



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



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Mr. Milt Wing, Editor

December Meeting in Lake Jackson

Michael Bailey to be Guest Speaker

Michael Bailey will be our guest speaker for the upcoming meeting of The Cradle of Texas SAR on December 13, 2008. He was previously scheduled to be our Speaker in September but got washed out by IKE.

The meeting will be held at the Wursthause Restaurant in Lake Jackson. It is located just off of Oak Drive on This Way in Downtown Lake Jackson at 11:30 am.

Michael Bailey is the Brazoria County Museum Curator. He holds the Bachelor's Degree in both Anthropology and History from Indiana State University. He previously attended the University of Maryland, Central Texas College and Fort Stellicom Community College in Tacoma, Washington. Prior to being appointed Curator of the local museum, he had served library positions at Pembina, North Dakota and Terre Haute, Indiana. He has also held curator positions at the Eugene V. Debs Museum, the Ernie Pyle Historical Site and the Pembina State Museum. He has received professional development certification in Collections Management and Exhibit Preparation. He is a member of the North Dakota, Brazosport and Houston Archaeological Association, the Jean Lafitte Society, the Texas Museum Society and the Texian Legacy Association. In October of 2006 he was the featured speaker at our monthly luncheon. His topic for this meeting will be "the rockets red glare" from Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner".

Minutes of the November Meeting

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution met for their regular meeting at the

Cactus Grill in Lake Jackson, Texas on Saturday, November 8, 2008. The invocation was given by Rev. Lawrence Stevens and the pledges to the flags and to the SAR were led by George Easterling.

SAR members in attendance were Garvin Germany, George Easterling, Arnold Seidule, Don Pugh, Frank Seidule, W. Barton Griffith, Tillman Daniel, Thomas Mayerle, L. L. Stevens and Mark Peebler. Guests attending were Janice Seidule and A. J. Pete Rexaich. Vice-President Germany convened the meeting. Don Pugh gave a brief report on the Board of Managers Meeting at Temple in October. The minutes were approved as published in the October Newsletter.

It was announced that Chaplain Roger Byler had been hospitalized but now was recuperating at the Fountains in Sweeny and will be there for at least a few days. Also several of our regular attendees were at the Dow Retirement Party and as participants in the Austin Town Celebration. Don Pugh reported that the help pay the chapter had received a letter from Larry Kiggans to help pay the postage for his newsletter. Among his very newsy items he reported that his wife, Gloria, was suffering from the affects of Alzheimers Disease. We should continue to remember the Kiggans in our devotionals. It was announced that Tom Green would present a lecture on the history of the American Flag at the Brazoria County Museum both at noon and in the evening on Thursday, November 13.

Mr. A. J. "Pete" Rexaich, Jr. presented a very informative program on the Port of Freeport and its impact on our community. He invited all of the members to join the Port Krewe, a group of interested patrons of the Port of Freeport. He provided information about the current position of the Port and the information about the new programs and construction planned or underway at the Port. He was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Chapter for the program. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

(Thanks to Don Pugh for transcribing the minutes in the absence of the regular secretary, Editor)

President's Corner: This Day in Revolutionary History

I thought it would be an interesting sampler of the cyberuniverse to "Google" the date of our meeting. The following is a stream of consciousness sampling of the results:

Washington, the District of Columbia was settled in 1768 and on December 13, 1776 was incorporated as a town, taking the name of a soon-to-be-famous southern general.

December 13, 1777- In response to the "Conway Cabal" an action by the followers of Brig. Gen. Thomas Conway, Congress establishes the Inspector General. This quote from the [Journal of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789](#) also conveys the meaning of well regulated army: *"Resolved that this appointment be conferred on experienced and vigilant general officers, who are acquainted with whatever relates to the general economy, manoeuvres and discipline of a well regulated army."*

The same day our soldiers were forced to retreat and cross Swede's Ford into Valley Forge on December 13, 1777.

Of collateral interest to the Revolutionaries was the Battle of Carenage Bay, Dec. 13, 1778 in which the British defeated French. It was between Conte d'Estaing and Admiral Barrington and General Meadows.

The next year we find an item of interest to Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Quakers, Presbyterians, Methodists and other "dissenters" favoring what would become final vote on disestablishmentarianism in the Virginia legislature, December 13, 1779, when the law enforcing the Established Church was repealed. This destroyed the Establishment in Virginia. "We are not to understand," says Semple, "that this important ecclesiastical revolution was effected wholly by the Baptists. They were certainly the most active, but they were also joined by other dissenters. Nor was the dissenting interest all united, by any means at the time, equal to the accomplishment of such a revolution. We must turn our eyes to the political state of the country to find adequate causes for such a change.

Of symbolic interest the next year was the adoption of the State seal of Massachusetts. It was adopted by Governor John Hancock and the Council on Dec. 13, 1780. The seal..."shall consist of a shield, whereof the field or surface is blue, and thereon an Indian dressed in his shirt and moccasins, holding in his right hand a bow and in his left hand an arrow, point downward, all of gold: and in the upper corner above his right arm, a silver star with five points. The crest shall be a wreath of blue and gold, whereon is a right arm, bent at the elbow, and clothed and ruffled, the hand grasping a broadsword, all of gold. The motto shall be "Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem."

On December 13, 1781 Benjamin Lincoln was appointed Secretary of War by Congress.

December 13, 1781 was at the War's end, the day originally recommended by the honourable Congress to the several states, to be observed as a day of thanksgiving to God.

I want to thank all of you who have helped me this year, especially Don Pugh, a well-spring of ideas, and Milt Wing who has been my patient and diplomatic editor.

I am driving to Lafayette this weekend to see my big brother, Major Grover J. Rees, Jr. U.S.M.C. (Aviation, Annapolis"50) who has spent the month in the hospital. Please pray for his health.

May the baby Jesus smile on all of you and your families on his birthday! Sincerely, Mike Rees.



September 13 was the Birth of our National Anthem, proudly salute the flag.



Who is this man?

Most of us probably never heard of John Peter Zenger, but he is responsible for one of our more treasured rights in this Country. His trial in 1735 brought attention to the conflict between the press and government even before the Colonies declared their independence. Here is the story.

John Peter Zenger immigrated from Germany to America in 1710 and served an apprenticeship to William Bradford, printer of the New York Gazette. In 1733 Colonial Governor William Cosby, assuming dictatorial powers prosecuted interim Governor Rip Van Dam, and removed Chief Justice Lewis Morris. An opposition group arose to fight Governor Cosby; the group formed the New York Weekly Journal as the voice of opposition to the New York Weekly Gazette which supported Governor Cosby. Zenger was hired as the editor of the New York Weekly Journal; he considered it his duty as editor to make miserable the life of an arrogant ruler like Governor Cosby and with bulldog tenacity exposed in detail many of the Governor's controversial and arbitrary acts. Some of Zenger's issues were described by friends of the Governor as:

"tending to raise seditious tumults among the people of this province and to fill their minds with contempt for his majesty's government."

In October 1734 a committee was appointed to investigate Zenger's newspaper and to investigate whether he had engaged in "seditious libel". The committee found that issues 7, and 47-49 contained libel and order them burned.

Zenger was arrested, jailed, charged with criminal libel, and held incommunicado for ten months pending trial. On August 4, 1735 his trial began. He was defended by Andrew Hamilton (brother of Alexander) and James Alexander, founder of the American Philosophical Society. The prosecution argued, and the Court instructed the jury, that proof Zenger had published the libelous issues was sufficient to convict him of criminal libel and the *truth was no defense*. Zenger admitted publishing the articles and claimed he had written the truth; however, evidence of the truth of what Zenger had written was excluded from the jury. Hamilton, over the objections of the prosecution and threats from the trial judge, eloquently argued to the jury that "*truth ought to govern the whole affair of libels*," and that they could find Zenger innocent if they found his articles to be true. The jury heard no evidence on the issue of truth, but they knew from their own experience that what Zenger had written was true. They were out ten minutes, barely long enough to elect a foreman and hold one vote. Zenger was found not guilty.

Zenger's case is remarkable in several respects: (1) the case was the last of its kind before the American Revolution, (2) it was the first prominent case of jury nullification in America, i.e. the jury refused to follow a law with which it disagreed, (3) truth as a defense to libel became a part of American jurisprudence, (4) John Peter Zenger became an American hero and an exemplar to all who would aspire to the role of a publisher, and (5) Zenger's case was an early expression of America's reverence for freedom of the press and speech, a reverence that many years later was proclaimed in these

words:...."Congress shall make no law....abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press....". So on December 15th let's celebrate **Bill of Rights Day**.

Important Dates

DAR Christmas Party Dec. 13, 2008

SAR Chapter Meeting Dec 13, 2008

Patriotic Days Reminders

These are some special days to fly your flag.

Pearl Harbor Day

Dec. 7th

Bill of Rights Day

Dec. 15th

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 24, 2008

General Fund Balance October 28, 2008	\$3,440.18
Deposits Newsletter ReImbursement	\$6.00
Balance	\$3,446.18
Disbursements	0
Balance November 24m 2008	\$3,446.18

Barbara McAlexander Fund	
Deposit- February 2007	\$1000.00
Disbursement	
SARUniformForRussell Dart (25%)	\$117.00
Balance McAlexander Fund	\$883.00

Total Bank Balance November 24, 2008 \$4,329.18

Officers of Cradle of Texas Chapter#33

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Special Announcements

Christmas Party

The Fort Velasco Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring a Christmas Party. The Asa Underwood Chapter of the DAR and the Cradle of Texas Chapter of the SAR has been extended an invitation. The party will be held at the Seidule Home at 410 Oak Drive in Lake Jackson on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, STARTING AT 2:00 PM. RSVP to Janice Seidule at 979-299-1935

Nominations for Recognition By SAR.

The Chapter needs to increase the number of recognition awards for citizens for outstanding performance in displaying the FLAG, LAW enforcement, FIRE duty and EMS duty and other meritorious service to the community. Please bring your nominations to the attention of any of the officers for consideration.

Annual Dues

You probably have received your dues notice by now and we urge you to attend to this matter soon (if you haven't already taken care of it) as we would like to avoid additional billing and reminders.