



**December**

Next Meeting  
December 14, 2019  
11:30AM  
Egypt Plantation  
10329 West FM 1161  
Wharton, Texas

**Program:**  
*History  
of the  
Cane Belt/Santa Fe Railroad*  
**Speaker:**  
*William Loocke*



Little did William Loocke know when he was a kid fishing under a Santa Fe Railroad trestle, that years later he would develop a great interest in local railroads. When he was sixteen years old, he worked at the local grain elevator loading grain cars for rail transport. Years later as an owner of that same

elevator, his business was the last shipper to use the line running through Wharton. With the railroad gone, the Wharton Southern Pacific Depot, one of two last standing passenger station in the county, was near its final days and in much disrepair. That's when in 2000, days before Union Pacific Railroad was scheduled to demolish the Wharton Depot, Dr. Merrill Barfield enlisted William to co-chair his efforts to fight the demolition and work on its restoration. With the time, help, money, and expertise of many volunteers, the Wharton Depot was restored to its former beauty. Through this long and tedious process, William acquired a great deal of interest and information about the railroads that crisscrossed this area of our state.

Currently, William is a volunteer curator for the Wharton Depot, volunteers on the Kansas City Southern Railroad Holiday Express, and serves at the Vice President of the Kansas City Southern Railroad Historical Society.



**MEETING MINUTES**

Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

November 9, 2019

The Sons of the American Revolution met November 9, 2019 at Fat Grass Restaurant in Bay City.

**Call to Order** -President Rodney Weems called the meeting to order at 11:35 A.M.

**Pledges** - Vice President Carl Wiggins led the pledges to the flags of the United States of America, Texas and the Sons of the American Revolution.

**Introduction of Guests:** President Weems introduced Compatriots' spouses, speaker Barbara Smith, speaker Wade Dillon and wife Lindsey Dillon.

**Approval of Minutes:** Weems noted several corrections to the Minutes. These were approved on motion by Dr. Griffiths and second by Nelson Leopold. The Minutes were approved on a motion by Nelson Leopold and a second by Bill Sanders.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Nelson Leopold gave the following report:

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	
10/01/2019	\$2,551.39
Deposits - Interest	\$0.04
Ending Balance:	
10/31/2019	\$2,551.43
McAlexander Fund <sup>1</sup>	

Beginning Balance

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

10/01/2019	\$900.59
Deposits - Interest	\$0.08
<u>Ending Balance:</u>	
<u>10/31/2019</u>	<u>\$900.67</u>
Total Bank Balance:	
10/31/2019	\$3,452.10

**Reports of Officers and Committees:**

- Registrar - Bill Sanders
  - Applications Completed - 1 (William Paxton Hall)
  - Applications in waiting NSSAR approval - 1 (Bud Northington)
  - Applications actively working - 37
  - Sanders reported that NSSAR stopped approving applications based on DNA pending the results of an applicants' sibling filing a lawsuit against NSSAR based on privacy concerns.
  - Sanders provided everyone a list showing when each territory gained statehood and their flag.
- Webmaster - Carl Wiggins updated the website, [www.cradletxsar.org](http://www.cradletxsar.org). Below are some of the many that Carl made:
  - Added PowerPoint slide shows for each meeting including the minutes, activities at the meeting and pictures of the attendees to the

### Gallery

- Updated the Program/*Community* subpage Heroism Award widget on the right side of the page to include recent Sgt. Bailey's award
- Created a Good Citizenship Medals to Community Leaders widget to show recent awardees
- Added a widget on the Genealogy page showing Registrar Bill Sanders receiving his third National Liberty Medal award for sponsoring 10 or more new members in a year.



- Community Outreach/Education - Rodney Weems reminded Compatriots that contest entries will be due by the end of December. Weems requested that all Compatriots nominate citizens from their communities for SAR awards such as Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Men & Women, Heroism. Program: Barbara

Smith, Director of the Matagorda County Museum, told about the museum's creation and growth. She recounted the fund-raising efforts within the County, which provided for the restoration of the old Bay City Post Office and a very well attended Children's Museum in the basement. A portion of the artifacts from La Salle's ship La Belle is on display at the museum. The La Belle sank in Matagorda Bay in 1685 and excavated in 1996. The museum sits at the corner of Highways 60 and 35.



Speaker Wade Dillon was born and raised in Florida but became obsessed with the Alamo at an early age. In 2010 he became a tour guide and Visitor Services Supervisor at the Alamo. While working there, Wade began drawing and illustrating several scenes depicting the Texians who fought and died there. He continued his pursuit of illustration. Three Pelican Publishing Company books contain his work. Recently, he and Lindsey moved to her hometown of Sweeny, where he operates his illustration business for children's literature, history and comic books.

**New Business:** President Weems appointed the nominating committee for 2020 officers. They are Dr. Daniel, Michael Bailey and Winston Avera. The nominations and election will be made at the December meeting.

**Members Present:** Rodney Weems, Carl Wiggins, Bill Sanders, Win Avera, Nelson Leopold, Dr. William Griffiths, Chris Wendel and Dr. Tilman Daniel

**Guests Present:** Connie Avera, Caroline Wiggins, Carol Griffiths, Barbara Smith, Wade & Lindsey Dillon, Bud & Mary Northington

**Next Chapter Meeting:** December 14<sup>th</sup>, Egypt Plantation, 10329 West FM 1161, Wharton, Texas. Note: Google map is correct, but some GPS are not correct. The plantation is nine (9) miles from Buc-ee's at the intersection of Hwy 59 and FM 102.

Lunch will be catered @ \$12.00 cash per plate. Attendees must RSVP by Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to Carl Wiggins at [cmwiggins1@comcast.net](mailto:cmwiggins1@comcast.net) with your name and the number who will attend.

TXSSAR Secretary Jim Clements and his wife Judy will be attending along with TXSSAR Coastal Region Registrar Jack Muggli and wife Jennie.

Bud Northington will be inducted into SAR, also.

**SAR Recessional:** Carl Wiggins

**Motion for Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nelson Leopold at 1:29 p.m. and seconded by Carl Wiggins and approved by all.

**Benediction:** Bill Sanders

**2019  
Officers of the  
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33**

**PRESIDENT-**

Rodney Weems  
979- -548-8833  
[rodneyweems@yahoo.com](mailto:rodneyweems@yahoo.com)

**VICE-PRESIDENT -**

Carl Wiggins  
[cmwiggins1@comcast.net](mailto:cmwiggins1@comcast.net)  
281-996-7976

**SECRETARY -**

Open

**TREASURER-**

Nelson Leopold, III  
979-345-6302  
E-mail [neleopold3@gmail.com](mailto:neleopold3@gmail.com)

**REGISTRAR -** Bill Sanders, Sr.

Ph. 979-648-2955  
E-mail [bps@ykc.com](mailto:bps@ykc.com)

**CHAPLAIN -** Michael Bailey

Ph. 979-848-3705  
E-mail [michjbailey@gmail.com](mailto:michjbailey@gmail.com)





## Events

14 December, 2019

### Wreaths Across America

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve . . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.;

Angleton Cemetery, 328 Cemetery Road, Angleton, TX 77515 Angleton, Texas

<https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/17159/overview/?relatedId=0>

14 December, 2019

### Battle of Béjar Reenactment

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Maverick Plaza at La Villita

418 Villita Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

For More Information:

San Antonio Living History Association:

<https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/17159/overview/?relatedId=0>

14 December, 2019

### Varner-Hogg's

### Candlelight Christmas

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Varner-Hogg Plantation

State Historic Site

1702 N. 13th Street

West Columbia, TX 77486

979-345-4656

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/news-events/events/candlelight-christmas-varner-hogg>

10-12 January, 2020

### Winter Camp

Friday, January 10, 2020 - Sunday, January

12, 2020: Columbus, TX

Texas Re-enactors Annual Swap Meet and Gathering. For more information Jerry

Tubbs at [coloneltubbs@yahoo.com](mailto:coloneltubbs@yahoo.com)

or phone 713-806-8924

<https://www.texasarmy.org/events>

## Next Meeting

December 14, 2019

11:30AM

Egypt Plantation

10329 West FM 1161

Wharton, Texas

Phone: (979) 533-0096

<https://www.egypttexas.org/plantation.htm>

## Our Host

