



# The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 9, Number 7

October 2006

Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

## Brazoria County Museum Curator to Speak

### “Many Revolutions, One Man: Jean LaFitte”

The regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the Baytown Seafood Restaurant in **West Columbia** at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Our speaker will be the curator of the Brazoria County Museum, Michael Bailey. His topic will be “Many Revolutions, One Man; Jean Lafitte’s Involvement and Aid to Young Countries.” Jean Lafitte was a pirate who operated out of Galveston and was involved in five revolutions, among those the War of 1812, the “Second Revolution” of the United States. The Baytown Seafood Restaurant as VP Mike Rees has observed is not in Baytown nor in Bay City, but in West Columbia. It is located on Highway 35, just east of its intersection with Highway 36 in West Columbia.

Michael Bailey 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. He is currently employed at the Brazoria County Historical Museum serving there as curator. He has served library positions at Pembina, North Dakota; and Terre Haute, Indiana. He has 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 Associations, the Jean Lafitte Society, the Texas Museum Association, and the Texian Legacy Association.



### Flag Presentation

The chapter Board of Managers at their last meeting authorized the presentation of a flag certificate to Don Davis Auto Sales in Lake Jackson. President Tillman Daniel made the presentation on September 19. From left to right in the picture Rick Kellemeyn, Joe De Luna, Jim Jeffus, Christ Post, all employees of Don Davis Motors along with President Tillman Daniel.



### Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Cradle of Texas Chapter TXSSAR met at 11:30 a.m. on September 9, 2006 at the Wursthause Restaurant in Lake Jackson, Texas. Compatriot President Tillman Daniel called the meeting to order and Compatriot George



Easterling led the chapter and guests in the invocation. Compatriot Clell Sechrest led the pledges to the United States flag, the Texas Flag and the Sons of the American Revolution.

The following members were present John Beard, William A. Bryant, Gary Canion, Dr. Tillman Daniel, Russell Dart, George Easterling, George Hall, Tim Hall, Thomas Mayerle, Donald Mudd, Dr. Don Pugh, Dr. Mike Rees, Clell Sechrest, Arnold Seidule, Robert Seidule, and Milt Wing. Prospective members in attendance were Thomas Mudd, Mark Peebler, and Phil Vance. Spouses and guests in attendance were Mary Nita Wing, Earlene Pugh, Janice Seidule, Coryne Choate, Sue Dart, Katherine Mudd, Anna Peebler and Gwendolyn Vance.

Compatriot Dr. Don Pugh gave a brief report on the TXSSAR Board of Managers meeting in Lake Jackson in August. George Easterling conducted the induction ceremony for new members Compatriot Gary Canion and Donald Mudd.

After lunch Dr. Mike Rees introduced Johnnie Pollan who presented an illustrated talk regarding the project by the Brazosport Archeological Society and the Texas Historical Commission to catalog, survey and preserve when possible the fifty-plus antebellum plantation sites in Brazoria County and its environs. He discussed several of those that have been underway over the last year or so.

Dr. Mike Rees announced that the next meeting will be held at the Baytown Seafood Restaurant in West Columbia on October 14 and the speaker will be Mike Bailey, curator at the Brazoria County Museum. President Tillman Daniel led the group in the SAR Recessional.

## President's Corner

This month will mark the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown. It is going to be subject of our poster contests, essay, and oration contests. The Battle of Yorktown was the climax of the Revolutionary War. The combined forces of General Washington, General Rochambeau, Admiral de Grasse, and General Lafayette all converged on the greatest concentration of British troops in America. It took great amounts of planning, courage, and skill to execute this attack.

General Washington had wanted to attack New York City, but General Rochambeau convinced him it would be wiser to move south since Cornwallis had taken up a defensive position at Yorktown. Their plan was simple in concept, but would take great military skill to execute.

As the combined Franco-American army raced south, Admiral de Grasse's fleet arrived at Chesapeake Bay, defeated the British fleet of Admiral Thomas Graves taking control of the entire bay and preventing any water route of escape. On September 28, 1781, Washington and Rochambeau, along with Lafayette's troops and 3,000 of

De Grasse's men arrived at Yorktown. In all there were approximately 17,000 men converging of the Cornwallis camp. The stage was set for the final showdown in America's fight for independence.

The combined forces approached from the south, the French of the left flank and the Americans from the right. The city was soon surrounded and under heavy fire. Cornwallis' options were soon running out. He even tried sending blacks infected with smallpox over enemy lines in an attempt to infect the American and French troops. After a futile counterattack, Cornwallis offered to surrender on October 17. On the 19th of October, the papers were signed and he officially surrendered. This would be the final major battle of the Revolutionary War.

Remembering events such as this is what SAR is about.

Tillman M. Daniel M.D.

Pres. Cradle of Texas Chapter SAR

## Leadership Conference, Louisville, Kentucky

Dr. Don Pugh attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky September 28-30.

This is the conference where the various national committees meet and set their goals and procedures for the Fall and Spring. He attended both the Essay and the Oration Contest Committees and there was virtually no changes in the rules or procedures for either of the Youth Contests for this year.

There were two sessions dedicated to some early exploratory discussions about the feasibility of changing the way that the Society is funded. There were no decisions made, however, a study commission was created to report at a later time.

The Texas Society received high praise for the conduct of the National Congress this year in Dallas. Most of the participants thought it may have been the best Congress ever.

## Important Dates

Stephen F. Austin Birthday, WC	Nov 3
Cradle of Texas Chapter	Nov. 11
Board of Managers Meeting, Houston	Nov 4-5
NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville	Feb 25, 2007
TXSSAR 112 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention	
San Antonio	Mar 24-25



## An Interesting Story

"Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, WI. Where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorializes one of the most famous photographs in history – that of the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan, during WW II.

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, "Where are you guys from?" I told him that we were from Wisconsin. "Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story." (James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, DC, to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good night to his dad, who has since passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, D.C., but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night.)

When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. (Here are his words that night.)

"My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called "Flags of Our Fathers". It is the story of the six boys you see behind me.

"Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game. A game called "War." But it didn't turn out to be a game.

Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old.

(He pointed to the statue) "You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph... a photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. Boys won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

"The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the "old man" because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would

motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, 'Let's go kill some Japanese' or 'Let's die for our country.' He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, 'You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers.'

"The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, 'You're a hero.' He told reporters. "How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?" So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down at the age of 32, ten years after this picture was taken.

"The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky. A fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, 'Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. The neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

"The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers, or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, 'No, I'm sorry, sir, my dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back.' My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press.

"You see, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain.

"When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, 'I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back.'

"So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in



the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time."

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero, nonetheless.

Let us never forget from the Revolutionary War to the current War on Terrorism and all the wars in-between that sacrifice was made for our freedom. Remember to pray praises for this great country of ours and also pray for those still in murderous unrest around the world. STOP and thank God for being alive and being free at someone else's sacrifice.

REMINDER: Everyday that you can wake up free, it's going to be a great day.

*Copied from the Internet*

## Share Program

Our chapter participates in the Share Program promoted by the Kroger Food Stores. This program allows a purchaser by presenting a card provided by Krogers to designate 1% of the cost of his purchases for most items be given to our chapter. This does not add any cost to the purchaser, but is a gift from the company. Each year we receive about \$100 from Krogers based on the purchases of our members and friends in Texas and Oklahoma.

If you shop at Krogers we will be happy to send you a share card. You can feel free to distribute these to your friends or relatives so they can make a no cost donation to the work of our chapter. Please contact Don Pugh or Tillman Daniel and we will see that you get multiple cards.

## Fall, Board of Managers Meeting

Registrations will close soon for the Fall Board of Managers Meeting to be held in Houston at the Sofitel Hotel in Greenway Plaza on North Beltway 8 from November 3-5. Included in the program will be an interesting History Seminar to be held on the preceeding Thursday. Please download the information from the TXSSAR Website and make your reservations and send in your registration forms immediately. The TXSSAR Website can be found at <http://www.txssar.org>. Go to the events tab and you will see the information.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

September 28, 2006

General Fund Balance August 31, 2006	\$1593.26
Income	
Transfer from BOM Acct.	\$1670.26
Membership Dues from St.	19.00
Refund on Hospitality Suite	19.00
Total Income	\$1708.21
Disbursements:	
Stamps	\$39.00
Guest Lunch	11.07
Refund BOM Registration	130.00
Total Disbursements	\$180.07
Balance September 28, 2006	\$3121.40

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