

THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT



Sons of the American Revolution Chapter #57 Longview, Texas

Volume 15, Number 1

August 5, 2021

AT LAST

Dear Patriots,

I am so glad that we can finally resume our meetings. This has been a very difficult year and I hope that all are ready to get out and about with caution. I would say that masks are certainly your choice. If you have any reservation about spacing, we will do everything to address that with you.

Our August meeting will focus on members. We will be inducting ten new members. Since that will be time consuming, along with catching up with business from last year, I am not planning to have a guest speaker. It will be entertaining enough to just visit with friends we have not seen in over a year.

As I write this we have just celebrated the 245th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A member of the Color Guard participated, in uniform, in his July 4th church service. He certainly added "Color" to the processional.

We will meet at Jason's Deli in Longview at 6:00 for dinner. The meeting will begin about 7:00 PM.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you and getting this year off to a really good start. Please plan to attend!

Gary Fletcher

MINUTES

The East Texas Chapter #57, TXSSAR, had no meeting for April 2, 2020 due to COVID 19. Our last meeting was February 6, 2020. Our Chapter along with all the other Texas Society Chapters discontinued meetings as recommended by the TXSSAR State President Drake Peddie. Your chapter officers have been busy during this idle time testing our ability to have chapter meetings using the ZOOM computer program. Thanks to Mickey Cole's effort, it was successful. Work was done to update for review our Constitution and By Laws. Hopefully as the distribution of the Covid vaccines increase we all can reach immunity and begin a normal life. We have made the decision to begin our current year, August 5, 2021. Hope to see you at this important meeting. Lets get this year off to a good start.

John Bolton, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

March / 2020- June/ 2021

Beginning Balance (03/1/2020)		\$1,224.49
Deposits: Memberships- New & Renewals	\$662.00	
Total Deposits:	\$662.00	
Checks: J. Bolton – Stamps	\$24.75	
J. Bolton – Stamps	\$55.00	
Total Checks:	\$79.75	
Ending Balance 06/30/2021		\$1,806.74

As indicated by the above dates (March 2020 through June 2021) this report included all Chapter transactions since the last official Newsletter publication dated April 2, 2020. The Treasurer's report for that publication was for the period ending February 2, 2020.

Mickey Cole, Treasurer

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS TO CHAPTER 57, TXSSAR LONGVIEW, TEXAS**MEMBER****ANCESTOR**

Dennis M. Beckham	John Ham	SC
Bennie I. Hair	John Hair	SC
Carl F. Hedges III	Charles Hedges	VA
Jeremy A. McReynolds	Richard Pennington	VA
Richard W. Blackwood	Abraham Tanner	VA
Jason B. Blackwood	Abraham Tanner	VA
Rodney D. Burrow	William Tatum	NC
James C. Phelps	William Whitfield II	NC
Joseph G. Hunt	Judkins Hunt	VA
Clarence V. Burns	Andrew Pickens	SC

VACCINATING AN ARMY

George Washington's Last Shot
To save His Troops from Smallpox

By Gabriella Ramsey

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington, Commander -in-Chief of the Continental Army, faces one of the greatest threats to his army. The threat is not bullets or bayonets, but smallpox. In 1775, Washington's Continental Army first encounters smallpox during the Siege of Boston. Smallpox is a virus that kills one out of every three people who get infected, and people in the Thirteen Colonies greatly fear the disease. Washington has to make a strategic decision whether to inoculate his troops or not. The decision has both pros and cons. After weighing the factors, George Washington pushes for his soldiers to be exposed to a mild form of smallpox, a very revolutionary decision. His decision to inoculate the entire Continental Army against smallpox is one of his greatest accomplishments, though it is much less known than his other accomplishments such as beating the British and becoming the first president of the United States.

Washington now faces the difficult decision of whether to inoculate his army or not. Soldiers who get inoculated develop a mild case of smallpox, but most of them will survive. After being inoculated, people have a lifelong immunity to the disease. However, there are three problems with inoculating the soldiers. The first issue is that inoculated soldiers can actually spread the disease before they are fully recovered. Second, soldiers cannot fight until they fully recover from their inoculation. Third, it is estimated as many as two percent of the soldiers can die from the inoculation. If too many soldiers die or are unable to fight and the British attack, Washington's Continental Army can lose. Then, there is also the problem of soldiers sneaking off and getting inoculated. Some fear getting the full disease so much that they inoculate themselves. These soldiers get the immunity they want, but they risk infecting their peers. Washington's other option is to do nothing except isolate sick soldiers and hope a major smallpox outbreak does not happen.

After much deliberation, Washington decides to inoculate the entire Continental Army on February 5, 1777. He sends a letter to John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress, with his order to have all soldiers inoculated. To help make this decision, he reflects on his own experience. He had recovered from smallpox and went on to have an active life in the military. He also believes it is better to "use preventatives, than alternatives," believing that illnesses are "easier prevented than cured". With speed and secrecy, because Washington does not want the British to learn of his plan, the Continental Army soldiers receive the inoculation. New soldiers are inoculated and quarantined before joining the army. Washington also orders the civilian population of Philadelphia to be inoculated.

In the end, Washington's decision pays off. Less than one percent of the continental Army died from inoculation. Washington makes good on his promise that he will "continue his utmost Vigilance against this most dangerous enemy". Inoculation is likewise implemented across the Colonies.

All Continental troops are now immune to the disease. No longer having to worry about smallpox, Washington and his army concentrate on defeating the British. America won the Revolutionary War with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783. While Washington's decision to inoculate the entire Continental Army against smallpox greatly influences the outcome of the war, it remains one of less known accomplishments. Without Washington's decision to inoculate, American Independence may never have been achieved.

Officers of the Sons of the American Revolution, Chapter #57

President	Gary Fletcher	903-236-7717	garyf91113@aol.com
1 st Vice Pres.	Joel (Barney) Jones	430-625-7488	racbarj@gmail.com
2 nd Vice Pres.	Carl Hedges, Jr.	903-693-3880	cfhedges@sbcglobal.net
Secretary:	John Bolton	903-988-1591	johnsbolton8@gmail.com
Treas.	George Mickey Cole	903-399-9796	gmic10@gmail.com
Registrar:	John S. Bolton	903-988-1591	johnsbolton8@gmail.com
Historian:	George Mickey Cole	903-399-9796	gmic10@gmail.com
Chaplain	J.D. Denton	903-236-0896	rkdenton@sbcglobal.net



Chapter #57 Officers for 2021

John Bolton, Gary Fletcher, J.D. Denton, Carl Hedges, Barney Jones, Mickey Cole

Congratulations to our Members who submitted Ancestor Supplements

Kenneth P. Blount	Henry Ware	SC Militia	Approved 1-17-2020
Dennis M. Beckham	Blasingame	SC Militia	Approved 6-11-2021
Dennis M. Beckham	Loony	SC Militia	In Review
John S. Bolton	Robert Rankin	VA	In Review

Our next meeting will be August 5, 2021 at Jason's Deli in Longview. Dinner (Dutch Treat) at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. You are encouraged to attend and support Chapter #57.