



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Texas Cradle of Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 12, Number 5

May, 2009

Mr. Milt Wing, Editor

May Meeting At Surfside

Tom Lawrence to be Guest Speaker

In addition, he has been Presiding Judge for the Harris County Justice of the Peace Court.

Tom Lawrence, the newly elected President of Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, will be the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. The meeting will be on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. We will meet at Surfside at the Red Snapper Restaurant on Blue Water highway. Come down off the Surfside Bridge and turn left and proceed about a mile. It will be on the beach side of the road. There is plenty of parking in front.

We are pleased to have with us the current President of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. His service to the SAR prior to becoming the head man includes service as Chairman of the Americanism and Member Services Committee for the National Organization. He served a President of the Paul Carrington Chapter of the Texas SAR. A couple of his proudest accomplishments are the establishment of the Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award in 2006 and the Alexander Hamilton Award for the U. S. Coast Guard Academy.

Tom is currently Justice of the Peace in Harris County and is serving his seventh consecutive elective four year terms in this capacity beginning in 1983. He has served in many appointed judicial positions in the state including serving in the following groups:

- Ancillary Proceedings Task Force
- Court Administration Task Force
- Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee, serving as chairman of other groups
- Task Force on E-filing in Justice Courts
- State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the first JP to do so.
- Justice of the Peace, Section of the Texas Bar.



President Tom Lawrence-TXXSAR

His civic contributions include serving as District Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America, Director of Northwest Chamber of Commerce, Grand Marshall of St. Patrick's Day Parade, and as a member of several other civic groups that demonstrate his wide interest in educational and community affairs. President Lawrence has also drafted several pieces of legislation which have been enacted into law concerning court issues which needed resolution. Further in the legal realm, he has authored and published many legal articles appearing in legal magazines. Tom is also active in several legal organizations including being Past Director of the Houston Bar Association.

President Lawrence certainly has distinguished himself, earning numerous awards for his service to the SAR: Meritorious Service Award, Bronze and Silver

Good Citizenship Medals, Texas Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Patriot Medal, and is a George Washington Fellow.

Space limitations do not allow the additional accolades earned by Hon. Tom Lawrence in pursuit of his vocation and his dedication to public service. For further information please refer to Who's Who in American Law.

April Minutes

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution met for their regular meeting at the K-2 Steakhouse in Bay City, Saturday, April 11, 2009.

President Garvin Germany called the meeting to order. The colors were presented by the Color Guard, Russell Dart and Frank Seidule. Tim Hall gave the invocation. Pledges to the Flags and the SAR were recited by the group, led by President Germany.

The following members and guests were present: Barton and Margie Smith, Garvin and Joyce Germany, Don and Earlene Pugh, mold and Janice Seidule, Tillman and Freda Daniel, Milt and Mary Nita Wing, Frank Seidule, Russell Dart, Kirk and Jeannine Daniel, Wm. C. Sanders, Jack Hollister, J. Howze, Tim Hall, George Hall, Jr., Lane Hollister, Graham Hollister, and Mike and Julie Bailey.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as published in the April newsletter. After lunch, President Germany introduced our guest speaker who was Jeff Bilyeu, manager of the Brazoria County Airport. Using very good visual aids Jeff gave us an interesting and informative talk on the economic impact of the airport and about the planned improvements. After the presentation, Garvin presented Jeff with a Certificate of Appreciation.

President Germany read a letter from the TXXSAR in which they had acknowledged our gift of \$500 to the Patriots Fund for scholarships.

Don Pugh announced that Rev. Roger Byerly was now in a nursing home in Angleton.

Don also distributed information and registration forms for the upcoming BOM in Lake Jackson and Raffle tickets to either be bought or sold. A Hawkins Style rifle and a Colt Walker revolver are the two prizes contributed by Garvin Germany.

Don reported that the national SAR was considering raising the fees to join to decrease the time to process applications. He also mentioned the fact that the TXXSAR is going to publish the newsletter on line and e-mail other notices to the membership.

Bill Sanders reported that the Wharton DAR will celebrate their 95th anniversary from 2 to 4 pm, Saturday, April 25 at the Wharton Historical Museum.

Mike Bailey announced the dedication of a new county park in West Columbia, commemorating the First Capitol of Texas on Friday, April 20.

President Garvin Germany announced that our next speaker will be Judge Tom Lawrence, the newly elected President of the Texas Society of the SAR.

The colors were retired, Tim Hall gave the benediction and President Germany led the SAR closing. The meeting was adjourned until the next meeting which will be held on May 9, 2009, our last meeting until the Summer Board of Managers Meeting in Lake Jackson. (Editorial Comment)



**President's
Corner.**
By Garvin
Germany

COMPATRIOTS, or is it **Comrades!** How facile is your mind? It is time that you look at where you came from and where your mind is leading you. You now realize that May is upcoming, that it is our time in the month of May for us to think what this Month of May is all about. The ringing in early caverns of my mind finds the greatly simple MAY DAY when all was fun and games. In the deep recesses I remember a lot of the games with ribbons and flowers and a lot of giggling girls. That was early childhood and now is, as it was then also frivolous.

Then something in those caverns also rings "RED ARMY" with great parades of frightening machines of destruction remembered from the "50's" and the not so long past "Cold War". This also is MAY DAY.

Legal associations in America in times past saw MAY DAY as a day in which the Natural Rights of man should be lauded and reviewed, hailing such as MAY DAY as being almost sacred.

Are all these celebrated occasions the same MAY DAY? For history they are each the same May first. It is the celebrating of the break between the Spring and the Summer. Even this break is a creation of man's mind as he counts his days by the occurrences of the seasons. Such creation stretches back to a time even before recorded time into the beliefs eons before the Romans, as practiced by their gods or by the Druids as practiced in their rituals.

But why is there care for us today? The question may be like whether or not I need this knowledge; if I am going to be a historian, why do I need mathematics, or; why do I

need history if I am going to be a musician? Through our minds we, as individuals, become relevant in interpreting ideas that become philosophical developments in society.

To do so requires each of us to develop our many abilities at looking at any such idea, whether it relates to MAY POLE or the SOCIALIST interpretation, that produces a RED ARMY parade. As a PATRIOT, you will associate with many persons that may be divergent from you in social philosophy. Some may be close enough to be considered comrades in a social sense. But remember the package of ideals, we have assembled in the winning the American Revolutionary War, from which we operate our Federal Government today.

To be overly simplistic, at the first conflict with the King, British political policies came into conflict with the freedom in body and spirit which we were learning as we populated the wilderness. Some of our early leaders believed that time and peaceful negotiations would in the end settle the differences. It became obvious after Yorktown that the peaceful approach would fail. As the conflict enlarged to all out military confrontation our forebearers developed a philosophy of independence. This was a development of the body and soul of those who constituted those tenacious patriots that suffered the bitter cold and loss of life and property. This suffering set the mood out of which our Nation finally developed.

Each of you as PATRIOTS and practicing members of the SAR are admonished to remember the NATURAL LAW Philosophy advocated by the American Bar Association, developed during the Revolution. Many of our package of rights were developed during the revolution and it enables us as COMPATRIOTS of the SAR to each carry on the Revolutionary ideals.

We, therefore as Compatriots can work to preserve our glorious heritage and work together as comrades in arms against forces at large in the world to keep us and our nation strong. We must keep alert, however, of forces in the world today, which would pull us into a COMRADESHIP which would lead us to that other MAY DAY event that would make us Comrades in a Socialist system.

May is a pivotal month. Make it a careful time to consider who you are and where we are going. COMPATRIOTS ARE YOU ABLE TO FACE THE CHALLENGE?

Respectfully – Garvin.

A special note from the Knights of Columbus

The annual celebration of Memorial Day (May 25th) will be held at the Restwood Cemetery by the St. Mary's Star of the Sea, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus of Freeport. They will celebrate the fallen Heroes who have honored us with their service and dedication to keep our Country free. The time is 9:00 am and

the Cradle of Texas Chapter members have been invited to attend.

Important Dates

SAR Chapter Meeting MAY 9, 2009
MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2009
BOM Lake Jackson July 31- Aug. 2, 2009

Patriotic Days Reminders

These are some special days to fly your flag.
MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2009
FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2009

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 24, 2009

Bank Balance March 31, 2009	\$3,982.06
Deposits	\$1,340.00
Historical Tour	\$540.00
Board of Managers	\$775.00
Raffle	\$25.00
Disbursements	\$64.60
Guest Luncheon	\$19.47
Raffle Supplies	\$45.13
Balance General Fund April 24, 2009	\$5,257.46
Barbara McAlexander Fund	\$883.00
Total Bank balance Apr. 24, 2009	\$6,140.46
Summary of Funds:	
General Fund	\$3,498.39
Historical Tour Fund	\$900.00
McAlexander Fund	\$883.00
BOM Fund	\$879.20
Raffle Fund	-\$20.13
Total Bank Balance (April 24, 2009)	\$6,140.46

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Special Announcements

Board of Managers Meeting in Lake Jackson

Please consider supporting our Chapter's efforts in hosting the Summer Board of Managers Meeting in Lake Jackson, on July 31-Aug. 2. You will receive a package from Don Pugh with details on the meeting and a registration form. The package also contains raffle tickets that you may either sell or purchase. The prizes will be a Hawkins Style Rifle and a Colt Walker Revolver. Great for show. Please make every effort to attend and help make the Chapter have a successful meeting. It is each member's opportunity to discover what the State Organization is about and how it operates and meet people dedicated to the same ideals we share. We need your participation to make this a success.

Arnold Seidule advises that he will be presenting the 2008 Service Awards. The following folks will be honored:

5 Years---Robert L. Beard

20 Years---William D. Wood

**25 Years *-- Martin P. Atwood
 David H. Mahavier
 Clell L. Sechrest
 Harry M. Sechrest
 Luther L. Singletary
 Thomas O. Slonek**

A Grim Reminder of the Price of Freedom

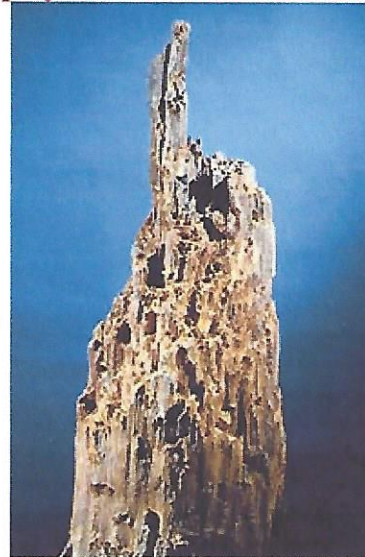
While following up on a presentation of the "Arms Used in the Confederacy", an informative session, hosted by Mike Bailey at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, I came upon this photo of a musket ball riddled tree stump.

I was looking for the Dance Revolver manufactured

in Brazoria County during the Civil War. A Dance revolver had been donated to the Smithsonian Institution. I got linked to another site which was related to a Smithsonian Donation List. There was this picture!

This picture was fascinating to me personally as I was very familiar with the battle in which this tree was decapitated. On May 12th, in 1864 a battle raged just south of The Wilderness at a little town in Virginia, called Spotsylvania. Here the Union army and the Confederate Army fought to a standstill; a battle both conceded each side had lost. So many lives were lost that they called the area the "Bloody Angle". I had heard these words before and this stump somehow lurked in my memory.

On Display at the Smithsonian Institute.



Civil War Stump at Spotsylvania

I have had for over 30 years, a book written by my great grandfather's brother, Samuel Wing, who had served at Spotsylvania. In the book, my great uncle had described the tree that was cut down by musket fire. The date was May 12, 1864. I suspect that he remembered it well as he too was cut down by musket fire, that same day, taking a musket ball into his rib cage which resided there for over forty years, confirmed by the Roentgen Machine in 1898. A picture of the x-ray is in the book.

Many men over the years have paid the price for freedom in all of the wars, they have made sacrifices. Let us not forget them on Memorial Day. Fly the Flag and remember those who sacrificed.

(Contributed by Milt Wing, the editor)