



# East Fork-Trinity Chapter Newsletter

Texas Society  
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume ?, Issue 6 August 3, 2012

Drake Peddie, born and raised in Houston, graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Houston and has lived in the Richardson/Garland area ever since. He has an MBA from Amberton University in Garland and has worked primarily in defense communication and electronics in this area for over 30 years.

He joined the SAR in the fall of 2003 with Past President General Nathan White as his sponsor.

He was the president of the Plano Chapter of the SAR in 2009 and again in 2010. During that time, they won the National Americanism Award and the President Generals Award - each for the second time making them one of the top chapters in the country.

He is currently the President of the Denton Chapter and is the Chairman of the Council of Chapter Presidents for the Texas Society.

For the last 4 years, he has averaged about 60-70 SAR related activities per year, many in uniform. In addition to the SAR, he is a member of the Dutch Colonial Society, the Order of Descendants



[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

of Pirates and Privateers and is the current Senior Vice-Commander for the E.E. Ellsworth Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He came to us as Captain Jonathan Haraden, a privateer captain from Salem Massachusetts.

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*In this issue, we have a fifth article by Compatriot Frank Roberts;*

*“Hessian Troops in the American Revolutionary War”*

*Frank's article begins on page 19.*

Our next meeting will be on September 13, 2012. District 6 VP Harmon Adair is scheduled to speak at that meeting. Our chapter has no meetings planned for the month of August.

## Minutes from the Special Meeting on June 8, 2012

The June 8, 2012 Special Meeting of the officers of the East Fork-Trinity Chapter of the SAR was held at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak House, and was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by President Walt Thomas. Compatriot Allen Christian opened the meeting with a prayer, and President Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were six members of the chapter; Walt Thomas, Tom Whitelock, Harmon Adair, Allen Christian, Montie Monzingo, and Gary Lovell, and six visitors; Barbara Thomas, Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, Hunter Hall, Stuart & Margaret O'Connor, and Mindy Lovell.

President Thomas welcomed the guests and announced that the main purpose of our meeting was to officially induct Hunter Hall into our chapter. [At the November 10, 2011 meeting, Hunter's father Jess Lovell and his grandfather Gary Lovell were inducted into our chapter. At that meeting Hunter was unofficially inducted when his mother, Margaret, stood in for Hunter.]



Tom Whitelock, overcome by his emotions, shouts, "Hallelujah, we finally have a member younger than my socks!"

[Photo by Allen Christian]

District 6 VP Harmon Adair performed the induction Ceremony making Hunter Hall an official member of our chapter.

[Photo by Allen Christian]





Hunter Hall briefly discussed his patriot ancestor, John Ham, who at the age of fifteen was initially assigned the task of guarding prisoners and hogs. Hunter gave the members an update of his educational goals; he is pursuing a degree in agriculture and plans to enter law enforcement as a game warden.

[Photo by Barbara Thomas]



From Left to Right: Stuart & Margaret O'Connor (Hunter's parents), Hunter Hall, Mindy & Gary Lovell (Hunter's grandparents)

[Photo by Vivian Dennis-Monzingo]

Mindy Lovell thanked all who were present for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Montie Monzingo, Secretary

East Fork-Trinity Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

**Minutes from the June 14, 2012 Meeting of the East Fork-Trinity Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution**

The June 14, 2012 meeting of the East Fork-Trinity Chapter of the SAR was called to order at 7:10 by President Walt Thomas, at the Texas Land and Cattle Steak House in Garland.

Ten members and thirteen guests were in attendance:

Members; Allen Christian, Frank Roberts, Montie Monzingo, Walt Thomas, Tom Whitelock, Robert Vickers, Gary Lovell, William Bellomy, Harmon Adair, and David Powell; and guests Jane Christian, Jane Roberts, Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, Barbara Thomas, Della Vickers, Mindy Lovell, Joyce Adair, Barbara Powell, Martha Bellomy, Charles Jackson, Glenn & Peggy Atterberry, and our guest speaker Drake Peddie.

Chaplain Bill Bellomy opened the meeting with prayer.

Compatriot Frank Roberts led the pledge of allegiance to the US flag, Compatriot Bob Vickers led the pledge to the Texas flag, and Compatriot Montie Monzingo led the pledge to the SAR.

President Walt Thomas acknowledged and welcomed the guests present.

Secretary Montie Monzingo presented the minutes from the May meeting, which were approved as posted.

Treasurer Harmon Adair presented the treasurer's report.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented, and updated via email.

Current Balance	\$ 1,222.90
Outstanding Check # 1009	\$ 96.43 to Tom Whitlock for Yearbook
June speakers meal & tip	\$ 20.00
Awaiting deposit	\$ 77.00 May/June meeting collection
Total available	\$ 1183.47

President Walt Thomas announced the coming Color Guard Events:

Rockwall DAR New Citizen Reception on June 30<sup>th</sup>

Rockwall 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

Rockwall DAR National Defense Luncheon on November 30<sup>th</sup> (the Color Guard will present the colors)

Rockwall Christmas Parade on December 1<sup>st</sup>

## Reports

President Walt Thomas reported on the Armed Forces Day visit to the Rowlett Rehab attend by the Compatriots Tom Whitelock, Harmon Adair, and Walt Thomas.

Compatriot Allen Christian reported on the presentation of Good Citizenship Awards and JROTC Awards. These awards were presented at nine area schools and seven area schools, respectively.

Compatriot Montie Monzingo reported that he and his wife Vivian placed flags on 84 graves of veterans in the Old Saltillo Cemetery.

Compatriot Allen Christian reported that he and his wife Jane placed flags at an African American Cemetery in Rockwall and at a Cemetery in Plano.



President Walt Thomas presented a Military Service Award and a certificate to Compatriot Frank Roberts. Compatriot Roberts entered the ROTC program at the University of Texas in 1953. He had a career in United States Army on both active and reserve status serving seven years in the enlisted ranks, and twenty-five years as a commissioned officer, retiring in 1986 as Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

In the absence of Vice President Paul Ridenour, Compatriot Tom Whitelock introduced the speakers; Drake Peddie, our guest speaker, and Compatriot Gary Lovell, who did the Americanism, the history behind Flag Day.



[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

Compatriot Peddie looked out the window at Lake Ray Hubbard and commented that this was the first time for him to give a talk at a location that had a dock. Peddie's talk was in two parts; in the first part Mr. Peddie presented a compelling argument that privateers were not pirates in the conventional sense. Due to the weak continental navy vs the most powerful navy in the world, privateers were necessary, but perhaps not evil. In the second part of his talk, Mr. Peddie assumed the role of a famous privateer, Captain Jonathan Haraden. In one encounter with a British ship, Captain Haraden, down to his last cannon shot, was able to bluff his way to victory. Following his presentation, Compatriot Peddie received a Certificate of Appreciation from President Walt Thomas.



Gary Lovell presented the Americanism; the history of the American Flag Day.

[Photo by Tom Whitelock]

Compatriot Tom Whitelock, again acting like a sly fox, made the raffle winners guess at which prize to choose by enclosing the prizes in small gunny sacks.

The raffle winners were: Peggy Atterberry, Walt Thomas, Barbara Thomas, Charles Jackson, Della Vickers, and Mindy Lovell.

Chaplain Bill Bellomy closed the meeting with prayer, and Compatriot Gary Lovell led the closing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Montie Monzingo, Secretary

East Fork-Trinity Chapter

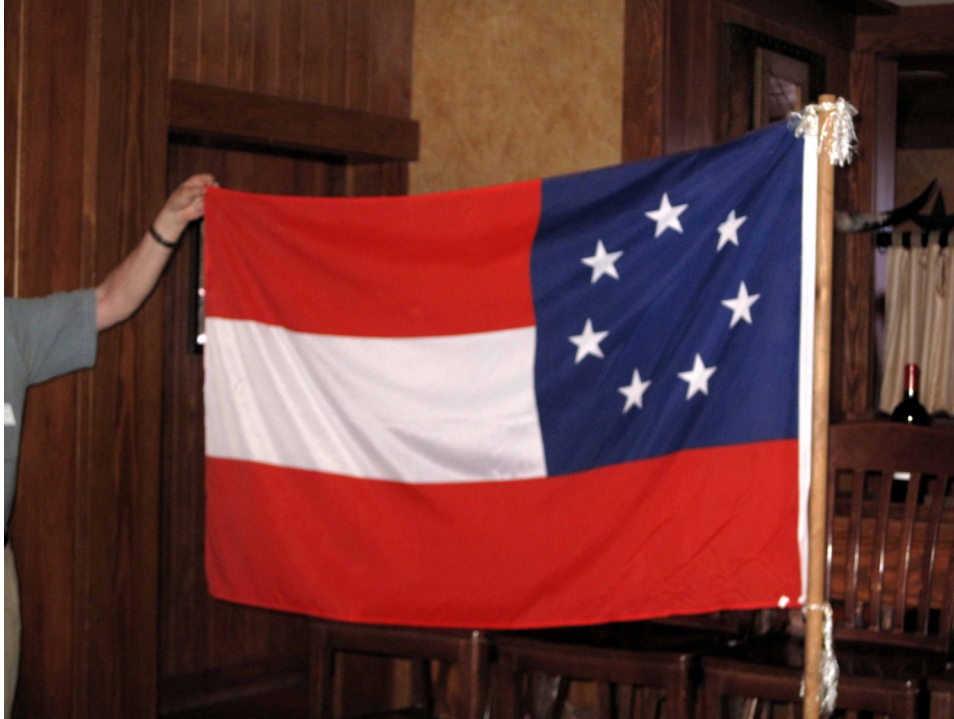
Sons of the American Revolution



Compatriot Tom Whitelock (second from the right), our guest speaker Drake Peddie (far left), and SAR members from other chapters served as a united Color Guard at the Dallas—Ft Worth National Cemetery.



Hunter Hall's induction on June 8 [Photos by Barbara Thomas]



Stars and Bars; long may it wave.



District 6 VP Harmon Adair performs the induction ceremony.

The next four pictures are from the Reception for naturalized citizens.  
[Photos by Barbara Thomas]



Tom welcomed the new citizens and introduced the Color Guard.



New citizens, Dar members, SAR members, and guests.



Above: According to Tom, “Roses among the Thorns”



Left: an impromptu strategy meeting, Rockwall DAR Regent Peggy Atterberry and East Fork-Trinity SAR Chapter President Walt Thomas.

The next four pictures are from the flag presentation at the First Baptist Church in Rockwall. [Photos by Vivian Dennis-Monzingo]





## The Rockwall 4th of July Parade



The Chapter's Color Guard with State Senator Bob Deuell [Photo by Tom Whitelock]



Getting ready. [Photo by Tom Whitelock]



After a long wait, the parade begins. [Photo by Tom Whitelock]



The parade nears the end. [Photo by Tom Whitelock]



Jane, Mindy, and Vivian follow along after the Color Guard to protect them from the buzzards that were beginning to circle. [Photo by Tom Whitelock]



The old dudes may have the uniforms; however, Compatriot Andrew Thomas is likely nearer the age of many of our patriot ancestors during the revolutionary war.

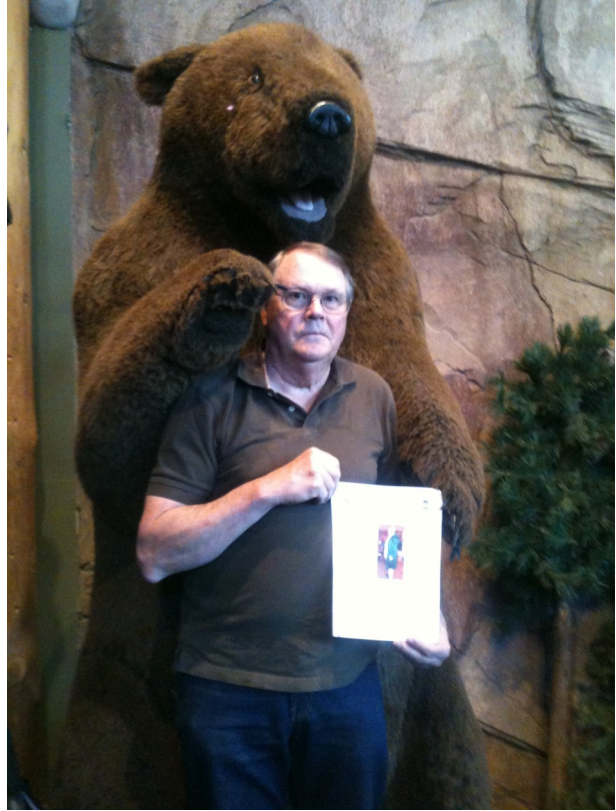
[Photo by Barbara Thomas]



Our chapter was honored to place a display in the Rockwall Library. The display will be available for viewing during the month of August. Check it out. [Display by Compatriots Allen Christian, Walt Thomas, Tom Whitelock, Harmon Adair, and Montie Monzingo,]  
[Photo by Montie Monzingo]



I couldn't bear to leave home without a copy of the EF-T Newsletter. [Photo taken in Denali Park by Vivian Dennis-Monzingo]



Even in Dawson City, Yukon Territory, you can check out a copy of the EF-T Newsletter. [Photo by Vivian Dennis-Monzingo]

## Hessian Troops in the American Revolutionary War



Flag of the Von Ditfurth Regiment, Hesse-Kassel

Most Americans know that King George III hired German troops, referred to as Hessians because over half of the troops were from the German principality of Hesse-Kassel, to fight against the Patriot Army in the American Revolutionary War. But it appears that few Americans know much of anything more about the Hessians as to who they were, why they were in America, where they came from, and what became of them.

The German troops fighting for Britain were not mercenaries as is stated in the Declaration of Independence. Under international law the German troops were auxiliaries, a common practice then as now of one country providing troops to another country in exchange for some consideration. Britain even today has a contingent of Nepalese soldiers, called Gurkas, as part of its fighting forces, and who were deployed in the war between Great Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands. The United States of America has provided troops in similar situations, for example Vietnam, Korea, and the Gulf War, among others.

About 29,000 German troops served the British, about a quarter of the total strength of the entire British military forces committed to America during the war. Of that 29,000, the estimated number of Germans who left the British forces to live in America, usually by desertion or being captured, sometimes intentionally, is about thirty percent of those who survived the war (some estimate as high as forty percent). This fact alone should be

of interest to all Americans as some of us are surely descendants of these German soldiers.

There were six princes or heads-of-state of small German principalities who leased troops from their provinces and it is reported that one received as much as 160,000 English pounds for the service of his soldiers in America from 1776 to 1782. The King of Prussia had little to say over the renting out of these armies as the principalities involved were small and difficult to control. Some of the heads-of-state were known for their cruelty and lack of concern for their subjects and cared little for the lives and well-being of soldiers in their armies, while others were heavily involved in the selection of experienced officers and the training of the regiments for combat.



Hesse-Kassel Principality located in Germany at the head waters of the Ruhr River on the West and the Fulda Gap on the East.

One example of these heads of state, far better in treatment of his subjects than most, was Frederick II of the Landgraves (Landgraf) of Hesse-Kassel (sometimes spelled Hesse-Cassel) located at the headwaters of the Ruhr River. He was a nephew of Frederick the Great of Prussia, ruler of Germany, and held a principality of between 300,000 and 400,000 citizens. Because of the large number of regiments, seventeen in-total, sent from Hesse-Kassel, the name “Hessian”, though not applied by patriot Americans as an honorable title, evolved into identifying all German mercenaries sent to America to fight in the Revolutionary War. Frederick II, who was also related to Britain’s King George III, ruled from 1760 to 1785, and took great interest in his army of about 20,000 troops, as well as his subjects. He was also noted for establishing theaters, schools, museums, and stately buildings in his principality. One major fault of Frederick II was his infidelity, for it is reported that he sired over one hundred children over his lifetime. He was also noted as a good businessman and when he died the state treasury was full, in part from the 13,000 to 16,000 troops he sent to America along with income from other military ventures as well.

Because of Frederick II of Landgraves’s interest in his army, his officers and troops were well trained, well equipped, and well disciplined though this is not true of some of the other regiments sent to America. Many other Hessian soldiers were obtained by conscription, coercion, or press-gangs raiding saloons or taking men off of the streets.

One volunteer soldier related that he was told he would be fighting American Indians raiding colonist settlements along the American borders. He was surprised to find his regiment fighting the colonists instead. Once in the service of a head-of-state, voluntary or otherwise, a soldier deserting was a risky business, for if he was caught he was either sent through a gauntlet line of his company for a severe beating, or put to death on the gallows.



The average Hessian soldier was equipped with a smooth-bore musket with detachable bayonet. Hessians grenadier privates wore the distinctive head dress as shown in the illustration at left. Jäger (sniper unit) officers wore a green uniform coat with white trousers and tricorne hats as also depicted in the picture at the left and below, while Jäger enlisted men wore green trousers instead of white. These jägers were equipped with rifles, far better in accuracy at distances, and used specifically to take out opposing officers.

Under the treaty between Britain and Germany, the mercenary soldiers were to come fitted out and supplied with all necessary equipment to exist in the field under combat conditions. Each soldier was furnished with his uniform, a canteen, knap sack, shovel,

### Hessian Grenadier and Jäger Uniforms

and cartridge and powder cases. The contract with Britain also required that the principalities furnish support equipment including tents, cannon, field hospitals, chaplains, wagon masters, surgeons, and transport wagons.

The Hessian regiments and companies marched from their respective principalities to canal barges on the Ruhr or Rhine rivers, then floated to German and Dutch coastal ports and from there boated to Portsmouth, England to board British transport. The British were somewhat accommodating with the officers, arranging for sailing vessels with spacious quarters and with ample food supplies, but not so much for the enlisted men. Seasickness was rampant among the men, and fifteen soldiers on the first levee of Hessians to America died from various causes.

Moral dropped to dangerous lows due to the conditions of cramped quarters, limited food, and foul water over the long voyage, strange condition to all of the soldiers, having never been to sea before.



The regiments were more than glad to see land and on 15 August 1776, the first division of 8,000 men, commanded by Lieutenant General Philip von Heister of Hesse-Kassel, debarked on Staten Island, New York.

After landing and waiting to go into combat, many of the Hessian troops were stricken with fevers and scurvy, a result of the long confinement aboard the British transports. Nevertheless, on 22

Hessian Hussars (Cavalry Troops)

August, the battalions were transported from Staten Island to Long Island, New York and the next day they were engaged in battle with the American Army. From the Battle of Long Island the Hessians fought, not always successfully, at most all major battles and many minor battles of the war. Notable among these in the northern campaign were Long Island, Fort Washington, Trenton, Ticonderoga, Bennington, Saratoga, Germantown, Brandywine, Redbank, and finally Yorktown. In the southern campaign, the Hessian troops fought at Guilford's Courthouse, Savannah, Pensacola, and the taking and two year occupation of Charleston, South Carolina.

The Hessians were ambivalent about the people, and the topography and climate of North America. When the first division of Hessians arrived at Staten Island they were surprised and amazed that, compared to their living standards, the Americans of the same social status were living in a style much superior to theirs at home. The Hessians were accustomed to cool mountainous terrain and as a group did not like the flat, humid coastal plains of the areas in which they were deployed. Particularly in the southern colonies Hessians were not acclimated to and did not like the weather. Constant rain, high humidity and temperatures in the upper nineties in summer in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia accompanied by mosquitoes and other insect pests, were unheard of in the Hessian's native environment. Still many found fascinating the foliage, the strange animals and the colonial inhabitants.

Many incidents of Hessians rampantly plundering and pillaging were reported in various newspapers and by rumors. An examination of the records dispels the degree to which these reports seem to indicate. In fact, the most egregious occurrences were committed by either British soldiers or by Americans taking advantage of the situation either for personal gain or general mayhem. In fact, Hessian soldiers caught pillaging

by their officers were severely punished. There are even reports of colonists going to Hessian units and seeking protection from mistreatment by British soldiers. It would seem the British troops took the American Revolution as a personal affront, taking advantage of opportunities to rob and steal from abandoned property or defenseless non-combatants.



As noted earlier many Hessian soldiers remained in America and some migrated to Canada. The Continental Congress made attempts to persuade the German troops to desert by authorizing the awarding of fifty acres of land to any Hessian soldier who came to the Patriot side. General George Washington also distributed leaflets among the Hessian units encouraging desertion, offering guaranteed acceptance by the American forces. A major enticement would seem to be the large numbers of German settlers in America at the time of the revolution. One-third of Pennsylvania's population was German speaking, and there were settlements of Germans in the Shenandoah Valley, the Carolinas, the Mohawk region of New York, and near Savannah, Georgia. Although these settlements were mostly from Southern Germany and spoke a different dialect than the Central German Hessians, many of the Hessians were accepted into and settled in these areas.

Many desertions occurred during the

Jäger (Sniper Unit) Enlisted Man in Front,  
NCO on Left Rear and Officer on Right Rear.

latter part of the war when the British were defeated and occupied areas were being evacuated. Some Hessian commanders left behind soldiers unfit for further service due to illness or debilitating wounds. Most of those who remained, either voluntary or otherwise, married and settled into life in the new United States of America, becoming farmers or carrying on a trade or craftsmanship brought from the old country. It is not known how many descendants exist today from the Hessians who settled here after the Revolutionary War, but one thing is for certain; Hessian soldiers were not as cruel and uncivilized as depicted in the minds of many Americans of that time or now. So be careful about what you say concerning the Hessians, you may be talking about someone's great, great, great grandfather.

Frank E. Roberts

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Note: Johannes Helmut Merz has several publications on the settlement of Hessian soldiers in Canada and the United States.

Bits of my family trivia related to Frank's very interesting article:

Vivian's ancestor Heinrich Lincker was a Hessian soldier who deserted in 1882.

Both Heinrich Lincker and my patriot ancestor Peter Bozeman were at Charleston when the British took the city in 1780.

My father died during WWII when the B 17 he was in was shot down over Kassel in 1945.

Montie Monzingo



## Americanism, Main Program Presentations

Meeting	Month	Member Name
1	January	Paul Ridenour
2	February	Montie Monzingo
3	March	Gary Lovell
4	April	Tom Crowe
5	May	Michael Radcliff
6	June	Drake Peddie
7	July	no meeting
8	August	no meeting
9	September	Harmon Adair
10	October	Frank Roberts
11	November	Paul Ridenour [or meet with the DAR]
12	December	Christmas Party