



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



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Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

Today, A Day of Honors

Dr. Ira D. Gruber to be Speaker

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution will hold their regular December meeting at Smitharts Texas Grill in Angleton. The meeting will be at 11:30 a.m.

We are honored to have Professor Ira D. Gruber, holder of the prestigious Harris Masterson, Jr. Chair as Professor of History at Rice University to be our featured speaker.

Dr. Gruber holds the Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral degrees from Duke University, and is a member of the Revolutionary War Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board and was honored with the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching at Rice University for 2003.



African American Revolutionary Soldier

He is the author of many articles concerning warfare and the Revolutionary War and serves on Editorial Boards of all the major Journals in his area of expertise. He has been an invited lecturer at the U. S. Military Academies and at many Universities. His topic will be about African Americans in the American Revolution.

His topic will be particularly cogent for our meeting because we will honor two African American

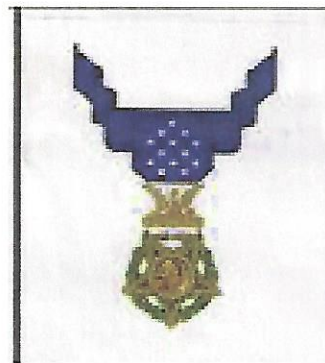
citizens of our county with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. Those of our members who attended the National Congress in Dallas this summer will remember that the National Society has set up a commission to find descendants of the 5,000 African American soldiers who

fought for the Colonial cause and welcome them into membership into our Society.

Awards to be Presented

We will be pleased to honor two citizens of Brazoria County at our December meeting. Mrs. Evelyn Opaku, a naturalized American Citizen from Ghana, West Africa who has offered her two sons in service to the United States. Both young men are currently in attendance or have attended the United States Military Academy with future service in the United States Army. She is to be presented the Bronze Good Citizenship

Medal. Also to receive the same award will be Mr. Clarence Sasser, the only Congressional Medal of Honor Medal from Brazoria County. Mr. Sasser will be honored this time for his civic duties to the residents of Rosharon and Sandy Point.



Congressional Medal of Honor

Two Matters of Business for the Next Meeting

There will be two matters of business that need to be conducted at the December meeting. The first is the consideration of two amendments to the Chapter Bylaws. These amendments were read at the last meeting and are scheduled for vote at our meeting. The effect of these two amendments is to increase the number of officers to include Executive Committeemen and to provide for them to serve on the Board of Managers.

The second item of business is to act on the recommendation from the Nominating Committee. The Committee composed of Dr. Don Pugh, Arnold Seidule and George Easterling will propose the following persons to serve as officers for the next year. All persons have been contacted and have agreed to serve if elected.

President	Dr. Tillman Daniel
Vice President	Dr. Mike Rees
Secretary	Judge Garvin Germany
Treasurer	Russell Dart
Genealogist	Tim Hall
Chaplain	Rev. Roger Byler

If the two amendments to the Bylaws are approved then the committee will offer the following names for election.

Executive Committeemen	Milt Wing
	Donald Mudd

Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2006

The Cradle of Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution met at "Windswept" Restaurant in Oyster Creek, Texas at 11:30 AM, Saturday, November 18, 2006. Members present were Arnold Seidule, Garvin Germany, Don Pugh, George Easterling, Tillman Daniel, Milton Wing, Russell Dart, Jim Salisbury, Donald Mudd, Julian W. Taylor III, Roger Byler, and prospective member Thomas Mudd. Guests included Janice Seidule, Coryne Boggs Choate, Mary Nita Wing, Dot Salisbury, Bellamy Hoffman and Elizabeth Melton.

President Tillman Daniel called the meeting to order by asking Reverend Roger Byler to lead us in the Invocation. Compatriot George Easterling lead us in the Pledges to the Flags and the SAR Opening.

President Daniel welcomed members, wives, DAR visitors and Tom Mudd, a prospective member. Daniel asked for unfinished business, of which there was none. He asked the Chapter to vote on the minutes as published in the "Cradle Crier" newsletter. A motion was made, seconded and the minutes were approved as written. President Daniel then called for new business and officers reports, of which there was none. Compatriot Arnold Seidule reminded the Chapter members of State Society President Tom Green's invitation to attend a flag presentation at a local school.

President Daniel reminded the members that they would be receiving their dues letters in the mail. He urged us to pay promptly because of the Houston Board of Managers' recent emphasis on expeditious and full financial participation of every member. The Chapter was reminded of the invitation of Galveston's Bernardo de

Galvez Chapter invitation to come to the commemoration of 110th anniversary of the SAR in Texas on Saturday, December 9th, 2006. There will be a rededication of the Texas state historical marker at 23rd and Church Street. The rededication will be preceded by a meeting and meal at Gaido's Pelican Club. Compatriot Don Pugh reminded the Chapter that we will be having our own meeting at 11:30 AM on the same day, December 9, 2006, but that it will be possible to attend our meeting and the rededication of the historical marker at 23rd and Church Street in Galveston.

President Daniel asked Dr. Pugh to present for discussion the proposed amendments to Article V of Chapter's constitution and Article III of the By-laws.

Dr. Pugh indicated that the amendments would increase the Board of Managers and the number of officers. Upon the suggestion of President Daniel, copies of the proposed amendments were distributed to all members. The amendments were read. The amended Article III By-Laws amendment makes the Chapter Board of Managers "Executive Committeemen". The amended Article V of the Constitution makes Executive Committeemen "officers, whose duties "are outlined in the By-Laws." Dr. Pugh said that the required vote of the general membership on the proposed amendments would take place at the December 9 meeting.

President Daniel called on Mike Rees to introduce the program. Mike introduced Dr. Lawrence Jablecki. Mike cited his work as Director of Brazoria County Texas Department of Criminal Justice Community Supervision, his Vanderbilt Masters and Ph.D. from Manchester, U.K., and his teaching at University of Houston at Clear Lake and Rice University as qualifications for addressing the Chapter on "The Natural Rights of Man and the American Revolution".

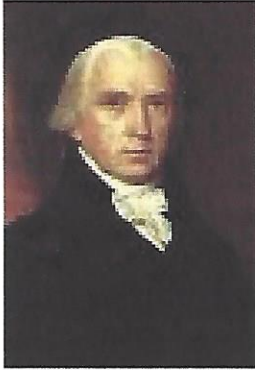
Dr. Jablecki contrasted the romanticized view of the "founding fathers" with their practical concerns about the abuses of the English. He had Mike Rees read from a 1779 edition of the Annual Register the introductory words of the Declaration of Independence.

He said that the founding fathers were not just wealthy men with economic interests which would be furthered by independence; they were willing to radically transform society. The concept of the natural rights of men had existed from the time of John Locke, an English political philosopher. Locke published two treatises in 1690: one on government and the other on royal paternalism.

Locke insisted that the sovereign is not our father; that the relationship is contractual; that in the state of nature there was no sovereign; that we authorized the sovereign to rule but the relationship is one of trust and duty; that the sovereign must insure "life, liberty, and property". These ideas were also developed in the writings of Montesquieu, John Trencher, Hume, Rousseau. All insisted that man comes into the world entitled to natural rights granted by God. Although these writers, and most

of the founding fathers were not orthodox Christians, they believed in providence at work in history.

Dr. Jablecki outlined the controversy between the federalists and the anti-federalists. Federalists Madison and Hamilton first didn't think it was necessary to express the natural rights of man in the Constitution. Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers #84 that a bill of rights would weaken the Constitution. Anti-federalists Patrick Henry, George Mason and others urged that the Constitution needed a bill of rights. The anti-federalists accused the federalists of wanting to replace one form of slavery with another.



James Madison

The federalist soon were able to ratify the "Bill of Rights". The first ten amendments to the Constitution were 12 original amendments collapsed into ten. These were thought to be derivative from universal abstract principles applicable to our young Republic.

Dr. Jablecki said that some thought the founding fathers were elitists—that they didn't really believe in equality but liberty. He thought that modern Americans sometime indulge in anachronistic interpretations of what the

founding fathers envisioned, lifting their words out of historical context. Locke invested in the slave trade, and of course, Jefferson and Madison were slave owners.

Dr. Jablecki said that they did not envision general constitutional rights to privacy or envision (need for) gun control. The words of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, in their

"majestic generality" do not always give us answers. Nor

did the writers of the Constitution think that the Constitution embodied "eternal truth". They thought of it as a structure. But they did believe in natural rights, abstract principles that were true everywhere.

The great issue which was yet to be resolved was slavery. Some think that Jefferson wrote "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" instead of "life, liberty, and property" because he had compunctions as a man of the "enlightenment" about slavery.

Dr. Jablecki suggested that the Civil War was the last great battle of the Revolutionary War. It is ironic, he said, that both Jefferson and Madison died on July 4, 1826,



Alexander Hamilton

exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson worried to the end about the politically destructive tendency of slavery. In that year, a speaker in Windsor, Vermont prophesized that if the northern abolitionists did not proceed gradually and temperately with the people (of the south), the Constitution and Bill of Rights would be destroyed with the Union.

Dr. Jablecki concluded that the writers of these documents were intellectual giants. Even though they were practical men of a particular time and place they had a belief in universal natural rights of men which surfaces in the consciousness of our Nation in times of conflict, and greatness.

Reverend Byler compared our nascent Republic to that of Rome, of which he has been reading much lately. Compatriot Seidule asked if slavery would have been phased out without a war.

Dr. Jablecki said that the arguments of Wilberfoce had abolished slavery in England; perhaps it could have happened here. Compatriot Taylor pointed out that we had outlawed the importation of slaves.

President Daniel asked if any democracy had lasted as long as we. Compatriot Tom Mudd pointed out that the Roman Republic had endured longer, but it fell to the Empire.

President Daniel thanked Dr. Jablecki, to whom Mike Rees presented a certificate of appreciation.

Reverend Roger Byler led us in a brief Benediction followed by the members reciting the SAR closing. President Daniel adjourned the meeting.

Anniversary of TXSSAR

The 110th Anniversary of the Texas Society will be celebrated on the afternoon after our meeting on December 9 at 3 PM in Galveston at the corner of 23rd Street and

Church Street at the site of the Old Tremont Hotel (not the current hotel of the same name) where J. Hobart Evans served as the organizer and first president of the Galveston Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the beginning of the Texas Society in 1896.

We are urging all members of the Society to drive over to Galveston and participate in this recognition. We will have color guard members and local Galveston politicians in attendance and President Tom Green will be assisting in the event.

To get to the site, stay on Broadway as you come on the island and turn left on 23rd street and go about 4 blocks and the historical marker is on the west side of 23rd street.



Important Dates

TXSSAR 110th Ann., Galveston Dec. 9, 2006
 NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville Feb 23-25, 2007
 TXSSAR 112th State Convention
 San Antonio Mar 22-25, 2007
 NSSAR Congress, Williamsburg, VA Jul 6-11, 2007
 TXSSAR Board of Managers TBA
 NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville Sep 27-29, 2007
 TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting
 Plano Oct. 26-28, 2007
 TXSSAR State Convention, Ft. Worth March, 2008

Dues Notices

Everyone who owes dues for next year should have received the notice in the mail. It is very important that you take care of this responsibility immediately. It is very easy this time of the year as we get ready for Christmas that we put off taking care of this obligation. Your dues are the lifeblood of our Society. The annual dues are \$47.00 which includes \$9.50 for our chapter which is really the only funds that we have on which to operate for a year, \$12.50 for our State operations and \$25.00 to operate the National Society.

In your dues notice there are opportunities to make gifts to the various programs of our State Society. The Youth programs are funded principally from interest on funds that our membership has contributed. We call these funds the Patriot Funds and your gifts are needed to fund the scholarships and expenses for the various youth programs; for example, the Knight Essay Contest, the Oration Contest, the History Teacher program, and the JROTC and Eagle Scout programs. Our funds have not generated enough interest in the last several years to fund these programs at meaningful levels. These gifts are tax deductible. It is possible this year to donate funds directly for the current operation of any program that you choose. You have seen how this is done on the information in your dues request letter. Please get these in prior to the first of the year.

FINANCIAL REPORT November 30, 2006

General Fund Balance October 31	\$3,211.19
Total Income	\$3,211.19
Disbursements:	
Guest Lunch	\$18.05
JROTC	\$37.50
Total Disbursements	\$55.55
Balance Oct 31, 2006	\$3155.64

Cradle of Texas Officers for 2006

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