



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



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Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

Meeting At Baytown Seafood, West Columbia

Judge Garvin Germany to Speak

The speaker for the regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter on Saturday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m. will be Judge Garvin Germany. His topic will be "Freemasonry in the Texian Revolution." The site of the meeting will be the Baytown Seafood Restaurant in West Columbia. The Baytown Seafood Restaurant is just west of the intersection of Highway 36 and Highway 35 in West Columbia. This is an especially timely topic because organized Freemasonry in Texas really began in Brazoria County not far from the site of our meeting.

Germany was born in Dallas, Texas, May 16, 1926 and graduated from Highland Park Schools in Dallas in 1942. He entered Southern Methodist University in 1942 and transferred to Texas A & M after one year. There was a hiatus in his education as he enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1944 serving in the Aluetian Island Campaign. After his discharge in 1946 he did a stint as a rancher, cedar cutter and sales person. He entered SMU Law School in 1950 only to be recalled to active duty in the Air Force at the beginning of the Korean War. After this military service he returned to enroll in Law School at the University of Houston completing his legal education in 1953. He practiced law in Wichita Falls, Dallas, Houston, Brazoria County and Federal courts in the Northern, Eastern, and Southern Districts as well as the New Orleans Court of Appeals, and the Military Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. He served as President of the Dallas County Junior Bar Association in 1959. He has been the President of the Lake Jackson Kiwanis Club and a lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

Judge Germany has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for 60 years, a recipient of the Golden Trowel Award, a Past Master of the Lake Jackson Lodge, a past District Deputy Grand Master, and also holds joint membership in the Brazoria and Angleton Lodges.

Judge Germany served as Judge of County Court at

Law and Probate No. 2 from 1990 to 1998 in Brazoria County. He has served as Genealogist of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, TXSSAR and is now the Secretary of the chapter.

March Meeting Minutes

The Cradle of Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Filipp's Café in Danbury, Texas at 11:30 AM, Saturday, 10 March 2007.

Present were: Mike Rees, Frank Seidule, Judge Garvin Germany, Donald and Kay Mudd, Danny and Susan Cottrell, George Easterling, Arnold and Janice Seidule, Corynne Choate, Russell Dart, Elizabeth Melton, Roger Byler, Milton and Mary Nita Wing, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Peebler, R. E. and Linda Duval, Brittney Weems, Sharon Weems, Patricia Simpson, Mary Moreno.

President Tillman being absent but accounted for in Alabama, Vice President Mike Rees called the meeting to order by asking Reverend Roger Byler to lead us in the Invocation.

We paused to order and to eat.

Upon the arrival of our program, compatriots pledged their allegiance to the Flags and recited the SAR Opening.

The February minutes as read in the last newsletter were approved, with Mike Rees' apology for placing Frank Seidule's award in February instead of the January meeting.

Mike Rees asked for old business of which there was none, then new business. Russell Dart was given by vote authorization to purchase another Chapter JR ROTC award medal for the Pearland Jr. ROTC.

Arnold Seidule reported that Dr. and Mrs. McAlexander's \$1000 legacy to the Chapter would be used to give up to \$250 individual grants to members wishing to purchase Revolutionary Color Guard uniforms. There was some discussion about increasing the support up to \$500 but the consensus was that it would be better to have four new color guards than two.

Arnold Seidule reported that he had received a letter from the Brazosport High School Air Force ROTC Parent's group asking for a subsidy to be used to give flying lessons to cadets not able to pay for their own. This was for information only. Mike Rees asked that Arnold Seidule form a committee to make a recommendation as to what the chapter wanted to do and report back to the membership at the next meeting.

Don Mudd presented the Fire Safety Medal to Chief Daniel Cottrell of the Iowa Colony Fire Department. Chief Cottrell thanked the membership.

Milt Wing presented a Good Citizenship Bronze Medal to the Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County, which was accepted by Mary Moreno. Mrs. Moreno thanked the membership and briefly described the growth of the organization from her original circle of five to over 100 moms, wives, grandmoms, aunts and cousins of active duty veterans in Afghanistan and Iraq. She told the club of their receiving letters and gift in kind and money to pack and to purchase food, gifts and sundry supplies that are needed by troops in the field. She says they sent out 700 care packages in November and are collecting for a spring mailing which is expected to cost \$5,000 postage.

A flag award was given to Ronnie and Linda Duval for their family's daily and respectful display of "old glory", which they acknowledged with pleasure and modesty.

Judge Garvin Germany introduced our special program.

Jim Glover is a graduate of Southwest University at San Marcos. He works for the County Park Service overseeing and interpreting local history at the Quintana park. He is a talented gunsmith for the Brazoria Militia.

Dressed as a Texian revolutionary patriot would be in the 1830's, he talked about various aspects of the Texian Revolution. He recalled the genesis of his interest in Fuerebach's book, "Lone Star".

Jim started by noting that Plato the philosopher was proudest of the simple epitaph: "soldier". He said that although the people who settled in what was to become Texas came from many parts of the young United States and Europe, describing themselves as "Anglo-Saxons." A majority of the most ardent shared the "Scotch-Irish" political culture of the trans-Appalachian frontiersmen. Their greatest value was the treasured 2nd Amendment right and willingness to bear arms in defense of the "tribe".

Jim Glover described the role of the preferred weapon of the backwoodsmen, the long rifle in the development of military tactics. Until after the time of Napoleon in European and derivative Mexican warfare, it was customary to bring ranks of infantrymen within close enough to face off in three ranks within musket range of 100 to 120 yards of each other! The range of the rifle was twice to three times that of the musket, 300 to 400 yards. Two other important variables distinguished the musket from the rifle. The musket initially would take a bayonet

while the rifle would not. And the rifle took twice as long to load.

Jim noted that at Bunker Hill there were only muskets but at Breed's hill there were mixed rifles and muskets. So when the British realized this at Breeds Hill they fixed bayonets after the first musket volley. During the subsequent War of 1812 the ideal mix was two regiments of muskets to one regiment of rifles.

The Texas Declaration of Independence was promulgated on March 2, 1836. This document shows a great similarity to its U.S. counterpart. The first Texas constitution showed familiarity with constitutional republican government. The Texian revolutionaries knew the history of the bill of rights in the Magna Carta in 1215, the basis of which is consent of the governed. So when the new Mexican centralist government threw away the Constitution of 1823 and the federal republic it created, their hope to abide within the Mexican nation ended.

Jim Glover ended his formal presentation with this and spent the rest of his time answering questions on topics such as: the Eclipse of Quintana by Velasco; the slave canal as the forerunner of the Intercoastal Canal; the historical importance of the Port of Quintana; the providential role of rain in miring General Filesola in the "Sea of Mud"; arms depots in Texas; the experimental aircraft in the Lake Jackson Museum as a stealth prototype; the Eagle Island Plantation; Jared Groce; Abner Jackson, the Wharton brothers; his "uniform" as an example of the similarity of military and civilian dress in the early 19th century and its relationship to the larger components of militia in American Armies,

Judge Germany presented a certificate of appreciation to Jim Glover.

Reverend Roger Byler led us in a brief Benediction.

The members recited the SAR closing.

Mike Rees adjourned the meeting.

President's Corner

It was really a great convention. San Antonio did a fine job for everyone except Russell Dart, ask him about it. I am happy to report we had the largest attendance ever representing the Cradle of Texas Chapter. Present were Don Pugh, Arnold Seidule, Frank Seidule, Russell Dart, Donald Mudd, Roger Byler and Tillman Daniel. We were pleased also to have with us Janice Seidule, Sue Dart, Kay Mudd, Elizabeth Melton and Freda Daniel.

Our chapter received a flag presentation award. Don Pugh was awarded three Texas Society Silver Service Medals for Chairman of the Knight Essay Committee, Chairman of the State Meetings Committee and Vice President of District 7. He also received a Meritorious Service Medal. His most prestigious award was the Distinguished Service Medal from the State President,

which only one per year can be given. We also received a certificate of appreciation for contributing \$2,513 to the Patriots Fund. Arnold Seidule was recognized for his continued generous contributions to the Patriots Fund and received the Alexander Hamilton Award.

There is a great push for raising funds for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage in Louisville, Kentucky. This center will cost a lot of money, but in comparison to the debt we owe our heroic ancestors, it is a small amount to pay. Three million dollars has already been raised. If you feel you can possibly help, send your donation directly to the SAR Foundation, 1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, Kentucky 40203.

Patriot's Day



Patriot's Day is typically celebrated on April 19, but it is not a holiday in all the States. Specifically, the day relates to the Battles of Lexington and Concord which were made very famous by the Longfellow poem, "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." There were three other characters in this drama that played even more pivotal role, but received little credit.

On the night of April 18, 1775, there were rumors abound in Boston about a planned action by British troops to seize ammunition in the town of Concord. William Dawes, a tanner, got the news and told Paul Revere. Revere had heard about the plot earlier. Dr. Joseph Warren sent Dawes and Revere to inform the leaders of the Provision Congress of the development.

Warren, a successful medical doctor in Boston, was a graduate of Harvard Medical School and had a very large practice. Warren had studied the law after the British imposed the Stamp Act and concluded that the British treatment of the American Colonist did not measure up to the ideals of British citizenship. Warren published several articles in a Boston newspaper against the Stamp Act which brought him to the attention of Samuel Adams, the man behind the foment in Boston. He joined the group of

Paul Revere, John Adams, and other politically active men.



William Dawes 1

He may have participated in the Boston Tea Party, but since the actual identities of those men were never known, this is not known for sure.

Dawes' route out of Boston was through the gate of Boston Neck. Dawes had made a practice of slipping in and out of Boston posing as a drunk or a peddler. He also

befriended British soldiers from time to

time. At any case, he was able to slip past the guards and began his ride west. As he rode through the towns he rallied support and sent riders to rally the minutemen in Dedham, Needham, Framington, Newton and Watertown. He avoided trouble and met up with Revere in Lexington just after midnight.

After they had notified Hancock and John Adams, they set out for Concord along with Dr. Samuel Prescott, who was a resident of Concord. With Revere in front they ran into a British roadblock and were captured, but by deception they made their escape. It was Prescott who actually notified Concord. In the action Dawes lost his watch. However, Dawes was finished for the evening and walked back to Lexington. He later went to the site of capture and found his watch.

When all is said, it was Revere who got the credit and Dawes and Prescott who did the deed received little or no notoriety. It has been said, almost jokingly, that Dawes and Prescott suffered because their names were not as poetic as Revere's.

Helen Moore, a late 19th century American poet in 1896 published a parody of the Hawthorne poem relating to the anonymity of William Dawes.

'Tis all very well for the children to hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere;
But why should my name be quite forgot,
Who rode as boldly and well, God wot?
Why should I ask? The reason is clear
My name was Dawes and his Revere.

Celebrate Patriot's Day April 19

Compatriot Education

The Finances of our Organization

Topic 1 – The Application Fee

Most of the members of our chapter do not have the opportunity to attend State and National Meetings and thereby do not get some information on a regular basis regarding the financial operation of the State organization. We publish the monthly financial information about the chapter in the newsletter and therefore, at least, members can keep a running account of the financial operation of the chapter. Therefore, we will publish over the next several months some of the financial information about the State financial operations and some regarding the National organization for your information.

Now for some basic information. When you join the SAR you pay a fee that now amounts to \$115.00 for a single membership. That \$115 includes the first year dues for the National, State and chapter and an origination fee that helps to pay primarily for the actual National and State cost for certifying the genealogy costs of printing and mailing your certificate and the mailing costs as the documents go back and forth in the State and to the SAR. The chapter receives \$9.50, TXSSAR receives \$20.00 and the balance of \$85.50 goes to the National Society. From those various totals \$25.00 is the National dues, \$12.50 is the State dues and \$9.50 is the annual chapter dues. Just as an example, on the local level the actual cost not including the preparation of the application is well over the \$9.50 that we receive, the same can be said for the State and National organization. The local chapter presents each new member with a rosette that costs the chapter about \$8.50. Thus if we get a new member that only pays the origination fee (and this really happens) the chapter actually loses money on the transaction, and likewise mailing costs for the State and National and local chapter eat up most of the other income in the process.

Except for the about \$100.00 per year from the Kroger Share Program in which some of our members participate and the occasional donation from a member to the chapter, that is the total income on which the chapter operates. This year we did make some money on hosting the Board of Managers meeting in August, but that was a one-time event. A few chapters charge an additional supplement to the dues, but our chapter has never taken that action. You can track our expenditures in the monthly financial statement to see where your money goes. Most of the actual operational costs for committees and other activities are borne by the chairman of that committee.

NEXT: Topic 2. The TXSSAR Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund

Important Dates

NSSAR Congress, Williamsburg, VA Jul 6-11, 2007
 TXSSAR Board of Managers, Boerne Aug 3-5 2007
 NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville Sep 27-29, 2007
 TXSSAR Board of Managers Plano Oct. 26-28, 2007
 TXSSAR State Conference, Arlington Mar 27-30, 2008
 TXSSAR Board of Managers, Tyler, Aug 1-3, 2008

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 27, 2008

General Fund Balance 28 Feb 2007	\$3,005.18
Total Income	\$0.00
Balance	\$3005.18
 Total Disbursements	 \$0.00
Balance March, 2007	\$3005.18
Barbara McAlexander Fund	
Deposit February 1, 2007	\$1000.00
Total Bank Balance March, 2007	\$4005.18

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