



Year 5, Issue 45

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register

Organized April 2002



April 2010

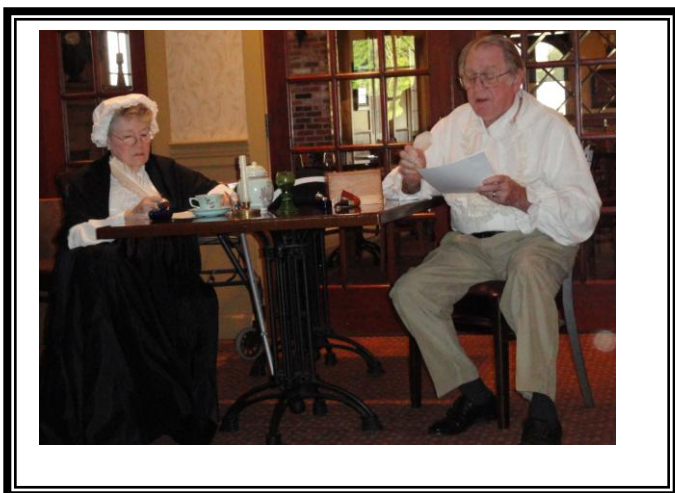
Our April Meeting

by Bobby Smith, President (2010-2011)
(pan_man2@hotmail.com)

The first month as President is a busy one and we are busy checking the items off our list. The budget for the year has been prepared and Committee Chairmen have been appointed. The Rankin Chapter once again was named Outstanding Chapter at our state convention and I look forward to our continuing this fine tradition.

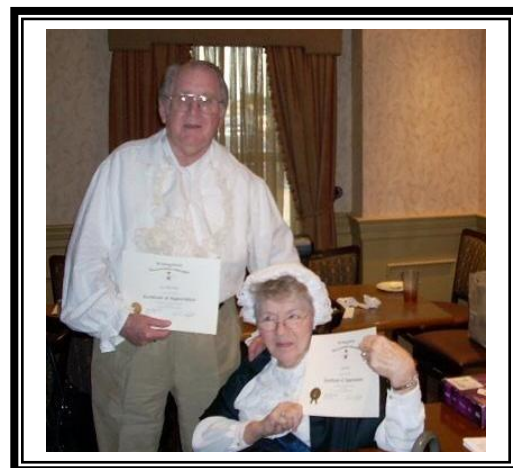
The Rankin Chapter was treated to a play entitled *First Feminist, Second President* which focused on correspondence between the original power couple: Abigail Smith Adams, portrayed by Lynn Rice and John Adams, played by Joe Allen Rice.

The actors were attired in period dress and used items that were evocative of the time as they wrote and read letters to and from each other. They are shown in the photo below.



John and Abigail wrote over 1,100 letters to each other covering a forty year period from their courtship through John's political career. These letters, full of emotion, wit, and information, whether hidden or explicit, include observations of the Continental Congress, the weather, the farm, and the children, as well as impressions of Europe.

An example of the treats we were served is contained in this excerpt from John's letter to Abigail dated March 19, 1776, "You ask, what is thought of Common sense. Sensible Men think there are some Whims, some Sophisms, some artful Addresses to superstitious Notions, some keen attempts upon the Passions, in this Pamphlet. But all agree there is a great deal of good sense, delivered in a clear, simple, concise and nervous Style." Another classic line from Abigail is "All men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care is not taken and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion."



In the photo above "Doc" and Lynn Rice have just received Speaker Certificates of Appreciation from Rankin Vice President Stephen Tanner.

It is only appropriate that that the two citizens of letters should be portrayed by two other citizens of letters. Both Joe and Lynn Rice were teachers and teach still.

Joe earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas, and then toured the world courtesy of the Strategic Air Command. He earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics and American Literature from Florida State University where he met Lynn. He is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Houston, and is an active speaker and published author.

Americanism:

Eagle Scout	Randy Pearson
History Teacher	David Jones
History Student	David Jones
Knight Essay	David Jones
Oratory	Thomas Jackson
Poster	Edwin Raines

Other Chapter Programs

CAR	Bobby R. Smith
Color Guard Com.	Patrick Kerr
Flag Certificate	Theron McLaren
Flag Presentation	Edwin Raines
JROTC	Patrick Kerr
Public Service	Gustave Mistrot
SAR-DAR	Douglas Thornton
Sea Cadets	Randy Pearson
Veterans	Bobby R. Smith
Wounded Warrior	Douglas Thornton



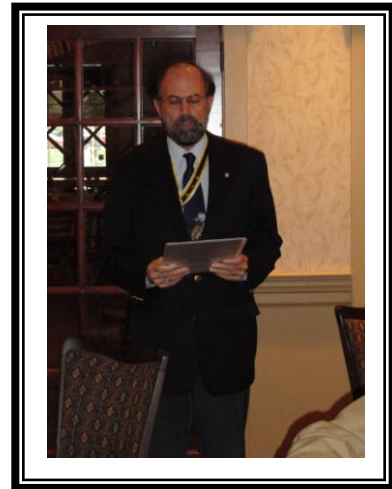
A principal order of business at our April meeting is the appointment of Committee Chairmen. The following slate was appointed by President Bobby Smith, shown to the left.

President Bobby Smith
(defacto member of all committees)

District V.P. Raymond Cox
(defacto member of all committees)

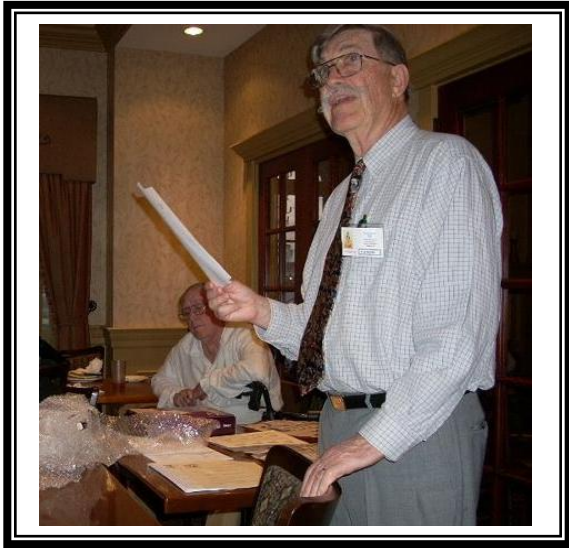
Chapter Duties:

Awards	David Jones
BOM	Thomas Jackson
Membership	Frederick Jackson
Newsletter	Thomas Jackson
Nominations	David Jones
Program	Stephen Tanner
Publicity	Stephen Tanner
Walmart Grant	open



“Bobby asked me to say a few brief words tonight regarding Richard’s involvement with the Robert Rankin Chapter.” And thus began the tribute to Richard Shanks, Past President, fellow Compatriot, and friend to all in the Rankin Chapter, which was given by Past President Tom Jackson (above) and President Bobby Smith. Richard’s wife Vionna, his daughter, and his grandchildren were guests of the chapter.

A special edition of the *Rankin Register* will be issued to honor Richard.



Compatriot Fred Jackson entertains us with a standard Rankin feature of “This Day in History.” His focus was Patriot’s Day and the events that occurred on April 19, 1775.

Compatriot Randy Pearson gave the ancestor presentation on Colonel McDowell of the Burke City Militia.



From the pen of
Doc Rice
Chairman of the
State Publicity
Committee

Each month Doc Rice distributes Book Tips as well as This Day in History. Compatriot Jack Manning fulfilled this function previously. The Rankin Chapter started their own “This Day in History” as a regular meeting feature in April, 2007.

It is only appropriate that we report excerpts from Doc Rice for his Book Tips as they pertain to the Letters. “The 2008 HBO miniseries “John Adams” with Paul Giamatti and Laura Linney was a yawner. If you stayed with it, you are in line

for the “Sense of Duty Award.” Yet book publishers are enthusiastic about biographies and treatments of our quirky second president and his strong-willed wife. There are several reasons: 1) Over a thousand letters between John and Abigail Adams have survived. 2) The Founding Fathers engaged in startling bickering and conniving as they constructed our Ship of State. John loved to tattle about it. 3) He was a one-term president. But he and Abigail produced another president. 4) Abigail is finally taking her rightful place as America’s First Feminist.”

The six books are:

Remember the Ladies,

2001, 66 pages, Carolrhoda Press. Jerri Chase Ferris aims this booklet at teenage girls. It is a charming mix of fact and fiction.

The Wisdom of John and Abigail Adams, 2002, by R. B. Bernstein, 138 pages, Fall River Press. Stress on “the lively richness of John Adams’s political thought.” Abigail gets credit as his most trusted political advisor.

The Letters of John and Abigail Adams, 2004, 470 pages, Penguin Classics. Editor Frank Shuffelton calls this book “an intimate portrait of a colonial family and a historical record of an emerging America.”

My Dearest Friend,

2007, 500 pages, edited by Margaret Hogan and James Taylor. When they were young, John addressed his letters to “Miss Adorable.” And later both used “My Dearest Friend.” This book from Harvard University Press includes letters that have been recently uncovered.

Abigail Adams,

2009, 480 pages, Free Press. A reviewer says, “This is not your father’s Abigail Adams.”

The Quotable Abigail Adams,

2009, 400 pages, Harvard University Press. It’s pithy and fun to page through.

New Member Spotlight

Past President David Jones submitted applications on behalf of his brothers and nephews. They were all approved at the same time and we welcome them as the newest Rankin Compatriots.

1. [John H. Jones Jr](#): Born 30 Nov 1937 in Jackson, Mississippi, the oldest son of John H. Jones and Ollie Mae Walters. Father of five children, John Jr. and his wife Olevia Ann Lawrence live in rural, south Mississippi.
2. [John H. Jones III](#): Born 23 Oct 1969 in Jayees, Walthall, Mississippi. He is the oldest son of John H. Jones and Olevia Ann Lawrence. He is employed by the family owned building firm in Walthall County, Mississippi. He is unmarried and has no children.
3. [Thomas H. Jones](#): Born 23 Nov 1980 in Jayees, Walthall, Mississippi. He is the youngest son of John H. Jones and Olevia Ann Lawrence. He is employed by the family owned building firm in Walthall County, Mississippi. He is unmarried and has no children.
4. [Samuel N. Jones](#): Born 22 Jan 1946 in Daphne, Alabama. He has retired from teaching from both Texas and New Mexico. He is the youngest son of John H. Jones and Ollie Mae Walters. He is the father of two sons, David L. Jones, and Paul N. Jones and is unmarried.
5. [David L. Jones](#): Born 04 Apr 1963 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the elder son of Samuel N. Jones and Carmen Eva Baca. He is employed by a landscaping firm in Kansas City, Kansas and is the father of three children.

6. [Paul N. Jones](#): Born 05 Jun 1969 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the younger son of Samuel N. Jones and Carmen Eva Baca. He is employed by the State of Texas as the senior Attorney in the Texas Labor Department. He is married with no children.

Upcoming Events:

Sep 8th Chapter Meeting

Oct 13th Chapter Meeting

Nov 10th Chapter Meeting

All at America Buffet

Board of Managers Meeting

July 31st - Aug 1st Austin

Oct 29th -31st Houston

Rankin Chapter Host

Check State Website

Editor: Thomas Jackson

Contact: longhorntij@yahoo.com

Copy Editor Credit: Gus & Bernice Mistrot

Photo Credit: Ralph Aniol, Tom Jackson,

CAR News: The James Bates Society State Conference Highlights included winning 1st place: C.A.R. Newsletter and Magazine - puzzles on obtaining new members, 2nd place: C.A.R./SAR/SR Relations, 3rd place: National Presidents Program - Best Program 3rd place: American Indian Program.

The October Board of Managers meeting is a scant six months away. From an initial ten hotels we are down to four. They are the Marriot Energy Corridor, the Brookhollow and Park 10 Holiday Inn, and the Hilton Westchase.

We have received contracts from each of the three hotels and negotiations are ongoing.