

# THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT



## Sons of the American Revolution Chapter #57 Longview, Texas

Volume 15, Number 3 December 2, 2021

### President's Message

Hello Patriots,

Fall and football season is here and the Holiday Season will be soon! We had a great October meeting with a slate of new officers being presented. During the December meeting we will be electing the new officers. To our new members, we invite you to come to meetings and participate.

The officers that have been nominated are:

President:	Mickey Cole
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Gary Fletcher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Kenneth Blount
Chaplin:	J.D. Denton
Secretary:	Gregg Gilliland
Treasurer:	Gary Fletcher
Registrar:	William Cole

The next meeting will be December 2, 2021 at Jason's Deli in Longview at 6 PM for dinner. The business meeting will start after we eat about 6:30. I am working on a surprise program. Even Santa Claus might show up!

Have a very happy Thanksgiving. Look forward to seeing you in December.

Lest we forget!

*Gary Fletcher*  
*President*

**Our next meeting will be December 2, 2021, at Jason's Deli in Longview.  
Dinner (Dutch Treat) at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:45 pm. You are  
encouraged to attend and support Chapter #57**

### SAR CHAPTER MINUTES

The East Texas Chapter #57 met on October 7, 2021, at Jason Deli in Longview. The meeting was called to order by Gary Fletcher, President, and the opening prayer was given by J.D. Denton. The pledges to the American, Texas, and SAR flags were given

After dinner, the meeting resumed with the consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter. Both were accepted as printed.

Guests present were Jim Kuykendall, State President elect and William Sekel, Vice President of District 10.

President Fletcher reminded members to check email addresses as the newsletters will be emailed to members in the coming year.

John Bolton was presented the Roger Sherman medal by Mr. Sekel and the Medal of Appreciation was presented to Mrs. Carroll Bolton. He encouraged more wives to be involved in the SAR with their husbands and sons.

President Fletcher introduced Jim Kuykendall to the chapter. Mr. Kuykendall's program was entitled "It's Up to Me". He encouraged members to use information on the website. He stressed steps to put membership training into our organization and developing membership training.

The nominated officers for the coming year were introduced by President Fletcher. They will be elected at the December meeting. After the SAR closing was recited, the benediction was given by J.D. Denton. The meeting was adjourned.

***John Bolton, Secretary***

### SAR CHAPTER TREASURER'S REPORT

September – October 2021

Beginning Balance (09/1/2021)		\$1,841.13
Deposits: Memberships- New & Renewals	\$80.00	
Club Donations	\$54.35	
Total Deposits:		\$134.35
Checks: J. Bolton- Supplies	\$48.62	
Total Checks:		\$48.62
Ending Balance 10/31/2021		\$1,926.86

***Mickey Cole, Treasurer***

## **Christmas During the American Revolutionary War**

The American Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence was fought between Great Britain and the thirteen British colonies between the years 1775 and 1783. The mutinous colonists declared themselves no longer allied with the crown and kicked off an eight year struggle against the political and economic policies of the British Empire. The Declaration of Independence was signed during the revolution in 1776 and declared the thirteen colonies, now to be separately charted and governed, the United States of America.

It is accepted among some historians that Hessians soldiers who fought alongside the British first introduced the Christmas tree to the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Others claim German immigrants who settled in Eastern Pennsylvania started the tradition. All agree that prior to the Revolutionary War, Christmas was not celebrated with much merriment and outward adornment, as this did not befit the proper Puritan standards.

The month of December was ironically a turning point many times during the war. It was on November 28, 1775 that Congress established The American Navy. December 23 of that same year King George III issued a royal proclamation closing the American colonies to all commerce and trade, to take effect in March of 1776. Also in December, Congress was informed that France might offer support in the war against Britain.

On January 5, 1776, the assembly of New Hampshire adopted the first American state constitution. It was on January 9, 1776, that Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was published in Philadelphia. Paine criticized King George III and attacked allegiance to the Monarchy in principle while providing strong arguments for American Independence. "*We have it in our power to begin the world anew... America shall make a stand, not for herself alone, but for the world,*" Paine wrote.

On December 6, 1776, the British captured the navel base at Newport, Rhode Island. On the 11th of that month, Washington took his troops across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The next day, over concerns of a possible British attack, the Continental Congress abandoned Philadelphia for Baltimore. Among Washington's troops was the infamous Thomas Paine, who wrote of that event, "*These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country: but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.*"

December 25, 1776, saw George Washington taking 2400 of his men and recrossing the Delaware River—this time to conduct a surprise raid on 1500 British-Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians surrendered after an hour with nearly 1000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffered only six wounded.

It was at Christmas-1783-that General Washington chose to step down as leader of the Revolutionary Army. In late November 1783 when Washington finally received notice of the signing of a peace treaty with England. He had little more than a month to accept the transfer of power from British troops in New York; to bid farewell to his troops; and to resign his commission to Congress if he hoped to make it to Mount Vernon for Christmas.

His journey is one of the most moving and inspiring stories from his great and eventful life. When he told his troops farewell at Fraunces Tavern, there were no dry eyes. When he gave his retirement speech to Congress, it cemented his greatness more fully than his victory over the British. When he finally made it to Mount Vernon on Christmas Eve, it could not be a happier homecoming.

It has been said that Christmas not only brought us the Prince of Peace, it has also brought us the freedom to worship the Prince of Peace in the manner that we as a free nation choose.

***Merry Christmas to All!***

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Jim Kuykendall—State President Elect SAR



William Sekel with John & Carroll Bolton