



**Cradle of Texas Crier**  
Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
Sons of the American Revolution

[www.cradletxsar.org](http://www.cradletxsar.org)



Volume 20, Number 5

May 2017

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

**May**

Next Meeting  
13 May, 2017  
11:30 am

**Fat Grass Grill and Restaurant**  
1717 7th Street  
Bay City, TX 77414

**Program:**  
**Yvette Garcia**  
**Presents**  
**THE ROY BENAVIDES STORY**



"Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the

United States Army." - *Medal of Honor Citation*

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33  
April 8, 2017

The Sons of the American Revolution met April 8, 2017 at the Red Snapper Inn, in Surfside, Texas. SAR President Winston Avera called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m. SAR Vice President Ray Beall led the Chapter in the U.S., Texas and SAR pledges. Arthur Evans gave the invocation and blessing for the meal.

**Introduction of Guests:**



Chapter President Winston Avera introduced TXSSAR President John Beard and his wife Mary Claire Beard. President Beard and wife Mary Claire are shown being greeted and welcomed by Chapter President Avera and Registrar Bill Sanders upon their arrival. Other distinguished guests included West Columbia Police Chief Paul Odin and West Columbia City Manager Debbie Sutherland, guest speaker Dorothea Pekar and assistant Karalee Lance,

and family of Kenneth Blount our Chapter's newest member. All guests (see below) were acknowledged and thanked for their participation.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

President Avera called for approval of the March 2017 minutes. Ray Beall moved to approve the minutes as presented and Frank Seidule seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### **Get to Know Your Patriot, and Special Remarks by TXSSAR, President, John Beard:**



It is truly an honor for me to serve as your President of the Texas Society - Sons of the American Revolution for the coming year.

I would like to share with you some of my background as a member of Texas SAR and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

As is probably the case with many of you Compatriots out there, my/your mother enrolled me/you in the SAR. Mine did in 1976 in the Florida Society, hence my low National Number 111712.

- My mother joined the DAR December 20, 1933 under Patriot Paris Pearson. She was very active in DAR being a founding member of the John James Audubon Chapter in Baton Rouge, 50-year pin recipient and past Regent of that Chapter. She loved the United States of America.

- My father, who had a Masters in History, always thought that his family went back to the Revolutionary War period, but was not able to prove the lineage. I have since proven two lines on supplemental and I will honor him with a Memorial Membership soon.

In 2009, I decided that I now had the time and inclination to get actively involved with SAR, which I did. I am a firm believer in you get out of an organization what you're willing to put into that organization. This is true for just about everyone in this room today.

Enough History.

Now looking to the future. Last year, President Radcliff in his address had many excellent ideas on retention and membership in general. I will continue to focus on membership expansion and retention.

In addition, times change. We need to have the flexibility to handle change as well. Some of this change involves the new application software and website that our own Compatriot Bill Marrs was instrumental in launching. As with anything new, there's a normal reluctance to stay with the old without trying the new process or system.

We are very fortunate in the Texas Society to be blessed with many generous benefactors and hardworking Compatriots that have supplied us with time and money to help fulfill the objectives of our organization. For all of our donors, large and small, I would like to say thank you on behalf of Texas SAR. Having served four terms as Treasurer, I know that this money is hard to come by, and greatly appreciated. Getting back to our objectives as an organization, these objectives are spelled out in our Texas SAR Constitution which I will go over to refresh our memories.

The objectives of this society are declared to be patriotic, historical and

educational and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those, who by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American People:

- To unity and promote the fellowship among their descendants;
- To inspire them and the Community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers;
- To encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution;
- To acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as the documents, relics, and landmarks;
- To mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials;
- To celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period;
- To foster true patriotism;
- to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
- to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of President George Washington in his farewell address to the American People.

I would encourage each and every one of my fellow Compatriots to embrace these objectives not just this year, but for the years to come. Again, it is my honor to serve my fellow Compatriots. If you have questions or ideas, please let me know and we will work on answering or implementing.

Thank you.

#### Treasurer's Report for March, 2017:

##### General Fund

##### Beginning Balance

2/28/2017	\$3,697.59
Dues	\$526.00

Interest Earned	0.93
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Printed Checks	-15.28
<u>Ending Balance 3/31/2017</u>	<u>\$4209.24</u>
McAlexander Fund <sup>1</sup>	\$900.00
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$5,109.24</b>

President Avera called for approval of the corrected March 2017 Treasurer's Report. Ray Beall moved to approve and Frank Seidule seconded the motion. Motion approved.

#### Awards Presentation:



Arnold Seidule received a 20-year Membership Certificate. Frank Seidule, James Seidule and Darrell Schwebel were awarded 15-year Membership

Certificates. (James Seidule and Darrell Schwebel were not present to receive their Certificates).



#### Law Enforcement

##### Medal of Commendation

Paul Odin, Police Chief, City of West Columbia Letter of Nomination:

"I would like to take this opportunity to

recognize West Columbia Police Chief, Paul Odin. Chief Odin exemplifies what a great leader, role model, and mentor represents.

Chief Odin leads by example. He is well respected by his officers and it shows



<sup>1</sup> Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guards

in their loyalty to him. He is knowledgeable during times of emergencies such as the Brazos River Flood event last year and led the city through a fearful and stressful time.

Chief Odin, after graduating high school, served his country by enlisting in the Air Force July 1988 until June 1994. After his military service, he enrolled in Law Enforcement Training and advancing his career along the way. He also attended college classes through LeTourneau University, Longview, Texas, obtaining his Master of Arts in Business Administration. He continuously hones his skills being proficient in many areas of intelligence, tactical training, grant writing, emergency management and sharp shooting to name just a few.

Chief Odin is an outstanding role model. He is respectful, truthful, loyal, intelligent, and thoughtful - all the traits in demand this day and age to represent a well-rounded, good person. He does not hesitate to help no matter the situation from hauling sandbags, to apprehending a culprit in a slimy pond, or playing the role of Santa Claus for the Blue Santa Program.

Chief Odin mentors many individuals in the community in addition to his officers. He encourages his officers to participate in training for self-betterment and help advance their careers. He sits down with citizens over a cup of coffee to hear what they may have on their mind. He meets with parents over problems with their teenage son or daughter.

West Columbia is more than fortunate to have Paul Odin securing our community and looking after our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Paul Odin, West Columbia Police Chief.

Sincerely,  
Debbie A. Sutherland, City Manager CPM"

West Columbia Mayor Laurie Kincannon noted several of Chief Odin's initiatives:

- Repurposed an unused City building for an air-conditioned animal shelter
  - Utilize volunteers to assist the animal control officer with the animals
  - Post lost and found animals on the City's Facebook page
- Implemented weekly checks on the welfare of senior citizens who register with Senior Moments
- Initiated Coffee with the Chief to hear citizens' concerns
- Returned "community policing" to the community

#### INDUCTION CEREMONY:



Registrar Bill Sanders presided over the induction of Kenneth Paul Blount, through his Patriot's service (**Samuel Turrentine** of North Carolina). After the Oath of Reaffirmation was administered by Registrar Sanders, family members were invited to witness the pinning of the SAR Rosette to his lapel by his wife, Janette Evelyn Blount.

#### Reports of Officers and Committees:

**Registrar Bill Sanders -- Registrar** reported that induction of Nelson Leopold had been rescheduled to next month due to a personal obligation. Other applications pending at National are: Brian Wubbena, Carl Wiggins and Jack Randolph Newman. Applications actively pending additional documentation are: Jimmy Sanders, Max Royalty, David Mowery, Daniel Mowery,

Donny Congen, Jimmy Barnhill, Jason Hugh Jensen, Jacob Gary Jensen, Thomas Anthony Taroni, and Bud Northington. Also, there are an additional 25 applications without recent activity.

### Carl Wiggins - Webmaster

- **Present Status:** With the addition of significant input to the GENEALOGY page this month, the public face of our website is finally nearing completion in terms of content. What remains is to add the private pages of the site, i.e., the members-only pages, and also to add background color and imagery to our webpages. Another major accomplishment was to fix the problem identified last month where certain webpages did not scale properly when viewed on small display screens such as smartphones. Now, for the most part, this problem has been corrected. The correction required removing tables from a number of pages and reformatting the page content. Details of the website status and the work completed this month follow:
- **Home Page** A new widget that links to a new **American History** page containing Dr. Judy Bernard's write-up on American Revolutionary War history was added. The scrolling slideshow was updated: older images were removed and current ones were added. The Monthly meeting with Map and the Current Events sidebar widgets were updated. These two widgets and the slideshow are updated monthly.
- **About Us Page** The **Leaders, Members, Patriots** and **Speakers** subpages were revised to fix the scaling problem discussed above. They do not look as pretty as before, but they resize properly now.
- **Events Page** There was one event addition to this page this month.

- **Program Page** There were no changes this month.
- **Gallery Page** The 2017 gallery was updated with photos from the March meeting and other activities. Additional images/slideshows from past events were received from Mike Bailey and will be added shortly. Some of these may actually go onto other pages as well. This page continues to work well and just needs to be updated each month.
- **Newsletters Page** This page received major additions this month. Besides including the April newsletter, older newsletters going back as far as 2010 received from Mike Bailey were also added. This includes two new complete years and two partial years of archives.
- **Genealogy Page** This page received the most effort this month. Approximately 20 pages of text and figures were added that describe what genealogy is and how to do it using oral interviews and historical paper and digital records from online databases such as Ancestry.com, as well as using Y and autosomal DNA from Family Tree DNA and Ancestry DNA. Houston's extraordinary Clayton Genealogical Research Library is fully described and links were provided. An example of a completed SAR application was included along with instructions. A number of genealogy resources with links are described, some are described in depth, but some remain to be included. While there will continue to be some additions and revisions to this page for a while, it is now largely complete. An introduction to new prospective members from Chapter Registrar and Genealogist Bill Sanders as to what is expected of them to help him facilitate their application will be added.

- **Contacts Page** Complete and functional, but not necessarily exactly how we want it to operate, so it needs some work.
- **Social Media** Connections to social media forums have not yet been added.
- **Members Only Login Page** These pages still need to be added (Bulletin Board, Members Bios, Applications Status, Pay Dues, Shop, etc.).
- **Review:** All members are encouraged to visit the website, review content and wording, and offer comments including suggestions for improvements, deletions, additions and corrections. If possible, it is also recommended that members first review the website using a device with a screen of at least 12" in order to view the site as it is actually laid out before using small screen devices such as smartphones which cause the webpages to be dramatically reformatted. Send comments to: Carl Wiggins, [cmwiggins1@comcast.net](mailto:cmwiggins1@comcast.net) or call 281-996-7976.

**Education Committee Chair -- Rodney Weems** advised on actions to encourage participation in the NSSAR's youth contests. Compatriot Dart will be presenting JROTC medals at Glenda Dawson High School, Pearland, Pearland High School, and Alvin High School; Compatriot Beall will be presenting at Wharton High School; and Compatriot Weems will be presenting at Brazoswood High School.

**New Business:** No new business.



**Program:**



Establishing a medical practice was not an easy task for a lady in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, not even for the daughter of a prominent Vienna physician. Sofie Deligath (this spelling of her maiden name seems to be in error, but it is from the earliest record available at this time - U.S. records give her maiden name as "Delia") was born in Vienna, Austria on Feb 4, 1846. At that time, Vienna was considered one of the greatest medical centers in the world, and Sofie was born into a medical dynasty. During a 1920 interview with the Fort Worth Telegram Dr. Sofie stated that there were 21 doctors in her immediate family. One of these was her husband Dr. Moritz Herzog. They married in 1860 and over the next 19 years Dr. Sofie gave birth to 15 children (including 3 sets of twins). Eight of her 15 children died before she came to America. Somehow, between the many births and deaths, Dr. Sofie managed to study medicine. Dr. Sofie considered May 4, 1871 to be the date that she began practicing medicine. This probably the date that she received her midwifery certificate. While she may have been allowed to study at the University of Vienna since her father and husband were doctors, Austria did not knowingly award a degree to a woman until 1897.

Dr. Sofie is listed as a midwife in the 1886 Hoboken, NJ City Directory; in 1887 and following years she is listed as a physician. She graduated from Eclectic Medical College of New York City in 1894. A brochure put out by that college states that most of their students were already

practicing physicians. According to the "Evening News and Hoboken" Dr. Sofie had a large and successful practice in Hoboken by the time the book was published in 1893. While one other female, Dr. Marea H. Brokaus, is included in the 30 doctors listed the introduction refers to the group as "gentlemen".

In February 1895 or 1896, Dr. Sofie followed her youngest surviving daughter and her young grandson to Brazoria, Texas. The rutted dirt roads and wide-open spaces of Brazoria presented a whole new set of challenges for the 49-year-old physician. It is hard to imagine how Dr. Sofie, use to the cobbled streets of Vienna and Hoboken, felt as she surveyed Brazoria's muddy streets and realized that many of her new patients would be miles, not blocks, from her office. She immediately began adapting to these challenges. First, she purchased a carriage and a fine pair of horses; she hired a driver. Dr. Sofie realized that her buggy could not quickly navigate the dirt roads of Brazoria or the dirt paths of the Brazos and San Bernard River bottoms during the "rainy season" which caused ruts that were so deep the buggy bottoms might skim along on a bed of mud. This was a major problem since Brazoria's "rainy season" could be, and often was, any season of the year.

Dr. Sofie was a very practical lady, so she commissioned a local seamstress to make her a split skirt to make it easy for her to ride astride a horse like the men. Brazoria, she decided, was no place for a sidesaddle.

The Brazoria ladies were shocked! A woman doctor who wore a split skirt, rode horseback like a man, and wore a mannish, wide-brim hat over short, curly hair - why the whole thing was scandalous! She quickly became the main topic of conversation in town.

Dr. Sofie was not the only doctor in Brazoria, and, while midwives had long delivered most of the babies in the area other medical matters were considered best left to men. Dr. Sofie's success in treating them was phenomenal. She had been in Brazoria only 22 months when she was invited to address the South Texas Medical Society about her method of removing bullets. In that address she stated that she had already removed 15 bullets and 2 rounds of buckshot using her method without losing a single patient.

Probably after a shooting accident in Hoboken that involved her son, Dr. Sofie had decided that the traditional method of removing bullets - probing - often caused death. If she probed at all she used on a sterile finger. She would then position the patient so that gravity would "bring the bullet to her". In the case of abdominal wounds, she reported that should hang the patient a couple of inches above the bed. In every case, she reported that the bullet "came to her" with 24 hours and that every one of her first 17 patients was up and about by the 12<sup>th</sup> day "ready to shoot or be shot at any time". By 1897, Dr. Sofie was the first female member of the South Texas Medical Association and in 1903 she was elected Vice-President of the organization.

According to newspaper articles during her lifetime, Dr. Sofie was the first woman Railroad Surgeon for a major railroad in the world. In 1904, the St. Louis, Brownville and Mexico Railroad began building a railroad in the Brazoria area. By this time, Dr. Sofie had earned the respect of the local officials, and she was frequently called to treat sick and injured workers up and down the line. When the officials back East, decided it was time to hire a surgeon for the Brazoria area, local officials immediately hired Dr. Sofie. That caused quite a ruckus back East. There had never been a woman railroad surgeon, and that

was the way they wanted it. The officials sent Dr. Sofie a nice little telegram that said they would “understand” if she resigned since the position was not suitable for a lady. Dr. Sofie fired bac a telegram assuring them that she needed no special treatment because of her gender, and they were welcome to fir her if she did not perform her duties. Apparently, she never gave them any cause to fir her as she kept the position until she suffered a paralytic stroke a few months before her death.

Dr. Sofie apparently decided her skill at removing bullets was the main reason she was accepted as a surgeon, so she began saving the bullets she removed. She called them her “good luck pieces” and eventually had 24 (or 26) of them made into a necklace which was one of her most prized possessions.

During her 30 years in Brazoria Dr. Sofie built a hotel; bought and sold real-estate; opened a free library, and rumored to have quietly given financial aid to deserving students who could not otherwise afford college. She also built an Episcopal Church after a dispute with a priest over the condition of the Catholic Cemetery.

Dr. Sofie liked to keep on “the cutting edge” of technology. She drove one of the first automobiles in Brazoria County, and when telephones began to be installed in Galveston, she had one installed in her



office in Brazoria. In 1913, at the age of 67 she married Col. Marion Huntington of Ellersly Plantation. Shortly before the wedding a prenuptial agreement drawn up giving each of them total control of their separate property – the agreement which

was filed at the courthouse sounds just like those filed today. In case the prenuptial wasn't good enough,

Dr. Sofie filed deeds giving most of her estate to her daughter Elfreide on the same day that she filed the prenuptial! Sr. Sofie kept up with developments in medicine. She belonged to 45 medical societies and seldom missed a meeting of any of them. With her European training, she often took issue with other members of the societies – and was said to always do a very good job of stating her side of the case. Since women doctors were still a novelty, she was generally the center of attention at conventions, and often the newspapers in the towns where the conventions were held wrote stories about her. While some doctors criticized her over this, she seemed to enjoy the publicity, and while many of those doctors who complained put ads in the local newspapers, Dr. Sofie does not appear to have ever paid for advertising.

The directory of deceased physicians lists her “type of practice” as “Eclectic”, defined as “selecting from various sources...” Everything about Dr. Sofie was Eclectic! Her office was filled with rattlesnake skins, animal heads, antlers, alligators – one them 13 ½ feet long – and diplomas, beautiful artwork, lace, and bric-a-brac. The room included a pharmacy that sold postcards and loaned out books. It also featured a piano. She wore beautiful jewelry and a vary masculine hat. She collected walking canes from all over the world and malformed fetuses in bottles from some of the miscarriages she attended. Dr. Sofie's life was even more eclectic. She continued the role of wife and mother with a demanding career generally reserved for men-and she did it with such style that she became a legend in her own time.

**Members Present:**

John Beard, Winston Avera, Ray Beall, Rodney Weems, Bill Sanders, Frank Seidule, Russell Dart, Kenneth Blount, Arthur Evans and Dr. William "Bill" J. Griffiths.

**Guests Present:**

Mary Claire Beard, Connie Avera, Glenda Beall, Janette Blount, Melissa Blount, Eric Blount, Eli Hammers, Carl & Caroline Wiggins, Brian & Candace Wubben, Dorothea Pekar, Karalee Lance, Paula Cerda, Matt deWaal, Chief Paul Odin, Debbie Sutherland, Harper Neal.

**Next Meeting:**

The next SAR Chapter meeting will be on May 13, 2017, Fat Grass Grill and Restaurant, Bay City Texas, Texas.

SAR Recessional was led by Ray Beall.

A motion for adjournment was made by Ray Beall and second by Frank Seidule. Motion approved.

The Benediction was given by Arthur Evans.

Winston Avera, President  
Rodney Weems, Secretary

Next Meeting  
13 May, 2017  
11:30 am

**Fat Grass Grill and Restaurant**  
**1717 7th Street**  
**Bay City, TX 77414**  
**(979) 244-7277**

<https://www.thefatgrass.com>



**2017  
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Cradle of Texas Chapter #33**

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Chapter Chaplin Michael Bailey Presents  
the JROTC Bronze Medal  
To Alvin High School Recipient  
Marine Corps JROTC Cadet  
Corporal Christian C. Fernandez

**122<sup>th</sup> Texas Sons of the American Revolution Annual Meeting**  
San Antonio, Texas  
March 31 - April 2, 2017

