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Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register

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Summer 2012

Summertime

by Thomas Jackson, Editor
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The summer newsletter is intended to be full of pictures and a bit of catch up. An extra issue permits us to devote more time to certain events than we would otherwise. I hope you will have a good summer and look forward to seeing you in September. Fewer cameras translate to fewer pictures.

Memorial Day

There are numerous events on this day that are special, but perhaps the one that is most significant to Rankin Compatriots is the celebration of Memorial Day at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Robert Rankin, namesake of the Chapter, is buried here and each year since the creation of the chapter, one or more Rankin Compatriots make the journey to Austin to commemorate his life! The event always makes television news in Austin.

Legendary Texans find rest just east of the State Capitol. Here you find James Frank Dobie and James Michener discussing their next novel. Governor Lubbock and General Albert Sydney Johnson are still making plans on behalf of Texas in the Confederacy. If you listen closely, you can hear Big Foot Wallace and Governor Bell reminisce about their time in the Texas Rangers.



Compatriot Jackson stands next to the gravesite of Robert Rankin. (Editor's note: He remembered his hat; can he just take off those glasses?)



Color Guardsmen gather at the State Cemetery after the service. Can you find Compatriot Tom Jackson? (Hint, he is in the center, holding a musket and wearing blue and white.)

*May 31, 2012
Proclamation read at
Memorial Day Ceremony*

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, began as a way to honor those lost while fighting in the Civil War. As that terrible war continued, Americans on both sides began to honor the fallen soldiers during the springtime by holding tributes and decorating the gravesites with flowers and prayers.

As the tradition grew, the official date set for Decoration Day became May 30. As the United States entered the Twentieth Century and entered The War to End All Wars or World War I as it became known, Decoration Day took on new meaning. It no longer was a day of remembrance for those who had fallen during the Civil War. It became a day to remember all service men and women who have served United States and in some cases gave all for our freedom. The day became known as Memorial Day to honor all United States military personnel who died in all of our wars.

Those we honor today are to be held in high esteem for their service to the United States. They are to be honored for their defense of the freedoms our forefathers set forth for us in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They, who were and are willing to step in to harm's way defending our rights and the rights of all people to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness should always be held up as examples and honored. Their willingness to serve is the spirit of those who during the Revolutionary War fought an imposing enemy to give us those rights and freedoms.

The National Society of the Sons of The American Revolution was created to perpetuate the memory of those Revolutionary War Patriots who struggled to create this great nation.



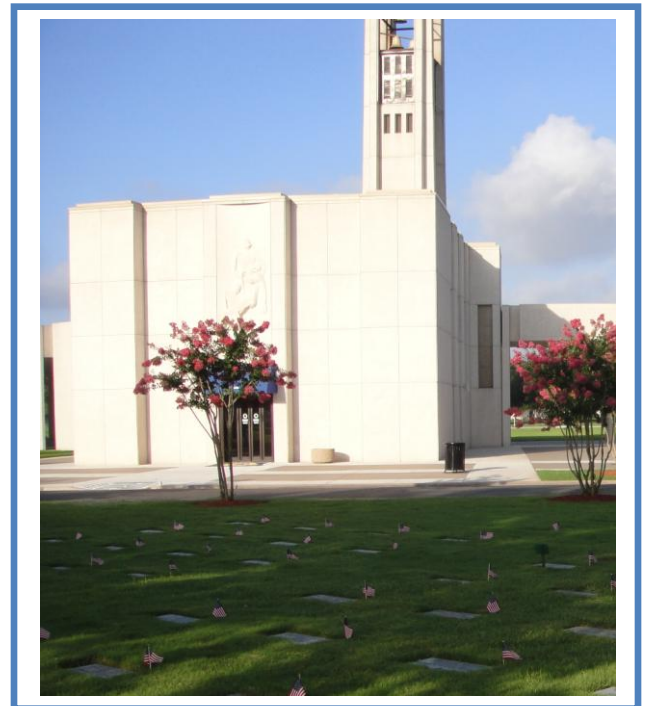
Larry J. Magerkurth
President General

The National Society stands with those who recognize, who remember, and who honor all United States service men and women who have served or are currently serving and who are willing to give all or have given all so that others may enjoy freedoms we have today.

May God bless them and keep them in His loving arms!

Larry J. Magerkurth
President General (2011-2012)
[The National Society Sons of the American Revolution](#)

*Flag Day Celebration – Thursday -
June 14, 2012*



Past President McBride had the first Rankin Flag Day Celebration in 2006 when he planned a June meeting featuring Ed Raines telling the history of the Flag Act and the story of Flag Day using his flags.

In June 2010, Past President David Jones started the current Rankin Flag Day Celebration to place American Flags on Veterans' graves and present flag certificates on Flag Day. Compatriot Jackson placed 20 flags at Houston National Cemetery, shown above.

Moss Ragsdale Cemetery Dedication



Cooling in the shade after the ceremony are, from left to right, Allen Greene, Tom Jackson, and Stephen Tanner.

Members of the SAR assist with the Designation ceremony of the Moss Ragsdale Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery. From left to right, Greg Morgan, Marvin Morgan, Tom Jackson, Bobby Smith, Dr. Tom Bohmfalk, John Thompson, Tom Green, and Bob Clark gather at the gravesite of James Campbell Ragsdale, a veteran of the War for Texas Independence and involved in the Runaway Scrape.



TXSSAR assists with the Designation ceremony of the Moss Ragsdale Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery. From left to right: Front row: Greg Morgan, Ron Walcik (Dist. 4 V.P.) , TXSSAR President Bob Clark, TXSSAR Past President Jim Jones; Second Row: John Thompson(Dist. 8 V.P.), Larry Peik, Marvin Morgan (TXSSAR Past CG Commander), Peter Rowley (TXSSAR CG Commander) , TXSSAR Past President Tom Green, DAR Recording Secretary General Lynn Young, Michael Radcliff (National Vice CG Commander), Tom Jackson, Bobby Smith, Allen Greene, Back Row: Stephen Tanner, TXSSAR Past President Bill Marrs

All in a Day's Service

On April 14, 2012, five Rankin Compatriots arose early to provide service to the community in many different ways. President Allen Greene, Color Guard Commander Stephen Tanner, and Tom Jackson donned their revolutionary garb and drove to the Berry Center for a Pass in Review ceremony involving almost one thousand JROTC cadets. President Greene left to take his siesta, but Stephen and Tom were just getting started. They went next to Langham Creek High School to support the Diversity Workshop and Summit being held. Resplendent in their revolutionary dress they were able to talk briefly on our organization.

The next stop of the day was the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America Scout Fair held at Reliant Arena from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This Scout Fair is considered the biggest in the world with an estimated 30,000 attendees! Here Ash Jackson and Rankin Past President Bobby Ray Smith joined the dynamic duo. They staffed the TXSSAR booth sponsored by the Paul Carrington Chapter. All four Compatriots were able to talk to scouts and adults regarding the NSSAR and the genealogy merit badge. Although Ash & Bobby stopped for the day, Stephen and Tom next went to the Cypress Woods JROTC awards banquet.

The Rankin lads were not done with their idea of multiple stops on one day. On May 4, Tom & Stephen, in their color guard attire, went to North Shore High School to make the JROTC presentation. They next attended the CFISD Special Olympics Banquet held at Cy Ridge High School. After wowing the athletes and their parents with their attire and brief ancestor presentation, they went to Cypress Lakes High School JROTC banquet held at North Forest Country Club. President Greene attended the Cypress Creek High School JROTC event at another location the same night.

Well Done Compatriots!

The 10th annual Cypress-Fairbanks ISD JROTC Pass in Review was held on Saturday, April 14 at 9 a.m. at the Berry Center. The Pass in Review is a longstanding military tradition that began as a way for a newly assigned commander to inspect his or her troops. Dr. Mark Henry, superintendent of schools, was the reviewing officer for the prestigious event. More than 900 JROTC cadets will fill the stadium field while performing this military tradition. "The Pass in Review is a stately and grand presentation of the best our AFJROTC programs have to offer. In a mere 30 minutes, flights from each of the eight high schools' units will march before the reviewing stand ..." said Judy Reidy, district AFJROTC coordinator. The photo below is from the event.



Our JROTC Committee was quite busy this year. Compatriots Jackson and Tanner were at six and seven high schools, respectively, and Gus Mistrot attended two. Bernice accompanied Gus, and Karen went with Stephen at one banquet event each. Allen Greene attended his first JROTC event as well. 15 schools & 15 Flag Certificates!

Thanks for a job well done Compatriots!

Wings of Freedom Society Update

In May, the following officers were installed: Maribeth Sims, President. Koen Partney, 1st VP/Historian. Kathleen Svetlik, 2nd VP. Devin Partney, Treasurer. Ethan Wright, Corresponding Secretary. Katelyn Loeffler, Librarian/Curator.

The WOF Society came home with a number of awards from State Conference in March. Ethan Wright was elected the TSCAR State Treasurer. In his Society report to the general assembly at State Conference, Devin Partney thanked and acknowledged the Robert Rankin Chapter for its support and sponsorship. It is interesting to note that the Wings of Freedom Society is the only Society that notated the Sponsorship of both a SAR Chapter and a DAR Chapter.