



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 11, Number 4

April, 2008

Mr. Milt Wing, Editor

April Meeting in West Columbia

Paul Hromadka is Speaker

Paul Hromadka, the Chief of Police of Lake Jackson, Texas will be the featured speaker at the April 12, 2008 meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, TXSSAR at the Baytown Seafood Restaurant, which is located on Highway 35 just west of Highway 36 in West Columbia. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. Paul will discuss programs the Police department has in co-operation with the public such as the successful Police Academy.

March Meeting Minutes

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution met at the Wursthau Restaurant on Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. The SAR members in attendance were Garvin Germany, Michael Rees, George Easterling, Russell Dart, Roger Byler, Arnold Seidule, Tim Hall, George Hall, Clell Sechrest, Don Pugh, Thomas Mayerle, Milt Wing, Frank Seidule, Jim Seidule and Mike Bailey. Guests present were Elizabeth Melton, Earlene Pugh, Mary Nita Wing and Mary Sechrest.

Vice-President Germany convened the meeting. Russell Dart, Frank Seidule and Mike Rees advanced the colors. Reverend Roger Byler gave the invocation. Tim Hall led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. Clell Sechrest led the pledge to the Texas Flag and then George Easterling led the group in the SAR Pledge. The meeting was recessed for lunch.

After lunch, President Mike Rees made some initial announcements. These included the announcement that Arnold Seidule had received the Patriot Medal, a prestigious award. Don Pugh was a recipient in the past. He also reminded each of the members to read the list of projects he has proposed and get on board with a favorite one. Don Pugh announced that he had registration forms for the upcoming State Convention in Arlington during the weekend of March 27-30.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as they appeared in the March newsletter.

Mike then called for reports. Arnold Seidule gave a report on the SAR promotional activity which is as follows: Since our last meeting the Chapter has participated in two activities to promote the Sons of the American Revolution.

On Saturday, February 23, 2008 the following members were at the Sugarland Genealogy Fair: Russell Dart and Frank Seidule in their Color Guard Uniform, Don Mudd, Thomas Mudd, Arnold Seidule, Don Pugh and Tillman Daniel.

On March 1, 2008 the following members attended the Brazoria Heritage Celebration: Russell Dart, Mike Rees, and Frank Seidule in full uniform marched the Parade carrying the American Flag, the Texas Flag and the SAR flag. Other members present were Don Mudd, Garvin Germany, Don Pugh, Milt Wing and Arnold Seidule.



SAR COLOR GUARD MARCH

President Mike Rees asked for Old Business and Don Pugh responded and reminded the members that if 20% of the chapter membership made contributions to the

National, the Chapter's name would be inscribed on a plaque in the National Headquarters.

Mike then called for New Business.

There was a discussion about having a banner to help publicize the Chapter in their Promotional Activities. Frank Seidule volunteered to look into the costs associated with such a banner and report back to the next meeting.

Vice president Germany then introduced the speaker, Milt Wing. Milt gave an interesting talk about his Wing Family heritage. He told us about his Compatriot, Moses Wing's experiences and how he fit into the history of the family. He then discussed the Wing Family of America as it operates today to preserve and add to the family heritage.

After the presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Wing by Vice President Garvin Germany, Rev. Roger Byler led the group in the benediction. Russell Dart, Frank Seidule and Mike Rees presented the colors while the Chapter recited the SAR closing, and then the colors were retired. Vice-President Garvin Germany adjourned the group until April 12, 2008.

President's Corner

By Mike Rees

Organic Law of these United States of America, Part II.

Last month we reviewed the contents of the first document of the "organic law" of the United States, The Article of Confederation. When limitations of the Articles failed to meet the needs of territorial expansion, the Northwest Ordinance was enacted. The representatives of the sovereign States recognizing the Articles did not accommodate the economic and political needs of our nascent nation, there ensued a lively debate on Federalism matching that concerning Independence itself.

This month we review the contents of the Northwest Ordinance and the U. S. Constitution which were the fruits of that debate.

The Northwest Ordinance (1787)

People are least knowledgeable about this document which is important because it made possible the addition of new states from the territories northwest of the Ohio River. It created a model in each territory for a government of three parts. **I.** territorial legislatures, with popular election of one representative per 500 free male inhabitants; property qualifications for representatives; a "legislative council" (senate) with even higher property qualifications, originally appointed by Congress for a 5 year terms; general assemblies to pass into law the "laws of the original States" best suited to the circumstances of the district; veto by governor. **II.** Governors appointed by the U. S. Congress for three years; **III.** Judges appointed by the governor until the general assembly (legislature) meets.

The Northwest Ordinance, to extend the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, provided for "the establishment of States, for their admission to ...Federal councils to be on equal footing with the original States." The Ordinance ends with something like a bill of rights to be seen later in the Constitution, granting: I, freedom of religion; II, *Habeas corpus*, trial by jury, proportionate representation, bail in non-capital offenses, moderate fines, no cruel or unusual punishments, judgment of peers, rule of law, compensation for property taken. The next article deal with III. Schools and Education, "which shall forever be encouraged", Indians to be treated in good faith in their property rights and liberty. IV. Assumption of Federal debts at Statehood, rivers to be common highways. V. Prospective boundaries for States. VI. No slavery or involuntary servitude except for crimes, but no refuge for slaves from slavery states.

The Constitution (1789)

The Constitution is the final draft of the Organic law of the people of the United States. It was the final result of the twelve year experiment in federalism between the writing of the Articles of Confederation in 1777 through the Revolutionary War, which was won in spite of the problems of the weak Union under the Articles of Confederation. The Constitution reflects a Union of States stronger than the Articles, but it also creates a new concept: Citizenship of the United States in addition to citizenship of each united State.

The three part organism of John Locke emerges fully in the first three articles of the Constitution. This is annotated so you can refer to respective Section(s) and Clause (c) for fuller description and understanding.

I. THE CONGRESS

The Congress has the legislative power, is composed of (s2c1) a House of Representatives (s2c3) qualified; (s2c3) apportioned. The Senate has (s3c3) qualifications; Vice President is the President of the Senate (s3c4); tries (s3c6) impeachments; Congressional elections held biannually (s4c1); each house judges qualifications of members (s5c1); each house needs quorum; can compel attendance (s5c1); can punish members (s5c2); has a journal (s5c3); compensates members and protects them from arrest (s6c1). The rest of Article I discusses the areas of legislation specifically given to the Congress.

II. THE PRESIDENT

The President has the Executive Power (s1c1). Presidential Electors determine who will be President (s1c2) at a specified time (s1c3). The office of President has qualifications (s1c4). His successor is determined (s1c5) as is his salary (s1c6) and the oath of office (s1c7). The President is commander in chief (s2c1) of the armed forces. He can give reprieves and

pardons (s2c1). The President makes treaties (s2c2), appoints judges and officers of the United States (s2c2). He convenes and adjourns Congress, receives ambassadors, executes laws and commissions officers (s3). The President may be impeached (s4).

III. THE JUDICIARY

The third article discusses the judicial power, the tenure and compensation of judges (s1). The jurisdiction of federal courts is different from the state courts (s2c1). The courts are themselves grouped into a three level "Pyramid" of authority. The Supreme Court reviews the Appellate Courts who review the Original (District) Courts (s2c2). Criminal Trial by Jury is guaranteed (s2c3). Treason is provided for (s3c1) and to be punished (s3c2).

Going further into the Articles, IV deals with the relationship of the States and the United States. Some of the same issues are developed as in the Articles of Confederation: "Full Faith and Credit (s1), privileges and immunities (s2c1), extradition (s2c2); fugitive slaves (s2c3); admission of new states (s3c1); public lands (s3c2); and republican (representative) government (s4).

Although there are many amendments of purely historical interest the first ten amendments were quickly added to the Constitution. The first ten amendments are called "The Bill of Rights". Most of the guarantees were part of the Articles of Confederation and the Northwest Ordinance. They are by number of Amendment: I. Freedom of Religion, speech and press, peaceful assembly, petition of grievances; II. Right to bear arms; III. Soldiers denied quarter in homes; IV. Searches and Seizures; V. Grand Jury Indictment for Capital Crime, Double Jeopardy, Self-Incrimination, due process of law, just compensation for property; VI. Jury trial for crimes, procedural rights; VII. Civil trials; VIII. Excessive bail, fines and punishments, IX. Construction of enumerated rights; X. Powers reserved to the States.

As John Locke had urged, each of these parts of our body politic had jobs to do which were not the jobs of the other parts. This idea is called separation of powers.

The Constitution and its amendments are the last draft of the organic law of the United States of America. The problems publicized in the Declaration of Independence and solutions developed in completely in the Articles of Confederation were fully developed in the Constitution. The Constitution constituted the body of we the people into three parts; the Legislature, the Executive and the Judicial. The Constitution through its own provisions for amendment is, and was

meant to be, a living document. If the conditions of speed of light internet communications and universal education are different from the late eighteenth century, the Constitution has provided its own growth.

Let's all remember the Birthday of Thomas Jefferson on April 17th a truly great American.

Once, while traveling in Virginia, Jefferson stopped at a Country Inn and got into a conversation with a stranger. The stranger mentioned some mechanical operations he had seen recently, and Jefferson's knowledge of the subject convinced him that Jefferson was an engineer. Then they got to talking about agriculture, and the stranger then decided that Jefferson was a farmer. More talk led the stranger to believe Jefferson was a lawyer; then a physician. Finally the topic of religion was broached, and the stranger concluded that Jefferson was a clergyman, though he wasn't sure of what denomination. The



following day he asked the landlord the name of the tall man he had engaged in conversation the night before. "What," said the landlord, "don't you know the Squire?" that was Mr. Jefferson." "Not President Jefferson?" exclaimed the stranger. "Yes," nodded the landlord, "President Jefferson!" (Presidential Anecdotes by Paul F. Boller, Jr., Penguin Books, 1981.)

Important Dates

Chapter Meetings April 12 and May 10, 2008
NSSAR Convention, Sacramento, CA. July 5-9, 2008
TXSSAR Board of Managers, Tyler, August 1-3, 2008

Patriotic Days Reminders

Patriots Day April 19 th . (Battle of Lexington and Concord) Remember to fly your flag on this important day, even though it is not a National Holiday.	
Memorial Day	May 30 th
Flag Day	June 14 th
Independence Day	July 4
Constitution Day	Sept. 17 th
Victory at Yorktown	Oct 19 th

FINANCIAL REPORT
April 1, 2008

General Fund Balance 25 Feb. 2008	\$3,014.68
Deposits	\$0.00
Balance	\$3,014.68
Disbursements:	
Guest Meals (State Convention)	\$50.00
Total Disbursements	\$50.00
Balance Jan 27, 2007	\$2964.68
Barbara McAlexander Fund	
Deposit- February 2007	\$1000.00
Disbursement	
SARUniformForRussell Dart (25%)	\$117.00
Balance McAlexander Fund	\$883.00
Total Bank Balance March 31, 2008	\$3,847.68

Special Note about John Adams an Important figure in the formation of the United States!

There is a special HBO Series named "John Adams" now airing. This Series is based on the book by David McCullough. Back to back episodes of the first 4 episodes will air on April 9th. Check your local listings for times and other segments. They will be available on DVD. Our President Mike rates them a five star experience.

Officers 2008 TXSSARCradle of Texas Chapter #33

President ----Dr. Michael Rees-Ph. (800) 244-5492 Email Address mrees@lonestarlegal.com

VicePresident---Judge Garvin Germany- Ph.(979) 849-4614 Email address ggermany@earth-comm.com

Secretary---Milt Wing, Ph. (979) 265-5351 Email address TheTwoWings@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer -- -- Russell Dart - Ph. (713) 436-1039 Email address rmdart@comcast.net

Genealogist -- --Tim Hall – Ph. 99790 245-2217 Email address timotheushall@hotmail.com

Chaplain -- -- Roger L. Byler - Ph. (979) 647-4222 Email address rbyler@brazoriainet.com

Executive Committeemen: ----Donald Mudd – Ph. (281) 369-2654 Email Address donmudd@peoplepc.com
Arnold Seidule---Ph. (979) 299-1935 Email address aseidule@hotmail.com