



# Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

## *The Rankin Register*



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### *Our April Meeting*

by Tom Jackson (2008-2009)

was a fun evening for those who could attend. Tom McCormick instructed and entertained us on genealogy pointers including the Ray Cox software. (Any free samples Ray?) Committee chairman presented an overview of the past year and plans for the year just beginning.



Smiling Past Presidents: Patrick Kerr, left, holds the Outstanding Chapter Award and Ed Raines holds the Outstanding Chapter Americanism Award. Both were earned for the past year and represent the top two awards to be earned by a chapter!



Rankin Secretary/Treasurer relaxes after he presented the Annual Financial Report and

Review for the prior year as well as the budget for the new year. He passed out new rosters and the prior month minutes.



Tom McCormick, on the left is a past President of the Alexander Hodge Chapter, and receives a Certificate of Appreciation and SAR coffee mug from Rankin President Tom Jackson. Tom M is also the Poster Contest King.



John Davis, left and Rankin Chapter Eagle Scout Chairman, awards Robert Prendergast, Eagle Scout from Katy and a freshman at Texas A&M, Texas, the SAR Eagle Scout medal on March 9, 2008, for being selected as the outstanding Eagle Scout of the Mustang District in the SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship contest. Next to Robert are his parents, Joy & Don Prendergast. Joy is a member of DAR. The four people in this photo represent over 40 years of Scouting.

# Member Spotlight

**John Davis, Eagle Scout Chairman  
Robert Rankin Chapter**



**Personal:** John was born in 1948 in Hot Springs, AR. He married Judith Williams in 1970, and they were divorced 10 years later in 1980. A daughter Julie Lyn Davis was born in 1975. John married Sherry Driskill from Meridian, MS in 1986, and they have two sons, Jeremy and Brett. Their first grandchild was born in November, 2007.

**Educational:** John graduated in 1966 from Arkadelphia High School in Arkansas, then in 1970 received a B.S. in Mathematics from Henderson State University (AR). While teaching in high school, he received an M.S. in Mathematics from the same school. Then in 1975, John earned an M.S. in Computer Science from University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, while working as a Teaching Assistant in the Mathematics Department.

**Military:** none

**Professional:** In 1975, John was employed by Dillard's Department Stores in Little Rock for a short time; then by Arkansas Blue Cross & Blue Shield for a year, also in Little Rock. Both of these jobs involved System Analyst work. He then went to work for Getty Oil Company in Tulsa, OK. After 3 years he was transferred to the Getty Headquarters in Los Angeles. In 1984, following the Texaco-Getty merger, John was transferred back to Tulsa, where he met his wife Sherry (who was living in Houston and also working for Texaco). Shortly thereafter John was successful in being transferred to Houston, so that he and Sherry could form a merger of their own. During the Chevron-Texaco merger, John took early

retirement in 2002, with 24 years of service. By this time, Sherry's job had moved to Shell, and so she took early retirement in 2003, with 25 years of service. John and Sherry were Information Technology Managers at the time of retirement.

**Post Retirement:** Since retirement, John has continued to compile family histories of each of his 4 grandparent's families, as well as the families of Sherry's parents. John travels quite a bit with this hobby, attending NGS and other conferences, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and many field trips to South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. John also has worked for over 15 years with the Boy Scouts of America, doing unit jobs with packs and troops, as well as volunteer work with the district committee. John and Sherry have worked for over 4 years with "Adolescents in Recovery", a mental health and substance abuse counseling organization in Katy.

**Genealogical:** John's NSSAR qualifying ancestor is John A. Bone Sr. 1727-1789, who married Margaret Hill 1727-1810. John A. Bone Sr. was born in Chester County, PN; Margaret Hill was born in Antrim County, Ireland. John served as Constable of the Salisbury District of Rowan County 1774-1789.

For more than two centuries, the de Bohun's walked with and served kings. Because of this, records were kept that document the family lineage. In the year 1215 C.E., Henry de Bohun and other barons forced King John to sign the Magna Charta at Runnymede. It required the king to renounce certain rights, respect certain legal procedures and accept that the will of the king could be bound by law. Much of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights is based on the ideas in the Magna Charta. Using this qualifying lineage, John has been accepted as a member The Somerset Chapter of Magna Charta Barons, which is based in Philadelphia.