



THE MINUTEMAN

Volume VII, Issue 9

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President's Message

by Cliff Slagle



WHAT HISTORY IS YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD LEARNING?

It is very important that we become aware of the textbooks being used to teach our children, especially history, since so many of the U.S. History books today contain misleading information. Either read your student's textbook, or check the book out from your local library. We would be prudent to remember George Orwell's 1984 quote, "WHO CONTROLS THE PAST CONTROLS THE FUTURE."

Each year the Texas Education Agency staff examines existing textbooks for content that may need updating. The Education Code requires a full investigation of every textbook in the foundation curriculum at least every 6 years, but since the publisher's contracts are given for 6 years they are often extended 2 more years.

After a review is completed, the textbook is placed on either a "conforming" or a "nonconforming" list. A book on the conforming list must meet physical specifications, meet each element in the TEKS curriculum for that grade and subject, and be free of factual errors. Books on the nonconforming list must meet physical specifications and be free of factual errors, but they need only meet at least half of the elements of TEKS for the subject and grade level.

School districts may obtain books on either the conforming or nonconforming lists at State expense. They also may purchase books not on either list, but the state will pay no more than 70 percent of the cost of such books.

History text books are likely to be a very sensitive issue during the next adoption cycle and that time is coming up. We should all be very concerned as is our President General Rice Aston. I have several copies of "U.S. History Textbook Standard Review Criteria" for any who would like one.

September 14 Meeting

Our speaker will be Mrs. Betty Baskett, a long-time volunteer in the Emergency Room of a Dallas hospital. She will discuss "Life in the ER — Dallas style"

For future program suggestions, please feel free to call 1st VP Jack Carney at 972-401-1830.

Jim Gatewood, author of "Decker," the biography of long-time Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker, spoke at our August meeting. ▶ ▶



Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 311.

Last meeting: 33 members, 14 guests.

Mel McCoy, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Checking & Cash: \$ 2919.01

Endowment Funds: \$ 33,219.54

Tom Smith, 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 Tom Whitelock and Alan Pickens.)

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.

CHAPTER MEETING NEWS



Clockwise from upper left: (1) Compatriot **Harmon Adair**, East Fork of the Trinity Chapter, announced a Grave Marking Project for the grave of Pvt. James Lemmon, the only American Revolutionary patriot known to be buried in Dallas County. (2) Compatriot **Donald Hawkes** smiled upon receiving his perpetual membership certificate. (3) Compatriot **Bertrand Desthieux**, a descendent of LaFayette, receives his dual membership certificate from Registrar Mel McCoy (right). (4) Our newest Chapter compatriot, **Carl D. Smith**, shows off his membership certificate as his proud wife, Jane, looks on. (5) Scouts received a Flag Certificate in recognition of their having conducted a flag retirement ceremony: Left to right, Jason Boyer, Scoutmaster, Schuyler Sexton, and Austin Harris.



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.

Editorial

Grave Marking: A Worthy Project

On the page at left is brief mention of a presentation by **Harmon Adair** concerning a project to mark the grave of Pvt. James Lemmon of the 4th Virginia Line. A lad of only 11 years when the American Revolutionary War began, James served as a messenger boy for George Washington – it being safer for boys to carry messages than men. Toward the end of the war, when he was old enough, James entered the Continental Army as a private and served until the end of the war. At the urging of his own son, Robert Allen Lemmon, James came to Texas in 1845. James Lemmon, a citizen of the Republic of Texas, died in 1858 at his home near Lancaster and was buried in Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster.

Quite frankly, compatriots, I was surprised to learn that this is the only patriot grave in Dallas County. I think we ought to get behind this project to raise the funds necessary for an appropriate memorial. The target date is next summer. Let's do it!

Editor's Note: Our own Dallas Chapter Registrar, Mel McCoy and his wife Judy, are Directors of the Family History Center, 10701 East Lake Highlands Drive. This is the first in a series of articles on Genealogy.

Family History: Are We Using All the Resources Available?

Most of us are engaged in family history research in one way or another. Since computers have become a very useful tool in our society, they can also be used to organize our family histories. There are many companies who market software for this purpose. Among them are Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestral File, known as PAF, and many others. The latest version of PAF will work with Windows and may be downloaded free from www.FamilySearch.org. This system is very simple to use once the basics are understood. The important thing is to start by arranging the data, beginning with one's self. Then parents, children, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins may be added. There is no end to the lineage you can create, except as it is limited by your research. The basics of using these systems can be learned at any of the twelve Family History Centers throughout the Dallas Metroplex. If you do not have a computer at home, you can use the computers at these centers and copy your data to a disc, .

Other useful sources are the data bases that are available in these Family History Centers as well as on the 8th floor of the Dallas Public Library. Some of them are Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, Social Security Death Index, etc. These data bases, as well as many others, are available on www.FamilySearch.org as well. For the most part, this is information that has been submitted by individuals and may not be 100% accurate, but it is a very good starting point to begin one's own individual research. From these clues, you can go to original sources to verify the information.

Once the basics are learned, the data may be exchanged with another person, using a GEDCOM file via e-mail. One can also submit their own "Family Tree" to these data bases free of charge, which will make it easy for other researchers to find your information and get in contact with you.

These are but a few tools we have to preserve the precious heritage left to us by our forefathers. It is our privilege to learn to use them to benefit those who will follow.

