

# THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT



## Sons of the American Revolution Chapter #57 Longview, Texas

Volume 15, Number 2

October 7, 2021

### President's Message

Patriots,

As most of you know we had a wonderful crowd for our August meeting. New members were inducted and we look forward to seeing them at our meeting on October 7. This meeting will be quite interesting as Jim Kuykendall, State President Elect, will be the speaker.

As you all are aware, we are still battling a virus that has affected our lives in ways we never dreamed. However, George Washington faced a very similar situation. But he was in the midst of a war. Smallpox, actually Variola, was a plague (virus) debilitating his army's victory. So January 6, 1777 he ordered all military personnel to be vaccinated against Smallpox. That virus had put the possibility of a victory for the Colonies in a bad situation. The health of his army led to the victory to give us what we have today. A free nation!

And that brings us to the dilemma high tech times. Get vaccinated, wear a mask or not. What would you do?

I hope to see all of you at Jason's Deli in Longview on Thursday, October 7 at 6:00 pm. Order your food and we will begin the meeting at 6:45.

Lest we forget!

*Gary Fletcher*

**Our next meeting will be October 7, 2021, at Jason's Deli in Longview. Dinner (Dutch Treat) at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:45 pm. You are encouraged to attend and support Chapter #57**

### SAR CHAPTER MINUTES

The East Texas Chapter #57 met on August 5, 2021, at Jason Deli in Longview. Our Chapter, along with all the other Texas Society Chapters, discontinued meetings as recommended by the TXSSAR State President Drake Peddie. This was due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This August meeting was the first meeting to begin our year. The meeting was called to order by Gary Fletcher, President, and the opening prayer was given by John Bolton. The pledges to the American, Texas, and SAR flags were given

After dinner, the meeting resumed with the consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter. Both were accepted as printed. Guests Tracy Jones, DAR Regent in Atlanta, Texas, and the Addington family were introduced. There was no old business.

Under new business, Mr. Fletcher introduced the nine (9) new members being inducted. Each new member was presented with a SAR rosette. John Bolton, Secretary and Registrar, presented two supplemental certificates to members Dennis Beckman and Kenneth Blount.

It was announced that the next meeting will be October 7, 2021. The meeting was adjourned with the SAR Closing and the benediction by John Bolton.

*John Bolton, Secretary*

### SAR CHAPTER TREASURER'S REPORT

July – August 2021

Beginning Balance (07/1/2021)		\$1,806.74
Deposits: Memberships- New & Renewals	\$114.00	
Total Deposits:	\$114.00	
Checks: Gary Fletcher– Supplies, medals	\$47.76	
J. Bolton – Stamps	\$31.85	
Total Checks:	\$79.61	
Ending Balance 08/31/2021		\$1,841.13

*Mickey Cole, Treasurer*

## **An Army Doctor's Life – Bodo Otto, Sr.**

The Revolutionary War was fought with muskets, rifles, cannons, swords and bayonets. The man-made weaponry of war, reports the Philadelphia Unit of The Herb Society of America, killed, maimed and wounded a thousand Continental soldiers each year. Disease, however, killed nine times that number.

As the men from the colonies gathered to fight, their germs mingled, spreading typhus, tuberculosis, smallpox, and influenza. Unsanitary conditions bred typhoid and dysentery. Food shortages caused scurvy and malnutrition. It was from within such an unhealthy environment that Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr. labored and made his mark on early American medicine.

A German immigrant, Dr. Otto received a medical education in Germany and later was accepted into the “College of Surgeons” there. In 1755, he and his wife and children moved to the Colonies and eventually settled in Reading, Pennsylvania. He was an early supporter of the independence movement, opposing the Stamp Act of 1765. When war broke out, he volunteered his services.

By 1776, he served upon the Berks County Committee of Safety and was elected to the Pennsylvania Provincial Congress. He was present at the Battle of Brooklyn, where he worked as a doctor but lost many of his instruments when the Americans retreated across the East River. After the Army's retreat into New Jersey, Dr. Otto cared for soldiers who had been wounded at Long Island at the Old Barracks in Trenton.

The following year, after the Battle of Brandywine, Washington petitioned Congress to build the first military hospital in North America at Yellow Springs, Pennsylvania. It was approved. Otto as a senior surgeon was placed in charge of that hospital, where many of the sick from Valley Forge were treated. He was very insistent on inoculating the troops against smallpox.

The new hospital was called Washington Hall, and it was the only Army hospital commissioned during the entire war. Today, the ruins of that hospital are still visible. Earlier in the eighteenth century this area had been the site of a medicinal spa, given the presence of springs rich in iron, magnesium and sulfur. Prior to the settlement of Europeans in the area, Native Americans had used the site for the same purpose.

From that hospital, Otto sent regular messages to Congress. He described the wounded soldiers being fed salt provisions and stale bread—for lack of appropriated funds. According to federal records, the hospital had no firewood for heating nor any straw for bedding. Historical documents prove Otto was one of the first surgeons to use sanitary medical practices. He served at this hospital until he resigned from the Army on February 1, 1782, at the age of seventy-one. Dr. Otto had three grown sons who were surgeons in their own rights—Bodo, Jr., Christopher Frederick, and John Augustus. They were all trained physicians, and at various times during the war, served with their father in caring for the American forces. When the Army's medical and hospital departments were reorganized by order of Congress in 1780, Otto Sr. was one of fifteen physicians selected for the hospital department and was among the last doctors to leave the service. After the war, he returned to practice first in Philadelphia and later in Reading, where he lived and worked until his death in 1787.

*Article by James Mason Fritz a fifth-great-grandson of Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr.*

**Officers of the Sons of the American Revolution, Chapter # 57**

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*New Members of Chapter #57*

From Left to right: Rodney Burrow, Richard Blackwood, Clarence Burns, Bennie Hair, Dennis Beckham, Carl Hedges III, James Phelps IV, and Joseph Hunt



Rodney Burrow and daughters



Supplementals for Dennis Beckham & Kenneth Blount approved and awarded by John Bolton

