



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Chisholm Trail News

Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter

Fort Worth, Texas

11 March 2018



NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2018 **TIME:** 9:00 am **LOCATION:** Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Hello Compatriots:

We are off to a great start for 2018. As of March 1st, we have enrolled and added 8 new members to our membership roll. We will induct some of these at the upcoming meeting on March 17th.

We are looking forward to your assistance by getting the word out to your Sons, Brothers, Nephews, Fathers, and any Friends who may be interested. Registrar David Davidson is moving into his new position rapidly and stands ready to assist.

We awarded three Martha Washington Medals and one SAR Medal of Appreciation this past month to DAR members who have provided support to our Chapter, mostly in the form of Recruiting new members.

Lastly, I want to remind you of the upcoming State Convention on April 5-8 at the Hyatt Regency North Dallas, 701 East Campbell Road (@US75-N), Richardson, TX 75081. This is a wonderful adventure in the operation of the Sons of the American Revolution, and we urge you to attend as much as you can.

Hope to see you at our meeting on March 17th.

Gerry

CHAPTER OFFICERS 2018-2019

- President
Gerald A. "Gerry" Gieger
- Vice-President
Charles O. "Chase" Sanger IV
- Secretary
Ronald J. "Ron" Turner
- Treasurer
L. Vaughn Oliver
- Registrar
David R. Davidson
- Chaplain
Roger L. Tate
- Sergeant-at-Arms & Color Guard
Commander
Robert G. "Bobby" Gresham



This Month during the Revolutionary War (1776-1780):

In March of 1776, Silas Deane travels to France on a secret mission. He is instructed by the Committee of Secret Correspondence that if he meets with French Foreign Minister Vergennes he is to stress America's need for military stores and assure him that the colonies are moving toward "total separation."

Congress supersedes a previous resolution sending General Charles Lee to Canada; he is ordered instead to take immediate command of the continental forces in the south where a British attack is expected.

American artillery bombard Boston from a redoubt at Lechmere Point.

King George concurs with Parliament that mercenaries fighting for Britain be dressed in British uniforms and not those of their home country.

The British begin their evacuation of Boston. General Howe reports that a combination of adverse factors led to the British evacuation of Boston: the fortifications on Dorchester Heights, a lack of supplies and tonnage, the need to preserve his army, and the non-strategic value of the city.

In Philadelphia, the Congress resolves to prohibit military officers from imposing loyalty oaths on the inhabitants of any colony.

In Baltimore, Maryland, a public notice announces: "The necessity of taking all imaginable care of those who may happen to be wounded in the country's cause, urges us to address our humane ladies, to lend us their kind assistance in furnishing us with linen rags and old sheeting, for bandages . . . "

Congress requests authorities in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey to hold their militias in readiness to march in defense of New York.

Abigail Adams urges her husband John to "Remember the Ladies" in making laws for the new nation, an important early plea for women's rights.

In 1777, American troops under the command of Brigadier General William Maxwell defeat the British at Amboy, New Jersey.

Congress issues a call for qualified foreign military experts through its agents in Europe.

American troops under the command of Brigadier General Alexander McDougall failed to stop British raiders from destroying magazines and storehouses in Peekskill, New York. Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett arrives with reinforcements from Fort Constitution and force a British withdrawal.

In 1778, the French ambassador informs the British that France now recognizes the United States. This is a virtual declaration of war, but hostilities do not commence immediately.

The House of Commons creates a peace commission to negotiate with the American patriots because of France's recognition of the United States. This commission travels to Philadelphia and accedes to all demands except for independence. The Continental Congress rejects their offer.

The same British forces that assaults Quintin's Bridge surprise the Continentals at Hancock's Bridge. In this engagement they not only kill several rebels, but inadvertently several known Loyalists.

Awards

President Gerry Gieger attended the DAR George Washington Banquet on February 17th and presented Martha Washington Medals and Certificates to Gwen Boyd, Regent, Mary Isham Keith Chapter, and Donna Moore, Nathaniel Mills Chapter of the NSDAR.



President Gerry Gieger presented the Medal of Appreciation Award to Linda Johnson, Mary Isham Keith Chapter, on March 1, 2018. Joining them was Gwen Boyd, Regent, Mary Isham Keith Chapter of the NSDAR.



In Memoriam



Kenneth Blake Pearce, M.D.
18 Nov 1931 – 12 Feb 2018
NSSAR 193198
Texas SAR 11953
Member since 12 Dec 2014

[Obituary](#)



George William Johnson
19 Jan 1932 – 16 Feb 2018
NSSAR 127155
Texas SAR 5473
Member since 24 Feb 1986

[Obituary](#)

Did you know?

S.A.R. President General, Larry Guzy, reports that Jonathan Toon, National Registrar, registered **4,895 new members** in 2017. There are now 36,961 total members in the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

February Minutes

Please review the minutes for our February chapter meeting prior to attending the next meeting in March.

<http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/docs/minutes/minutes201802.pdf>.

Washington's smallpox inoculation program was one of his best decisions of the war

Up until modern times, disease, not bullets, bayonets, or cannon fire, had been the great killer of soldiers in all armies. In 1775, smallpox had so devastated the American army in Canada that John Adams bemoaned that "...smallpox is ten times more terrible than the British, Canadians and Indians together."

Having survived his own bout with the smallpox in 1751, Washington was altogether familiar with how disease could rob the cause of a viable army. Not only would smallpox kill off soldiers in the ranks, but the threat of infection also scared away many of the recruits that Washington's army depended upon.

Starting during the winter of 1777 in Morristown, New Jersey, Washington took the bold and controversial move to have soldiers in his army inoculated against smallpox infection using a technique called variolation. Later during the winter encampment at Valley Forge, Washington went even further, demanding that his entire army be inoculated – an action that required great secrecy since inoculated soldiers were incapacitated for a period of time. By some reports, death by smallpox in the ranks dropped from 17% of all deaths to a low of 1% of all reported deaths – a tremendous reduction.

Historian Elizabeth Fenn, author of *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-1782*, claims that "Washington's unheralded and little-recognized resolution to inoculate the Continental forces must surely rank with the most important decisions of the war...."

The American's Creed

Written by William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

William Tyler Page (1868 – October 1942) was best known for his authorship of The American's Creed. He was the great-great-grandson of Carter Braxton, a member of the House of Burgesses of the Province of Virginia. Page also descends from the tenth US President, John Tyler. He served as a page in the US Capitol.

In 1917, at age 49, Page wrote "The American's Creed," as a submission to a nationwide patriotic contest which was inspired by the commitment at the beginning of the American entry into the First World War.

Inspired by thoughts on his way home from church, having just recited the Apostles' Creed, Page drew on a wide variety of historical documents and speeches, including the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the US Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, a speech by Daniel Webster, and text from Edward Everett Hale's 1863 patriotic short story, "The Man Without a Country."

His entry was chosen in March 1918. On April 3, 1918, it was accepted by the House Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Commissioner of Education on behalf of the American People.

Reporting Your SAR Activities

In last month's newsletter, you read about the Stark Report that the chapter must submit each year. This month, you will read about the Annual Report, the other main report that we must submit each year. There are 16 categories to this report and chapters and individuals may earn points for participation. In order to encourage compatriots to participate in Revolutionary War era uniforms or clothing, additional points may be earned for the wearing of a uniform or period attire. No additional points may be earned for carrying or firing a firearm at an event since laws allowing such firing vary from location to location. This month we will cover categories 1-8.

1. **Publicity from print & electronic media**

- a. Chapter newsletters and websites, including social media sites, are excluded.
- b. Each advertisement purchased in *The SAR Magazine* by a Chapter or a member on behalf of a business entity qualifies.

2. **Publicity through public broadcast media**

- a. Television coverage where the SAR is prominently displayed, depicted, or described
- b. Radio coverage where the on-air coverage in a news story prominently mentions the SAR or as a guest on a local talk program
- c. Internet where SAR is the owner of the website/social media site and is prominently displayed with current information updated on a regular basis

3. **SAR Speakers Bureau –**

- a. for establishing and publicizing a Speakers Bureau to deliver Patriotic, Historical, and Educational talks to Non-SAR organizations.
- b. Historical, Educational, and Patriotic Programs – classroom presentations
- c. Historical, Educational, and Patriotic Programs – organization presentations (SAR or non-SAR)
- d. Bonus points when presented in Revolutionary War Uniform or Colonial Clothing

4. **Multimedia Distribution** – for providing any CD distributed by the SAR to a radio station, television station, or a school (home, public, private or parochial)

5. **Support of the C.A.R. and DAR**

- a. Each dollar contributed to the C.A.R. by chapter
- b. For sponsoring a C.A.R. Society / Compatriot serving as a senior leader
- c. For each scheduled Business Meeting or Function with the C.A.R. and/or DAR attended by at least one SAR member.
- d. Bonus points when presented in Revolutionary War Uniform or Colonial Clothing

6. **Youth Programs**

- a. For chapter sponsoring a NSSAR Youth Program (Essay Contest, Eagle Scout Recognition, Oration Contest, ROTC/JROTC/Sea Cadet Recognition, Poster Contest, Brochure Contest, Youth Exchange Program, American History Teacher Contest)
- b. For each compatriot participant in the contests listed in 6A
- c. Awarding SAR Medals, Lapel Pins or Certificates to Non-SAR, youth participants in programs listed in 6A
- d. Bonus points when presented in Revolutionary War Uniform or Colonial Clothing

7. **Public Service Programs**

- a. For each Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS, or Heroism Medal presented with or without a certificate
- b. For each Chapter member serving on a local or state school board
- c. For providing an American Revolution exhibition or display in a museum, library, school, or public building or space
- d. For chapter sponsoring a Public Service Program with an SAR related theme or purpose or for sponsoring a Lineage/Genealogy/Historic Seminar or Workshop (includes public parades, Flag

Retirement Programs, Scout Merit Badge training, history fairs/National History Day, SAR related Proclamation Ceremony, etc.)

- e. Presentation of a framed copy of an Historical Document relating to the American Revolution, Constitution, Bill of Rights or other significant Revolutionary War document or the presentation of a **framed** George Washington Portrait to a school or other public building.
- f. Chapter participation in a New Citizen Swearing In Ceremony
- g. Member attendance at events described above in 7D, 7E and 7F
- h. Bonus points when presented in Revolutionary War Uniform or Colonial Clothing

8. Granting of Scholarships

- a. For each dollar of college scholarships or teacher educational grants given by the Chapter
- b. Bonus points when presented in Revolutionary War Uniform or Colonial Clothing

Next month...categories 9-16.

The Color Guard is always recruiting

Several times a year the Chapter is asked to present the colors or provide a color guard or honor guard for various civic functions. We are always looking for new members. Please contact the chapter color guard commander, Compatriot Bobby Gresham, at email address: gresham817@att.net.



Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of March 1, 2018, are:

Active / Current Member.....	96
NSSAR Life	4
TXSSAR Perpetual	13
Active / New Member.....	5
Active / Reinstated.....	1
Dual w/Other Primary State	1
Emeritus (50+ years)	1
Inactive by Member Request...2	
Junior SAR Member	4
Not Paid (Current Year).....	17
Not Paid (Dual State)	2
Reinstated / Transferred In.....	1
Transferred In	1
Memorial	0
Deceased.....	2

The membership currently is 110.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!!!

Visit our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/index.htm>.