



Texas Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

www.cradletxsar.org



Volume 22 Number 08

May 2021

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

May

Next Meeting

10:30 a.m.

08 May, 2021

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Contact Carl M Wiggins

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For Details.

Speaker



Melissa Hayes, MLS.

Assistant Branch Manager, Clayton
Library Center for Genealogical
Research

Melissa Hayes started researching her family during her college years in 1979. Many years and lots of generations later, she is still looking for missing family members. Melissa a, native of Charles County, Maryland, moved all the way to Houston and found her Maryland relatives at Clayton. She graduated with

a Master of Library Science and a Graduate Academic Certificate in Youth Services from the University of North Texas in 2008. She has worked at the Houston Public Library system since 2004. She accepted the position of Assistant Branch Manager at Clayton in June, 2013. Her areas of research include Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Lineage Societies and ghost stories. She is a member of DAR.

Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Chapter 33

April 10, 2021

The Sons of the American Revolution, Chapter 33, met April 10, 2021, virtually via Zoom.

Call to Order: President Carl Wiggins called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Bill Sanders.

Pledges: Winston Avera led the pledges to the flags of the United State, Texas, and to the Sons of the American Revolution.

Induction and Supplemental Recognition Ceremonies:

The induction ceremonies of James Huggins Leach and William Daniel Cornelius and the supplemental patriot recognition of Carl Wiggins were previously conducted by Registrar Bill Sanders on 26 March 2021 at the office of Jim Leach in el Campo, TX and

recorded on video. The three videos were played during the Zoom meeting today. The two new compatriots were presented with their certificates of membership, the George Washington rosette lapel pin and the SAR challenge coin. Betty Leach, wife of Jim, pinned the rosette onto the lapels of both new compatriots. Jim Leach's national number is 218000 and his patriot ancestor was Henry Wilson of NC; Bill Cornelius' national number is 218398 and his patriot ancestor was Josiah Gale Sr. of SC. Registrar Sanders then read the citation and presented the certificate recognizing Carl Wiggins (Nat # 202932) for his supplemental patriot William Wiggins who served in the Duplin Line of NC under Captain Benjamin Coleman.



See Attachment

Chapter-Level Student Competition Awards:

President Wiggins introduced Rhea Singh our chapter's winner of the 2021 Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest for her oration entitled "*Odyssey of the Oppressed*", a story which parallels events of hardship and oppression today with those suffered during the American Revolution, especially by women and other marginalized individuals. Rhea, a 10th grade student at DeBakey High School for Health Professionals in Houston, then read the text of her oration to the meeting attendees. Wiggins presented Rhea with the chapter oration contest winner certificate and \$100 check; these items to be mailed to her.

Emily H. He, an 8th grade student from Pin Oak Middle School, was awarded a certificate of recognition

as winner of the chapter 2021 Middle School Brochure Contest and a check for \$100. Ronald T. Jacobs, second place finisher in the Brochure Contest and also an 8th grader from the same school, was presented a certificate. Awards will be mailed to both students by Wiggins.

Minutes: The minutes from the March meeting were approved on a motion by Winston Aver, seconded by Bill Sanders.

Treasurer's Report:

General Fund

Beginning Balance

03/01/2021 \$2,974.85

Deposits-Interest

03/31/21 \$.05

#1031 (exp. paid to R Weems) -124.54

Ending Balance

03/31/2021 \$2,850.36

McAlexander Fund

Beginning Balance

03/01/2021 \$ 901.88

Deposits-Interest

03/31/2021 \$.08

Ending Balance

03/31/2021 \$ 901.96

Total Bank Balance

03/31/2021 \$3,752.32

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Registrar: Bill Sanders

Applicants Approved: 0

Applications Awaiting National Approval: 0

Applications Actively Working: 44

Applications Without Activity: 0

Bill spoke about methods of doing genealogy research emphasizing the special importance of certain documents like birth, death certificates and US census records from 1850 onward because of the family generational linkages and their locations.

Webmaster: Carl Wiggins

Wiggins reported on conversations with TXSSAR Webmaster Ray Cox regarding the possibility for transitioning our WordPress website from GoDaddy to the state's web provider, Bluehost. Advantages are mainly twofold: 1) Bluehost specializes in WordPress so support for keeping our site updated and maintained in WordPress is covered; and 2) nearly all of the hosting cost is already paid for by TXSSAR saving us at least \$200/year. The chapter would only need to pay is about \$17/year to maintain our domain name. Wiggins stated that he has just paid GoDaddy for 5 more years of WordPress hosting support and will need to see if he can recoup the prorated amount if he cancels.

Heroism Medals and Certificates Presented
Brazoria County Police Department



Trooper Thomas Thurston VP Rodney Weems

24 March 2021



Deputy James Novak VP Rodney Weems

6 April 2021

Community Outreach: Rodney Weems President Wiggins reported for Chairman and VP Rodney Weems. On March 24 VP Rodney Weems presented a Heroism Medal and Certificate to Trooper Thomas Thurston at the Brazoria County Police Training Center in Angleton, TX. On April 6, 2021 he presented a Heroism Medal and Certificate to Deputy James Novak of the Brazoria County Police Department at Brazosport Facts office in Clute, TX. Carl Wiggins took the photos at both presentations. Wiggins read the

following description of the heroism event by these two officers. (figures attached)

On 5 May 2020, Trooper Thomas Thurston and Deputy James Novak of the Brazoria County Police Department responded to a fire alarm in the 3800 Block of Abeywood Drive in the Silverlake Subdivision, Pearland, Texas where upon arrival they learned there was a woman trapped inside her home. Fire department personnel had not yet arrived on scene, where upon Trooper Thurston and Deputy Novak, without regard for their own safety entered the structure and successfully removed the homeowner to safety. They then learned of the possibility that the husband may still be in the home, and again entered the structure without protective clothing or gear. They cleared the home and determined that no one remained inside. Both officers sustained smoke inhalation damage to the lungs, requiring hospitalization. Both officers fully recovered and returned to duty.

Wiggins noted that VP Weems would be presenting Law Enforcement Commendation Awards to Chief Raymond Garivey and Detective Kristy Mercado, both of the Freeport Police Department, on April 19, 2021 at the Freeport City Council Meeting in Freeport, TX. Wiggins plans to assist by photographing the event. These officers are being recognized for their strong community support of young Freeport cancer victim, Abigail Rose Arias.

Get to Know Your Compatriot:

Chris Wendel

Compatriot Chris Wendel's patriot ancestor was Joseph Baggett of Bertie County, NC. Baggett was born in 1743 and was a farmer. His service in

NC was verified by pay vouchers. His great grandson, a preacher, came to TX in 1872.

Chris was born in April 1951 in Houston and has been in El Campo, TX most of his life.

Chris attended elementary schools in El Campo and high school both at El Campo HS and Schreiner Military Institute in Kerrville, TX. He also attended Wharton County Junior College and Sam Houston State. Chris married his high school sweetheart, Mary Jane Swanson, in 1971 so they are now celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three daughters. Chris served 6 years in the Texas Army National Guard being discharged in July 1976. He has lived and worked in a number of family businesses including a cotton gin starting at age 10, a farm equipment repair shop during high school, and then over 45 years farming in Wharton with his brother-in-law where they also actively supported the Wharton County Youth Fair Farm. As a third-generation Wendel to be a member, Chris joined the El Campo Elks Lodge #1749 in March 1994 and has served in numerous officer positions at District, State and National levels. Besides being a life member of the SAR Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Chris also is a life member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas William H. Wharton Chapter #23 where he serves as Treasurer.

Hobbies are keeping up with his grandkids and attending sporting events.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bill Sanders reported that new Compatriot Howard Singleton has asked him about securing and

placing a bronze SAR medallion on the grave of his son, new Compatriot Shane Singleton. Sanders said that he would help obtain and install the medallion and also proposed that the chapter consider recognizing the event with a small SAR ceremony. It was generally agreed by members present that the Chapter should support the family and our new compatriots with our presence at the service.

Members Present: Carl Wiggins, Russell Dart, Win Avera, Chris Wendel, Bill Sanders, Jim Leach, Bill Cornelius.

Guests Present: Richard Wiggins, Rhea Singh, Amy (Leach) Benson, Bo Benson, their daughter Lori, and SAR District 7 VP Ron Brown.

Next Chapter Meeting: May 8 via Zoom. Melissa Hayes, Assistant Branch Manager, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research will speak on genealogy resources available at Clayton Library in Houston.

SAR Recessional: Led by Winston Avera.

Benediction: Given by Bill Sanders.

Motion for Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 on a motion by Win Avera, seconded by Bill Sanders.

Attached figures:



Some meeting attendees: (L-R, top-down) Richard Wiggins, Carl Wiggins,

Bill Sanders; Russell Dart, Chris Wendel, Rhea Singh; Bill Cornelius, Winston Avera, Jim Leach.



Photo of presentation by Cradle of Texas Chapter #33 Vice President and Community Affairs Chairman Rodney Weems to Chief Ray Garivey and Detective Kristy Mercado of the Freeport Police Department at the Freeport City Hall meeting on 19 April 2021.

Community policing is the basis for this award, with two City of Freeport Police Department officers being recognized, and others participating. Garivey implemented a "Community Policing" policy and Deputy, now Detective, Kristy Mercado was an implementer. During one of Detective Mercado's community interactions she met a little girl named Abigail Rose Arias who she learned had a rare form of terminal cancer. Abigail lived in Angleton, Texas, about 10 miles away, with a higher population than Freeport. Detective Mercado was so touched by Abigail that she shared her conversation with Chief Garivey. Chief Garivey, met Abigail at a Community event and, knowing of her terminal condition, spent time with her and

learned of her dream to one day to become a police officer. With City leadership he made it happen -- inducting her into the City of Freeport, Badge # 758, 7 Feb 2019. Her story took off, but so too did the admiration for the City of Freeport and its Police Department. The department's young people through the city began approaching their officers and expressing appreciation and desires to be like them. The Department has received hundreds of patches from departments in every State and a few countries as well. Abigail passed November 5, 2019 leaving behind these legacies: 1) "Officer 758's Cancer Fight" foundation; 2) "Bells for Abigail" (reported on by local NBC affiliate KPRC, Houston, Texas) where a child rings a bell emblazoned with "758" as they celebrate their "Free of Cancer" moment; and just recently, 3) 17 Apr 2021, she was recognized with the "Inspiration Award" during the "Blue Lives Matter" gala in New York City. The Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution and its Cradle of Texas Chapter recognized Abigail posthumously with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal, December 2020. "The Butterfly Effect" at its best, not chaos, but "Community Policing in Action".



Passings:

Richard Glynn Weems
Waco, Texas

June 18, 1943 - April 15, 2021

Please, keep the Family in your thoughts and prayers.

For Obituary:

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/20805671/Richard-Glynn-Weems/Waco/Texas/Pecan-Grove-Funeral-Home>



Memorial Day Monday, May 31, 2021



2021 Officers of the Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

16 May, 2021	Stephen F. Austin-Munson Historical County Park- Artillery Demonstration	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
31 May, 2021	Memorial Day	Nation Wide
14 June, 2021	Flag Day	Nation Wide
04 July, 2021	American Independence Day	TBA
7 - 14 July, 2021	National Congress	Renton, Washington