



THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT

Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter # 57 Longview, Texas



Volume 9, Number 7

December 3, 2015

President's Message

BOO!-Happy Halloween. Gobble-Gobble!-Happy Thanksgiving Ho-Ho-Ho!-Merry Christmas. It now seems as if all three seasonal events have become rolled into one which I regret.

Halloween was a neat fun time growing up. What kind of costume to wear and when can we go "Trick or Treat". I remember one sweet lady that placed a large bowl of candy in a chair on her front porch with a sign that said, "Gone to the Carnival, help yourself, and remember others." Years later she told me that the bowl was never empty when she returned home. Sadly I was living in Houston when the "Halloween Pixy Stick murder" took place. The candy salesman was a friend and the event changed his life as well as our nation on a fun event for our children.

Because of "Black Friday" the holiday of Thanksgiving has almost become just a day to eat before shopping until you drop. Thanksgiving is a time for families to assemble for a meal. Each family will break bread together and share memories. What will you be thankful for this year? Be sure and share what you are thankful for with the family especially the young ones for this is how we establish our heritage and the future.

Now for the rush to the stores and malls for the sales and completing your shopping list. I am so glad that I am not Santa Claus and have to keep us with all of the gifts for the children of the world. I have trouble enough with my list. What to buy, Where is the better price? What size? Then, we have to decorate the house inside and out. However, is it not a beautiful time to drive the neighborhoods to see all of the decorations while listening to holiday music.

Be sure to take time to reflect upon that first Christmas. What really took place with the birth of this child? How this event changed our world?

Just a Grandparent thought, "What was the reaction of Mary's mother and father when they were told of the upcoming birth?" Do you remember when you were told that you were becoming a grandparent?

Pause and remember that on December 25, 1776, Washington with 5,400 troops crossed the Delaware River. The hardships faced by George Washington and the army at Valley Forge on Christmas 1777. The number of our armed forces that have in the past and present that have or will spend this time away from their families. Take a moment this Christmas to remember them and the true reason of the Christmas season.

Hope each of You and Your Families have a Merry Christmas.

Carl



“Instruments of the Revolution” will be the program topic for our speaker, Dwaine Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard is Director of Bands and Professor of Instrumental Music at Panola College in Carthage, TX. Prior to Panola, Dwaine spent 17 years at Hallsville ISD and 23 years at Carthage ISD. He is a native of Zwolle, LA and has a Bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Music degree from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. Dwaine and his wife, Kay, also serve on the staff of the First United Methodist Church in Carthage. Dwaine is the minister of music and director of choirs. He is an accomplished musician, singing with the Panola College Chorale and in church. He also plays trombone with the big band “Sounds of Swing.”



Minutes and Treasurer’s Report for August 6, 2015

The East Texas Chapter #57, TXSSAR, met on October 1, 2015, at Casa Ole’ Restaurant in Longview, Texas at 7 PM. The meeting was called to order by President, Carl Hedges. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain, Mack Bond. The pledges to the United States flag, the Texas flag and the SAR flag were given. Guests were introduced.

The meeting resumed with the acceptance of the Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer’s report as printed in the newsletter. Old business and new business were discussed. Under new business the nominating committee made its report. The following have been nominated as officers for the next two years. Pres: Carl Hedges; V. Pres; Page Johnson; 2nd V.Pres, Warren Hunt; Sec/Treas: Gary Fletcher; Registrar, John Bolton. Those nominated will be voted on at the next meeting.

President Hedges conducted the induction of two new members, Mickey Cole of Hallsville and David Conner of Kilgore. Mrs. Cole pinned the SAR Rosette on her husband’s lapel and Nancy Fletcher pinned the rosette on Mr. Conner. Both men were welcomed into Chapter 57.

The speaker, Liz Hedges, was introduced. Her topic for the evening was “Colonial Superstitions.”

The next meeting will be on Thursday December 3, 2015 at CASA OLE’ Restaurant, 280 Spur 63, Longview, Texas. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

With no other announcements, the meeting was closed with the SAR Closing and a Benediction. Those attending were: Carl & Liz Hedges, John & Betty Harrison, Barney Jones, Nancy Fletcher, Page & Angie Johnson, John & Carroll Bolton, Mack & Martha Bond, Mickey Cole, Dave Conner, Warren Hunt and guests Carolyn Cole, Kathy Goodwin, J.D. Denton, Mrs. Denton, Michelle Thompson and Emma Thompson.



The treasurer’s report:

The current balance: \$1,619.56

Gary Fletcher
Secretary/Treasurer



Chapter 57 will induct 2 new compatriots into our chapter at the December 3 meeting. These two men were slated to be inducted in October but were unable to attend.

Rory Still Collum, ancestor: Benajah Doty, major in the Onslow Regiment,
NC Militia

Philip Thomas Pegues, ancestor: Claudius Pegues, Jr. Captain in the Pee Dee
Militia at Cheraw Dist. SC

Please make all of our new members welcome as they join us to support Chapter 57.



Christmas in the Colonies

The Christmas season will soon be upon us, so I thought this topic would be appropriate. In the 17th and early 18th century Colonial America, a Christmas celebration did not resemble the festivities that we are familiar with today. The bright and joyful holiday we celebrate as Christmas, arguably the most popular holiday in all of America, was seen in a very different light. Instead of lavishly decorating the town and cheerfully celebrating the holiday spirit, those of America's early years took a very indifferent attitude toward Christmas.

As one historian said, "Christmas in colonial America did not resemble the brightly lit festivities we celebrate today. In fact, many colonial religious banned celebrations of the holiday, claiming that it was tied to pagan traditions. In 1659, a law was enacted in Massachusetts to punish anyone who "... is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, any such days as Christmas day, shall pay for every such with offense five shillings." The Quakers treated Christmas Day as any other day of the year. The Presbyterians did not have formal Christmas Day services until they noticed that their members were heading to the Anglican Church to observe the Christmas services. This sparked the Presbyterian Church to start services of their own."

There can be little argument that many of the festivities we use to commemorate Christmas are deeply rooted in pagan tradition. In today's society this is hardly noticed, but in Colonial America it was a well known fact, which turned many Christians off to the holiday. It wasn't until the mid to late part of the 19th century that Christmas took on a central role in American holidays. There is no doubt that the spirit of Christmas has evolved right along with our nation.

We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! *John and Carroll*

One of our newest members, Mickey Cole, is now the Web-Master for Chapter 57. To get to Chapter 57's web site, go to txssar.org



SAR Chapter 57 Officers

President	Carl Hedges, Jr.	903-693-3880	cfhedges@sbcglobal.net
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2 nd Vice Pres.	Dr. Warren Hunt	903-758-5276	warrenhunt@usa.net
Registrar	Page Johnson	903-236-7717	garyf91113@aol.com
Chaplain	James M. Bonds	903-656-1113	mbonds@classicnet.net



From Left: Carl Hedges, Mickey & Carolyn Cole, Dave & Kathy Goodwin, and John Bolton

**Color Guard Reminder**

The East Texas Color Guard is recruiting new members to support the East Texas heritage events.
Contact: John Bolton for more information – 903-988-1591 or (cell) 903-399-4344

Remember—We meet at Casa Ole' on December 3 !!