

INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education"

MINUTES OF THE MEETING - MAY 7, 1998

7:00 pm, Denton Good Samaritan Village

President Bill Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the Pledge to the SAR. He then introduced the speaker for the night, Bill Hurst, from the Plano Chapter and member of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants. Mr. Hurst's topic was "Washington, the Founding Father." His presentation was excellent and he was awarded a certificate of recognition by the Denton Chapter.

President Bell called for and received approval of the minutes of the April 2nd meeting. Treasurer, William Vaughn reported that the regular fund balance was \$127.58 and that dues had still not been received from the State. The memorial fund, to be used only for awards, education, and scholarships contained \$190.00. The Treasurers report was approved. Tom Cain reported that three trailers will be available for the 4th of July parade. James Baird reported that the medal presented Natalie Massengale was very well received. President Bell requested that Dave Heston compose a story regarding doing genealogy on the Internet.

A discussion followed regarding selection of a name for the Chapter. Compatriot Vaughn discussed his experience with organizations named after individuals. He noted that, after about fifteen years, very few people make any connection between the name and the organization. Compatriot Baird reminded us that Richard Fletcher, first President of the Denton Chapter, preferred that the name be simply, Denton Chapter #23.

NEW BUSINESS - President Bell requested and received approval for an Executive Committee comprised of Gerald Brenholtz, James Baird, Jim Johnson, and Samuel Haynes.

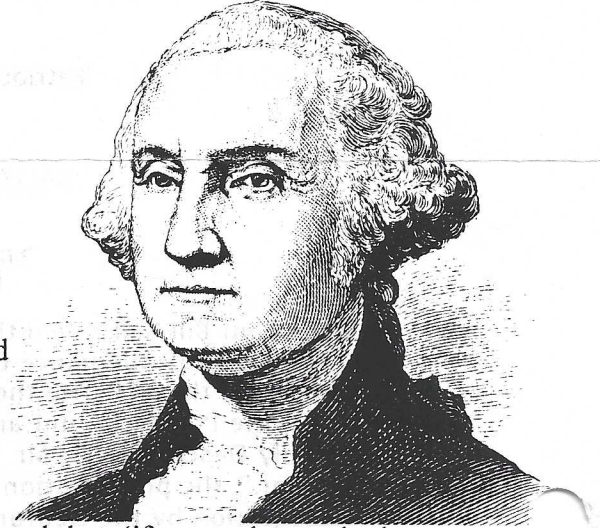
- * A recommendation was made to award Police and Fire Medals annually. The basis for the awards must be decided.
- * James Baird and Mr. Skinner are to organize the Boy Scout contest.
- * Tom Cain will be in charge of the Essay Contest.
- * A proposal was made and approved authorizing a second person, Samuel Haynes, to sign checks in the event that Treasurer, Vaughn is not available.

Samuel Haynes, Secretary

“WASHINGTON, THE FOUNDING FATHER”

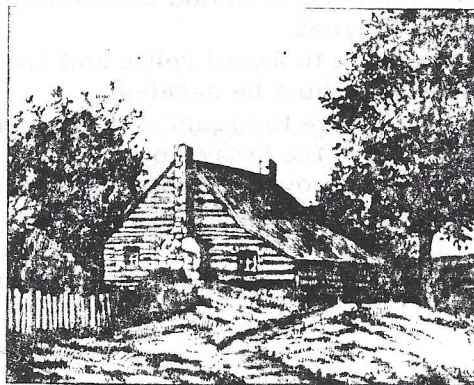
Those who did not attend the May 7th meeting, missed an excellent presentation on “Washington, the Founding Father” by Bill Hurst, descendent of the Washington family. Following are a few excerpts and paraphrases from the first five minutes of the speech.

“We are beginning to forget about George Washington and who he was. He has dropped from number two to number three as the president that most people know about. Actually, he should be number one. When we speak about the ‘founding fathers,’ we often speak of Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, or Madison. But there can only be one ‘Father of the Country.’ And this national fraternity began to gravitate to Washington about six months before the Declaration of Independence, when he was addressed in a letter as our political father. The first reference to him as the ‘Father of his Country,’ appears in an almanac in 1778. Since then, the title has been fixed. The title is probably a barrier to our appreciation of him now because of the changes that have occurred regarding the role of the father in the family. In the 50’s the father worked all day, came home, read the newspaper, then sat down to the evening meal. Now, we see fathers changing diapers, staying home with the children, on one hand, and completely absent from the family due to divorce, separation or children out of wedlock on the other hand. A book that Washington himself owned stated that, ‘if a man does only the biological minimum requirement of fatherhood, then he has no role in whether his children live well or even live at all.’



A father must go beyond what is merely natural. A father is a man who follows through. And that is why Washington became known as the founding father. He, above all others was the founder who followed through. He did not follow through because circumstances forced him to act. The options to do other things or nothing at all were always open to him. But he accepted responsibility after responsibility, continuing to do the next thing, then the next, then the next - whatever he was asked to do.

The record of Washington’s experience with his own father is somewhat blank. His father was 38 when George was born, and died eleven years later at age 49.....”



BIRTHPLACE OF WASHINGTON

MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 25

I must admit that I generally look forward to some of our holidays because they mean a day off work. Didn't give a lot of thought to why they were observed. This year, as Memorial Day approached, I decided to "look up" the origin. I was surprised to find that, although we are observing the holiday May 25th in honour of all those who have fallen in all U. S. wars, the original celebration was May 30th in the northern states in honour of soldiers killed in the Civil War. Louisiana, Tennessee and Arkansas observed Confederate Memorial Day on June 3rd, the birthday of Jefferson Davis. Decoration Day, as it was called back then, was first ordered in 1868 by Commander in Chief, John A Logan who designated May 30th "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country."

As I recall, Congress changed the date of observance some years back so that it would always fall on Monday, giving the country a long weekend.

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JUNE 4th, 7pm - Good Samaritan Village - Denton

Compatriot James Johnson will present a program on Revolutionary War Uniforms. Focus will be primarily on uniforms used by the colonists.

A wide variety of uniforms were used by both State Militias and the Continental Army. Continental uniforms were not standardized until Gen. Von Stuebens made efforts to reorganize the army. The basic Continental uniform was white with a white waist-coat (vest) and a dark blue coat with colored regimental facings and brass buttons. In early days of the revolution, officers were designated by sashes around the waist. Epaulets were introduced later in the war.

COME.....This is the last meeting until September 3rd

ALSO....At noon Wed., Lewisville Kiwanis Club - James Johnson will give a presentation in costume - "Voices of the Revolution"



"SURRENDER OF GENERAL BURGoyNE," OCT. 17, 1777

NEXT MEETING JUNE 4th
7pm Good Samaritan
Program: "Uniforms of
the Revolution"

James J Johnson

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Officers

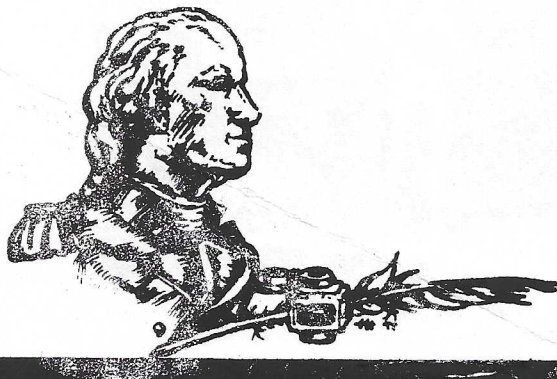
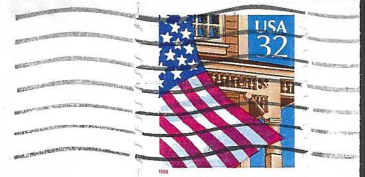
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Samuel Haynes
Treasurer
William Vaughn
Chaplain
Tom Bailey
Historian
Ben Casey
Geneologist
Dave Heston
Membership Chairman
James Baird

Be Americans. Let there be no sectionalism, no North, South, East or West; you are all dependent one on another, and should be one in union...Beware of the baneful effects of party spirit and of the ruin to which its extremes must lead. Do not encourage party spirit, but use every effort to mitigate and assuage it. Keep the departments of government separate, promote education, cherish the public credit, avoid debt. Observe justice and good faith toward all nations; have neither passionate hatreds nor passionate attachments to any; and be independent politically of all. In one word, be a nation; be Americans, and be true to yourselves.

George Washington's "Farewell Address"

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