

INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education"

Minutes of the Meeting February 3, 2000

Present for the meeting were James Baird, John Monroe, Gerald Brenholtz, William Brenholtz, Bill Bell, Timothy Cover, Mr and Mrs William Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs James Johnson and Mr. and Mrs Samuel Haynes. President Bell called the meeting to order at 7:05 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and the Pledge to the SAR. President Bell introduced compatriot William Vaughn who presented, "Political Scandals." Following the presentation, James Baird, chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave the names of those recommended for officers for the year 2000/2001. Voting was postponed until the March meeting with installation of new officers to be at the April meeting. Treasurer, William Vaughn reported that, following a check to the National Office for \$240.00 and reimbursement of \$137.00, the regular account balance was \$317.83. The memorial fund balance is \$83.01. James Johnson announced that the Annual TXSSAR Convention will be March 17-19, 2000, in Abilene. Mr. Johnson was elected to go as the official delegate for the Denton Chapter. President Bell led the SAR Closing and Vice President Johnson gave the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Samuel Haynes

Political Scandals

The Denton Chapter is very fortunate to have Dr. William Vaughn, retired Professor of History, University of North Texas as officer and member. Dr. Vaughn at the February 3rd meeting gave us the first of a two part presentation of political scandals. Following are some of my recollections. First of these was the matter of Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton was born in the Virgin Islands, the exact date of which is not known. The Island of St Croix has many historical markers describing his accomplishments. Alexander's ambition brought promotions from bookkeeper to manager, then a trip to North America for schooling at Kings College (now Columbia). He became well known for his essays. He attached himself to aristocracy and married into one of New York's wealthiest families. President



March 2nd Meeting

Denton Good Samaritan Village - 7pm

William Vaughn

Political Scandals - Part 2

Washington appointed Hamilton the first Secretary of the Treasury. During the time he was in office, a young lady called upon Hamilton at his home, describing herself as a woman in distress. She stated that her husband had treated her cruelly and had left her and their daughter for another woman. That evening, Hamilton delivered an amount of money to Mrs. Reynolds' rooming house

TXSSAR Chapter #23

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address and thereby began one of America's legendary political scandals of adultery and blackmail. The following year, the work of the treasury was extremely urgent; yet despite the requirements of the job, Alexander found time to frequently meet Mrs Reynolds. He even had her come to his home while his wife, Elizabeth and the children were away. Eventually, Mrs. Reynolds' husband, James, wrote Alexander stating that he knew what was going on and demanded payment and a Treasury job to keep quiet. A series of very complicated occurrences followed. Far too much to cover here. But there were accusations that Hamilton had stolen thousands of dollars. Hamilton, against the advice of all, published an account of the affair, admitting to adultery and blackmail but denying any use of public funds. Meanwhile Mrs. Reynolds obtained a divorce using non-other than Aaron Burr as her attorney. Many years after Hamilton's death at the hands of Aaron Burr, James Monroe visited Elizabeth. She did not invite Monroe in to sit down. Instead, she told him that she would not forget the slanders made years earlier against her husband. Much like the feelings shown by today's First Lady.



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