



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 8, Number 5

May, 2005

Dr, Don Pugh, Editor

May is Last Meeting until September

Judge Tom Lawrence to Speak

The regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday, May 14 at the Windswept Restaurant in Oyster Creek.

Judge Lawrence is a Justice of the Peace in Harris County and has recently served as the President of the Carrington Chapter in Houston. Judge Lawrence's topic will be "What the History Books Don't Tell You About the Boston Tea Party".

Judge Lawrence holds the BA from Chapman College in Los Angeles and the JD degree from South Texas School of Law. He served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, and has been active in the court system in Texas and Harris County for several years holding several important positions. He is a George Washington Fellow and has served as Trustee or Advisory Board Member for North Harris Community College District as well as the Boy Scouts of America. He has drafted several important bills for the Texas Legislature and is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Association. Lawrence was been honored by several North Harris County Associations and the City of Humble declared May 19, 1992 as Judge Tom Lawrence Day.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Cradle of Texas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution celebrated the visit of their State President, Dr. James Heath from Buchanan Lake, Texas with Gala 2005 at the Cherotel in Lake Jackson on Saturday evening, 6:30 pm, April 9, 2005. There were 63 persons in attendance including 17 members of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, and 2 visiting SAR members: Fred Bultman from the

Alexander Hodge Chapter and Dr. James Heath from the Bluebonnet Chapter. There were 12 members of the DAR also in attendance. There was no official business conducted at the meeting. Featured in the opening of the meeting was the advance of the Colors by four members of the Color Guard in the period dress of the Revolutionary Soldier.

Also other State Officers of the Texas Society of the SAR in attendance were Tom Green, State President-Elect

and C. Robert Faulkner, State Treasurer who is

also the President of the local Chapter. The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Don Pugh, a former chapter president. After the pledges to the flags led by Dr. Tillman Daniel, Bay City chapter Vice-President, the invocation was pronounced by Chaplain Rev. Roger Byler, Sweeny.

After a dinner of Italian food there were five new members of the chapter inducted. They included Johnnie Ruy Gresham and Jordan Lee Gresham of Louise, Texas and Paul Hinton Dickerson, of Houston, Harrell Edward Whitnell of Cedar Bayou and Clifton Joseph Dickerson, of Austin. There were special certificates awarded to some of the members for the approval of fifteen supplementary ancestors.

One of the features of the evening was the reading of the first place essay in the State Essay Contest by Valerie Johnson, an eleventh grade student from Bay City High School who was sponsored by the chapter. Valerie is the daughter of Chris and Carolyn Johnson of Bay City. Valerie's essay was entitled, "Simple Facts, Plain Arguments, and Common Sense," based on the writings of Tom Paine, the Revolutionary period pamphleteer. Valerie



Elizabeth Melton Receives Martha Washington Medal from President Faulkner

received a \$1500 scholarship to the college of her choice upon graduation and her essay was entered in the National Contest, the winner of which will receive a \$3000 dollar scholarship.

Another award presented during the evening was a Flag Award to David and Sue Reischick of Lake Jackson for the proper display of the United States Flag. There was, in addition, a Law Enforcement Commendation Medal presented to Chief Glenn Patton of Richwood for his long and distinguished service to that community. Also presented was a Martha Washington Medal to Elizabeth Melton of Sweeny for her diligent service to the Chapter.

Two featured awards for the evening were the Bronze Good Citizenship medal to two community citizens. The Bronze Good Citizenship medal is the highest medal that a

Other Pictures on Page 3 - 4

chapter can present to a person who has exemplified outstanding citizenship in their community. Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh was presented the award for her long, selfless work

as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity after their completion of 49 homes for citizens of the Southern Brazoria County area. Sandra Tanamachi, a teacher at Stephen F. Austin Elementary in Jones Creek was also awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for her work in Harris County to change the street names of streets that bore names that were insulting to members of the Japanese-American community. She, as well, was honored for her sponsorship of patriotic programs at her school.

Service awards were also presented. Five year awards were presented to Russell Dart, Pearland; George Franklin, Lake Jackson; John Liles, Sweeny; Mark Piersall, West Virginia; Matthew Piersall, John Salisbury, Colorado; Robert Seidule, Lake Jackson and Jeffrey Smith, Borger. Ten Year awards were presented to Randolph Goolsby, West Columbia, and Lieutenant Steven Polk, Washington, DC formerly from Bay City. A Twenty Year award was presented to Rev. Roger Byler, Sweeny, and a Thirty Year Award was presented to Harry Fitzgibbon, Surfside.

Dr. Don Pugh was presented the Texas Society Silver Service Medal for his work in organizing the State Knight Essay Contest by Dr. Heath and Tom Green on behalf of the State Society.

The principal address was given by State President Dr. James Heath. Dr. Heath was formerly a Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Illinois. He also served on the faculties of the University of Florida and the National University del Sur in Argentina and has served as Visiting Scholar in Zoology at the University of Texas in Austin from 1996 to the present. His topic was "Ben Franklin, Scientist." He

focused on the brilliant work by the youthful Ben Franklin who was regarded as one of the foremost scientist of the 17th and 18th centuries and acclaimed as such by scientists and philosophers of Europe and the United States. Chapter president C. Robert Faulkner presented some special awards to several members of the chapter who had served the chapter during his tenure as president. They included Russell Dart, Pearland; George Easterling, Judge Garvin German, and Dr.

Michael Rees, Angleton; Rev. Roger Byler, Sweeny; Arnold Seidule, Dr. Don Pugh, Clell Sechrest, and Frank Seidule, Lake Jackson, and Dr. Tillman Daniels, Bay City.

The meeting closed with the SAR closing led by Dr. Tillman Daniel and the Benediction by Rev. Roger Byler.



President's Corner

I wish to thank all of you who attended our Gala on April 9th at the Cherotel in Lake Jackson. It was a great meeting and we had a great attendance. Our new State President, Dr Jim Heath gave an interesting talk about Benjamin Franklin that everyone really enjoyed. We made awards to outstanding citizens in our area and I honored the officers of our chapter for their work during my term in office. We also inducted several new members and recognized some of our members who had received supplemental certificates for some of their ancestors. We had several DAR and DRT families who attended our meeting as well as members from other chapters.

We took up a collection for the statue of Stephen F. Austin and received enough money, along with other contributions, to provide a \$1000.00 donation to the Austin 500 organization to obtain a place for our name to be placed on the retaining wall at the base of the statue. I wish to thank all of you who contributed to the fund for the statue that will tell the world how important Brazoria County was in establishing the existence of Texas. We presented Mr. Warneke the check for our donation at our BOM meeting on April 28th.

At our Chapter BOM meeting we also discussed having a TXSSAR State BOM meeting in Lake Jackson either in August or November 2006, probably August. We talked to the manager of the Cherotel and he was able to provide all the services and rooms necessary for the meeting. Hosting a state BOM meeting would provide publicity for our chapter and recognition throughout the state. If our chapter decides to take on the job of hosting the BOM meeting, we will need quite a few members and their

wives to help organize the activities necessary for the meeting. It would be nice to hear the opinions from our local membership about hosting this meeting next year and I would welcome any volunteers if we decide to go forward with the suggestion.

Patriotic Holidays

Memorial Day – May 30

Most Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. To help Americans re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps'.



Flag Day – June 14

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day – the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 – was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Declaration Day – July 4

The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and pealing church bells. Even the bell in Independence Hall was rung. The "Province Bell" would later be renamed "Liberty Bell" after its inscription -Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof. Although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year - July 4 1777. By the early 1800s the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate America's birthday.

Annual National Congress

The National Congress is set for Louisville, KY, July 3-6. Information and reservation materials will be available shortly on the SAR website and the National Publications. The Nominating Committee has selected the following slate to consider for National Office for next year:

Librarian General, Mike Jones
 Chaplain General, David Hockensmith
 Surgeon General, Dan Heller
 Genealogist General, Ed Butler
 Historian General, David Sympton
 Registrar General, Timothy Bennett
 Treasurer General, Bruce Wilcox
 Secretary General, Nathan White
 President General, Roland Downing

We are pleased to have two Texans among these nominees for office.



Induction of Father and Son Gresham



Chief Patton Receives Law Enforcement Medal



Good Citizenship Medal to Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh



Good Citizenship Medal to Sandra Tanamachi



**Clifton Dickerson Induction with Family.
Not pictured is Paul Dickerson and Harold Whitnell**

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 31, 2005

General Fund Balance Feb. 28, 2005	\$611.47
Income:	
Membership Dues	\$532.00
Gala Tickets	1,000.00
Austin 500 Donation	200.00
Total Income	\$2343.47
Disbursements:	
Stamps	\$37.00
SAR Folders	\$16.00
Total Disbursements:	\$53.00
General Fund Balance Mar 31, 2005	\$2090.47
Austin 500 Balance	200.00
Bank Balance March 31, 2005	\$2290.47

Cradle of Texas Officers for 2004

President -- -- Bob Faulkner - Ph. (979) 265-9525
Email address cfaulkner3@houston.rr.com

Vice-President -- -- Dr. Tillman Daniel
Ph. (979) 245-6211 Email address fdan2@sbcglobal.net

Secretary -- -- Dr. Michael Rees -- Ph. (800) 244-5492
Email Address mrrees@lonestarlegal.org

Treasurer -- -- Russell Dart - Ph. (713) 436-1039
Email address rdart@houston.rr.com

Genealogist -- -- Harry Fitzgibbon -- Ph. 979 266-1019
Email address harryfitzgibbon@mms.gov

Chaplain -- -- Roger L. Byler - Ph. (979) 647-4222
Email address rlbyler@sat.net

Historian -- -- Maxwell Salisbury, Jr. - Ph. (979) 265-3579 - Email address dsalisbury@brazosport.edu

Newsletter Editor -- -- Dr. Don Pugh -- Ph. (979) 265-6463 -- Email address dpugh1931@sbcglobal.net