

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



“Chisholm Trail News”

Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter

Fort Worth, Texas

14 August 2017



NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2017

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK: The July meeting had an excellent presentation on the Battle at Kings Mountain presented by our own chapter member, Ralph Smith. Interestingly, it appears that we have thirteen chapter members whose Patriot ancestor fought at this pivotal battle. In August, chapter member Vaughn Oliver will talk about “Guilford Courthouse and Siege at 96”. We also hope to induct some new chapter members at the August chapter meeting.

I am pleased to report some very good, positive information about one of our young members, Alexander Wise. Alexander and his father, David Wise, and grandfather, Gerry Wise, joined around 2011 when Alexander was maybe 10 or 11 years old. I can recall the three of them attending together. David Wise, Alexander’s father has been having some health issues for several years now, but he informed me the other day that Alexander has graduated from high school and has been accepted at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he is now beginning his freshman year. Alexander was an outstanding high school athlete with scholarship offers from several major universities, including Texas and Texas A&M.

We wish Alexander the best of luck at the Air Force Academy and hope his father, David, continues to improve in health and make it to a meeting to give us a first-hand report on Alexanders’ adjustment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. A photo of Alexander is shown below:



Photograph of Alexander Wise along with US Senator John Cornyn and 4-star Admiral William McRaven at the presentation of the Air Force Academy Scholarship to Alexander Wise.

Texas SAR will be holding the annual Board of Managers (BOM) meeting in Galveston over the weekend of October 13-15, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel and Resort. The meetings are open to all members, but it is especially important for the chapter officers. This is where new initiatives, changes, and recommendations for the smooth operation of Texas SAR begins. Details and registration can be found on the Texas SAR website. Hope to see some of you there.

It is also time for the chapter members to begin “spreading the word” on our fall 2017 youth contests: Poster contest for elementary age, and Essay, Oration and Eagle Scout awards for our high school age youth. Consider yourself a committee of one and make the competitions known to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc, etc. The details are on the Texas SAR website. Which one comes up first? The Oration contest which has to have the chapter winner picked by September 10th; State competition will be held at the BOM meeting in Galveston over the weekend of October 13-15, 2017.

This Month during the Revolutionary War: The month of August during the time of the American Revolution had some significant events. By August 2, 1776, the various delegates began to sign the Declaration of Independence; a very brave step forward. On August 12, 1776, Andrew Pickens’ detachment surrounded by 185 Cherokee Indians, forms a ring and fires outward. It is known as the “Ring Fight.” On August 27, 1776, The British Army had defeated the George Washington Army at the Battle of Long Island.

On August 25, 1777, British General Howe lands at Head of Elk, MD.

On August 19, 1779, “Light Horse” Harry Lee attacks Paulus Hook, NJ.

During August of 1780, several events took place in the South; the Patriots defeated the British troops at Hanging Rock, SC. On August 16, 1780, the British defeated the American troops at Camden, SC.

JULY MEETING



Our newest chapter member was sworn in at the July meeting. He is William “Bill” Edward Hawkins, pictured here with his wife, and Chapter President Mike Connelly (l), and Registrar Gerry Gieger (r). Read Bill’s bio on the chapter homepage:

<http://www.sarftw.org/Welcome.html>

Please review the July meeting minutes before the August meeting. <http://www.sarftw.org/Minutes.html>



Chapter member Ralph Smith presented an excellent program on the Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 11, 2017, for Fort Worth's Annual Veteran's Day Parade. The Chapter is planning to have two floats this year and will be joined by the ladies of the DAR for the first time. This is last year's float and participants.



UNSUNG HEROES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Henry Knox

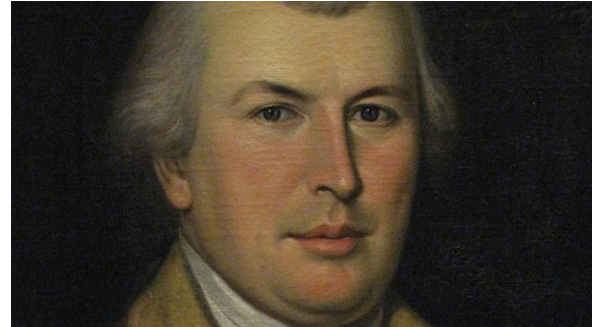
From Henry Knox's days as a teenaged street brawler in Boston, fighting was in his blood. Although the co-founder of the Boston Grenadier Corps lacked a military education, he knew where to find it—on the shelves of his shop, the London Book-Store. The plump, 24-year-old bookseller quickly impressed George Washington when he arrived in 1775 to take command of the Continental Army during the siege of Boston. "Knox was really responsible for the patriots' first victory when they forced the British out of Boston," according to Jack Kelly, author of the book "Band of Giants: The Amateur



Soldiers Who Won America's Independence." Tasked with transporting cannons from the recently captured Fort Ticonderoga, Knox managed to move the heavy artillery over 300 miles of winter terrain using enormous ox-drawn sleds until they pointed at the British from Dorchester Heights and forced their evacuation. Washington, who Kelly says had "an extraordinary knack for reading men and sensing ability," chose Knox over more experienced veterans as his chief artillery officer. Knox managed the logistics for Washington's crossing of the Delaware River and ran the siege at Yorktown that forced the British surrender. Washington's trusted advisor also served as the first secretary of war for the new United States.

Nathanael Greene

Nathanael Greene was the unlikeliest of military heroes. Born a Quaker, raised a pacifist and afflicted with asthma, the Rhode Island native was even denied election as an officer in the Kentish Guard militia he helped to form in 1774 because of his pronounced limp. Greene, however, taught himself to be a great soldier by reading books on military tactics, leadership and fortifications that he purchased from Knox on trips to Boston and caught Washington's eye. "He had never been in a battle in his life, yet Washington saw his talent," Kelly says. Greene was appointed the youngest brigadier general in the Continental Army



in 1775 and was promoted to major general under Washington the following year. After successes at the Battles of Trenton and Germantown, Greene served ably as a quartermaster after Valley Forge and as commander-in-chief of the Southern Army in a campaign that forced British commander Charles Lord Cornwallis out of the Carolinas as a prelude to Yorktown. "He was thought of so highly that it was traditionally thought that Washington would have chosen Greene to be commander in chief of the Continental Army had anything happened to him," Kelly says.

The Color Guard is always recruiting

Several times a year the Chapter is asked to present the colors or provide a color guard or honor guard for various civic functions. We are always looking for new members. Please contact the chapter color guard commander, Compatriot Bobby Gresham, at email address: "gresham817@att.net"

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!!!

Visit our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/SARFTW/Welcome.html>