



# The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 8, Number 3

March, 2005

Dr, Don Pugh, Editor

## Windswept Site of March Meeting

### Oral History Theme of Program

The regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the Windswept Restaurant in Oyster Creek on March 12, 2005 at 11:30 a.m.

Oral History is the "meat on the barebones of history," and will be the subject of the program. The Brazoria County Historical Museum is involved in an active campaign to add a large number of oral histories to its collection. The campaign currently is to collect the histories of citizens who have lived in the county for a long time, along with those who have served in military service. Compatriot Judge Garvin Germany has been very active as a resource person to conduct the oral interviews. The museum is anxious to add other persons who can conduct the interviews. Judge Germany will conduct an interview of one of Compatriot Arnold Seidule, who fits the bill as one who has spent time in the military to demonstrate the technique and hopefully to encourage others to learn to conduct the interviews.

You will enjoy this informative program and learn a lot about one of fellow Compatriots. Be sure to be there.

### Minutes February 12 Meeting

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution met at Columbia Lakes in West Columbia on Saturday, 12 February 2005, at 11:30. A.M

The DAR members were: Bob Faulkner, Don Pugh, Roger Byler, Garvin Germany, George Easterling, , Russell

Dart, Arnold Seidule, Janice Seidule, T. M. Daniel, Albert Herreth, Frank Seidule, and Mike Rees,

The DAR members and Guests were Earlene Pugh, Elizabeth Melton, Francis Faulkner, Sandra Seidule, Freda Daniel, Coryne B. Choate Wanda Duke and the presenter, Sarah Higgins.

President Faulkner brought the meeting to order. Chaplain Byler led the invocation. Vice President Tillman Daniel led us in pledges to the Flags and SAR Those present identified themselves with a Revolutionary Ancestor.

The minutes and financial statement of the last meeting were approved.

The assembly ordered and ate..

The formal meeting resumed.

The venue of the March 12, 2005 meeting was announced. The President reminded us of the patriotic holidays in February.

President Faulkner promoted the the TXSSAR 110<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention March 4-6 in New Braunsfels. Announcements were made by the officers and board members.

Don Pugh reminded us of ticket reservations for the upcoming April evening soiree meeting at the Cherhotel in Lake Jackson. Don said that Dr. Jim Heath will be the speaker George Easterling encouraged members to join him in his visits to convalescent veterans, of which his next is Bay City.

Arnold Seidule announced that will be "manning" the SAR "booth" he created. It will be on view at the historical celebration on March 5, 2005 at the old school in Brazoria. He asked for volunteers because many members of the board and officers will be attending the TXSSAR 110<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention March 4-6 in New Braunsfels.

Vice-President Tillman Daniel introduced the program.

Ms. Sarah Higgins, Director of the Matagorda County Museum, an architect – historian, was our program. She gave a powerful powerpoint slide

presentation on the *La Belle*. artifacts on display in her institution.

These artifacts came from Rene Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle's ship, *La Belle*, in 1686 in Matagorda Bay just north of the Peninsula. The underwater site was discovered and kept secret by THC scientists in 1995 to prevent amateurs from destroying the matrix. The world class Texas A & M University underwater archaeology department and the Texas Historical Commission did incredibly expensive "dig" and the even more costly preservation.

Ms. Higgins explained the technological aspects of the exundation. Two concentric elliptical cofferdams displace 100,000 gallons of water to create a hole in water in the inner ellipse. She explained how the peculiar difficulty of restoration of objects taken out of water was met by the "Aggie" and THC conservationists with new polymers that replaced the rotten wood.

Director Higgins also developed human interest side of the story. The brass cannon has an incredible diagnostic detail which confirms the provenance of the artifact. --Twin dolphin loopholes for rope are icons of the French Lord of Admiralty (Ministre de la Marin), of whom La Salle was the illegitimate son! Many people, including the writer of these notes, had not been aware of this aspect of this proud (and some say, tyrannical) leader. The expedition had been thrown into desperate circumstances by Captain Beaujeu's overshooting the mouth of the Mississippi. This would have been a stressful situation even if it had gone well and the leader had been less autocratic. . Ms. Higgins playfully suggested, to the delight of some and uneasy laughter of others, that had La Salle connected the Gulf of Mexico with the arc of French settlements from the upper Mississippi to Canada, "we'd all be speaking French right now."

The objects have since been carefully preserved and distributed to seven museums southeastern coastal Texas for use in seven related exhibits, each of which develops a different aspect of "The La Salle Odyssey": the birth of the expedition (Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History); daily life on board (Texas Maritime Museum, Rockport); the Native Americans who watched the French come ashore (Texana Museum, Edna); the clash of empires in 17<sup>th</sup> century North America (Calhoun County Museum, Port Lavaca), La Salles' doomed colony on the Texas coast (Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria); the extraordinary excavation that uncovered *La Belle*, a fully functioning functioning, seagoing replica of *La Belle* (Palacios Area Historical Museum).

The audience was entertained and educated by Ms. Higgins program. Questions were entertained. President Faulkner asked if there was any old business, of which there was none. Nor was new business discussed.

Vice President Daniel entertained a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and voted. He led the membership in the SAR closing.

Chaplain Roger Byler led the membership in the Benediction

## Chapter Gala A Night in Old Italy

April 9, 2005

**Cherotel Hotel  
Lake Jackson, Texas  
Highway 332**

Reception and Registration 6:30 PM  
Buffet and Gala 7:00 PM

**Guest Speaker, Dr. James Heath  
State President, TXSSAR**

Awards and Special Recognition  
Service Awards  
Membership Awards  
New Member Induction  
Guests from Other Chapters  
Other Special Events

\$25 per person  
Reservations Required  
By April 1, 2005

**Send Checks to Russell Dart, Chapter  
Treasurer  
3315 S. Peach Hollow Circle  
Pearland, TX 77584-2039**

## President's Corner

I would like to remind everyone about the Brazoria Heritage Celebration on March 5, 2005 in Brazoria, that I gave details about last month. I am sorry I will have to miss it, but I hope that many of you will attend and help out at the Sons of the American Revolution Booth. We have several volunteers, but we really need some more to shorten the time each of you will have to spend handing out brochures and telling about our organization.

I also want to tell you about a celebration our chapter will be having on Saturday night, April 9, 2005. It will be a fancy gala with the new Texas Society President as the speaker and there will be many awards given to members of our chapter. We will provide more details at our March

meeting and we will send out notices for reservations sometime in March.

I look forward to our state Meeting in New Braunfels March 4-6, 2005 and will try to provide an update to you on what happens at our March meeting.

## State Conference Held March 4-6, 2005

The State Conference will be held the week before our meeting and we hope to have some good reports to share with the members at our regular March meeting. We have a student who is entered in the Essay Contest and always our chapter is active in the business of the State Society. Russell Dart is assisting in the Oration Contest, Arnold Seidule is the current Chairman of the Patriot's Fund Committee, President Bob Faulkner serves as State Treasurer, Tom Green is the State Secretary, and Dr. Don Pugh serves as Chairman of the Knight Essay Committee. Hopefully other fellow compatriots will be in attendance at the State Conference.

## Brazoria Heritage Day

March 5, 2005

The Cradle of Texas Chapter, TXSSAR, has been invited to participate in the Brazoria Heritage Day in Brazoria on March 5, 2005. We have volunteered to man a booth for the SAR. Arnold Seidule has made arrangements to have our display ready to set up and we are to have some members in period dress at the booth. Some of our members will be at the State Conference and will be unable to participate but several of our members have already volunteered and if you would like to participate, call Darrell Schwebel at 285-2173 to volunteer. The Brazoria Heritage Day is a fund raising event to assist the Brazoria Heritage Society raise money and to celebrate the opening of their new civic center and museum which occupies the old Brazoria Elementary School Building that has been reconstructed with volunteer labor. The event will start with a Bucket Brigade Breakfast served between 7-am; there will be a cattle drive through downtown Brazoria between 9-10am; and a BBQ lunch at noon. There will be many activities between 10am to 5pm. We will need volunteers to take turns sitting at our table between 11am and 5 pm.

## Austin 500 Project

It was proposed at the last meeting that the chapter consider participate in the Austin 500 Project. This is the project that is

putting the large statue of Stephen F. Austin in the county near the intersection of Highway 288 and Highway 35.

Every group or individual that donates \$1000 to the project will receive recognition on the project. We have had one pledge of \$100 toward the project. If you have interest or wish to contribute, please contact President Faulkner with your information.

If you want further information you might go to the website at  
<http://www.stephenfaustin.org/Stephen%20F%20Austin%20300.htm>

### FINANCIAL REPORT January 31, 2005

General Fund Balance December 31, 2004	\$1,079.97
Income:	0.00
Disbursements:	
Chapter Medals	\$74.50
Total Disbursements:	\$74.50
General Fund Balance January 31, 2005	\$1,005.47

### Cradle of Texas Officers for 2004

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