



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register



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Our January Meeting

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Our January meeting is very full as we meet to make our final selections on our youth contests as well as have our slate of officers announced. Stephen Tanner, shown below in one of his many color guard uniforms, is standing in for David Jones and is announcing the proposed officer slate.

(Editor's note: The immediate Past-President has the responsibility for interviewing candidates for leadership.)



Proposed Officer Slate:

President	Stephen Tanner
VP/Treasurer	Allen Greene
Secretary	Tom Jackson
Chaplain	Open
Sgt at Arms	Open
Registrar	Fred Jackson
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw
Historian	Open

In January, the Rankin Chapter held a joint meeting with the Wings of Freedom Society. Rankin is a sponsoring chapter of Wings of Freedom.



In the photo above are two members of the CAR Wings of Freedom Society. The young man is Ethan Wright, President of the Wings of Freedom Society. The young lady is Maribeth Sims, Registrar of the Society. Ethan and Maribeth were doing a presentation on the National and State President's projects, Barracks Bags. These were described in the December issue of the Rankin Register. Maribeth was modeling both of the project pins.

The WOF Society Treasurer, Kathleen Svetlik was the TSCAR Historian for 2010-2011 and is a candidate for Second Vice-President for the State Society. Ethan Wright is a candidate for TSCAR Duke for 2011-2012. Ethan's older sister, Jolie, was runner-up in the Rankin CAR Essay contest!

State Contests

Knight Essay Contest



Huddled at the table above are (in front and then clockwise) Bernice Mistrot, Gus Mistrot, and David Jones as they tabulate the essay evaluations reported by members of the essay committee.

The George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest was originally established and named in honor of President Calvin Coolidge, who won a local SAR essay contest while a student at Amherst. The Rankin Chapter essay contest was established by Ed Raines and this is the fourth year for David Jones, who also serves on the state essay committee.

Compatriot Jones, a former high school advanced placement teacher prepared a handout for students to enhance their essay style and writing and also prepared a grading criteria for essay committee members to ensure consistent grading.

Looney Poster Contest

Posters, posters, and more posters is really what our January meeting is all about... or at least that is what our Poster Prince would say.



Shown above are the Rankin judges with Ray Cox on the left and David Crum in the middle. Ed noted that the number of schools participating is down again this year as standards are tightened at the state educational level and principals and teachers who have been supportive of the program retire or move.



Rankin First Place Poster is Above
The winning posters that were selected to proceed to the state convention, replete with publicity release forms, were:

- 1st Place: Danille Batenhorst, Stanley Elem.
- 2nd Place: Kylie Gay, Stanley Elem.
- 3rd Place: Alexa Keller, Stanley Elem.
- 4th Place: Elaine Griffin, Stanley Elem.
- 5th Place: Jeffery Hills, Cimarron Elem.

Other Contest Information ...

Although the chapter conducted the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest last year, we had no entrants this year. Sadly, we also had no entry in the History Teacher Contest either or the extended JROTC contest.



Shown above is Allen Greene who is giving an ancestor presentation. The Rankin Chapter sets time aside at each meeting to honor our ancestors. This tradition was started by A. Kelly McBride.

Paul Davis, the ancestor of Allen, at the age of 14 on the day of the Battle of Lexington, followed the regular companies of "Minute Men" in which three of his brothers, Ebenezer, Samuel and Aaron, from Mendon to Boston. Although not enrolled, he participated in the battle of Bunker Hill.

On August 1, 1778, he formally enlisted in the Continental Army at Mendon, Massachusetts. He was a private in Capt. Barne's company, Col. Timothy Bigelow's Regiment. He served as a private for three months then was promoted to Sgt., holding this position until the expiration of his term of service, December 31, 1779. Paul Davis served with distinction in these three companies until the close of hostilities when he received an Honorable Discharge with the Badge of Merit from George

Washington at Headquarters, Newburg, New York, June 18, 1783.

Our January Speaker



Vice-President Stephen Tanner, left above, has just presented the January speaker Dr. Kent McGaughy, Professor of History at Houston Community College with a Certificate of Appreciation and an SAR coffee mug. Dr. Kent founded the Honors Program at HCC.

His topic was the Conway Cabal Incident involving efforts to dismiss or assassinate General Washington early in the American Revolution in an attempt to settle things with Great Britain.

Thomas Conway was one of a number of foreign-born officers brought into the American Army at high rank. The Irishman Conway fought with the French and served under Frederick the Great. Marquis de Lafayette was an early promoter of Conway and Conway was appointed a brigadier general in 1777. Conway reportedly acquitted himself at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. Conway also served under General Horatio Gates.



Dr. McGaughy authored *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: A Portrait of an American Revolutionary* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004). This updated look at Lee generated media interest in Lee and has resulted in Dr. McGaughy has twice appeared on the C-Span network. Please refer to <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/kentmcgaughy> for a look at the video clips of these two appearances!



This Day in History



Patrick Kerr, shown above in his Continental Blues, is giving This Day in History.

This segment is a Rankin tradition started by Patrick when he was chapter president.

This quick vignette is a historical reminder to the members that the quest for freedom was not the act of a few individuals and events, but rather an undertaking by Americans across the country.

And now, back to Patrick ...

On February 9, 1778, Jeremiah Wadsworth was named commissary general for the Continental Army. Wadsworth had a 10-year career as a sailor where he rose to the rank of captain. After the war, Wadsworth became a shipper and trader in merchandise and became the wealthiest man in Connecticut. He also served as a member of the Continental Congress.



Upcoming Events:

*Feb 9th Chapter Mtg, Election of Officers
Mar 9th Annual Chapter Meeting
President-Elect Bill Marrs will attend!*

State Convention. in Arlington, Check State Website

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Remember, The George Washington Parade will be in Laredo. Contact Tom Green or Stephen Tanner to attend. This is an event you do not want to miss!