



Texas Sons of the American Revolution

Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

www.cradletxsar.org



Volume 24 Number 7

October 2023

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

October

Next Meeting 14 October, 2023

11:30 a. m.

La Casona

105 Abner Jackson Parkway

Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Speaker



The guest speaker is a retired chemical engineer and member of the Texas and Brazosport Archeological Societies, Chris Kneupper. In this presentation, Chris will give an update on his 10 October 2020 presentation on Fort Velasco, which now includes the results of the Geophysical survey done in the summer of 2020 & a written report published Aug-2021.

Chris is a member of:
Sons of the Republic of Texas
Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter
Cradle of Texas Conservancy (CTC)

Served on the board of directors of the CDC for 30 years.

The CDC 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 situated at the mouth of the Brazos River, in what is today Surfside Beach (formerly old Velasco). He has produced a 131-page report and literature survey emphasizing primary sources.

Chris created a website to make the report and some obscure references available to the public;

<https://velascohistoryarchaeology.weebly.com>

MEETING MINUTES

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER 33

DATE: Saturday, 9 September, 2023

LOCATION: Fat Grass Restaurant - Bay City, Texas

CALL TO ORDER: President Bill Griffiths called the meeting to order at 11:35am.

INVOCATION: Prayer by Chaplain Jim Leach.

PLEDGES: Vice President Carl Wiggins led the chapter in the pledges to the US flag, Texas flag, and Sons of the American Revolution.

MINUTES: May 2023 meeting minutes were read and approved by motion

from Compatriot Rodney Weems and second by Vice President Carl Wiggins.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Given by Treasurer Chris Wendel:
General Fund (Classic checking)

Beginning Balance	
5/01/2023	\$4523.50
Income: Deposits:	
TXSSAR - dues 5/23/2023	\$912.00
Interest 5/31/2023	\$00.08
Interest 6/30/2023	\$00.08
Interest 7/31/2023	\$00.08
Interest 8/31/2023	\$00.08
Total Income:	\$912.32
Expense:	
Ck. #1059 Abigail Humber	
(brochure contest)	\$100.00
Ck. #1060 Everitt Humber:	
	\$100.00
(SAR Chapter Brochure Contest)	
Ck. #1066 Helen Nguyen	
(JROTC Award)	\$350.00
Ck. #1067 Miguel Zarate	
(JROTC Award)	\$350.00
Ck. #1068 Mikeskas -	
guest meal	\$12.39
(one of these \$350 checks has not cleared)	
Total Expenses:	\$912.39
Ending Account Balance: --	
8/31/2023 (statement)	\$4523.43
Mc Alexander Fund (Main Share)	

Beginning Balance	
5/01/2023	\$903.85
Income: Deposits:	
Interest 5/31/2023	\$00.08
Interest 6/30/2023	\$00.07
Interest 7/31/2023	\$00.08
Interest 8/31/2023	\$00.08
Total Income:	\$00.31
Expense: None.	
Ending Account Balance: --	
8/31/2023	\$904.16
Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guard Members	
Total Combined Bank Balance -	
8/31/2023 (statements)	\$5427.59

Approved - Motion By: Vice President Carl Wiggins Seconded by: Chaplain Jim Leach

PROGRAM: Secretary J.D. Humber II of Cradle of Texas Chapter spoke on "Stephen Williams:

Stephen Williams, an American Revolutionary veteran who served three enlistments during the war of independence and performed militia service in the War of 1812, came to Texas where he once again fought for independence – this time from Mexico. He was the only man known to have fought in all three wars.

Stephen Williams was born May 9, 1760, in Granville County (which later became Bertie County), North Carolina. He was the son of Richard, a blacksmith, and Ann Williams.

Williams mustered into his first term of service in the Continental Army at the age of eighteen.

He served five months in Captain Allen's North Carolina Company from November 1777 to April 1778, during which time he fought at the Battle of Briar Creek in Georgia.

During a brief break, he returned to North Carolina to marry Delilah Rhodes Stalling in 1779. That same year he re-enlisted and served three months in Captain Alford's Company of General Horatio Gates's Army and on Aug. 16, 1780, participated in the Battle of Camden, South Carolina. The Battle of Camden was one of several devastating defeats suffered by the Americans in the initial stages of the British military offensive in the South.

Stephen Williams' final enlistment began in March 1781. Now an experienced soldier, he served as a sergeant in First Sergeant in Captain Edward Scarborough's Company, General Nathaniel Greene's Army. On Sept. 7, 1781, he participated in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina.

Stephen was finally discharged in April 1782. After the war, Williams acquired

bounty land in Georgia. Williams moved his wife Delilah and his three children to Georgia for a brief period before eventually moving west. By 1806 they ended up in St. Helena Parish, LA. By the War of 1812 Williams was fifty-two and still volunteering for service. In the winter of 1814-15, Williams defended the naval yards while on sentry duty at munitions warehouse facilities from British attack, on Lake Pontchartrain at Madisonville, Louisiana.

In 1835, Williams submitted a character certificate and applied for a land title from Mexico, but the process was not completed before the suspension of land offices in Texas on November 13, 1835, during the beginning of the Texas Revolution.

As Texan dissatisfaction with Mexican authority grew, Williams got word that the fight was on at San Antonio. At age 75, Williams took his rifle and one of his grandsons, and walked 300 miles half-way across Texas, joined a militia company, and took part in the siege of Bexar.

Williams died in April of 1839. He was buried in the Williams Cemetery on his property about seven miles southeast of Jasper. In 1936, the state of Texas removed the body of Stephen Williams to the state cemetery in Austin as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS:

15-yr. Membership Anniversary Certificate - Michael J. Bailey; William C. Sanders, Sr.; William C. Sanders, Jr.; William T. Sanders; William J. Griffiths, III

5-yr. Membership Anniversary Certificate - Stephen W. Appling; Max L. Royalty; Landry W. Fitte; Theodore R. Bates, Jr.

Abigail Humber placed 2nd at NSSAR in the Brochure Contest in Orlando

Everett Humber placed 3rd at NSSAR in the Poster Contest in Orlando

OFFICER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Registrar - David Garza

- Applications Appr #1; Awaiting Appr #2; Supplemental #1

Webmaster - Carl Wiggins

- Three issues were briefly noted. 1) the slideshow app was preventing the PHP from being updated from version 7.4 to 8.0 until it was deactivated. Unfortunately, this disabled nineteen slideshows from across the site, including the main one on the home page. A fix is in process. 2) The available memory on the host server needs to be increased to remedy a "connection timed out" problem that is preventing the TXSSAR webmaster from fully indexing our website. A probable, simple fix has been identified. 3) Content on the website is about 3 years out of date. The content is available, the webmaster just needs time to upload it.

Community Outreach/Education - Rodney Weems

- Congratulations to Abigail and Everett Humber who have now placed 1st in both the chapter and state brochure and poster contests, and 2nd and 3rd place, respectively in the National SAR Congress competition in Florida.

- An email was sent to all area ISDs, private schools and newspapers announcing the 2023 contest competitions.

TXSSAR Summer BOM - Carl Wiggins

- This July BOM was a Zoom meeting; a full report has already been emailed to all members. The following just summarizes some highlights.

- National SAR dues are increasing by \$15.

- Need to increase TX SAR attendance at the annual Nation SAR Conventions to help maximize the number of our voting delegates from 13 (present) to the fifty-five allowed based on our 3,092 members - largest in the US.

- Bob Cohen, Chairperson of the DAR Liaison Committee, announced that DAR has established a new Hannah White Arnett Medal to award to deserving SAR members. Bill Sanders is a strong candidate to receive this medal.

- Toward the end of the BOM, Drake Peddie described how Artificial Intelligence software is making it easier for students to forge SAR Americanism Contests such as posters, brochures, and essays. So now we must be diligent about checking for this threat. There are tools available that will detect whether a contest submission has been generated by AI.

- The October BOM will be held in College Station, TX. Deadline for hotel reservations is September 29. Registration is open online at the TXSSAR website. Secretary J.D. Humber is considering representing the Cradle of Texas Chapter at the SAR BOM.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Cradle of Texas Chapter will participate in the 2023 Veterans Day parade in Angleton, TX. We will be sharing a float with a Veterans group from West Columbia.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made and passed for the Cradle of Texas Chapter to donate \$100 to the Cemetery Cenotaph Project in Austin to honor Patriots buried in Texas. (Motioned by: Vice President Carl Wiggins and seconded by Compatriot Sandy Weems.)

Motion was made and passed for the regularly scheduled November Monthly meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter to be moved to Nov 18 to avoid conflict with Veterans Day activities. (Motioned by: Compatriot Winston Avera and seconded by Compatriot Sandy Weems.)

Bill Sanders spoke about plans to set up Constitution Week displays in Louise middle and high schools next week. He also handed out promotional data discs for

distribution to high school teachers to aid them in presenting an understanding and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution to their students.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

16 September 2023 Texian Navy Day Four: Matagorda and Rockport, Freeport , San Jacinto.

16 September 2023 DAR Constitution Day Lunch Wharton Historical Museum

17 September 2023 Constitution Day; Bells Asa Underwood DAR, West Columbia

October 20-22 2023 Fall BOM College Station; Wyndham Garden H.

11 November 2023 Veterans Day; Chapter Float, Angleton, TX?

23 November 2023 Thanksgiving Day Family

NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2023, at La Casona Restaurant, 105 Abner Jackson Parkway, Lake Jackson, TX 77566, 979-292-0900. Chris Kneupper will speak on Fort Velasco, presenting new information and geo-physical data.

SAR RECESSIONAL: Led by President Griffiths.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm by motion from Compatriot Winston Avera and second by Vice President Carl Wiggins.

BENEDICTION: Prayer by Chaplain Jim Leach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Wiggins / Bill Griffiths / J.D. Humber, II / Rodney Weems / Jim Leach / Bill Sanders / Chris Wendel / David Garza / Winston Avera / Ted Bates / Sands Weems.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Caroline Wiggins / Carroll Griffiths / Patsy Sanders / Connie Avera



Next Meeting
14 October, 2023
La Casona
105 Abner Jackson Parkway
Lake Jackson, TX 77566



October 11
General Pulaski Memorial Day

General Pulaski Memorial Day is celebrated on October 11, on the death anniversary of Casimir Pulaski. He was a Polish hero of the American Revolution. By a presidential proclamation every year on October 11, this holiday is observed to commemorate General Pulaski's death from wounds suffered at the siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779. The day also honors the heritage of Polish Americans. President George W. Bush issued a presidential proclamation on October 10, 2002, observing the day; President Barack Obama did the same on October 8, 2010; and on October 10, 2017, President Donald Trump proclaimed the day. There is a separate local holiday observed in areas with a large Polish population on the first Monday of March every year called Casimir Pulaski Day.

<https://nationaltoday.com/general-pulaski-memorial-day>

2023
Officers of the
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

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Constitution Day -September 17, 2023 - West Columbia, Texas

Speaker-Benjamin Tumlinson, Lieutenant Colonel US Army -Retired

A special thanks to the members of the Cradle of Texas SAR Chapter, who came out to show their patriotism and love for the Constitution and for supporting our sister-compatriots from the DAR Asa Underwood Chapter.

Constitution Day 2023

September 17

Presentation Made by:

Benjamin Tumlinson, Lieutenant Colonel US Army -Retired

When Columbia Historical Museum asked me to speak today, I was honored to talk about a document that has been a core part of my life since the age of seventeen when I entered military service. January 26, 1993, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I would bear true faith and allegiance to the same. I would live out this oath for the next 30 years of my life. What is this document that I was willing to lay down my life for?

Today, Constitution Day will be celebrated from sea to shining sea; Federal entities, States, cities, and local municipalities will ring bells signifying the signing of this great document back on September 17, 1787. On that day, the bells of the churches in Philadelphia rang out signifying this historical event that has carried the greatest nation on God's green earth through many trials and triumphs. But what is this document that has been this nation's guide?

The Constitution is merely paper and ink, however it codifies the ideals of our nation and is our constant reminder that we the people are the governors of our future. This is our

contract and promise to ourselves to live up to these ideals. In the preamble we hear these great words:

We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. If you take out the middle section of this preamble we hear the words of the founding father's voices - it, is you and I who must bear the burdens of keeping this great nation... We the people of the United States, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

I mentioned that I took an oath to the Constitution, but this document, the constitution, calls upon all citizens to stand at the ready to defend our collective ideals. When the constitution was signed, it did not include the bill of rights that we know today. These first ten amendments were introduced at the first Congress in 1789 and ratified December 15, 1791. The understanding of the rights, as our founding father saw it, were bestowed upon us by the Almighty. Hear the words of John Adams in 1765 - Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood.

You can hear echoes of these same ideals in our Declaration of Independence written in 1776 -

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Today, Americans will go about their Sunday afternoons, enjoying their after-church naps, shopping, or Sunday family suppers - many of them oblivious to this day celebrating this wonderful piece of parchment. As many of us, we live our daily lives and take for granted the Freedoms that it proclaims. For us, let us contemplate the cost required to maintain this great nation. As these bells ring across the nation, ask yourself - what am I doing to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America? Our nation cannot afford for us to sit on the sidelines any longer, what we do with these privileges today matters. As General George Washington said as he rallied Soldiers in preparation for the Revolutionary War in 1775: The fate of the unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die.

The next generation of Americans are depending on us to maintain our way of life, to stand firm in our faith, and be diligent in our civic duties - We are Americans this is what we do. Let the bells ring, and with each chime, let that sound encourage us all to

remember We the People will be remembered by the way we fostered these great ideals codified in our Constitution.

Thank you and May God Bless West Columbia, Brazoria County, Texas, and the United States of America.

Rockport, Texas Texian Navy Day September 16, 2023

A special thanks to the members of the Cradle of Texas SAR Chapter, who came out to show their love and support for all things Texas, history, and Navy.



Texas Navy Admiral and SAR Cradle of Texas Chapter Compatriot Michael Bailey served as master of ceremonies.

Matagorda, Texas Texian Navy Day September 16, 2023



Texas Navy Admiral, SAR Cradle of Texas Chapter Compatriot, and Honorable Mayor of El Campo, TX Chris Barbee was a master of ceremonies at the Matagorda Harbor Pavillion. The First Texas Navy Squadron of Home Base Matagorda was chartered and ten new Texas Navy Admirals were commissioned including SAR Cradle of Texas Compatriots Ray Beall, Jr. and Carl Wiggins. Ray Beall is also a member of the SRT.

Annual Constitution Week Display 17 - 23 September 2023 Louise, TX



Announcement by Bill



Jim Leach, Bill Sanders



Constitution Week Display at Louise High School



Dr. Bill Griffiths, Bill Sanders

For over 15 years, SAR Cradle of Texas Chapter 33 Compatriot Bill Sanders and DAR Comfort Wood Chapter member Pat Sanders, have set up displays in Louise TX middle and high schools providing a teaching moment on this fundamental piece of U. S. history. Each year the SAR and DAR displays are rotated between the two schools. This year display setup was assisted by Jim Leach and Dr. William J. Griffiths, III of the SAR Cradle of Texas Chapter and Carroll Griffiths of the DAR Comfort Wood Chapter. Bill Sanders also rings the bells at his church at 3 PM as part of the Bells Across America campaign on 17 September to celebrate the time of day of the signing of the American Constitution.