



THE MINUTEMAN



Volume VI, Issue 3

Dallas Chapter Founded July 4, 1929

March 2001

President's Message

by J. Mark Hansen

I Hear a Symphony

I recently completed the daunting, but eye-opening, task of compiling an annual report to the State Society on our Chapter's activities for calendar year 2000. In the process, I realized that my role as Chapter president this past year has been like that of the conductor of a large and very talented symphony orchestra. And our score, the sum of several musical parts, is impressive.

From the podium, I survey a string section that has plucked from the general populace, and bowed into our ranks, no fewer than ten new Compatriots—almost one a month! At the center of this great ensemble are the woodwinds, from whom were heard last year nearly seventy patriotic speeches to community organizations. We have several soloists among the winds: Compatriots like **Ralph McDowell** and **Gary Sisson**, whose "Poor Richard" and "Liberty or Death" speeches, respectively, filled and brought down houses across the state. Our most distinguished soloist, however, on the order of a Galway or Rampal, is most certainly **Lloyd Bockstruck**, whose forty-two presentations to diverse audiences—not to mention his weekly column in the *Dallas Morning News*—are always crowd pleasers. (Those of you who missed Lloyd's speech on Nathaniel Greene at our last meeting are most unfortunate.) A triumphant trumpet notes the two hundred eighty-seven medals and certificates we conferred on one hundred forty-nine Eagle Scouts, twenty-four JROTC cadets, forty-three good citizens among the DISD and Richardson student bodies, and many others. A drum roll heralds our award of more than \$750 in scholarships to the Chapter's oration, essay, and poster contestants. Altogether, members of this orchestra made nearly two hundred appearances at SAR-related civic events last year.

Gentlemen, it has been a privilege to lead you this past year. We have made some beautiful music together. Now, I hand over my baton to Dr. Gary Sisson. Sound the "A," Maestro, and give us your downbeat!

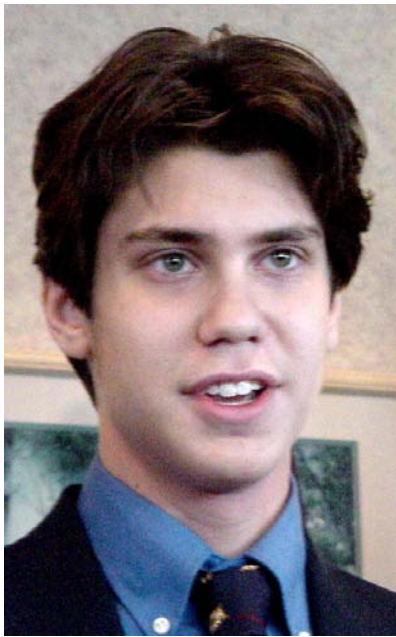
March Meeting

This month will feature the annual installation of Chapter officers.

For future program suggestions, feel free to call 1st VP Cliff Slagle at 972-380-1500.

Compatriot **Lloyd Bockstruck**, head of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library, spoke on General Nathaniel Greene at our February 10 meeting. >>





Berkner H.S. student Camden Gilman gave the speech that won the Dallas Chapter's Oration Contest.



Alexander School student Summer Yamout read her essay that won the Dallas Chapter's Essay Contest.

THE MINUTEMAN is the monthly newsletter of the Dallas Chapter-Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit organization. (Photos by Charles Baker)

Meetings are held on the Second Saturday of each month at Luby's Cafeteria, 6221 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. Coffee served with fellowship at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, and meeting from 8:30 'til 9:30. Guests are welcome at our meetings.

February Chapter Meeting Highlights



New Compatriots **Mason Caywood**, left, and **Wallace Hughey** were sworn in at the February meeting.



Dr. Gary N. Sisson was elected President of the Dallas Chapter in a "squeaker" election. It was later revealed that his middle name is actually "Noggin." The squeaking occurred when running his fingers through his hair. (Just kidding, Gary; we love that noggin.)

OFFICER REPORTS

Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 302.
February meeting: 46 members, 29 guests.

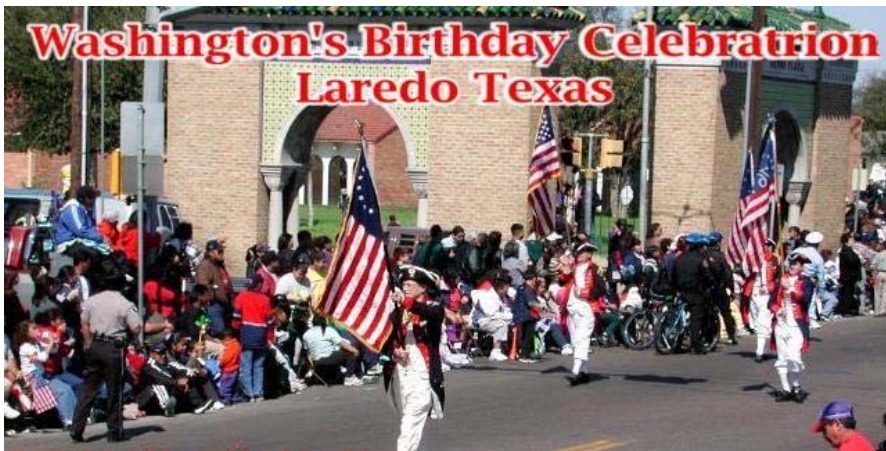
Don Hay, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Regular Checking: \$ 1047.71
Endowment Funds: \$ 32,344.34

Jack Carney, Treasurer





Clockwise, from lower left: TXSSAR President **Dick Arnold** led the Color Guard in the Washington's Birthday Parade on February 17, and helped establish the new Laredo SAR Chapter; Dallas Police Detective **Joe Philpot** received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal; our speaker **Lloyd Bockstruck** received a tie making him an honorary natural-born Texan; Ralph McDowell gave the Americanism presentation on Benjamin Franklin and *Poor Richard's Almanac*; **Cliff Slagle** was sworn in as Dallas Chapter 1st Vice President and received the Chapter Service Medal.

Ranking the Reliability of Genealogy Records

By Judge Ed Butler, TXSSAR State Genealogist

Legal evidence and genealogical records are very similar. In each there are three types of records: primary, secondary, and tertiary. A successful genealogist will understand the differences.

1. Primary records or sources: These are documents or entries created at the time of the event by someone who was present with a special knowledge (for example, birth or death certificates, by the doctor who attended the patient). These types of records are considered reliable and most likely accurate. Note however that each has information, such as father's place of birth, that is not within the knowledge of the doctor. Thus, even in primary records, some of the information may be less reliable. All official records, such as marriage licenses, divorce decrees, adoptions, etc., are considered primary records.
2. Secondary records or sources: Records that were recorded after the fact by someone who was familiar with the fact, such as an autobiography; memoirs, or a family history based on personal knowledge. Some professional consider that federal Census records are secondary records.
3. Tertiary records or sources (third-party sources): Records that were recorded on hearsay by someone who wasn't there and based on something other than a document. Obituaries and newspaper articles are examples of documents that can be either secondary or tertiary records. If prepared by the funeral home or the newspaper, they are probably tertiary. If however, the obituary was prepared by a family member, it would be considered secondary. The problem for the genealogist is that you have no way of knowing who prepared it. Accordingly, you must give it less weight.
4. Mixed records. In the military records and pension records that can be obtained from the National Archives, part of the documents will be primary, such as muster reports, official correspondence, etc. The sworn affidavits to obtain pensions are filled with "to the best of my recollection", "I believe", etc. Clearly these affidavits are less reliable, and secondary evidence.

When doing research, experts such as Diane J. Muir, teach that you want to go to the primary source first. Obviously, firsthand information is always better than second-hand information or hearsay. A birth record is better than a census record, and secondary sources are better than third-party sources, which might be highly inaccurate. Try for primary sources, but don't ignore the others. Just realize that the others may be highly unreliable, and try to verify them with an additional source or two.

