



Texas Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

www.cradletxsar.org



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October 2020

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

October

Next Meeting

10:30 a.m.

October 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Contact Carl M Wiggins

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cmwiggins1@comcast.net

For Details.

Program:

**Chronological and Archaeological
History of the Forts Velasco**

Chris Kneupper



Chris Kneupper is a retired chemical engineer who has lived in Brazoria County for over 40 years. A charter member of the Brazosport Archaeological Society (in 1980) and long-term member of the Texas Archeological Society, Chris has participated in many excavations in the county and around the state. He is also a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Texas Master Naturalist "Cradle of Texas" chapter, and has

served on the board of directors of The Cradle of Texas Conservancy (CTC) for 30 years. This latter entity has a long-term goal of financing and managing the building of a replica of the 1832 Mexican Fort Velasco, also known as the "first Fort Velasco". The CTC and an organization that preceded it have held land for this project for over 50 years. Based on his overlapping interests, Chris has recently done extensive research into the history and archaeology of the several forts placed at the mouth of the Brazos River, in what is today Surfside Beach (formerly old Velasco). He has produced a lengthy report and literature survey, emphasizing primary sources, and has created a website to make the report and some obscure references available to the public: <https://velascohistoryarchaeology.weebly.com>. An "executive summary" has been prepared as a MS-Powerpoint file, which will be used to make the presentation.

Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

Sep 12, 2020

The Sons of the American Revolution met September 12, 2020 via ZOOM in a virtual setting.

Call to Order - President Rodney Weems called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M.

Invocation: Bill Sanders

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 welcomed all guests - see below for complete list.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Carl Wiggins with second by Win Avera. All approved.

Awards Presentation:

- 20-year Membership Certificate
 - Russell M. Dart
 - John E. Liles
- 15-year Membership Certificate
 - Johnnie R. Gresham
 - Jordan L. Gresham
- 10-year Membership Certificate
 - John D. Stockton
 - John H. Stockton
 - Kinnan J. Stockton

Treasurer's Report:

Nelson Leopold

General Fund

Beginning Balance

2/01/2020 \$2138.55

Deposits ⁽¹⁾ 918.78

Expenses ⁽²⁾ -220.27

Ending Balance: --

8/31/2020 \$2837.0

Mc Alexander Fund ⁽³⁾

Beginning Balance

2/01/2020 \$900.90

Deposits -

Interest .53

Ending Balance: --

8/31/2020 **\$901.43**

Total Bank Balance -

8/31/2020 **\$3,738.49**

Reports of Officers and Committees:

¹ Interest \$0.28/Dues \$918.50

² Rodney Weems: \$220.27 (Andrew Hillman -- \$100.00; meals {5} - 80.27; Bronze Certificates - 40.00)

³ Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guard Members

Registrar: Bill Sanders

- Applications Approved:
- Applications Awaiting National Approval: 3
- Two more applications are in process for completion by 1 October 2020
- Applications Actively Working: 42

Webmaster: Carl Wiggins

Chairman, Education/Community

Outreach: Our Poster Contest winner, Andrew Hillman, placed 1st at State and received a cash award of \$300.00.

Program:

SAR Compatriot Jesse O. Villarreal, Patrick Henry Chapter, presented on Spanish Colonial History of Texas 1718 to 1783. His presentation traced the arrival of Spanish soldiers to Texas to the late 1600's, and more specifically to the soldiers stationed at Presidio San Antonio de Bejar and Presidio La Bahia del Espiritu Santo during the time period of 1718 to 1783. His presentation included how two of his 4th GGFs Cayetano Hernandez and Carlos Martinez roles contributed to their ultimate recognition as "Patriots" of the American Revolution.

On May 1, 1718, San Antonio was founded by members of the Martin Alacron Expedition. Don Francisco Hernandez (the Alferez - Lieutenant, and Compatriot's Villarreal 6th Great Grandfather), Geronimo and Cristoval Caravajal (another great grandfather) along with 35 other soldiers (seven of them with families) and a total of seventy-two persons in all were part of that expedition. Alacron also assisted Father Antonio Buenaventura y Olivares in the founding of the mission, San Antonio de Valero. Five days later, Alacron founded the presidio San Antonio de Bexar.

In the Texas Connection with the American Revolution, Mr. Robert H.

Thonhoff writes that on May 8, 1779, King Carlos the III commissioned Bernardo de Galvez, General and Governor of New Orleans, to raise and lead Spanish forces in a campaign against the British. Galvez *raised* as many as 7,000 troops. In order to feed his troops, he remembered that Spanish Texas had a great amount of longhorn cattle. These were located between San Antonio de Bexar and La Bahia del Espiritu Santo in Goliad, and In El Fuerte del Cibolo. The missions and the Ranchers provided cattle to be taken to Galvez. The soldiers, vaqueros and Indians were involved in twelve cattle drives. Eleven of these were successful, while one was lost to the Comanche. A total of 9,000 cattle were delivered. One of the Ranchers that provided Cattle to be taken to General Bernardo de Galvez was his Fourth Great Grand Father Carlos Martinez. Carlos Martinez was given a land grant by King Philip that totaled 66,000 acres. He was accepted by the Daughters of the American Revolution as a Patriot which enabled my sisters, Janie Villarreal Mora and Teresa Villarreal Rodriguez, to join the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution San Antonio de Bexar Chapter in April 2011.

At the time of the American Revolution, the soldiers stationed at La Bahia and San Antonio were for the most part descendants of the first settlers in 1718 and the Canary Islanders that arrived in 1731.

His fourth great-grandfather, Cayetano Hernandez (a presidio soldier from San Antonio de Bexar) and a grandson of Francisco Hernandez, was one who paid the ultimate sacrifice. He was killed by the Comanche at El Fuerte del Cibolo as he was tending cattle that would eventually be sent to General Bernardo de Galvez in Louisiana.

However, he did not die in vain, as in 2008, Cayetano Hernandez was designated a Patriot by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



As a result, 8 members of my family were inducted into the Patrick Henry Chapter in Austin TX as compatriots on Dec. 9, 2008.

On March 15, 2009, The Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution under the leadership of State Regent, Ms. Lynn Forney Young, dedicated a monument at the State Cemetery, Austin, Texas to recognize Patriots of the American Revolution that died in Texas.

On September 5, 2014, the names of Carlos Martinez, Manuel Delgado, Leonor Delgado Flores, and Antonio Gil y Barbo were inscribed the TXDAR Patriot Monument at the State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Compatriot Villarreal listed three awards of which he was extremely proud to receive:

- In 2012, Compatriot Villarreal received the prestigious Presidio La Bahia Award given by the Sons of the Republic of Texas.
- In 2015, President Julia Lopez of The Tejano Genealogy of Austin also presented him with the 2015 MEMBER'S CHOICE AWARD for his second self-published book: **ROSTERS OF TEJANO PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1776-1783.**

- And, On April 12, 2016, he was honored with the DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN MEDAL, presented by Laurie Dodson of the DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, Thankful Hubbard Chapter.

Compatriot Villarreal concluded his comments with *"God Bless the United States of America and God Bless Texas!!"*

New Business: President Weems asked about the possibility of changing Art V of the Constitution to allow the President to serve more than 2 years. This in the event there was no candidate for Calendar Year 2020. Would require at least a week's notice, to the general membership, that a change was under consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting. General consensus was to advise membership and to get feedback.

Members Present: Rodney Weems, Carl Wiggins, Russell Dart, Win Avera, Bill Sanders, Nelson Leopold, Tom Wiggins and Jesse O. Villarreal.

Guests Present: Joey Cardenas, Jessie Gonzales and Annette Balcar.

Next Chapter Meeting: 10:30 A.M., October 10, 2020 via ZOOM. Guest speaker will be Mr. Chris Kneupper, Chronological and Archaeological History of the Forts Velasco.

SAR Recessional: Vice President Carl Wiggins

Motion for Adjournment: Motion by Russell Dart with second by Nelson Leopold. All approved.

Benediction: Bill Sanders

President's Corner October 2020

In the February 2019 Newsletter goals for the coming year were posted.

Goals for the coming year:

- Increase Attendance.
- Increase student/youth participation in scholarship opportunities.
- Recognize Individuals throughout our communities who go above the call of service.
- Recognize chapter members who have served in the military and received an "Honorable Discharge". If that service was in a combat zone, then the award can be further upgraded. If you have served, please email Sands S. "Sandy" Weems, III, sweems@quiktx.com so he will have your name. Also, if you served in a combat zone, please include the name of the zone.

Attendance is a personal commitment, but one that can be achieved. Our Patriot Ancestors made their commitment, and we have a Republic which allows us the many Freedoms of democracy. That is a legacy we pledged to preserve as part of

our membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. It is a privilege, so let's all do what we can to honor Patriot's commitment to our founding principles.

As a chapter we have recognized members and citizens alike over the past several months, and we have submitted articles to local newspapers asking their support to publish the stories of accomplishment within our coverage area. If you have seen an article with coverage about our community outreach, please send it to me (Rodney Weems, 504 E. 4th St, Sweeny, Texas 77480) as it is time (January 2020) to update the State and National Societies of our accomplishments over the past months.

At our November meeting, we will appoint a nominating committee to submit a slate of nominees for our Officers for Calendar 2021. All positions will be open. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions, please advise me at: mailing address above, rodneyweems@yahoo.com, 979-548-8833 (H) or 281-507-3849 ©.

2020
Officers of the
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

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