



THE MINUTEMAN

Volume VII, Issue 10

Dallas Chapter, TXSSAR, Founded July 4, 1929

October 2002

President's Message



Let's Exercise Our Rights

With the approaching national elections, it behooves us to make ourselves aware of where our country is, and where it is going. Serious consideration is not often given to exercising our obligation to vote. I use the term *obligation* because voting is not compulsory in the United States as it is in some nations.

In the recent past, interest in "off year" elections has been very low. The excuses given for not exercising our voting responsibilities are almost endless; vacations, fishing, golf, weddings, etc. But, there are very few legitimate reasons for not exercising our rights. If we do not exercise our voting privileges, we do not have a legitimate right to complain.

It is now time to decide what course we prefer for our local, state and national objectives. We might start by giving serious consideration to the things we feel are most important to us and our families. Make a list of factors we are most interested in and assign them a weighted value. When the list is completed and sorted, begin to evaluate all candidates for all offices.

The probability of finding any candidate that meets all of your criteria is very low. If no candidate meets your requirement for excellence, try to determine which will do the least harm to your desires. Skipping a vote on any office, because no candidate meets your requirements, accomplishes nothing.

Our local, state and national governments, are not perfect, but they are far superior to any anywhere else in the world. We can thank our founding fathers for that; but we can continue to try to improve them by exercising our responsibilities. Make a difference on November 5. **VOTE!!**

October 12 Meeting

Our speaker will be Byron Cain Jr., President of the British American Business Council. Byron plans and leads tours and International Business Delegations.

For future program suggestions, please feel free to call 1st VP **Jack Carney** at 972-401-1830.

During our September meeting, Betty Baskett, long-time volunteer in the Baylor Hospital ER, gave an inspiring account of her experiences there. ▶ ▶



Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership stands at 309.
Last meeting: 35 members, 4 guests.
Mel McCoy, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Checking & Cash: \$ 2940.53
Endowment Funds: \$ 34,466.17
Tom Smith, Treasurer

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

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 9:45. Guests are welcome at our meetings.

CHAPTER MEETING NEWS



Clockwise from upper left, (1) Dallas Chapter President **Cliff Slagle** enjoys a laugh at the September meeting; (2) Compatriot **Ed Nace** introduced Speaker Betty Baskettt; (3) **Art Ingalls** delivered his funny (?) of the month; (4) **Dick "Big Tex" Arnold** showed off the plaque that was presented to him at the District SAR Meeting: "Col. Richard F. Arnold - In appreciation for serving as Commander of the South Central District Color Guard of the Sons of the American Revolution - 24 August 2002 - Kansas City, MO"; (5) **Tom Whitelock** displayed a book on the History of TXSSAR, that he is selling for \$15 each, to help defray the expenses of compiling and maintaining the history of the Dallas Chapter; (6) Compatriots **Cliff Slagle**, **Ralph McDowell**, **Mel McCoy**, and **Willie Walker** participated in the Flag Day commemoration at Valley View Mall.



To see these pictures in color, check out our Chapter Website at
<http://sardallas.org>

While you are there, you can get lots of other useful information. There are links to Chapter Minutes, to the DAR and other organizations of interest, Chapter Officers, Minuteman Newsletter archives, and lots of other good info.



The SAR Color Guard is shown in its "Present Firelocks" position at the opening of the City of Coppell 9/11 Commemoration on September 11. The orchestra leader (back to camera) is about to raise his baton to direct the 200-voice choir (partly shown above) in the singing of the National Anthem. Dallas Chapter members shown are **Rick Fawkes**, **Charles Baker** (50-star), **Mel McCoy** (13-star), **Dick Arnold**, (Betsy Ross), **Tom Smith** (Grand Union flag), and **Jack Carney**.

Editor's Note: Our own Dallas Chapter Registrar, Mel McCoy and his wife Judy, are Directors of the Family History Center, 10701 East Lake Highlands Drive. This is one of a series of articles on Genealogy.

ANCESTRAL SEARCH - USING CENSUS RECORDS

Beginning with each decade since 1790, the U.S. Government has taken a census of the population. This can be a valuable tool in searching out one's ancestors. The Census is available for each decade up to 1930. However, the names of the children and spouses were not included until 1850. The Public Library in downtown Dallas has an excellent collection of these records. If they do not have it in their collection, it may be ordered from the Family History Centers or seen at the Southwest Regional Archives in Ft. Worth.

An index is available for most of these census records. The index for the years 1880 to 1910 are on microfilm and are called SOUNDEX. This is especially useful when you have only a state for the home of your ancestor. The term SOUNDEX derives from the fact that census takers would usually spell a name the way it sounded to them, and this might result in alternative spellings of a name. The code for finding names in the SOUNDEX is readily available wherever census records are located. When you find your family in the SOUNDEX it will give you the county, the enumeration district, and the page number where the person may be found on the full census record. Once your ancestor has been found, it is a good idea to check all the persons who live in the vicinity because a member of your family may have married someone from nearby. Also, aunts, uncles, and other relatives may be in the neighborhood.

The census is a sort of family history taken in ten-year increments. Each decade it would reveal which of the children has been added or moved away. It might reveal the approximate year when someone was born or died or married. If a family member is missing in the census a decade later, you could assume they have married, moved away, or deceased.

Recent technological advances have made it easier than ever to search these census records. The Family History Centers will soon have an internet connection to access the complete census records, and indexes are being made to assist in that search. This will make the census records even more available and useful. ~ Mel McCoy

