



Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Chisholm Trail News



Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter
 Fort Worth, Texas
 May 14, 2018

NEXT MEETING: May 19, 2018

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Greetings Compatriots,

Hardly seems that another month has passed since our April meeting. As you may know, I have been 'cooped up' with a broken foot, but am looking forward to our May 19 meeting. Dr. Hull says I can shed the boot this week. Walking on flat ground is not too bad, but steps are a challenge.

Anyway, VP Sanger has arranged a promising program for our May meeting, in Celebration of the WW-I Centennial. We want to hear your recollections from your Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles and Anyone else that you knew who experienced President Wilson's "War to End all War." Embellished stories are okay, too, so long as they are believable. Also, bring any treasured Photos or Artifacts that you may have to show.

Let's make this a memorable meeting.

Gerry

CHAPTER OFFICERS
2018-2019

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Gerald A. "Gerry" Gieger

Vice-President

Charles O. "Chase" Sanger IV

Secretary

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David R. Davidson

Chaplain

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Sergeant-at-Arms & Color Guard Commander

Robert G. "Bobby" Gresham



THIS MONTH DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1776-1780):

In May of 1776, in North Carolina, General Clinton issues a proclamation denouncing the "wicked rebellion" and recommending that the inhabitants return to their duty to the King. He offers full pardon to all persons, except General Robert Howe and Cornelius Harnett.

In Providence, Rhode Island, Governor Cooke sends Washington a copy of an act discharging the inhabitants of the colony from allegiance to the King. In Williamsburg, Virginia, the House of Burgesses meets for the last time; in its place, the General Convention of Delegates from the Counties and Corporations convenes and elects Edmund Pendleton President.

Patriot vessels attack the British warships Roebuck and Liverpool on the Delaware River. Both sides suffer minimal damage.

In a letter to Congress, Washington recommends raising companies of Germans to send among the Hessians fighting for Britain when they arrive. The purpose would be "for exciting a spirit of disaffection and desertion. If a few trusty, sensible fellows could get with them, . . . they would have great weight and influence with the common Soldiery, who certainly have no enmity towards us, having received no Injury, nor cause of Quarrell from us."

The Virginia Convention instructs its delegates to the Continental Congress to propose "to that respectable body to declare the United Colonies free and independent states, absolved from all allegiance to, or dependence upon, the crown or parliament of Great Britain . . . "

A resolution in Congress requests the Committee of Secret Correspondence to dispatch vessels to the French West Indies to purchase at least 10,000 muskets and to learn, if possible, whether the large French military force concentrated there would act "for or against the colonies."

Conservatives and the radical local Committee become involved in a bitter struggle for control of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly. The Assembly had ordered its delegation in Congress to desist from voting for independence.

The Maryland Convention adopts resolutions stating that: the people had the "sole and exclusive right to regulate internal affairs and police" of the colony; the Convention could reject oppressive acts of Parliament; all royal authority was now totally abolished; and the people no longer had to take an oath of allegiance to Great Britain. The recently reelected delegation to Congress, however, was instructed to abstain from any measures leading to independence without the express authority of the Convention.

From Boston, representatives to the General Assembly are instructed to advise the Massachusetts delegation in Congress that the colony will support a declaration of independence "with their lives and the remnant of their fortunes."

Indian deputies of the Six Nations hold an audience with Congress. The delegates stage a military parade with Continental troops and soldiers from the local Association.

The London Post prints portions of Common Sense; the publisher deleted all abusive and insulting references to the King.

Expresses sent from Christ Church Parish in South Carolina warn authorities in Charleston that a large British fleet has been observed off Dewee's Island, about twenty miles north.

In 1777, With his orders for an invasion of New York in hand, General Burgoyne arrives in Quebec to assume command of British forces.

The 42nd Highlanders repulse a surprise attack by American troops under the command of Major General Adam Stephen at Piscataway, New Jersey.

Almost one third of Colonel John Baker's 109 men are captured after Baker's troops are attacked by Indians and British regulars at Thomas' Swamp, Florida. The Indians kill 15 of the captives before British Colonel Augustine Prevost intervenes to stop the massacre.

At Sag Harbor, New York, American troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs capture several British vessels and burned supplies.

THIS MONTH DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1776-1780): (CONTINUED)

In the opening move of the campaign of 1777, Washington marches from Morristown to Middlebrook Valley.

In May of 1778, Continental troops position themselves at Crooked Billet, Pennsylvania, to interdict the British supply lines leading into Philadelphia. A British force of over 700 men surrounds the outpost and launches a surprise assault, the Continentals inflicting 36 casualties while incurring 9 of their own. The American commander Brigadier General John Lacey skillfully manages to extricate his vastly outnumbered force although he loses all his baggage in the process.

British forces from Philadelphia attempt to trap the Continentals led by the Marquis de Lafayette at Barren Hill, Pennsylvania. Lafayette, by skillful maneuvering, avoids the entrapment and destruction of his forces.

In 1779, Major General John Sullivan receives orders from Washington for the “total destruction and devastation” of the lands of the Six Nations in upstate New York. Sullivan completely ravages the lands of the Iroquois to such an extent that they never recover. With their food supplies destroyed, the Indians are forced to winter outside Ft. Niagara, where many perish from scurvy.

British forces led by Major General Edward Matthew and Commodore George Collier disperse the garrison at Fort Nelson and raid Norfolk. They capture large quantities of both war materiel and tobacco while destroying numerous coastal vessels and two French merchantmen.

Embittered because the Continental Congress was slow in recognizing his achievements between 1775-1777 and charged with abusing his authority while in command of Philadelphia, Arnold opens negotiations with Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander in New York.

Arnold provides Clinton with intelligence so that he can formulate his plans against Washington’s Continental Army. This also provides Clinton with evidence of Arnold’s sincerity.

In 1780, Charleston surrenders on 12 May. The British capture in excess of 3,000 Patriots and themselves lose about 250 killed and wounded. Carelessness causes a massive explosion of 180 barrels of captured powder and somewhat mars the victory. Neither Clinton nor the American commander, General Benjamin Lincoln, displays any inspiring leadership. When Clinton learns of an impending French expedition, he determines that he should be in New York, and General Charles Cornwallis assumes command of British forces in the South. This was the worst American defeat during the Revolution.

After the surrender of Charleston on May 12, the 3rd Virginia, commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford, is virtually the only organized Patriot formation in the colony. British Colonel Banastre Tarleton is given the mission to destroy any colonial resistance. At Waxhaws, South Carolina, a cavalry charge breaks the Continental line, and Ensign Cruitt is cut down as he raises the white flag of surrender. This brings about the term “Tarleton’s Quarter,” which in the eyes of the Patriots is no quarter at all. The Continentals lose 113 killed and 203 captured, the great majority of these prisoners being wounded. British losses total 19 men and 31 horses killed or wounded. The defeat becomes a propaganda victory for the Continentals as they exploit the “massacre” that ensued.

APRIL MINUTES

Please review the minutes for our April chapter meeting prior to attending the next meeting in May.

<http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/docs/minutes/minutes201804.pdf>

See You At The Meeting!!!

Visit and bookmark our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/index.htm>.

Visit and Like/Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vanzandtsar/>.

Join our Google Group for emails at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/sar-km-van-zandt>.



The Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard presented and posted the colors at the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter NSDAR Annual Awards Dinner and Ceremony at Cowboys Country Club, Grapevine, Texas. Color Guard members are (L to R) David Davidson, Bobby Gresham, Ron Turner, and Chapter President Gerry Gieger. DAR ladies are Bonnie Kurtz and Chaplain Mary Kate McRaney.



Color Guard Commander Bobby Gresham leads members Ron Turner, Gerry Gieger, and David Davidson in the presentation of the colors at the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter NSDAR Annual Awards Dinner.



Captain Molly Corbin Chapter NSDAR Regent Leslie Dawson Schwab presented Color Guard Commander Bobby Gresham with a Certificate of Appreciation.



President Gerry Gieger presents the **Martha Washington Award** to Christean Jenkins at the Fort Worth Chapter NSDAR White Glove Luncheon held at Colonial Country Club on February 17th.



DAR and SAR chapters in the Fort Worth area at their booth at the **Hops and Props 2018** held on April 28th at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum. The Hops and Props Veteran Recognition and Craft Beer Festival is a family-oriented event with live music, food, craft beer, family-oriented vendors, Veteran Support Groups, airplanes, and more.

Do You Have a World War I Ancestor?

This month's meeting will focus on the end of World War I. If you have an ancestor or relative that served during the war, we would appreciate you talking about them at our meeting. We'd like to get as many details as you have about this relative(s) but anything would be great. Items about them to consider include: dates of service, rank, locations where served (stateside or deployed), any/all service information known, etc. If you have any digital pictures, please send them as an email attachment to Compatriot Alderman (alde711@aol.com) ASAP so he can add them to the PowerPoint presentation, or just bring them to the meeting. If you have any other pictures or some type of artifact, we invite you to bring those as well. Thank you for making this a memorable experience for the Chapter and we look forward to seeing you on the 19th.



ROTC & JROTC Awards



Compatriot James Alderman with Haltom High School JROTC awardee Angelo Castro.



The Bronze Junior ROTC award for displaying outstanding citizenship ideals was awarded to Cadet Cody Ferguson at the Richland High School, North Richland Hills, TX, by Compatriot David Davidson.



Compatriot Ron Turner presents the SAR JROTC award to Cadet Aariun-Erdene Munkherdene at Birdville High School.



Compatriot Bobby Gresham presents the SAR JROTC award to Cadet LeMarcus Deckard at North Crowley High School.

James Lemmon, a Soldier of the American Revolution

Lancaster, Dallas County, Texas, is the closest location to Fort Worth where a soldier of the American Revolution lies buried. Edgewood Cemetery, just south from Lancaster, contains the mortal remains of James Lemmon.

The story of James Lemmon begins about 1752 when Robert Lemmon and James Lemmon, two Scotch-Irish brothers recently of County Tyrone, Ireland, were under the command of a young major named George Washington. The young Virginia major and his militia were sent to tell the French commanders at Venango and Fort La Boeuf in Northwest Pennsylvania to get out. They accompanied Washington in 1754 in an effort to rout the French at Duquesne and failed, and again in 1755 with Washington and Braddock.

The Lemmon family settled near Hagerstown, Maryland, after the Indian War, cleared the wilderness land and built farms. This was a time of restiveness at the annoyances an inept Parliament and tyrant put on Americans. Patrick Henry and George Washington were eloquently protesting the stamp tax. In 1765, a son, James Lemmon, was born to Robert Lemmon.

When James was five years old, people talked of five Bostonians killed by the Red Coats. At the age of eight, Baltimore forced the captain of the *Peggy Stuart* to burn his ship and tea cargo. He constantly heard the name George, George, George—George Washington. When he was ten, war was declared and George Washington was put in command.

His father, Robert Lemmon, was made a captain in the Maryland Militia. His uncle, James Lemmon, was made a captain in the Virginia Militia. Young James asked constantly when he might go to war. Like all of the Lemmon men, he was big for his age.

In 1777, James was twelve and went with “Uncle George” when Washington needed friends. Washington’s soldiers had been driven back through New Jersey where the colonials refused to sell to his hungry, ragged men the beeves they kept for the pursuing General Howe and the British soldiers.

Captain James Lemmon was killed at Brandywine. General Howe’s forces then captured Philadelphia where during the winter of 1777-78 the British were dined by the Tory sympathizers while General Washington’s rag-tag army starved and suffered at Valley Forge.

James Lemmon lived and starved with “Uncle George” and also served as a messenger between the commander and other Colonial forces. It was safer for a boy than for a man and all loyal men were desperately needed as soldiers. A year later, the tall boy named James became a tall man and was now big enough to handle a rifle. James Lemmon became a private in Captain George Wall’s company in the 4th Virginia Regiment. Later, he would serve under commanders whose men harried Cornwallis in the low countries. These commanders were Colonel William Harden and General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox.

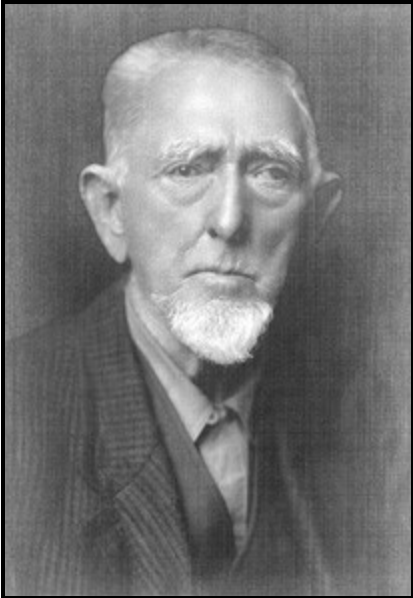
When Cornwallis had been trimmed down to size and had been hemmed in on the narrow peninsula at Yorktown, and the French fleet had sailed up to prevent a British escape, and Washington and Lafayette attacked from the front, James Lemmon was there. In December 1783, James was paid 19 pounds, 11 shillings, and 8 pence for his services during the American Revolution. James Lemmon, the veteran soldier of the Revolution, was still only in his teens.

In 1786, the Lemmon family moved to Kentucky. There, they carved another farm out of the wilderness.

Around 1800, James Lemmon married Sarah Carr and they moved to New Indiana where he cleared another farm and helped bring civilization into the area. James and Sarah were the parents of seven children, including three sons.

In 1815 after his wife, Sarah, died, James Lemmon sold his farm and moved further west to Illinois, taking all of his children with him. There was abundant land and he established another farm. In no time, he married Amy Rawlins, with whom he fathered eight more children.

In 1844, James Lemmon was aging and his hair had long ago turned white. A cousin of his wife decided to come to Texas and join the Peters Colony in the Dallas area. Robert Allen Lemmon, a young son of James, helped with the caravan as it moved across the country. When young Robert Allen Lemmon saw the rich black land in the Lancaster community,



he quickly filed his claim. Unfortunately, young Robert had no money, he was too young, and he had no family to justify the homestead claim of 640 acres. The determined lad walked back to Illinois to try to persuade his aged father to again sell his farm, move to Texas and take out the land grant in his own name.

James Lemmon, the white bearded warrior who had fought the Red Coats and the redskins, who had carved three farms out of the wilderness of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, who had two wives and had fathered fifteen children, still had one more fight in him. So, in 1845, and nearly eighty, James Lemmon sold his farm in Illinois and moved to Texas, then a new and savage Republic of Texas.

Three miles south of Lancaster, amid the rolling plains of the great and fertile black lands, James Lemmon stopped for the last time and, again, helped bring civilization to another great wilderness.

In late June 1858, as his new country sizzled with heat, James Lemmon became ill. On July 4th, the anniversary of his country's birth, he had a spell and shortly after noon, James Lemmon passed to his eternal reward. On July 5th, he was buried in

Edgewood Cemetery. He was 89 years old.

His wife, Amy, is buried in Myrtle Cemetery in Ennis, Ellis County, Texas.

Ninety years later on July 5, 1948, the grave of James Lemmon was honored by the placing of a Revolutionary Soldier's plaque near his headstone. In 1998, the headstone was barely readable.

James Lemmon was truly a child of the Revolution and a true patriot.

American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas

Clovis H. Brakebill

Former President General, National Society SAR

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Wolfe City, Texas

Significant days and observances for the United States Armed Forces

May is **National Military Appreciation Month**.

May 1 - Loyalty Day. A day set aside for American citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom.

May 1 - Silver Star Service Banner Day. A day set aside to honor our wounded, ill, and dying military personnel by participating in flying a Silver Star Banner.

May 3 - National Day of Prayer. An annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation.

May 8 - VE (Victory in Europe) Day. A day which marks the anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II on May 8, 1945.

May 11 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day. A day set aside to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 13 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day. A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind—especially their children. It's a reminder to the community that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots.

May 20 - Armed Forces Day. A day set aside to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the United States' Armed Forces.

May 28 - Memorial Day. A day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States. Typically recognized by parades, visiting memorials, and cemeteries.

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.



MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Our chapter membership levels as of May 4, 2018, are:

Active / Current Member	95
NSSAR Life.....	4
TXSSAR Perpetual	13
Active / New Member	5
Active / Reinstated	5
Dual w/Other Primary State.....	1
Emeritus (50+ years)	1
Inactive by Member Request ...	2
Junior Member / Reinstated	1
Junior Member	3
Not Paid (Current Year)	14
Not Paid (Dual State)	2
Reinstated / Transferred In	1
Transferred In.....	1
Memorial.....	0
Deceased.....	2

Our membership currently is **113**.

