor of Independence Day, I was invited to address a gathering of employees at the Procter & Gamble manufacturing plant in Sherman, Texas, on the subject of diversity in the American Revolution. I fashioned my remarks from many valuable sources on the Internet, including especially <http://americanrevolution.org>. I also leavened my remarks with the sage comments of some of our compatriots on the SAR talk website (SAR-TALK-L@rootsweb.com). Here is the full text of my speech:

“The Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, congressionally chartered and over a century old, is open to any man eighteen years of age or older who can prove his descent from one who rendered a patriotic service during the Revolutionary War. Some of our most well-known patriot ancestors were rich merchants or landowners like Hancock, Jefferson and Washington. Some were professionals like Dr. Benjamin Bush and lawyer John Adams. Most, like the embattled farmers and tradesmen who stood at Lexington and Concord, were ordinary white men of average means with above-average courage and hopes for the future of their families and their country.

“But we Sons of the American Revolution also include descendants of men like Crispus Attucks, a man of mixed black and Indian blood, 6’2” tall (a giant of a man for his time), who, in 1770, was among the demonstrators shot to death by British soldiers in the Boston Massacre. Descendants of men like Bernardo de Galv ez, for whom the City of Galveston is named, who led an expedition that captured British forts at Pensacola, Florida, and on the Mississippi, in 1781. (Galv ez, at the time, was governor of New Orleans and later became Viceroy of Mexico.) Our Society also includes descendants of women like Margaret Corbin. Dubbed ‘Captain Molly,’ she was the first woman to serve as a soldier during the American Revolution and took over for her husband serving an artillery piece when he was killed at the Battle of Fort Washington, New York, in 1776. She continued to fight in the battle

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August Meeting

Jaan McCoy of Legends 77 KAAM radio is our August 12 guest speaker. Her topic will be “How to Start Your Own Radio station—Three Times!”

For future program suggestions, feel free to call 1st VP Gary Sisson at 214-

Darlene Neuhaus spoke at our July 8 meeting about Colonial Costumes and Uniforms. See “Exhorta-tion” on page 2.



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until she herself suffered a terrible wound in the arm, resulting in a permanent disability.

"All of you, I am sure, recall another 'Molly' of Revolutionary War fame—Molly Pitcher (real name: Mary Ludwig)—who served as an ammunition runner at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Carrying artillery shells from supply to cannon was a task usually performed by *men* of great strength and stamina. Molly not only possessed those qualities, but was said to smoke a pipe, chew tobacco, and swear like a trooper! Once during the battle, a cannon ball passed directly between Molly's legs without doing any damage other than carrying away the lower part of her petticoat. (This, I submit, was the first demonstration of *one* way, at least, in which women will always be better fitted than men for combat!) "The black men who served in the Revolution were either free men who volunteered or slaves who fought in exchange for their freedom. One free black who was wealthy, James Harris, of Charles City County, Virginia, was able to afford a substitute to fight in his place in 1780 after Harris was drafted. (Wouldn't it be ironic if the man Harris paid to fight in his place was white!?) Many white slave owners who could afford substitutes, when faced with a draft notice, presented a slave to the recruiting officer, declaring him a free man and a substitute. During the terrible winter of 1777-78, dozens of black Virginians served in every one of that state's regiments, freezing, starving, and dying at Valley Forge. (One of my own patriot ancestors, William Young, was a private in one of those Virginia regiments.)

"When the French and American armies joined forces in July 1781 and marched on Yorktown, Virginia, one observer estimated the American army to be about one-fourth black. Thus, on the eve of its decisive victory over British general Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, the Continental Army had achieved a degree of integration it would not achieve again for another 200 years. Among the troops was the all-black First Rhode Island Regiment, which one observer considered the best American unit: 'The most neatly dressed, the best under arms, and the most precise in its maneuvers.'

"One black man in particular who rendered a patriotic service at Yorktown was James Armistad. Born a slave, Armistad risked his life behind enemy lines as a double agent for the Continental Army, furnishing valuable information to the Marquis de Lafayette that enabled the French commander to check the troop advances of Cornwallis. This set the stage for Washington's victory at Yorktown and the end of the Revolutionary War. In recognition of his services, Armistad, who later added the name Lafayette to his own, was granted his freedom by the Virginia legislature in 1786, and some of his descendants now live in San Bernardino, California.

"The ideals of the American Revolution, which we celebrate every Fourth of July, transcend race and gender, embracing *all* who love liberty. One historian has said: 'We have always been a diverse nation, and we need to

EXHORTATION

by Compatriot Charles Baker

The Dallas Chapter needs more members in its color guard. The striking Minuteman uniforms make some of the best P.R. tools we have. Had it not been for my seeing Dick Arnold and Art Ingalls in their uniforms at the funeral of a mutual friend three years ago, I would have never known about the SAR. "Now I am one."

Darlene Neuhaus, our July meeting speaker, is an excellent source of uniforms and other period costumes. Several members of our chapter, including me, are satisfied customers. If interested, you may call her for information at 817-496-4160; e-mail at <DMNeuhaus@peoplepc.com

THE MINUTEMAN is the monthly newsletter of the Dallas Chapter-Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit organization. (All photos by Charles Baker)

Meetings are held on the Second Saturday of each month at Luby's Cafeteria, 6221 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. Coffee served with fellowship at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, and meeting from 8:30 'til 9:30. Guests are welcome at our

THE GENEALOGY CORNER

by Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr.
TXSSAR Genealogist

Several internet sites of interest:

Mexican War Service — U.S. Officers Database at <http://www.walika.com/aztec/search1.htm>;

Scotland — Links to sites that offer free Scottish genealogy lookups at <http://scottishclans.cjb.net>; and (3)

Texas Birth and Death Indexes. Birth indexes (1926-1995) and death indexes (1964-1998) are available (free) on the Internet at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bvs/registra/index.htm>.

Texas Birth Records (1926-1949) has 3,211,268 records with 164,733 surnames. This set has more information, including the parents' names -

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/birth/general/search.cgi>

Texas Birth Summary Records (1950-1995) has 11,974,269 records with 308,979 surnames - for births from - <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/birth/summary/search.cgi>

Texas Marriage Records (1966-1995) contains 5,269,009 records - <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/marriage/search.cgi>

Texas Divorce Records (1968-1997) contains 2,543,376 divorce records - <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/divorce/search.cgi>

CHAPTER NEWS

The Dallas Chapter was saddened to learn, in July, of the deaths of Compatriot **The Rev. Clayton Bell, Sr.**, and former Compatriot **Emerson Chester**. Rev. Bell was senior pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church for over 25 years. Mr. Chester died at the age of 103!

Did you see Compatriots **Richard Arnold** (current TXSSAR president), **Ralph McDowell** and **Arthur Ingalls** (both past Dallas Chapter presidents), **Cliff and Jim Slagle**, and **Charles Baker** on television newscasts, marching in the Garland and Lake Highlands 4th of July Parades in their Revolutionary War uniforms? See below.

Compatriots **Grant Hunter Laughlin**, **Howard Case**, and **Col. Graham Martin** have received supplemental ancestor certificates.

OFFICER REPORTS

Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 289.

At the July meeting, there were 42 members and 5 guests.

Don Hay, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Regular Checking: \$ 3469.35

Endowment Funds: \$ 29,561.05

Jack Carney, Treasurer

CONSTITUTION WEEK BRUNCH

The Dallas Area Regents Council of the Daughters of the American Revolution invite all the members of the SAR to the Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 golfing Green, Farmers Branch, TX on **Saturday, September 16, 2000**, beginning at 10:00 AM. This year's program will be presented by Compatriot Frank Gibson, of the SAR Austin Chapter. The cost of this year's brunch will be \$17.00 per person. Please make your checks payable to; Dallas Area Regents Council and send to Mrs. Cindy White, 14709 Marsha, Balch Springs, TX 75180-3606. If you should have any questions you may call Comp. John Warterfield at 214/361-2721 or Mrs. Cindy White at 972/286-3698. **Reservation deadline: September 6.**



The Dallas Chapter SAR Color Guard marched in the Lake Highlands July 4 Parade, for which Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk was the Grand Marshall. Above, Compatriots Art Ingalls, Cliff Slagle (face covered), Jim Slagle, Ralph McDowell and Charles Baker are shown behind Mayor Kirk and his children.

YOUR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter Registrar **Don Hay** was born in Kansas in 1936 but came to Texas as fast as he could, arriving in 1942. He was raised in Borger, an oil town in the Texas Panhandle.

Don earned a BS in electrical engineering at Texas Tech University in Lubbock in 1958 and came to Dallas to work for Chance Vought Aircraft. He earned an MS in electrical engineering from SMU in 1964 and an MBA in 1980. Don spent most of his career with Texas Instruments and UTL Corporation doing digital design. He spent the last five years of his career at DSC Communications, which has since become Alcatel, retiring in 1998.

Don and his wife have two daughters and four grandchildren who all live on the East Coast.

Don learned to enjoy family history research from his father and also enjoys all kinds of sports, as a spectator, from high school to professional.

