

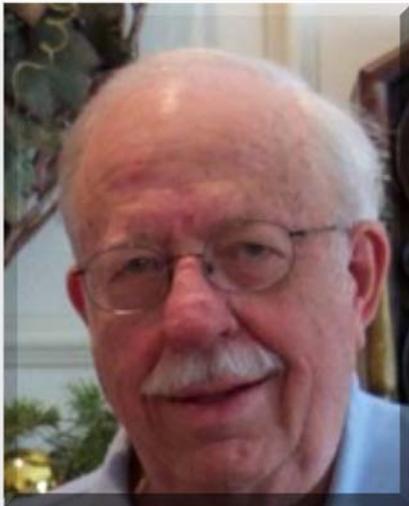


# Pine Shavings



**PineyWoods Chaptr #51  
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution**

## AUGUST 2015



It is the time of the year to plan for our youth programs and the fifth grade poster contest, which this year will be about a person. We need to see if there is someone or organization to award a Flag Certificate for flying the US Flag properly. A suggestion that Creekwood Middle, they have a Veterans Circle by Lake Houston Parkway. We need to recognize some Public Servants. The categories are Fireman, EMS, Police Officer or someone for heroism.

I have spent part of my summer connecting to cousins. I have found that my Smith cousins were close to my old hometown even though we were unaware of that fact at the time. This teaches that we should not ever stop looking because we may find family anywhere. I also may have found the father of my Patriot from an e-mail that I received from the DNA study that I participated in. The author of the e-mail noted that we had a close match. He also sent a picture of his ancestor, that when compared to a picture of my grandfather is a close resemblance.

We will spend time planning for the next year to provide programs for the Members and Guests meeting. I will encourage everyone to invite anyone that expresses an interest to one of the Members and Guests meeting. This makes it essential that each of the meetings be planned around interests of not only the members but also any guests that we may have invited.

Joe Potter, President



### Calendar of Events

#### National Society

**South Central District Meeting**— August 28th-29th, 2015  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Fall Leadership**— September 25th—27th, 2015  
Louisville, Kentucky



#### Texas Society

**TX SAR BOM** – October 9-11, 2015

### Meeting - August 20, 2015 Member Only

Jimmy G's  
307 N. Sam Houston E. Parkway,  
Greenspoint - 6:30 p.m.

### RSVP for the Meeting

Please respond with the number of people attending  
and names by Wednesday before the meeting date.  
ASAP to John Beard  
johnbeard@suddenlink.net or 281 258-2970

# May 2015—Piney Woods Meeting



President Joe Potter presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Captain Millican



The speaker for our member/guest meeting was US Coast Guard Captain James Brett Millican. Captain Millican is the commanding officer at Galveston. He attended the US Coast Guard Academy after graduating for Scarborough High School in Houston. He and his wife Leslie have four children.

His next assignment will be Boston. Captain Millican is the Nephew of our past Chapter President and our District 8 VP Larry Blackburn.

Captain Millican explained the function of the station in Galveston which had its duties somewhat expanded with the formation of the Department of Homeland Security. It was a natural fit for the Coast Guard there. He reminded us that the Coast Guard is one of the five military branches. They not only provide rescue services, but they protect the marine transportation system, both in inland waterways, along the coasts, and in international waters. The three broad roles of the Coast Guard are as follows: maritime safety, maritime security, and maritime stewardship. We were delighted to be invited to the station and wish Captain Millican success in Boston.





# This Month in the Revolution



**August 1, 1776 Seneca South Carolina and the site of Clemson University** -The Cherokees ambush the Patriots; the Patriots prevail with a mounted charge. Seneca Town, on the Seneca River E of present-day Seneca, was one of several Cherokee “Lower Towns.” On August 1, 1776, Maj. Andrew Williamson’s S.C. militia, on a raid against these towns, was ambushed by Loyalists and Cherokees nearby. The eventual Patriot victory was also notable for the death of Francis Salvador, the first Jewish Patriot killed during the Revolution.



**August 10, 1776** A group of Cherokees were defeated by a Patriot force, commanded by Maj. Andrew Pickens with more than 200 militia under his command. The Patriots then proceeded to raze the Indian towns of Tugaloo and Estatoe. Pickens was born in Pennsylvania of Scots-Irish and Huguenot stock. As a child his parents moved to the South Carolina frontier. In 1764 he located his plantation on land ceded from the Cherokee. His plantation was across the Seneca River from the Cherokee town of Isunigu. He had fought Cherokee from 1760, but historians state he was well regarded by the Native Americans.

Two days later Pickens and Andrew Williamson encountered a large war party of Cherokee near the Indian town of Tomassee. The Cherokee were defeated and their town was destroyed.

**August 27, 1776 Battle of Long Island (Battle of Brooklyn or Battle of Brooklyn Heights)** This was the first major battle of the Revolutionary War after the Declaration of Independence. It saw the most combatants in the entire war. Washington had driven the British from Boston in March of the year and intended to move into New York to protect the port and prevent the British navy from using it as a strategic foothold.



Washington dug in and waited for the British to attack. In July, the British, under the command of General William Howe, landed on Staten Island, where during the next month and a half they were slowly reinforced, bringing their total force to 32,000 troops. With the British fleet in control of the entrance to the harbor at The Narrows, Washington knew the difficulty in holding the city. Believing Manhattan would be the first target, he moved there the bulk of his forces.

On August 22 the British landed on the shores across from Staten Island and more than a dozen miles south from the established East River crossings to Manhattan. After five days, the British attacked American defenses on the Guan Heights. Unknown to the Americans, however, Howe had brought his main army around their rear and attacked their flank soon after. The Americans panicked, resulting in twenty percent losses through casualty or capture. The remainder of the army retreated to the main defenses on Brooklyn Heights. The British dug in for a siege but, on the night of August 29–30, Washington evacuated the entire army to Manhattan without the loss of supplies or a single life. Washington and the Continental Army were driven out of New York entirely after several more defeats, and forced to retreat through New Jersey and into Pennsylvania. Private Joseph Plumb Martin had an excellent account of this battle.

# 125th SAR Congress - Louisville, KY



Photos clockwise:

- Ask Dianne Jones why she gave Paul Wilke \$5 in change.
- TXSAR members at SCD Breakfast: (from 12 o'clock) Bill and Laura Watts, Joyce and Art Munford; Larry and Barbara Stevens, Alan Greene, Jim and Dianne Jones.
- Tom and Mickey Jo Lawrence
- Tom Lawrence taking the oath of office as NSSAR President General with granddaughter Lizzie holding the Bible
- Retiring PG Lindsey Brock and his lady Billie with President General Thomas Lawrence and his lady Mickey Jo
- TXXSAR members (from 12 o'clock) Allan Greene, Tom Jackson, Larry Stevens, John Beard, Ron Barker, and James T. Jones



# 125th SAR Congress - Louisville, KY



## Texas Dinner

Texas had forty-one delegates attend the Congress. While not a record was a great turn-out. PineyWoods was represented by John and Mary-Claire Beard, Jim and Dianne Jones, and Larry and Barbara Stevens. Our annual Texas dinner had a great turn out.

Pictured below are some of the Texas ladies.



# 125th SAR Congress - Louisville, KY



One of the highlights of the installation of a the new President General is the ceremony to place the signet ring of George Washington on the finger of the new PG. In the photo to the left the ring is processed by the Tommes and at right PG Brock places the ring on



## Biological & Chemical Warfare Was It Employed in the American Revolution?

There is some debate over the use of “germ” warfare during the American Revolution. While the evidence for its use by the British is circumstantial, there is evidence that it had been a tactic by the British before the war and was feared by the Americans.

There is a written account in the diary of William Trent on June 24, 1763 that describes one such incident. The setting was Fort Pitt, under siege during Pontiac’s uprising. Settlers and army were crowded into Fort Pitt. They were also dealing with a smallpox in the fort. Trent recorded the visit of two Indian chiefs who were requesting surrender of the fort, ““Out of our regard for them, we gave them two Blankets and an Handkerchief out of the Small Pox Hospital. I hope it will have the desired effect.”

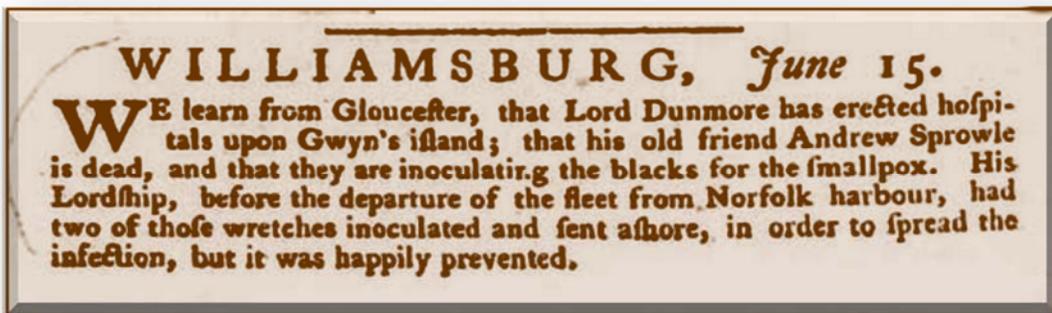
It seems possible that the above action was previously discussed by the British as there is no indication he was aware of the action at Fort Pitt. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, just a couple of weeks later, Sir Jeffery Amherst, British Commander in North America wrote, ““Could it not be contrived to Send the *Small Pox among those Disaffected Tribes of Indians? We must, on this occasion, Use Every Stratagem in our power to Reduce them.*” Then about a week later he wrote to Fort Pitt, ““You will Do well to try to Inoculate the Indians by means of Blanketts as well as to try Every other method that can serve to Extirpate this Execrable Race.”

George Washington was convinced that the British would use smallpox as a weapon against them. He may have learned of or have been part of the plots against the Indians during the French Indian wars, which he participated in. The fear was real for those colonists who had long family histories in the colonies. They were more susceptible to the scour. In Britain, an immunity had developed given the years of dealing with the disease either by inoculation or exposure.

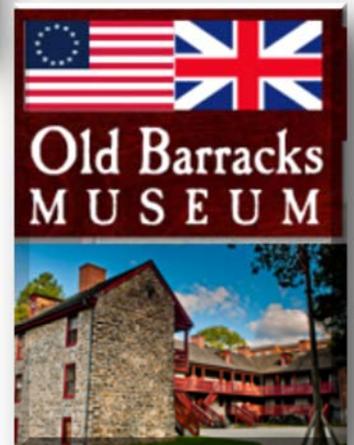
In the 1770s smallpox was reported in major population centers like Boston and Philadelphia. Most of the British army stationed in these areas were not affected but the colonists were felled by the disease. Accounts of British plots in Boston were published. George Washington must have believed the threat because his first 1,000 Continentals sent in were those who were immune. Over the years other measures were taken to protect against disease including, dipping letters in vinegar, smoking and cleaning of individuals leaving Boston, and limiting civilian contact with the military.

Washington wrote, *‘Notwithstanding all the precaution, which I have endeavored to use, to restrain and limit the Intercourse between the Town and the Army and Country for a few days, I greatly fear that the Small Pox will be communicated to both.’*

There is also a report from 1776 in the Virginia Gazette, claiming Lord Dunmore infected to slaves with smallpox and set them ashore in Virginia. This attempt to spread smallpox was unsuccessful.



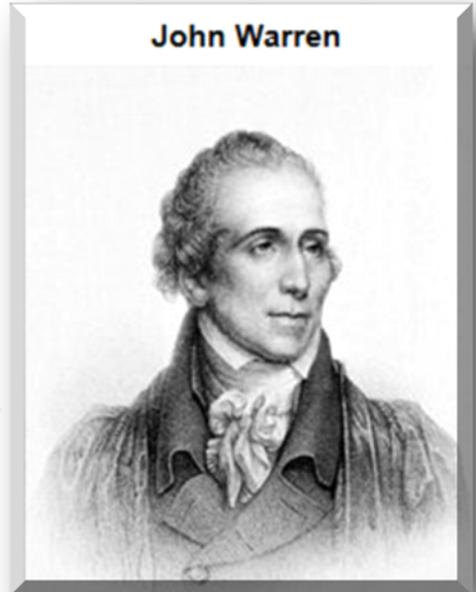
A visit to the Old Barracks in Trenton, New Jersey bring this fear of smallpox to life for the visitor. The Old Barracks was built by the Colony of New Jersey during the French-Indian War. It was the site of Washington’s victory in December 1776 (Washington Crossing the Delaware.) From March 1777 it was used as a military hospital where Washington brought in his new recruits. They were inoculated with the benign small pox live virus. The entire process took about three weeks at which time the troops were fit for service. This site served the Continental army as a hospital until the end of the war in 1783. While there is no direct evidence of a widespread small pox plot by the British, some historians have applauded Washington’s foresight to protect his Continental Army.



Besides the threat of germ warfare in Boston when the British retreated from the city, there was another even more nefarious plot uncovered. Dr. John Warren and fellow physician Dr. Samuel Scott had a shocking find in the British medical supplies left behind. They found large stores of medicines left behind in a tobacco workhouse used as a hospital. The medicines were strewn around with some still in packaging. Initially they were excited because the medicines could be used for soldiers and the ill townspeople left behind. In shock, Warren found that the British had mixed arsenic into the medicine, making it worthless.

His affidavit to the legislature gave details of the incident:

"I, John Warren, of Cambridge, physician, testify and say, that on or about the twenty-ninth day of March last past, I went into the workhouse of the town of Boston, lately improved as a hospital by the British troops, stationed in said town, and, upon examining into the state of a large quantity of medicine, there by them left, particularly in one room supposed to have been by them used as a medical store-room, I found a great variety of medicinal articles lying upon the floor, some of which were contained and secured in papers, whilst others were scattered upon the floor, loose. Amongst these medicines, I observed small quantities of what, I supposed, was white and yellow arsenic intermixed; and then received information from Dr. Daniel Scott that he had taken up a large quantity of said arsenic from over and amongst the medicine, and had collected it chiefly in large lumps, and secured it in a vessel. Upon receiving this information, I desired him to let me view the arsenic, with which he complied, and I judged it to amount to about the quantity of twelve or fourteen pounds. Being much surprised by this extraordinary intelligence, I more minutely examined the medicines on the floor, and found them to be chiefly capital articles, and those most generally in great demand; and, judging them to be rendered entirely unfit for use, I advised Dr. Scott to let them remain, and by no means meddle with them, as I thought the utmost hazard would attend the using of them. They were accordingly suffered to remain, and no account was taken of them."



John Warren



## IN MEMORIAM—JEFFREY MEADOWS

Compatriot Jeffrey Manion Meadows was born on May 11, 1945 in Olney, Illinois. He died from a brief battle with cancer on July 17, 2015. He was the son of James Manion Meadows and Marilee McCurdy. He leaves his partner of many years Dr. G. W. Patterson.



Compatriot Meadows was responsible for designing and printing all Lamar High School brochures, school fliers and programs for various fine arts performances and sporting events.

Compatriot Meadows first joined SAR as a member of the Paul Carrington Chapter of Houston, but when the PineyWoods chapter formed in 1994 he became a member of PineyWoods. He served as the state editor of the Texas Compatriot for a number of years. Though distance prevented him from attending our meetings, he was always active in the JROTC program, presenting our medal at Lamar High School each year. His Revolutionary War ancestors were Bernhardt Bothman (VA), Martin Hauser (NC), Boaz Walton (PA), Samuel Pointer (VA), Judith Steward Ligon (VA), and Major William Lightfoot (VA).