INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

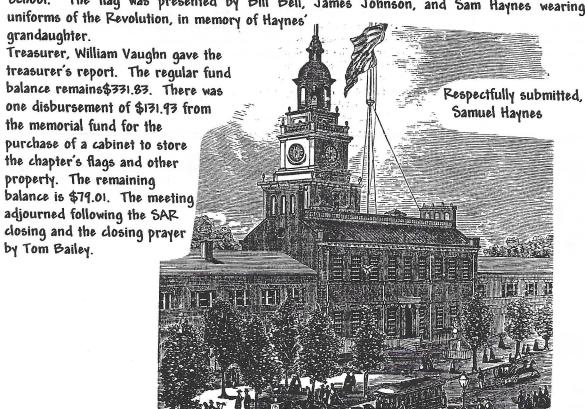
Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education"

Minutes for the Meeting of June 3, 1999

President Bill Bell began the meeting by requesting the opening prayer which was given by Chaplain Tom Bailey. The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and the SAR pledge followed. President Bell then introduced Jack Haughton and John Greer who provided us with all the information we need to build an awards program. First, we were reminded that a schedule or timetable needs to be followed to make sure that work toward successful completion of an award project is done timely. The ROTC Award, Eagle Scout Recognition, Law Enforcement Medal, Fire Safety Commendation, Outstanding History Teacher Award, Good Citizenship medals, Poster contest, Oration Contest and Essay Contest were all discussed. At the end of the presentation, the members present were given the opportunity to volunteer for the program of his choice.

Vice President, Jim Johnson reported that on May 28th the Chapter presented a United States flag which had flown over the Nation's Capitol in Washington to W A Porter Elementary School. The flag was presented by Bill Bell, James Johnson, and Sam Haynes wearing



INDEPENDENCE HALL, 1877.

NEXT MEETING SEPT. 3rd

THERE ARE NO REGULAR MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST BUT DON'T FORGET THE PARADE JULY 4th

The legendary words and deeds of our forefathers who risked everything for the cause of independence were focused on one idea - freedom. Freedom is what they fought for and won. It is what the entire nation will be celebrating on July 4th with fireworks displays, picnics, parades, and other types of rejoicing. Virtually all of us are aware of the phrase in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal,

TXSSAR Chapter #23 Officers President Bill Bell Vice President & Program James J Johnson Secretary & Newsletter Samuel Haynes Treasurer William Vaughn Chaplain Tom Bailey Historian Tom Cain Geneologist & Membership Gerald Brenholtz

that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Yet, many Americans remained in total slavery for almost another hundred years. Today we all proudly proclaim freedom. Yet, we each, by our remarks and actions, indicate vastly different opinions about what our individual freedom is. Entreprenuers complain about a lack of freedom - lack of freedom from taxation, from environmental constraints, from unfair protection of customers and labor. Militant groups are springing up all across the country claiming that they have been deprived of all freedom or their right to supremacy. And there seems to be a widespread belief that too much government has abolished our freedom. A few argue for elimination of all government. I can remember when automobile advertising embodied a phrase, "the freedom of the open road." Today, far to many of us drive as though we intend to destroy anything or anyone who gets in our way. These attitudes reflect a feeling that freedom means a state of nature where only the natural force, "survival of the fittest," rules. But we should be reminded that an equally powerful opposing force is at work in nature. Moreover, if our founding fathers had believed 'freedom' to be synonymous with 'survival of the fittest,' they would not have struggled so diligently and so brilliantly and at their further peril to write the Constitution of the United States of America. As we celebrate this 4th, let us at the very least, try to understand what the other person's freedom should mean to him.

