



The MINUTEMAN



Dallas Chapter

Founded July 4, 1929

Texas Society — Sons of the American Revolution

November-December, 2007

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 8 8:30 a.m.

Susan Stephenson Reno, Supervisor of American History Teachers in the Dallas Independent School District, will speak on "Teaching American History in Texas Public Schools." 1st VP **Bob Clark** will give the Amercanism presentation.

January 12 8:30 a.m.

Our newly-elected 2008 Dallas Chapter officers will be sworn in and various awards will be given.



Almost a Miracle???

by Dr. H. Charles Baker, President, Dallas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution



Historian John Ferling has published an awesome book entitled Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence (Oxford University

Press, 2007, ISBN 978-0-19-518121-0). He presents a nearly 700-page account of an "often-outgeneraled George Washington who, despite an undependable army and a bankrupt Congress, was unexpectedly fortunate in his allies – the revengeful French, 'mishandled' Loyalists, irreversible British attrition, and the broad Atlantic." (dust jacket critique by Stanley Weintraub).

Numerous examples of the book's title are found, such as in the Battle of Trenton, on December 26, 1776, in which my own great³ grandfather, David Baker, was Corporal of the Canonade under Gen. Washington's Col. Henry Knox. Most of the rebels' powder being wet, that short battle was mostly won by using artillery and bayonets. Fortunately, two patriots had seen fit to seal their powder with candle wax and the leader of the Hessian mercenaries, Col. Rall was cut down. His fall sowed total disorder among the Hessians, and large numbers of men surrendered. This first great victory for the Continental Army led to the capture or death of more than 1000 Hessians, plus, for the patriots, much-needed canons, ammunition, blankets, muskets, bayonets, and wagons of food, and morale. On the rebel side, historians place the losses somewhere between zero and four men. One of these was my great⁴ uncle, Richard Baker, who died of exposure during the crossing of the Delaware.

Part of the key to the Americans' mysterious winning of the War was King George III's appointment of Frederick Lord North as his Prime Minister in 1774, and North's subsequent appointment of George Lord Germain to North's cabinet as American Secretary. "Although Germain sought to micromanage British military policy in North America, it was impossible under any circumstances for any American Secretary who was an ocean away, and weeks removed from the latest news, to adroitly direct the war effort." (Ferling, p. 566). "In the 20th century, it became axiomatic in military circles that an imperial state required a numerical superiority on the order of three to one, or

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Dallas Chapter Officer Candidates



Dallas Chapter Officer Nominees for 2008 are (above) Compatriots **Bob Clark**, President; **Hank Voegtle**, First V.P.; **Frank Pounders**, Second V.P.; **Michael Petridis**, Secretary; (below) **Bob Spence**, Treasurer; **Art Ingalls**, Chaplain; **Paul Dodson**, Historian; and **Al Sloan**, Registrar. Elections will be held during the December 8 meeting, and those elected will take office at the end of the January 12 meeting.



Two Dallas Chapter appointments have been announced. (These are not elective offices.) Outgoing 2007 Chapter President **Charles Baker** (at far left) has agreed to edit *The Minuteman* Newsletter for one more year. Compatriot **Bob Northcraft** (immediate left) has agreed to serve as Color Guard Coordinator for 2008. Bob will act as a single point of contact for persons and organizations wanting color guard services and for contacting members of the color guard.

To see these pictures in brilliant 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, CAR, the Ladies' Auxiliary of TXSSAR, and other organizations of interest, Chapter Officers' e-mail addresses, **Minuteman** Newsletter archives, and lots of other good information. You can also click on "Meetings" to find out about the next Dallas Chapter meeting program.



Four new Compatriots were sworn in during the October meeting of the Dallas Chapter. Above, left to right are **Jeremy Johnson** with wife Kathleen, **Tony Riddlesperger** with wife Jane, their son **Daniel Riddlesperger**, and Registrar Gerald Irion. Not pictured: **John Riddlesperger**.

Our speaker in October was Compatriot **Will Hartnett**, our history advocate in the Texas Legislature. He spoke on improving maintenance of historic sites in Texas. He has a phenomenal count of 37 supplemental SAR memberships. During the November dinner meeting, Mr. Hartnett, received the Silver Good Citizenship medal.



Left: Compatriot and Genealogist **Lloyd Bockstruck** was at his best as our speaker in the November dinner meeting. He spoke on digging up lost military records from the Revolutionary War. Following his presentation, he was presented with a U.S. Flag that had been flown over the Capitol by special request of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, and a book on the 13 folds of the flag. A complete copy of the book is at sardallas.org

Lower Left: Some Compatriots and their ladies had planned to ride on this trailer in the Veterans Day Parade, but alas, Bob Clark's car battery was dead.



"All dressed up and no place to go"

Below: Dallas Chapter President Charles Baker presented an SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Liberty Bell owner David Hall. At his own expense, David pulls the Bell all over the U.S. to honor war dead.



(Continued from p.1)

greater, to suppress a rebellion.... When the war erupted, the British army totaled 27,000 men. ... by the time of Yorktown only 35,000 men were stationed in all of North America. (p. 563).

The preponderance of evidence presented by this and many other historians leads me to conclude that the word "Almost" should be removed from the title of Ferling's book. "How bewildering! Major figures on the losing side concluded that their country could never have won the war while the principal general on the winning side was astonished to have won." (p. 562).

In each of the President's Messages this year, I have attempted to lay out the background, purpose and results of the American Revolution as primarily a revolution of ideas that resulted in the War for Independence. Wallbuilders.com has reprinted a 392-page book titled Lives of the Signers. Originally published in 1848, this classic document reveals the private lives of all 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. The book presents a very convincing argument that these venerated Americans who risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in signing the Declaration of Independence were more than passively Christian. They were men of prayer who

believed that God is God, that the King is not God, and that God would not forsake their effort to be free of the 18 millstones around the necks of the Colonists, as cited in the Declaration.

How I praise God that our currency and coins today carry the message "In God We Trust"! As we look to the future, let us pray that our leaders will be men and women of faith in that God, and that the god of "political correctness" will not have his way in decisions that affect our Nation's future. Let this prayer be directed in terms of all three branches of government, as violations of this principle have been evident in all branches. Let the U.S. Supreme Court remember that Moses and the Ten Commandments are carved in stone over the entrance to their building in Washington, DC. Let the Congress remember that the Bible is the book traditionally used when Congressmen and Senators are sworn into office. And finally, let us pray that our President and future Presidents will be acutely aware of the Scripture that says "For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." (Rom. 14:1b NKJ).

What a joy and privilege it has been to carry the title of "President" of the Dallas Chapter this year, and may the Dallas Chapter continue to be the best chapter in the world! ☐

Veteran Affairs and Other Committee Reports are due in December.

The Dallas Chapter has an outstanding record of support to Veterans. We have continued to be recognized over the years for this area of service. It is time once again to compile and record our Chapter's support to veterans. Your help is needed to accomplish this again this year.

Almost every active compatriot has some Veterans Affairs Activity to report. The activities reportable include: Volunteer Service, Visits to Veterans, Miles traveled performing Veteran service, VA Hospital donations – dollars, time, mileage, etc, Special Holiday Observances, Chapter Sponsored Veteran activities, Marking Revolutionary War Graves, Used clothing donations, and big ticket items.

All of these activities should be logged by month and summarized on the form included on the TXSSAR.org website. The form is located under the TXSSAR Chapter Presidents tab. Paper forms will be available at the December Chapter meeting. Please pick up a Veteran Affairs form, complete it and return it to Jim Fairbairn or Grady Fairbairn, Veteran Affairs Co-Chairmen.

Our chapter is also gaining respect in several other statewide categories, including our youth contests, color guard work, and Americanism presentations; however, last year's laurels don't count in our report of 2007 Chapter Activities. I will spend roughly three full weeks in filling out the 2007 Dallas Chapter Activities Report. I will have many copies of the blank form at the December meeting. If you have been active in the chapter this year, there is a place for you to fill out and turn in your information.

Please pick up your copy of the form when you arrive, fill it out, and turn it in to me before you leave.

Charles Baker, President, Dallas Chapter

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

Meetings are held on the Second Saturday of each month, in the Mesquite Ballroom of the Embassy Suites, 13131 North Central Expressway, in the northwest quadrant of the "High-5" Interchange, at the intersection of U.S. 75 and I. 635. Breakfast served with fellowship at 8:00, program from 8:30 a.m. until about 10:00. Fellow compatriots from other chapters and guests are always welcome.

Welcome the Troops. There is a daily arrival of troops on R & R leave from Iraq at DFW International Airport.

Call 972-574-0392 after 5 p.m. on the day before to learn the next-day arrival time and location.



Compatriots and their Ladies paused for a picture together before the Dallas Veterans Day Parade. Our participation in the parade was greatly enhanced by the presence of the world's only traveling exact replica of the Liberty Bell. Kneeling: **Bob Clark, Michael Petridis, Liberty Bell owner David Hall** and his nephew, **Josh Haygood, Bob Northcraft, Alex Ponders, and Tom Smith.** Standing: **Charles Baker, Tom Whitlock, Ralph McDowell, TXSSAR Chaplain Wendell Edwards** and wife **Linda Edwards, Barbara Baker, Jean McDowell, Laurie Crapo, Harmon Adair, and Charles Windham.** Sitting on trailer: **Tracy Ponders.**

Dallas Chapter

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Revolution
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NOTE: Ideas, news or submissions for **THE MINUTEMAN** should be given to **Dr. Charles Baker**, Chapter President and Editor, 214-343-0717.

Registrar's

Report:

(Gerald Irion)

Membership: 306

Last Meeting: 24

Guests: 26

Treasurer's

Report:

(Henry Voegtle)

Checking & Cash: \$ 1,774.31

Minuteman Fund: 8630.69

Ritchie Fund: 29,350.00

Opportunities

Galore

By Dr. H. Charles Baker
President,
Dallas Chapter



Only one contest is still in need of a chairman! Thank you, Robert Kittrell, for stepping up to the plate on the SAR Essay Contest for C.A.R. Members. Besides the Color Guard, these contests are the primary ways that our chapter promotes patriotism and awareness of the SAR. We still need a chairman for the American History Teacher Contest.

Here are contest chairmen so far:

Fifth-grade poster John Morton

High School Essay Mark Hansen

High School Oration Don Hatch

Enhanced JROTC Tom Smith

Eagle Scout Mark Hansen

Essay by a C.A.R. Member

... Robert Kittrell

American History Teacher ???

May we fill your name in instead of the question marks?

E-mail me at hbaker@smu.edu

Inside: Almost a Miracle???

Date	Time	Event	Place
Dec. 8	8:30 a.m.	December Chapter Meeting, featuring Susan Stephenson Reno, Supervisor of DISD American History Teachers	Embassy Suites, 13131 N. Central Expressway
Jan. 12	8:30 a.m.	January Chapter Meeting; inauguration of 2008 Chapter Officers; Awards Day	Embassy Suites, 13131 N. Central Expressway
Feb. 9	8:30 a.m.	February Chapter Meeting; Speaker TBA	Embassy Suites, 13131 N. Central Expressway