



THE MINUTEMAN



Volume VII, Issue 2

Dallas Chapter, TXSSAR, Founded July 4, 1929

February 2002

President's Message

by Dr. Gary N. Sisson



You Say It's Your Birthday

I often wonder about the origins of certain traditions. Take birthday celebrations, for instance. A cursory search of the internet and the encyclopedia found me yet "history of birthday" challenged, and I concluded that perhaps in this case ignorance *is* bliss. But one thing upon which most of us will agree is that although we reach a point in life when *another* birthday is not so welcomed, we all love to be recognized with a good birthday party. The Father of our Country was no different. As we look forward to George Washington's Birthday, let me share with you some excerpts from The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799:

"The flattering distinction paid to the anniversary of my birthday is an honor for which I dare not attempt to express my gratitude. I confide in your Excellency's sensibility to interpret my feelings for this, and for the obliging manner in which you are pleased to announce it." (G.W. to Comte de Rochambeau, Feb. 24, 1781)

"Permit me to make my sincere acknowledgments to your Excellency for the honor you have done me in celebrating my Birthday. You have thereby made a new addition to the Friendship and Esteem with which I have the honor etc." (G.W. to Comte de Rochambeau, Feb. 23, 1782)

"Gentlemen: For your kind congratulations on the anniversary of my birthday, and the other obliging expressions of your Address I pray you to accept my grateful thanks." (G.W. to Newport, R.I. Artillery Co., February, 1794)

"..Went with the family to a Ball in Alexa. given by the Citizens of it & its vicinity in commemoration of the Anniversary of my birthday." (G.W. Diary, Feb. 12, 1798)

February 9 Meeting

Barbara Baylis, James Billingsley Chapter, NSDAR, will speak on "Women in the DAR." Also: Election of Dallas Chapter officers.

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

Retired Dallas County Deputy Sheriff Terry Baker discussed police officers killed in the line of duty: "Finding the Forgotten." ►



Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 313.
January meeting: 44 members, 8 guests.
Don Hay, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Checking & Cash: \$ 1,242.68
Endowment Funds: \$ 33,396.98
Tracy Ponders, Treasurer

THE MINUTEMAN is the monthly newsletter of the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit organization. (Pictures by Dr. H. 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 9:45. Guests are welcome at our meetings.

Dallas Chapter Officer Nominees for 2002-2003



Mark Hansen chaired the Nominating Committee that presented the slate of Dallas Chapter officer candidates to the January meeting. Clockwise, from upper left, they are **Cliff Slagle** for President, **Jack Carney** for 1st Vice President/Programs, **Tracy Ponders** for 2nd Vice President/Awards, **Henry (Hank) Voegtle III** for Secretary, **Tom Smith** for Treasurer, **Melvin McCoy** for Registrar, **Tom Whitelock** for Historian, and **Frank Ponders** for Chaplain. Additional nominations may be made from the floor on February 9, followed by the election.



To see these pictures in color, check out our Chapter Website at <http://sardallas.org>

While you are there, you can get lots of other useful information. There are links to Chapter Minutes, to the DAR and other organizations of interest, Chapter Officers, Minuteman Newsletter archives, and lots of other good info.

IN MEMORIAM



Once again we are saddened to learn of the loss of an active and loyal Compatriot. **Clovis H. Brakebill** was a long-time member of the Dallas Chapter and rose through the ranks to become the 1986-87 President General of the SAR. His book on *Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas* is often given to guest speakers and in Chapter raffles. The above picture of Helen and Clovis appeared on the front cover of the Summer 1986 issue of *The SAR Magazine*.

Dues notices were sent out several weeks ago. The 45 members who did not pay their dues by December 31 are considered delinquent. After January 31, reinstatement will require an additional \$8 fee.

Plan now to attend the TXSSAR Genealogical Seminar at the 2002 Convention in Tyler on Friday, March 8

Compatriot **Lloyd Bockstruck** will make three different one-hour presentations starting at 8 am: Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestor in the New England States, in the Middle States, and in the Southern States. After lunch, Compatriot **Ed Butler** will discuss Spain's participation in the American Revolutionary War and how to prove lineage to Spanish ancestors. See <http://www.texassar.org> for details.

Per-person fees: \$25 if registered for the convention; \$30 for others if postmarked by 2/8; \$35 after 2/8.

Send your check and list of attendees to –
 TXSSAR Genealogy Seminar
 8830 Cross Mountain Trail
 San Antonio, TX 78255-2011

For more information, call: 210-698-8964 or send e-mail inquiries to <judge58@aol.com>



In his Americanism presentation at the January meeting, Registrar **Don Hay** read last year's National winning essay in the Knight Contest.

