



Texas Sons of the American Revolution

## Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

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



Volume 23 Number 8

December 2022

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

**December**

### Next Meeting

**10 December, 2022**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Mikeska's BBQ and Bakery**

**22730 US Hwy 59**

**(Blue Creek Road)**

**El Campo, Texas**

**Speaker:**

**Joe Holley**



Joe Holley has been the "Native Texan" columnist for the Houston Chronicle since 2013. A native Texan himself – from Waco – he's been an editorial page editor in San Diego, Calif., a contributor to Texas Monthly, a speechwriter for Gov. Ann Richards, a staff writer for The Washington Post

and an editorial writer for the Chronicle from 2012 to 2017. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2017 for a series of editorials on gun control and the Texas gun culture and a Pulitzer Prize winner in 2022, as part of the Houston Chronicle editorial team that produced a series of editorials on Donald Trump's, "*Big Lie*."

He's the author of six books, including *Hometown Texas*, a collection of his weekly "*Native Texan*" columns; *Hurricane Season: The Unforgettable Story of the Houston Astros and the Resilience of a City*; and *Sutherland Springs: God, Guns and a Small Texas Town*, published in 2020 and recipient of the 2021 Carr P. Collins Award, presented by the Texas Institute of Letters in recognition of the year's best work of nonfiction. The book explores the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Baptist church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Today, Joe will tell us about how a couple of Texans, John Christopher Columbus Hill and Bigfoot Wallace, were involved in tussles with Mexico that led up to the U.S. - Mexican War, sometimes known as the forgotten war, which ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo that not only established the Rio Grande River as the boundary between Mexico and the U.S., but also vastly increased the total land area of the U.S. by adding the western

half of Texas, parts of what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming, and all of Utah, Nevada and California.

## Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Chapter 33

November 12, 2022

### Minutes

The Sons of the American Revolution met November 12, 2022, at Fat Grass Restaurant in Bay City, Texas.

**Call to Order:** President Wiggins called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

**Invocation:** The invocation was given by Win Avera.

**Pledges:** Vice President Weems led the pledges to the flags of the United States, Texas, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

**Introduction of Guests:** Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Program:** President Wiggins introduced the speaker, Dallam Masterson, with a short bio. Mr. Masterson spoke on the Republic of Texas Navy and its first Secretary, Samuel Rhoads Fisher, his 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. Fisher was born in Philadelphia in 1794 into a Quaker family. Although raised a Quaker, he served in the War of 1812. He met Stephen Austin in 1819, and subsequently in 1830 moved his shipping business and family to Matagorda. His 1833 home, built by ship's carpenters, survives as one of the oldest homes in Texas. Relations with Mexico had worsened, particularly with Mexican naval harassment of Texas coastal shipping. War with Mexico began with the first land battle at Gonzales on October 2, 1835. Texas initially countered Mexican naval threats with privateers carrying letters of marque. In November, 1835, Fisher was instrumental

in creating the first Texas Navy, consisting of four ships, Liberty, Invincible, Independence, and Brutus. Their objective was threefold. First, to defend the Texas coastline from a Mexican naval invasion. Second, to escort Texas shipping providing men and supplies to Texas armies. Finally, to prevent Mexican resupply to their armies in Texas. Following the declaration of Texas independence in 1836, Fisher was appointed the first Secretary of the Navy. In 1837, Mexico tried to threaten Texas independence with a naval blockade of the Texas coast. Fisher sent the Texian Navy on a diversionary cruise to Yucatan, breaking the blockade. For this action, Fisher was fired by President Houston, although ultimately cleared of all charges by the Texas Senate.

Following his talk, Mr. Masterson was presented with a certificate of appreciation by President Wiggins. SAR members and guests were invited to tour the Fisher home in Matagorda.



Dallam Masterson and Pres. Wiggins.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October meeting were approved on a motion by Bill Griffiths, second by Win Avera.

**Treasurer's Report:** As submitted by Chris Wendel below:

General Fund

Beginning Balance

10/1/2022

\$2,917.28

Income: Deposits

Interest 10/31/2022	\$ 0.05
Expense:	
Check #1050 Swamp Shack	\$89.20
Ending Balance	
10/31/2022	\$2,828.13
McAlexander Fund	
Beginning Balance	
10/01/2022	\$903.32
Income: Deposits	
Interest	
10/31/2022	\$0.08
Expense: None	
Ending Balance	
10/31/2022	\$903.40
Total Bank Balance	
10/31/2022	\$3,731.53

### Awards/Recognitions:

-15-year SAR membership certificate mailed to Harry M. House, Centennial, CO

-5-year SAR membership certificate presented to Registrar David Garza by President Wiggins.



Registrar David Garza and President Wiggins

### Reports of Officers and Committees:

#### Registrar: David Garza

- 9 Applications approved.
- 2 Applications awaiting national approval.
- 19 Applications actively working.
- 3 Applications without activity.

### Community Rodney Weems

-February 15, 2023, is the deadline for the Elementary School Poster Contest.

-Due dates for other contests can be found on the SAR website.

-Win Avera emphasized the importance of identifying local individuals worthy of public service SAR medals.

### Old Business

-November 11 Veteran's Day Parade in Sweeney. Several chapter members represented SAR on the American Legion float. Compatriot Bailey noted that the parade had 80+ floats, and that the patriotic speeches were excellent.

-President Wiggins noted that 2023 SAR dues are being mailed out and are due by December 31, 2022.

-Wreaths Across America – Treasurer Wendel has received forms from Wharton and Matagorda counties, but not Brazoria. A motion by Wendel, seconded by Bailey, was passed to provide \$50 to each county for wreaths.

### New Business:

-Elmore grave marker. It was discussed placing a SAR grave marker for possible compatriot (and former Texas Ranger) John A. Elmore in Wharton City Cemetery. It was noted that his grandfather served in the America Revolution. President Wiggins noted that attempts to involve his descendants have so far been unsuccessful, and that record copies of service have been requested from DAR. A motion to table for further meetings was made by Bailey, seconded by Avera, and passed.

-Nominations for 2023-chapter officers was presented by President Wiggins and are as follows:

President: Bill Griffiths  
 Vice President: Rodney Weems  
 Secretary: Win Avera  
 Treasurer: Chris Wendel

Registrar: David Garza

**Correspondence:** None.

**Members Present:** Carl Wiggins, Rodney Weems, Bill Griffiths, Chris Wendel, David Garza, Chris Barbee, Michael Bailey, Win Avera, Russell Dart, Truman Daniel, J. D. Humber.

**Guests Present:** Carroll Griffiths, Mary Garza, Billie Weems, Dallam Masterson, Coleen Masterson, Connie Avera, JoLynn Sutton, Thomas Sutton, Sally Rogers, Janet Mallory, Caroline Wiggins.

**Next Chapter Meeting:** December 10 at Mikeska's BBQ in El Campo, Texas.

<https://www.mikeskabbq.com>



### Wreaths Across America

December 17, 2022; 11:00 a.m.

Angleton Cemetery  
328 Cemetery Road  
Angleton, TX 77515

Sweeny Cemetery  
Sweeny, Texas

December 17, 2022

**SAR Recessional:** Led by President Rodney Weems.

**Motion for Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m. on a motion by Bill Griffiths, seconded by Michael Bailey.

### Next Meeting

10 December, 2022

Mikeska's BBQ and Bakery

22730 US Hwy 59

(Blue Creek Road)

El Campo, Texas

1 (800) 388-2552

2022

Officers of the  
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

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**HISTORIAN-** Michael Bailey

Ph. (979) 848-3705

Email: [michjbailey@gmail.com](mailto:michjbailey@gmail.com)

1:00 p. m.

Wharton County Veterans Memorial

Wharton County Courthouse

Wharton, Texas

