



THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT

Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter # 57 Longview, Texas



Volume 10, Number 2

April 7, 2016

President's Message

This occurs every four years in the United States. It is time for us to go to the poles and cast our vote for the individual that we wish to lead us for the next four years. To assist us in the selection, various organizations have staged “debates” for those running for office. This is a great idea. However, the name needs to be changed from debate to something else. If it is to be a true debate according to the University Interscholastic League debate rules, each speaker is allowed an allotted amount of time to speak without interruption. Then the opposition is given a set amount of time to present its case without interruption and allows the judge to select the one that presented the best case. I do wish this would be the format for our candidates to use. But wait, this is only March and we cannot go to vote until November 8.

I strongly urge each of you to take time to promote our heritage to the young adults and the youth. In the past few days I have had the opportunity to visit and observe a few youth. They are extremely curious about their ancestors, wanting to know their professions and where they lived—especially those who were not born in Texas and do not have a grasp of the Republic. What makes Texas so special compared to the other 49 states?

The first battle or conflict in the Texas Revolution was over the cannon at Gonzales where we obtain the saying:” Come and Take It.”

The first battle or conflict of the American Revolution took place on the village common of Lexington in April 1775. Militiamen, led by Cap. John Parker, were on the common. Lt. Jesse Adair, at the head of the advance guard of light infantry companies from the 4th, 5th, & 10th Regiments of Foot, decided on his own to protect the flank of his troops leading the companies down the common itself in a confused effort to surround and disarm the militia. A shot rang out. The first battle of the war had begun. The eight British colonists killed, the first to die in the Revolutionary War, were John Brown, Samuel Hadley, Caleb and Jonathon Harrington, Robert Munroe, Isaac Muzzey, Asahel Porter, and Jonas Parker. One wounded man, Prince Estabrook was a black slave who served in the town militia.

The Lexington Memorial was created in 1799. Portions of the inscription are as follows: *“This monument is erected by the inhabitants of Lexington, to the memory of their fellow citizens...who fell on this field, the first victims to the sword of British tyranny and oppression...They rose as one man, to revenge their brethren’s blood and at the point of the sword, to assert & defend their native rights.. The Peace, Liberty & Independence of the United States of America was their glorious reward.”*

What history we have to share!

Hope to see you at the next meeting on Thursday, April 7.

Carl



Flags of the American Revolution

A lifetime Panola County resident, Nancy Williams Langford attended Carthage schools, graduating in 1971. After earning a degree in education with specializations in history and literature from Texas A & M University, she taught in Carthage schools for 29 years. She received a masters degree from East Texas State University. Currently, she is a full time volunteer in community and church activities and is married to Larry, a farmer and sportsman. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and reading in her spare time.



Minutes and Treasurer's Report for February 4, 2016

The East Texas Chapter #57, TXSSAR, met on Feb. 4, 2015, at Casa Ole` Restaurant in Longview, Texas at 7 PM. The meeting was called to order by President, Carl Hedges. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain, Mack Bond. The pledges to the United States flag, the Texas flag and the SAR flag were given. President welcomed all guests and "lovely ladies."

After dinner, the meeting resumed with the Sec/Treas. report being accepted, with minutes being corrected as printed in the newsletter. Members were asked to update their info: address, telephone no, and e-mail. This info can be put on the sign in sheet or emailed to: Gary Fletcher...gf91113@aol.com. This is extremely important for your officers to keep updated records. Meetings are scheduled on the 1st Thursday of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. Please mark your calendars with these dates.

Induction of new officers was conducted by the President and Stephen W, Lee, Vice President, District 10 of the Texas Society of the SAR. Officers are as follows:

President—Carl Hedges

Vice President—Mickey Cole

Secretary/Treasurer—Gary Fletcher

Registrar—John Bolton

Chaplain—Mack Bonds

New member R. Still Collum was inducted. He most graciously accepted membership and was very honored to be eligible to be a member of SAR.

The program was given by Dwaine Hubbard, Professor of Music at Panola College. He spoke on music in the Colonies which was the main entertainment during this period. The Marine Corps Band was formed in 1798. It is known as the President's band. Besides being musicians, their duty is to protect the White House.

Members attending were: Carl & Liz Hedges, Bill & Mary Shivers, John Harrison, Barney & Ann Jones, Dave Connor, Mickey & Carolyn Cole, Mack & Martha Bonds, Gary & Nancy Fletcher, John & Carroll Bolton, Harry & Mary Douglas, J.D. & Rosannah Denton, Page Johnson, Claud & Virginia Wallace, R. Still Collum., Joan Still Smith, Stephen & Anna Lee, and Dwaine & Kay Hubbard. The meeting was adjourned with the SAR Closing and a Benediction by the Chaplain.



The treasurer's report

The current balance: \$1,597.02



In Barbary Wars, Did U.S. Declare War on Islam?

Ask most Americans about the details of the Barbary wars, and you are likely to get blank stares. Most Americans are unaware of the fact that over two hundred years ago the United States had declared war on Islam, and Thomas Jefferson led the charge!

At the height of the 18th century, Muslim pirates (the Barbary Pirates) were the terror of the Mediterranean and a large area of the North Atlantic. They attacked every ship in sight, and held the crews for ransoms. These extortionists of the high seas represented the North African Islamic nations of Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers—collectively referred to as the Barbary Coast—and presented a dangerous and unprovoked threat to the new American Republic. Before the Revolutionary War, U.S. merchant ships had been under the protection of Great Britain. When the U.S. declared its independence and entered into war, the ships of the United States were protected by France. However, once the war was won, America had to protect its own fleets. Thus the birth of the U.S. Navy. Beginning in 1784, 17 years before he would become president, Thomas Jefferson became America's Minister to France. That same year, the U.S. Congress sought to appease its Muslim adversaries by following in the footsteps of European nations who paid bribes to the Barbary States rather than engaging them in war.

In July of 1785, Algerian pirates captured American Ships, and the Dye of Algiers demanded an unheard-of ransom of \$60,000. It was a plain and simple case of extortion, and Thomas Jefferson was vehemently opposed to any further payments. Instead, he proposed to Congress the formation of a coalition of allied nations who together could force the Islamic states into peace. A disinterested Congress decided to pay the ransom.

In 1786, Jefferson and John Adams met with Tripoli's ambassador to Great Britain to ask by what right his nation attacked American ships and enslaved American citizens. The two future presidents reported that Ambassador Siki Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the laws of their Prophet, that it was written in the Quran that all nations who would not acknowledge their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Muslim who should be slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise."

For the following 15 years the American government paid the Muslims million of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. Shortly after his being sworn in as the third president in 1801, the Pasha of Tripoli sent him a note demanding the immediate payment of \$225,000 plus \$25,000 a year for every year forthcoming. Jefferson let the Pasha know, in no uncertain terms, what he could do with this demand. The Pasha responded by cutting down the flagpole at the American consulate and declared war on the U.S.

Jefferson, formerly opposed to raising a naval force, now dispatched a squadron of frigates to the Mediterranean. The war with Tripoli lasted for four more years. The bravery of the U.S. Marine Corps in these wars led to the line "to the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Hymn. These wars effectively ended a decade later, when, after a battle-hardened navy from the War of 1812, won a quick victory against Algiers, ending all tribute payments.

Lance Janda, military historian at Cameron University, says "we didn't attack them out of matters of faith but about freedom of the sea and protecting the U.S. flag." **There is no evidence that Thomas Jefferson or his contemporaries were undertaking a religious holy war.**

SAR Chapter 57 Officers

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Carl Hedges, Joan Still Smith, Still Collum, John Bolton



Dwaine Hubbard



Steve Lee, Carl Hedges, Anna Lee, Gary Fletcher, Mickey Cole, Mack Bonds, John Bolton

April 21—Celebration of San Jacinto ***“Remember the Alamo!”***

Remember—We meet at Casa Ole’ on April 7, 2016!!