

INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education"

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPT. 3, 1998

7:00 PM, Denton Good Samaritan Village

Vice President James Johnson called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the Pledge to the SAR. Chaplain Tom Bailey gave the invocation. Vice President Johnson then introduced Mr. Frank Barrow, former Mayor of Denton, who reviewed the diary of an ancestor covering a forty year period during revolutionary times. Following the program, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Barrow.

Treasurer William Vaughn announced that the dues had been received from the State office in the amount of \$142.50, representing a decrease from 1997 dues which amounted to \$199.00. The general account balance, after checks issued to the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the DAR in the amount of \$20.00 and to the Postmaster for postage of \$12.80, is \$207.28. The Memorial Fund balance is \$190.00. Treasurer Vaughn remarked that the dues returned from the State office is insufficient to carry out the necessary functions of the Chapter and recommended that a local dues schedule be adopted. Tom Cain was asked to draft an amendment to the by-laws to provide for local dues of \$10.00 annually. At this point, volunteer contributions were made by Tom Bailey - \$100 and James Johnson - \$55.

Compatriot Richard Arnold from the Dallas Chapter of SAR announced that SAR members in uniform from all over the State would converge on Dallas for the Veterans Day Parade Wednesday, November 11th. He stated that wearing the uniform represents a key selling point in attracting new young members. Arnold also announced that a new book, "American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas," is now available from the Dallas Chapter for \$35.00.

The meeting was adjourned with the SAR closing.

Respectfully submitted,
Samuel Haynes, Secretary

"A COLONIAL DIARY"

The speaker for the September meeting was Mr. Frank Barrow, former Mayor of Denton. Mr. Barrow reviewed the diary of his 4th great grandfather, Benjamin Percival, who started the diary in 1777 in Sandwich, Mass. Benjamin Percival was 25 years old, married and had 2 children, at that time.

The diary covered a period of 40 years and it took Mr. Barrow three years to compile it from the pages which were of many different sizes and stages of legibility.

Following are a few notes taken as Mr. Barrow discussed the diary.

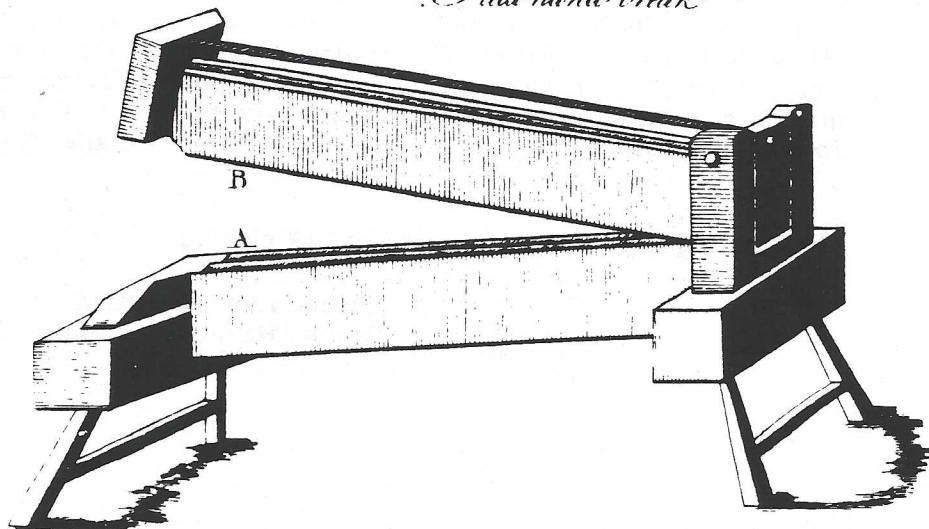
1/29/1777 - Looks likely we will have a snow storm. We hear today that General Washington has been slightly wounded. (10 days later, entered - learned today Washington wasn't hurt very bad after all.)

2/1/1777 - Has been a very warm day. There has been a report today in town that there has been a battle in the Jerseys. British army lost 200 men. Our army lost 1000 men.

1/19/1778, Mon - Clear, cold day, been breaking flax. There was an uncommon noise heard today by some people. Lazarus Uhler has been settling accounts here this evening. A great northern light last night.

3/14/1778, Sat - Dull day. My brother John got here today from Lennox. A very unnatural murder happened in Brookfield. A woman lured two Russians to kill her husband. The woman, named Bathsheba, married a young man and they had moved off to another town in Massachusetts. And she had fallen in love with another young man and had gotten pregnant by him. So she hired these two Russian soldiers to kill her husband. They did and threw him down a well. Somebody found the body and the two Russians told that been hired by Bathsheba to kill her husband. She was tried for it, was found guilty and was to be hung. She pleaded with the church, which had a lot of authority in those days, to postpone the hanging until after the child was born. The church did not believe she was pregnant and hired 12 midwives to examine her. All 12 reported to the Church that she was not pregnant. So they hung her. But an autopsy was done afterward and a 5 month old male child was found. Needless to say, the people were very dismayed with the Church.

Star hand break



11/25/1778 - This morning about 4:00 o'clock I had a son born. Have not been to meeting.
Pond froze all over.

Benjamin Percival never mentions his wife through the entire diary covering 40 years. There is no mention of Christmas anywhere in the diary. (Christmas was celebrated in Pennsylvania at that time but not in Calvinistic New England.)

Mr. Barrow's work provides a marvelous insight into the everyday life of the by-gone days in Cape Cod. We are very grateful that he came and shared this with us.

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

The Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Denton Chapter #23 of the Sons of the American Revolution sponsored a program celebrating the 211th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America at 4pm Sept. 17th on the court-house lawn. The program commenced with the ringing of bells followed by presentation of the Colors by the High School ROTC. Everyone participated in the singing of "America" and reading of the Preamble to the Constitution. The Seven Articles and the Twenty-six Amendments of the Constitution were then read by descendants of Patriots of the American Revolution.

At the end of the program, Bill Bell, President of Denton Chapter #23 presented a certificate to the Benjamin Lyon Chapter in appreciation for their excellent work in preparing the program.

Call For Participation of Members

We are asking for members to give a thumbnail sketch (say ten minutes) of their ancestor at a meeting in the near future. If you would be willing to do this, please contact Jim Johnson at 940-387 7069.



**NEXT MEETING OCT. 1st
7pm Good Samaritan**

**“THE BATTLE OF TRENTON”
Richard Arnold
Former President, Dallas Chapter**

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VOICES PRECEDING THE REVOLUTION

“If man in the state of nature be so free as has been said, if he be absolute lord of his own person and possessions, --- why will he part with his freedom? --- This condition, however free, is full of fears and continual dangers --- and it is not without reason that he seeks out and is willing to join in society with others --- for the mutual preservation of their lives, liberties and estates.

John Lock (1632 - 1704)

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