



Texas Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

www.cradletxsar.org



Volume 21 Number 10

February 2020

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

February

Next Meeting
11:30 a.m.
08 February, 2020
Swamp Shack Restaurant
111 Abner Jackson Boulevard
Lake Jackson, Texas

Program:



In Search of the Acadia:

A Civil War Blockade Runner

British Built Steam powered River-Clyde Side Wheeler. She was a Civil War Blockade Runner, the Acadia sailed under the British Maritime flag the "Red Ensign," used by civilian vessels from Canada.

Eileen Wagner details the Civil War Blockade Runner Acadia. Built in Sorel, Quebec, Canada in 1864. The "Acadia" ran aground while trying to reach Confederate forts near San Luis Pass and Velasco, Texas. Be prepared

for fascinating historical information from the time when and where she was built to her final resting place near San Luis Pass, Texas, located on the Texas coast near Galveston. You will find photos and maps associated with the Acadia included for the first time in the writing of her history.

The author's love of history and having lived at Treasure Island, San Luis Pass, Texas, since 1981, her passion is to save this portion of Texas history, which has never been written about. She was awarded the 2019 Dan Parkinson Literary Award which the Old Fort Velasco Historical Association and the Old Velasco/Surfside Beach Historical Committee awarded each year to an individual who has used his/her writing ability to promote the rich history of Brazoria County.

Eileen M Benitz Wagner has devoted her business career to product design, manufacturing, and national sales for the wholesale floral, nursery and mass merchant markets throughout the United States. As an owner of a small business, each category demands unlimited attention. The late 1990s took her to the agricultural field and the growing of newly planted wine grapes. During this period she traveled to the wine grape regions of France, Canada, Chile, Argentina and Australia seeking additional information to improve her product. A founding member of the

International Pirates, (a charity entertainment group from across America) that began in the middle 1980s, she sang and danced to warm the hearts of elderly, special needs children, Shriner Burn Hospital patients and all she met as a Lady Pirate. "It is giving something back. We say it is putting a little color in black and white worlds when nothing but pain is in sight." She lives in The Woodlands, Texas, near her family. One daughter lives in Dallas and the other lives in Spring, Texas.

From Amazon.com

<https://books.google.com/books?id=yEn1xQEACAAJ&dq=searching+for+the+acadia+eileen+wagner&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwii6-DDmbPjAhUULs0KHZevAZsQ6AEIKjAA>

Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

January 11, 2020

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 Guest Speaker Drake Peddie, President Elect Texas Society SAR, Ronald M. Brown, District 7, Vice President, Texas Society SAR and Compatriots' spouses, and other guests. 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.

Installation of Officers: Installation of officers for 2020 was carried out by Drake Peddie, President Elect, Texas SAR, and Ron Brown, District 7 VP, Texas SAR.



Officers for 2020

Rodney Weems-President
 Carl Wiggins-Vice President
 Bill Griffiths-Secretary
 Nelson Leopold-Treasurer
 Bill Sanders-Registrar
 Michael Bailey-Historian
 Timothy Hall-Chaplain
 (Drake Peddie-TXSAR PE
 Ron Brown-Dist.7 VP)

Student Essay Winner: Sophia Landry, Van Vleck High School, was the chapter winner of the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay contest; she was introduced by President Weems and read from her essay.

A Rash Man Ahead of His Time:

John Laurens

In school, we only graze the basis of figures and historical moments in America. We all know about the cause of the American Revolution; beginning in April of 1775, the American Revolution was a significantly important historical war allowing America to claim its independence. The colonists wanted

independence from Britain's strict monarch and harsh laws. Regulations such as Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and the Townshend Acts gave the colonists a much-needed push and desire to change. Because of these desires many colonists banded together to provoke outrage within their towns. Such rebellion against the laws set by England led to the Boston Massacre which then catapulted America into the start of the Revolutionary War. We are also familiar with the results of the revolution. After seven years of fighting, America won the war which gave the colonists their freedom. But, are the people who influenced change from the revolution being known? Historical figure John Laurens was ahead of his time in his pursuit to create an army of only African Americans and win their freedom.

Born to Henry Laurens and Eleanor Ball Laurens, John Laurens was one of 13 children. However, only four survived into adulthood; John Laurens was one of the four. Growing up in South Carolina during the 1750's, Laurens and his family lived a luxurious life due to their father's rice plantation and running one of the "most successful slave markets in the country" (Percoco). Their father was also heavily involved in the political circles, later being named president of the Continental Congress. When Laurens was only 16 his mother passed and his father sent him and his brothers to study in Geneva, Switzerland where he changed his beliefs about slavery, even though his father owned a successful slave trade. Afterwards, he and his brothers then went to England (Pavao) where he learned about the war and wished to join the fight. His father was reluctant to bring him home, wishing to keep him safe. Ignoring his father's wishes, John Laurens attempted to return home by going through France where he met and married the daughter of a mentor and family friend, Martha Manning, who

Laurens will never see again along with his small child once he returns home. "Using his influence" (Pavao) Laurens's father was able to provide John with a secretary position for George Washington in their "military family" along with meeting two other significant figures of the war, Alexander Hamilton and Marquis de Lafayette in August 1777. Throughout their time together, Laurens grew a very close bond with Hamilton, so much so that Hamilton had written some letters about John Laurens and his affections towards him. (Dacus) Hamilton was not the only one touched by John. Due to his studies abroad, Laurens was fluent in French and managed to teach Lafayette English allowing them to come together. Throughout his years in Washington's family, Laurens often wrote letters to his father describing his desire to raise a black battalion for the Continental Forces. (nps.gov)

October of 1777 was when John Laurens eagerly engaged himself in battle at the Battle of Germantown where he was credited with being known as a "rash young man" for his quick and often destructive thinking. (nps.gov.) One example of his "rashness" was in December of 1778, Colonel John Laurens provoked a duel with General Charles Lee. The reasoning for this duel was due to Lee belittling their General, George Washington, "whom he (Lee) believed was his inferior as a general". (Buchanan p.14.) After their duel, Lee was slightly wounded with a gun shot in the right side and Laurens left unharmed. In the spring of 1779 word was brought that the British were heading towards Charleston, South Carolina after already capturing Savannah. Hearing this, Laurens requested to be of use to the state he was born in. Due to his excessive loyalty, Washington allowed Laurens to take a leave of absence until he was able to return after securing South

Carolina. (nps.gov) On his way to South Carolina, John Laurens urged members of the Continental Congress to aid his desire in raising 3,000 black soldiers by offering them their freedom. Henry Laurens voted unanimously for the idea for his son who "saw it as a war measure and a step toward the elimination of slavery." (Fleming p.302,303.) Unfortunately, the proposal was rejected. In South Carolina, Laurens was charged with a group of soldiers to take a defensive position in Charleston, instead, Laurens ordered the troops to charge resulting in casualties but because of his actions the citizens considered him a fearless hero.

It wasn't until September of 1781 that John Laurens was welcomed back into Washington's family. From there he helped at the Battle of Yorktown. Laurens was in command of a light infantry battalion along with Alexander Hamilton at the head of an American storming party that captured Redoubt 10 in a night assault. At Yorktown they negotiated the terms of surrender. This marked the end of a journey for Hamilton, who resigned, but just opened another pathway for Laurens who took his next fight to South Carolina to continue fighting for his black battalion and driving British armies farther from his home state. On August 27, 1782, on the Combahee River in South Carolina, John Laurens was killed in a British ambush at the age of 27. He was in charge of a troop who was commanded to stop a British Party along the river by keeping a defensive position. Laurens refused his orders and sought out the British to prepare an ambush. Word spread to the British party allowing them time to prepare for the attack and surprise the advancing troop. "Laurens refused to retreat or surrender, so he instead decided to charge the enemy... Laurens was struck by several musket balls...mortally wounded" his troops waited until the attack

was over before retrieving his body and burying it the next day. (nps.gov)

Although we lost 1,200 American soldiers, the Revolutionary War, was "a mild and relatively bloodless revolution." (Kristol p. 33.) The American Revolution brought about many incredible and unforgettable soldiers. Although after the war many black soldiers who fought were forced back to their plantations, many white views were changed and would influence Abraham Lincoln's decision on the Emancipation Proclamation. Without John Laurens, who overcame the prejudice of growing up in a successful plantation family, many views about slavery would not have been changed. John Laurens believed in fighting for what's right, even if others deem it reckless.



A Certificate of Appreciation and cash (\$100.00) were presented. Sophia was additionally presented with a Texas Society Challenge Coin by President Elect Peddie.





Awards Presentation:

- *Texas Chapter Service Medals* to Carl Wiggins, Bill Sanders, Michael Bailey (not present to receive) and Win Avera.
- *Certificate of Appreciation* – Nelson Leopold
- *Membership Anniversaries*
 - Bryon L. Novosad – 30 Years
 - Garland S. Novosad – 30 years.
 - Robert A. Seidule – 20 Years



Treasurer’s Report:

Nelson Leopold

General Fund

Beginning Balance	
12/01/2019	\$2,481.47
Deposits – Interest	\$0.04
Ending Balance: --	
12/31/2019	\$2,481.51

Mc Alexander Fund¹

Beginning Balance	
12/01/2019	\$900.74
Deposits – Interest	\$0.08
Ending Balance: -	
12/30/2019	\$900.82
Total Bank Balance –	
12/31/2019	\$3,382.33

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Registrar: Bill Sanders

Applications Approved: 0

Applications Awaiting National Approval: 5

Applications Actively Working: 37

Webmaster: Webmaster Carl Wiggins has continued to update the Website, www.cradletxsar.org, focusing on the speakers and members Bio pages.

Chairman of Education/Community Outreach: Rodney Weems



¹ Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guard Members

Brochure/Poster Contests due 1 Feb - anticipating at least one entry.



Program: The Speaker, Drake Peddie, President Elect, Texas Society, SAR, was introduced by President Weems. His talk concerned the role privateers played in the Revolutionary War. Privateers were a major factor, since at the beginning of the war, there were few US vessels. In October, 1775, Congress voted to equip 7 ships to support General Washington. By 1777, there were still only 34 American cruisers. So, the United States depended on some state, and primarily civilian (privateers) ships to counter England's vast navy which effectively controlled the seas. These privateers were ships outfitted by private citizens as a business carrying letters of marque. The United States started issuing letters of marque in 1776 (prior issue was by states). 1,700 letters were issued during the Revolutionary War. Each letter was tailored to a specific ship only for attack on ships of one nation (in this case, England). United States privateers in the

Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 fielded some 2,000 ships, and 17,000 men. They accounted for 16 British warships and 2,980 merchant vessels. More important was the material captured and subsequently used by United States forces. Since privateers were required to bring their prizes to their home port, it was a very lucrative business for communities, as well as owners/crews. For example, "Yankee" out of Boston took \$40 million in prizes. Most captured ships were recycled as privateers. Even Benjamin Franklin was involved. His 3 ships "Black Prince", "Black Princess", and "Fear Naught" took 114 prizes. Thus, with the minimal U.S. Navy, privateers played a crucial role in the Revolutionary War.

Members Present: Drake Peddie, Ron Brown, Rodney Weems, Carl Wiggins, Russell Dart, Abby Herreth, Nelson Leopold, Win Avera, Tim Hall, Chris Wendel, Bud Northington, Bill Sanders, Bill Griffiths.

Guests Present: Bill Yates, Caroline Wiggins, Sophia Landry, Candice Landry, John Paul Landry, Connie Avera, Frieda Daniel, Mary Northington, Pat Sanders.

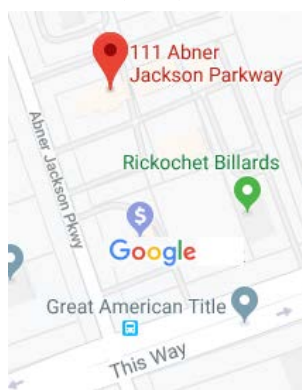
Next Chapter Meeting: February 8, 2020, Swamp Shack Restaurant, 111 Abner Jackson Blvd., Lake Jackson, TX. 77566. Eileen Wagner will speak on "In Search of the Acadia, A Civil War Blockade Runner".

SAR Recessional: Carl Wiggins

Motion for Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dr. Daniel, second by Dr. Griffiths at 1:40, and approved by all.

Benediction: Chaplain Tim Hall

Next Meeting
11:30 a.m.
08 February, 2020
Swamp Shack Restaurant
(Formerly River Point Restaurant)
111 Abner Jackson Boulevard
Lake Jackson, Texas
Phone: (979) 299-7444



February 17, Washington's Birthday, is celebrated on the third Monday of February and is a Federal holiday in the United States.



**2020
Officers of the
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33**

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Compatriot Michael Bailey delivers a lecture on World War 1, for an OLLI Class (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) In Angleton, Texas.



Saint Valentine's Day
February 14

Events

**February 9, 2020,
2:00 p.m., Sunday**
George Washington Tea
Asa Underwood Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
Bethel Presbyterian Church
119 County Road 300G
West Columbia, TX 77486

**February 9, 2020,
2:00 p.m., Sunday**
Francis Adams - the Man behind the Murder. Discover an early adventurer, often-wealthy businessman, sometimes-shady dealer, and influential settler of Austin's Colony. Stephen F. Austin-Munson Historical County Park, 41885 SH 288 Angleton, Texas 77515. 979-849-5965

15 February, 2020
7th Annual Texas History Symposium,
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Bethel Presbyterian Church,
East Columbia, Texas.
☞ *See attached flyer for information.*

19 February, 2020
Ceremony to Honor the Republic of
Texas President Anson Jones
Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.
Glenwood Cemetery
2525 Washington Avenue,
Houston, Texas

07 March, 2020
16th Annual Heritage Celebration
202 West Smith Street
Brazoria, Texas
☞ *See attached flyer for information.*

