



The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution



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Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

October Meeting to be in West Columbia

Chaplain Roger Byler to Speak

The speaker for the regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter on Saturday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m. will be Chaplain Roger Byler of our own chapter. He will present a program on his twelve Revolutionary Ancestors.

Rev. Byler, who celebrated his 95th birthday just last month has been a regular attendee at the monthly meetings of our chapter. He is accompanied by his daughter, Elizabeth Melton.

The meeting is scheduled at the Baytown Seafood Restaurant in West Columbia. The restaurant is located just west of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 36 in West Columbia.

Color Guard Grants

The chapter is still accepting queries from any of our members who are interested in participating in the color guard. The chapter has received a small gift, a portion of which is available to our members who qualify to offset some of the cost of the uniform. For further information contact Arnold Seidule.

President's Corner

Patriot is defined as one who loves, supports, and defends one's country. From the French patriote, from Latin patriota, and from the Greek patriotes, it is someone who feels patriotism to support their country.

Patriotism is marked by a disinterested loyalty to one's country. The word disinterested must be understood in it's 18th century context, best defined by the actions of our first President George Washington. Disinterested loyalty and service is marked by thoroughly selfless attitudes and actions. A patriot then is one who places

loyalty and defense of our country and its purposes above selfish bias and self-aggrandizement.

Understanding the purpose of our country's government requires some analysis of not only the Constitution and our Bill of Rights, but of a statement of purpose found in the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration was our statement to the world as to why we were choosing to leave the British fold. In that Declaration, the patriots explained to Britain they no longer served the purpose of government which, at its foundation, is to effect the safety and happiness of its citizens. To accomplish that purpose, a government must labor to provide its citizenry with their God-given rights as human beings to life, liberty, and the opportunity to pursue happiness. That labor is the sole reason for the existence of government. Selfless patriot leaders must recognize the the safety and happiness of those they serve is the purpose of their leadership.

To insure that government may not encroach upon its citizens, the Bill of Rights was made part of the United States plan of government. That Bill set forth personal rights which the governed did not consent to relinquish to the government. Those rights were specifically retained by the people.

Also the people themselves must act in a patriotic manner to ensure that their desire for a government which secures their rights is met.

We as a group in SAR call ourselves Compatriots. Defined from the French *compatriote* and from Late Latin *compatriota* is a person born, residing, or holding citizenship in the same country as another companion or colleague. By whatever name we are called, we all have the common goal to retain our heritage in this great county of ours. *Tillman Daniel, M.D. Chapter President*



James Madison Father
of the Constitution

Minutes of the September Meeting

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution met at "Windswept" Restaurant in Oyster Creek on Saturday, 8 September 2007 at 11:30 a.m. The DAR Members and wives of members and other guests present were Sue Dart, Elizabeth Melton, Lee Slonek, Coryne Choate, Janice Seidule, Mary Nita Wing, Kay Mudd, Mary Sechrest, Harry M. House, Cerre W. House, and Janie Vance. Members present were Mike Rees, Garvin Germany, Russell Dart, George Easterling, Roger Byler, Donald Mudd, Thomas Mudd, Frank Seidule, Thomas Mayerle, Clell Sechrest, Arnold Seidule, Phil Vance, Julian W. Taylor, and Robert Seidule.

Vice President Mike Rees presided. He expressed regrets from President Tillman Daniel and Don Pugh who were both in other parts of the State on SAR business.

Roger Byler gave the invocation. George Easterling led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. Clell Sechrest led the Pledge of the Allegiance to the Texas flag. Arnold Seidule led the SAR Pledge.

The Chapter recessed for lunch.

After lunch Garvin Germany gave Roger Byler a card that had been circulated for signatures to congratulate him on his 95th birthday on August 25.. Garvin Germany commended Clell Sechrest on his 24th anniversary with the SAR. Arnold Seidule reported on the \$3,000 State and \$8,000 National Boy Scout Scholarships. Russell Dart introduced Mr. Stanley, a prospective member. He also reminded the members of the upcoming Oratorical and Essay Competitions.

Garvin Germany awarded Beth Griggs of West Columbia a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal citing her long standing efforts to preserve and to document the history of Brazoria County.

Mike Rees introduced her son, Wes Griggs, a West Columbia lawyer who gave a DVD presentation on "The Brazos: Story of a River," that he had a hand in film in filming and producing.

Rev. Roger Byler led the group in the Benediction.

Special Meeting in January

The Bay City Country Club will be the site of a special night meeting to be held on Saturday, January 12th when we receive a visit from our State President, George West and his wife. This will be a special celebration which will feature the induction of our new officers and some special awards to some of our members. More information will be announced in subsequent editions of the newsletter, but we urge our members and interested

persons to circle this date on your calendar and keep it open.

One of the requests by State President West is that each member prepare a one-page biography of his principal ancestor to be included in a book that President will present to the archives at the end of his term.

Make Plans Now to Attend Board of Managers Meeting in Plano

It is time now to make your reservations at the South Fork Hotel in Plano for the BOM on Saturday and Sunday, October 26-28. For further information see the TXSSAR Website at <http://www.txssar.org> or see the registration information in the last edition of the Texas Compatriot.

Patriotic Holidays

Battle of Yorktown Surrender , October 19, 1781

The Battle of Yorktown began after the Battle of Guilford Court House on March 15, 1781. At that time, British General Cornwallis moved his battered army to the North Carolina coast, then disobeying orders from General Clinton to protect the British position in the Carolinas, he marched north to Virginia and took command from Loyalist (Tory) General Benedict Arnold. During this same time Washington was planning to attack New York, with the help of the French.

Washington sent his French aide, the Marquis de Lafayette, to Virginia in the spring of 1781 with a few Continental troops, and these were reinforced from time to time until in June when Cornwallis pulled back down the Yorktown Peninsula. Henry Clinton told Cornwallis to send all his men to New York to help attack Philadelphia.

However, Cornwallis kept all of his troops, which was about 7,500 , and began fortifying Yorktown and Gloucester, across the York River.

Within five days Washington's plans were abandoned and Washington and French General Rochambeau with 2,500 Continental and 4,000 French troops started their march to Philadelphia when Clinton

realized they hadn't planned on attacking New York. Admiral de Grasse with the French fleet arrived at the Chesapeake Bay on August 30, and the British fleet from New York arrived off the bay on September 5.



Following this was a decisive naval battle with the French navy driving off the British fleet. After waiting a few days while the British admirals Graves and Hood went back to New York, Cornwallis was then besieged by a Franco-American force of 16,000 troops. Back in New York the British admirals were deciding on how and when to rescue Cornwallis. Then on October 17th a British fleet finally set out of New York to rescue Cornwallis, but it was too late. Cornwallis was outnumbered, outgunned and was running out of food. He surrendered his army of 7,157 on October 19, 1781.

The surrender of Yorktown ended the fighting in the War for American Independence in the Americas except for some minor fights in the south. But other battles still went on overseas.

Losses on both sides were light: British and Hessian 156 killed and 326 wounded; French, 52 killed and 134 wounded; American, 20 killed and 56 wounded.

America's Naval World War I Finally Ends

Lloyd Brown, the last known U.S. Navy veteran to fight in World War I, has died. He was 105.

Brown died Thursday, April 7, 2007 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Maryland, according to family and the U.S. Naval District in Washington.

His death comes days after the death of the last known surviving American female World War I veteran, Charlotte L. Winters, 109. Their deaths leave three known survivors who served in the Army, and a fourth who lives in Washington state but served in the Canadian army,



according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The fourth of nine children, Brown was born Oct. 7, 1901, in Lutie, Missouri, a small farming town in the Ozark Mountains. In 1918, 16-year-old Brown lied about his age to join the Navy and was soon on the gun crew on the battleship USS New Hampshire.

"All the young men were going in the service. They were making the headlines, the boys that enlisted," Brown told the (Baltimore) Sun in a 2005 interview. "And all the girls liked someone in uniform."

Brown finished his tour of duty in 1919, took a break for a couple of years, then re-enlisted. He learned to play the cello at musicians school at Norfolk, Virginia, and was

assigned to an admiral's 10-piece chamber orchestra aboard the USS Seattle.

When Brown ended his military career in 1925, he joined the Washington Fire Department's Engine Company 16, which served the White House and embassies.

From the Associated Press

We Are the Chosen

We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before have cry out to us, "Tell our story!" So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us." How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying, "I cannot let this happen". The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish, how they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life, a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they are doing it for us. It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth. Without them we could not exist, and so we love each one as far back as we can reach.

That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So, we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we had never known before.

Author unknown

Donated by Harry House, Prospective Member of Chapter

Benjamin Franklin's Prayer

The Constitutional Convention met at Philadelphia in the hot summer of 1787 to rewrite the Articles of Confederation which had been so ineffective. The quarrels between the states were deep and divisive; each state lowered or raised its own tariffs and coined its own money. There was no Union. The delegates began to realize that they needed to do something more than patch up the Articles of Confederation. It was a stormy convention. The debate over representation grew more bitter and hopelessly deadlocked. The strength of George Washington's personality was the glue that had held them together, and his power was waning. At one point Ben Franklin, 81 years of age, rose and spoke quietly:

"In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle have observed frequent instances of superintending Providence in our favor....And have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or, do we imagine we no longer need his assistance?"

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing I see of this truth, 'that God governs in the affairs of man.' And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without his concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel; we shall be divided by our little, partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we shall become a reproach and a byword to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereinafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest."

"I therefore beg to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and it's blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business."

From a collection of articles selected by B. Rice Aston

Important Dates

TXSSAR Board of Managers Plano Oct. 26-28, 2007
 NSSAR Spring Leadership Meet, Feb 21-23, 2008
 TXSSAR State Conference, Arlington Mar 27-30, 2008
 NSSAR Convention, Sacramento CA Jul 5-9, 2008
 TXSSAR Board of Managers, Tyler, Aug 1-3, 2008

FINANCIAL REPORT September 12, 2007

General Fund Balance 20 Aug 2007	\$3,467.92
Income	
Dues (2 members)	\$19.00
Total Income	\$19.00
Disbursements	
SAR Archival Paper	\$18.00
Total Disbursements	\$18.00
Balance August 20, 2007	\$3,468.92
Barbara McAlexander Fund	
Deposit February 1, 2007	\$1,000.00
Total Bank Balance April 30, 2007	\$4,468.92

Cradle of Texas Officers for 2007

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