



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

“Chisholm Trail News”

Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter

Fort Worth, Texas

16 October 2017



NEXT MEETING: October 21, 2017

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK: We end our 2017 meeting programs on the battles of the American Revolution with a talk at the October meeting on “Yorktown; from the perspective of the French Navy”. These programs have been well received by the members who were in attendance. During the October meeting, we will also present the chapter’s slate of officers for the two year term beginning in January 2018. The Chapter is always trying to identify the next slate of officers to lead the chapter, a task that occurs every two years. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role within this chapter, reach out to me with your willingness to serve the chapter in the future.

On Sunday, November 12th, the Military Order of the World Wars will host the annual “Massing of the Colors” at 2:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Avenue, Fort Worth. This is a very impressive ceremony and I would urge you to attend; the program lasts about one hour. You will be witness to an array of flags and banners from many military, school districts and patriotic organizations that are presented in a very professional and respectful manner- plan to attend. If you have not attended one in the past, I urge you to put it on your November calendar.

Don’t forget; the National SAR Congress will be held in Houston during the summer of 2018. I will be at the SAR Board of Managers meeting in Galveston earlier in October and will bring back a report to the chapter of the actions / discussions that took place at this meeting. I hope a number of our chapter members will make plans to attend this National SAR event, this time held in Houston, Texas.

This Month during the Revolutionary War: The month of October during the Revolutionary War produced a couple of significant events, especially when we think of the topics of our meetings for the year 2017. October 7, 1780, marks the victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain, which lasted just a little more than one hour. Kings Mountain was our meeting topic in July 2017. A year later, on October 19, 1781, Cornwallis found himself surrounded on land and sea by the Americans and the French and surrendered at Yorktown. Yorktown is the topic of our October 2017 meeting. Hope to see you there.

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Anthony Wayne

“Anthony Wayne’s schoolmaster said he would never become a scholar,” Kelly says, “but he thought perhaps he could become a soldier because of how he organized all the schoolboys in mock battles and attacks.” The schoolmaster proved prescient. Wayne raised a militia unit at the start of the Revolution, and his Pennsylvania regiment participated in the failed invasion of Canada. In 1777, he led his men against the British at Brandywine and Germantown near his boyhood home before spending the winter at Valley Forge. In 1779, Washington ordered Wayne to storm the seemingly impregnable cliffside fortifications held by the British at Stony Point, New York. The daring nighttime assault in which his men employed only bayonets as weapons lasted a mere 30 minutes and earned the brigadier general the moniker of “Mad” Anthony Wayne.



Benedict Arnold

Although Benedict Arnold is certainly one of the most familiar names from the American Revolution, his heroics in support of the patriot cause have been overshadowed by his notorious duplicity. “He’s not unsung in terms of his reputation, but as a hero he has little regard because of his treason,” Kelly says. “Before he became one of the country’s worst traitors, he was one of its most successful leaders.” Just days after the battles at Lexington and Concord in 1775, the Connecticut merchant embarked on an expedition to seize Fort Ticonderoga, which he accomplished with the aid of Ethan Allen’s Green Mountain Boys. Arnold led an unsuccessful assault on Quebec City later in the year. Although his forces were defeated at the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain in 1776, Arnold delayed the British long enough to save the American cause. He also played a pivotal role in the 1777 Battle of Saratoga, which Kelly calls “the biggest victory of the war.” While Arnold was considered a hero up to that point of the war, he didn’t feel adequately compensated for it. In 1780 he agreed to surrender the strategic fort at West Point to the enemy for a bribe of £20,000 and a British Army command. When the plot was discovered, Arnold fled to Britain to be forever branded a traitor in his homeland.



The Color Guard



The Color Guard participated in the DAR Constitution Week Luncheon on September 16th at Ridglea Country Club. Thanks to James Alderman, David Davidson, Ron Carter (Arlington chapter), and Vann Cunningham for representing the SAR.

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>