

INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education" MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DEC, 3, 1998

President Bell called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the SAR. Vice President James Johnson gave the invocation. President Bell announced that the speaker, Curtis East was unable to come and that James Johnson would give a program on the celebration of Christmas during revolutionary times. Vice President Johnson, having learned of this only the night before, gave an appropriate and excellent presentation. Following the speaker, President Bell reported that Good Samaritan would permit SAR to bring in a wardrobe for storage of equipment subject to their approval of style and design in advance.

A need to maintain a current list of membership was discussed. President Bell announced that he had, on his recent visit to Scotland, purchased a supply of ha-pennies for use as awards. Treasurer, William Vaughn made a recommendation to issue a check to Sam Haynes as reimbursement for newsletter expenses. Haynes asked that no reimbursement be made for the past months.

Sam Haynes reported that the Nov. managers meeting in Dallas had provided many forms to be filed in connection with the various awards programs and that the membership meeting involved discussions about how to obtain new members and how to improve attendance at chapter meetings.

President Bell led the SAR closing and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Samuel Haynes

CHRISTMAS DURING REVOLUTIONARY TIMES

Christmas decorations in the 18th century were simple - holly, evergreen boughs and the like. As for the revolutionaries' Christmas, there was a war going on. Compatriot Johnson provided much insight by relating excerpts from diaries kept during that time. Following are a few of these excerpts:

Dec 16, 1773 - One thousand patriots rushed into streets, fired into the air, boarded ships in the harbor and hurled boxes of tea into the harbor. (To the delight of those present, Jim sang a song which likely was sung at the tea party.)

Dec 18, 1773 - Philip Pitheon, missionary, entered in his diary, "When it grew too dark to dance, we conversed to half past six. (Balls, fine entertainment and fellowship took place as Christmas approached.)

Dec 25, 1775 - Pitheon's diary indicated that he was in western Virginia with Scotch and Scotch/Irish people. "Christmas morning and not shout was heard, no people assembled. It was a day like all others.

Dec 25, 1776 - Washington crossed the Delaware nine times. His attack on Trenton was successful mainly because the Hessians were celebrating Christmas and were not alert.

Dec 25, 1777 - Thomas Paine described Christmas at Valley Forge - "The soldiers resembled a family of beavers. Some carried logs, others, mud, and the rest assembled the 900 huts. The men slept 12 to a hut and, unable to start a fire, lay down with fatigue, hunger, and cold.

NEXT MEETING JAN. 7th

7:00 pm Good Samaritan

Speaker: Curtis Flatt, President-

Dallas Chapter, Sons of the Republic

of Texas

Subject: Col. Banastre Tarleton-

**Dashing rider who, showing no mercy, cut to pieces
a detachment of American cavalry, then destroyed Buford's
Virginia regiment near the North Carolina border**

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VOICES PRECEDING THE REVOLUTION

On March 22, 1765, the English Parliament had final assent for the celebrated Stamp Act. "Now we must light lamps of industry and economy." wrote Benjamin Franklin to a friend. "Be assured," replied the friend, "that we shall light torches of another sort."

Ridpath, J. C., A. M., "History of the United States" 1879, p.251