



# Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

## The Rankin Register



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### The President's Corner

by Stephen Tanner, President (2011-2012)  
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Our January meeting is quite busy as we announce our slate of officers prior to voting in February. We meet to make our final selections on our youth contests and still make time for a speaker!

### Our January Speaker



In the photo above, Dr. Christopher Hammons, (on the left) has just received from Rankin VP Allen Green (right) a "Speaker Certificate of Appreciation". Dr. Hammons is a professor of History at Houston Baptist University and gave a fascinating presentation on the character and leadership of George Washington. Dr. Hammons earned his Ph. D. from the University of Houston and joined the HBU faculty in 1998. He offers courses in American Political Thought, Quantitative Methods, and the Presidency, as well as introductory courses in political science and government. He was a White House Intern in 1991 and served in the Office of Presidential Advance and Media Relations.



Stephen Tanner, shown to the left in one of his many color guard uniforms, is standing in for Bobby Smith and is announcing the proposed officer slate.

(Didn't Stephen do this last year also?)

### Proposed Officer Slate:

President	Allen Greene
VP/Treasurer	Terry Richardson
Secretary	Randy Pearson
Chaplain	Gus Mistrot
Sgt at Arms	Open
Registrar	Fred Jackson
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw
Historian	Stephen Tanner
Genealogist	Open



President Tanner, above, is shown exhibiting his "pass around" on the Battle of Cowpens, in the segment, "This Day in History."

## State Contests

### *Knight Essay Contest*

One of the mainstays of the Rankin youth program has been the Knight Essay contest. This year, it has fallen on hard times as Penny Rosas, AP American History teacher at Mayde Creek High School, announced that with the retirement of an English teacher at her school, support for the program as part of the curriculum collapsed. Fortunately, one enterprising student, Alexander Scheel, stepped up and submitted an essay on the Battle of Saratoga. Good luck Alex!

Did you know?

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.

### *Looney Poster Contest*

January is really just about posters... or at least that is what Ed Raines would say.



Rankin First Place Poster is Above



Rankin Second Place Poster is Above

From 175 submitted posters, the following were selected to proceed to the state convention, replete with publicity release forms, were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Vivian Parra  
2nd Place: Dana Jacks

### *Other Contest Information ...*

Although the chapter conducted the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest two years ago, we had no entrants this year. Sadly, we also had no entry in the History Teacher Contest or the Eagle Scout Contest.



Cadet Major Jared Reese of Cypress Ridge High School, shown at the left, was the chapter's entry into the extended JROTC contest. As a junior, he was Deputy Corps Commander and was commander of the precision drill team.



## *Dickens on the Strand*

The Galveston Historical Foundation presented the 38th Annual Dickens on The Strand Festival on December 3rd and 4th this year. This holiday festival features a Grand Parade where members of the Texas State Society Color Guard joined chimney sweeps, street urchins, fair ladies, Beefeaters, and the Queen herself. The Victorian London of Charles Dickens is recreated complete with a bit of a time warp as Johnny Reb and Billy Yank are juxtaposed with an alternative Victorian “Steam punk” group of performers shown in the photo below.

In addition to Stephen Tanner, Ray Cox, and Tom Jackson, various characters from the Dickens’ novels walked the street.



The color guard mustered at the Galveston Railroad Museum prior to the parade. Patiently waiting in the photo below, from left to right are Ray Cox, Allen Greene, Tom Jackson, and Mark White.



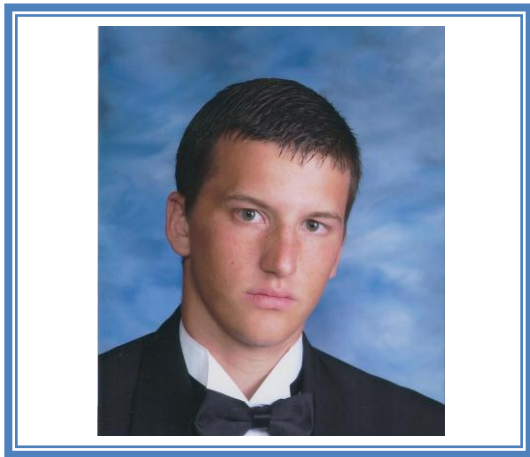
The Galvez Chapter always fetes attendees to a seafood feast. Shown above, from left to right are Karen Tanner, Rankin President Stephen Tanner, and TXSSAR Webmaster Ray Cox.



TXSSAR Past President Jim Jones is in the center of the photo above carrying a musket in the Grand Parade. The weekend also featured a rededication of the Galvez Chapter plaque. In the photo below, can you find Stephen Tanner standing on the far left while trumpeter Tom Jackson is kneeling in the center flanked by Jim Jones left and Ray Cox to his right?



## Our New Member



### Taylor Lee Richardson

#### Personal:

Taylor Lee Richardson was born in Bottineau, North Dakota in 1989. He moved often as a child following his father, an Army Officer. He was married in 2011 to Madeleine, an Army Officer, in Washington County, Oregon. Both have been considering a military career. They have no children and currently reside in Oregon.

#### Education:

Taylor graduated Cum Laude from Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas in 2008. He attended the University of Oregon from 2008 to 2011. During this time he was majoring in Russian and Eastern European Studies, before switching majors to Linguistics.

#### Additional/Professional Development:

He was awarded various merit badges and Eagle Scout honor. Taylor completed the Basic Airborne Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia and has been awarded the Basic Parachutist Badge. He is currently deployed to Korea.

#### Career:

Career aspirations include working in the military or civilian field as a linguist.

#### Hobbies and other Activities:

Taylor enjoys fly-fishing in the beautiful Oregon rivers for trout and steelheads.

#### Genealogy:

Taylor's qualifying patriot ancestor is Col. James Taylor.

### The Battle of Cowpens

On January 17, 1781 on the border of South and North Carolina, Colonel Daniel Morgan led the Americans against the British and loyalist forces under the command of Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton. The victory was decisive for the Americans as they dared Tarleton to hurl his forces as a bull charging a matador. Tarleton did not disappoint! The Americans were armed with the Pennsylvania small caliber long rifle with accuracy of about one hundred yards, twice the effective range of the British Brown Bess.

#### Upcoming Events:

*Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter Mtg, Election of Officers*

*Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapter Meeting*

*President-Elect Bob Clark 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!*