



Cradle of Texas Crier
Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 19, Number 4

April 2016

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

April

Next Meeting

April 9, 2016

La Cosona Restaurant

at

Columbia Lakes Event Center

Columbia Room

188 Freeman Blvd

Columbia Lakes, TX

Program

**CYNTHIA ERICSON
MEANEST MAN IN TEXAS**



CLYDE V. THOMPSON AND THOMAS HICKEY,
FIRM FOUNDATION, MAY 23, 1972, P. 11

Clyde Thompson's first murders earned him the title of "the Meanest Man in Texas," and he worked hard to keep this label while an inmate at Retrieve Prison Farm in the 1930's. On trial in Angleton at the Brazoria County Courthouse for killing a fellow inmate, Thompson found himself at the center of an epic media storm. (Spoiler alert: He was convicted.) The real story of the Meanest Man in Texas, however, is what

happened when Thompson's trial was over.

A graduate of Columbia High School, Cynthia "Cindi" Ericson was named Brazoria County Fair Queen, and her escort, Hector Ward, was honored with the James Massey Award. She attended Texas A&M, where she was a member of the Corps of Cadets, the Ross Volunteers, Parsons Mounted Cavalry, and the Corps Center Guard. She served as Deputy Corps Commander and was commissioned a PATRIOT Missile officer in the US Army. After the Army, she graduated Tulane University School of Law, and she is now a proud employee of Brazoria County. For fun, Cynthia is pursuing a Masters in Anthropology at UH with Dr. Kenneth R. Brown, with whom she is studying the Levi Jordan Plantation. Her studies are funded by the Post 9-11 GI Bill, and she encourages veterans and their families to check for eligibility at:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp

MEETING MINUTES

Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

March 12, 2016

President Winston Avera called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. at River Point Restaurant, in Lake Jackson, Texas. Michael Bailey led the chapter in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas and SAR Pledges. Ted Bates gave the Blessing for our meal.

A moment of silence was called for Compatriot Doc Rice, who passed away on March 4, 2016.



Below is a memory of Joe Allen Rice:

Joe Allen Rice got the nickname "Doc" before he earned his Ph.D. in American Literature. To his surprise, that nickname has stayed with him for half a century. So has his wife, Lynn. They celebrated their golden anniversary in April (2009).

Doc was a Professor Emeritus of the University of Houston. He belonged to the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Rock Art Foundation. He was a Life Member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

He had been a navigator/bombardier in the Strategic Air Command – a job that took him places you will never visit and don't want to.

He had been a newspaper reporter, a columnist, a research contributor to a series awarded the Pulitzer Prize, an editor, a technical writer for banks, manufacturing and petrochemicals.

Doc and Lynn have two daughters and four grandkids – all wiseacres, bubbling with laughter and mischief. He said those six smart and sassy offspring contributed in countless ways to his humor, his longevity and, in particular, his awareness of his imperfections.

He was born in an East Texas farmhouse surrounded by fields of four leaf clovers. He claims that's better than being born smart, talented and good-lookin' with a silver spoon in your mouth.

President Avera called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Arthur Evans moved to accept them as written and Michael Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried.



¹ Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Honor Guards

Treasure's Report:

Provided by Arthur Evans was approved as read.

General Fund

Beginning Balance

01/31/2016	\$4,451.05
Deposits	\$100.00
Expenditures	<u>\$7.50</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,537.52
McAlexander Fund ¹	<u>883.00</u>
Total Bank Balance	
02/29/20016	\$5,420.52

Committee Reports:

Russell Dart gave a report on the Knight Essay Entry. Doc Rice was the chairman of the committee – Mike Hamlin of Galveston, a committee member, has agreed to serve as chairman the rest of this year.

Our chapter's Knight Essay entrant will receive a \$350.00 award for his efforts.

- \$150.00 from Cradle of Texas Chapter
- \$100.00 from Doc Rice
- \$100.00 from Ray and Glenda's Beall-Lucy Lopez Memorial Scholarship Fund

Russell Dart gave a report on the JROTC Essay. A motion was made to present Matthew Fults with a medal and a check for \$300.00.

- A motion to contribute \$100.00 from the Cradle of Texas Chapter was made by Michael Bailey, second by Arthur Evans motioned passed.
- A \$100.00 donation was received from Russell and Sue Dart
- A \$100.00 donation was, also, received from Chuck and Judy Bernard

Ray Beall will present a composite report on the cost of uniforms at the April, 2016, meeting.

EMT HONOREE:

The Sons of the American Revolution presents Emergency Medical

Services Commendation Medals to individuals for their accomplishments and outstanding contribution in an area of emergency medical services. The award is intended for paramedics and certified Emergency Medical Technicians and others in the emergency medical field that have performed an act or service beyond that normally expected.

Jim Gillenwaters was recognized by Avera and Linda Holt, RN, EMT-P who nominated him for his service beyond that normally expected. He was presented with an EMT Commendation Medal and an EMT Certificate for outstanding achievement and dedication.

While serving, Jim was known as an excellent EMT driver, calm and unfailingly kind to patients and their families even when they were stressed and difficult. His understanding of the operations of the vehicles and the equipment needed for each call-out in addition to his excellent business, building, and construction knowledge provided CEMS with unparalleled assets. He participated in many CEMS activities including teaching CPR and First Aid classes. Some of Jim's other endeavors include being an active Mason for 57 years where he is a 33 Degree Mason and received the Golden Trowel as the outstanding Mason, and he is active in his church as a Trustee and other offices.

Getting to Know Your Compatriot:

Arnold Seidule was born on Oct. 1926 in Biloxi, MS. He has been a part of the Sons of the American Revolution for 19 years.

He joined the Navy in 1944 at the age of seventeen. In 1946 he attended Louisiana State University and later transferred to the University of California in Berkeley where he received a degree in Chemistry in the Class of 1950. This where he met and married his wife, Janice.

In 1951 as a member of the USNR he was recalled to serve in the Korean War. He was stationed in Honolulu at the Submarine Base. During this time he was able to have his wife and young daughter join him. After discharge from the Navy the Seidule family moved to Houston, Texas where he found employment with Dow Chemical in Freeport. After six children and 39 years with Dow he retired in 1991. During his career at Dow he was in Plaquemine, LA for about 10 years and two years in Belgium.

He was an active member of the Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts and Explorers, Lake Jackson Parks Board, TDECU Board, American Chemical Society and the American Legion.

In 1997 he became a member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He subsequently served as Chapter Vice President and President. At the State level, he served as District Vice President and Various State Committees. His ancestors are William Goff, John Goff and Edmund Mathis all from North Carolina. Our Chapter President, Win Avera, has the same patriot.



Publicity:

Ray Beall sent a report on last meeting's speaker and meeting announcement to newspapers. The following newspapers published the announcements:

The Facts (Southern Brazoria County)
Brazoria County News
Bay City Sentinel

New Business:

Douglas Rhodenbaugh will be inducted into the SAR at the April 9, 2016 meeting.

Upcoming Events:

- March 31 to April 3-Texas SAR Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency North Dallas
- April 2-3 Re-enactment of Goliad Massacre
- April 15-17-San Jacinto Festival in West Columbia
- April 21 San Jacinto Day
- April 23 Battle of San Jacinto Re-enactment
- May 30-Memorial Day

Program:

Michael Bailey introduced the guest speaker Eileen Benitz Wagner, who spoke on her book "*The Ghost City of San Luis Island*".

The Ghost City of San Luis Island depicts the important role of a small island to the origin of Texas, as well as the power of hurricanes and how that power affects this very fragile barrier island.

Collections of maps show San Luis *both as an island and not an island through the many openings and closings of Little Pass*. Stephen F. Austin's Grant bequeathed to him by his father Moses for Colonization, included this paradise known as San Luis Island.

Based on historical events from the 1500s to the present, *The Ghost City of San Luis Island* demonstrates the strength and hardships of building an early American city

during the 1840s on San Luis Island in Brazoria County, Texas. It provides an in-depth look at the City of San Luis and its population of 2,000 people through actual newspaper clippings, advertisements, maps, documents and narrative collections along with several rare photos that have never been made available before to the public.

There are accounts from eyewitnesses of surviving forty and fifty foot high waves on the West End of Galveston Island during the 1900 Hurricane. Even today, San Luis bears hardships from the wrath of Hurricane Ike (September 13, 2008). Two months after the hurricane, it was nearly isolated from the mainland, no electricity nor drinking water nor road to get there. All this begs the question, will the resort community of Treasure Island find the strength to rebuild this little paradise on the Gulf Coast of Texas? If history tells us anything, the perseverance and can-do attitude of the inhabitants, say, yes, they will rebuild.



The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Donald Mudd, seconded by Frank Seidule.

Michael Bailey led the SAR recessional and retirement of the colors and Ted Bates gave the benediction.

Next Meeting:

The next SAR meeting will be on April 9, 2016, at the La Cosona Restaurant at Columbia Lakes Event Center, Columbia Lakes Room, 188 Freeman Blvd, Columbia Lakes (near West Columbia).

Members Present:

Arnold Seidule, Frank Seidule, Winston Avera, Chuck Bernard, Russell Dart, T.M. Daniel, Donald Mudd, Mike Bailey, Ted Bates, Arthur Evans, Ray Beall

Guests Present:

Gene Shaner, Marsha Shaner, Connie Avera, Glenda Beall, Judy Bernard, Max Royalty, Kay Mudd, Alice Royalty, Hope Grivette, Dennis Smith, Trey Grivette, Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, Kathy Lee Davis, Carl Wiggins, Caroline Wiggins, George Easterling, Frances Hummel, Joan Bates, Jim Gillenwaters, Mildred Gillenwaters, Linda Holt, Dwight Steffler, Janet Steffler, Lisa Riley, Karen Gillenwaters, Megan Johnson, Robert Rogigo

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Let Us Remember
Compatriot Robert Beard

30 July, 1941 -15 March, 2016

Obituary at

http://www.scottfuneralhome.net/fh/obituarie/s/obituary.cfm?o_id=3630971&fh_id=12535



This Month During
the American Revolution

April 18, 1775

General Gage orders 700 British soldiers to Concord to destroy the colonists' weapons depot. That night, Paul Revere and William Dawes leave Boston to warn colonists. Before being captured by a British patrol, Revere reaches Lexington about midnight and warns Sam Adams and John Hancock.



National Parks Service
The American Revolution Day-by-Day

https://www.nps.gov/revwar/revolution_day_by_day/1775_main.html

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of the
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