

THE SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Fellow Compatriots:

March was full of San Antonio events with the remembrance of the fall of the Alamo topping the list. I was honored to be invited to this solemn occasion and as it was my first time, I was very impressed. I, along with the rest of the spectators, was seated inside the Alamo as one by one a soldier slowly marched in from an adjoining room carrying the state flag of the state from which an Alamo hero was a citizen. As the soldier marched in with a flag, the narrator called out the name of the state and the number of fallen heroes from that state. The soldier then dipped his flag and took his place along the inner walls of the building. After the states were called, several countries were called and flags representing those countries, likewise were dipped and the number of fallen from that country was announced.

For a minute, I was struck that there was no Texas flag and then remembered that Texas was not yet a republic and had no flag. There were, of course, Texans at the Alamo, however anyone who lived in the Province of Texas at that time was also a Mexican citizens and were thus represented by the Mexican flag. As Texans, we are very proud of the Alamo and the heavy sacrifices made that day for independence from Mexico. But we sometimes forget that most of those heroes were from other states and countries. Does that make them any less deserving of our thankful remembrance? It certainly does not. One can compare that struggle with the one for American Independence as both have much in common. The colony residences were British citizens and they received a bountiful helping from soldiers of other countries. Those colonists who fought for independence were, by far, in the minority and could not have succeeded had it not been for money, material and soldiers from France and Spain. France is well remembered for showing up at York Town in the nick of time to block the British re-supply or evacuation and for the French troops that fought alongside the colonist there. But we often overlook the fact that those French ships would never have been there had it not been for Spain refitting them in Cuba. And there is also that little known fact that those ships carried money from New Spain, which was used to pay those French soldiers at York Town.



(Continued on page two)

NEXT MEETING:

Date/Time: 9 April at 11:30, meeting starts at noon.

Place: Oak Hills Country Club located at 5403 Fredericksburg Road.

There will be no speaker, as the meeting will consist of the swearing in of new officers.

Menu: Fresh Mixed Greens House Salad, 8 oz Grilled Sirloin with Brandy Mushroom Sauce,
Broiled Tomato Parmesan, Croquette Potato, Assorted Rolls & Butter, Iced Tea & Coffee
Black Forest Cake

Please make your reservations by 6 April to (210) 822-1960 or gharcourt@satx.rr.com.

**THE
SAN
ANTONIO
COMPATRIOT**

PRESIDENT'S: (Continued from page one)

Like most wars in history, the “what ifs” have received much discussion, and in not a few cases, to justify the value of the participants. So just what was the value of the French participation at York Town? Could the colonist have won a war against the best-trained army in the entire world by themselves? And Spain, just how important was their refitting those French ships and providing the funds to pay the French troops? Not to mention Spain's defeating the British up the Mississippi River which opened a valuable re-supply route to the colonist and removing the British from the entire Gulf Coast (our southern flank) and from the Bahamas which was a major naval base for British ships? What started out at Concord with a small skirmish had escalated to the point where England not only had lost control of the colonist but also had lost its control of the Mississippi River. If that wasn't enough, England lost all its land east of the Mississippi to the Atlantic Ocean and its naval base in the Bahamas. One must remember that it took England seven years to gain ownership of those properties and in two years Galvez took them away. Following all that, the King lost the major battle at York Town and probably starting to worry about loosing Canada. Oh say do you see – the world turned upside down indeed.

The Revolutionary War was much like the Alamo, a delaying action of extreme sacrifice until all those “foreign” soldiers arrived to make York Town the San Jacinto of American Independence. Maybe I've put entirely too much “value” on the help from Spain and France. But as an old grunt officer, I know that wars are won with logistics and the material shortfalls alone were enough to doom General George Washington to say nothing of the lack of men and a well trained army. But there was something else that entered into that War's equation. If you read very much of the various battles and miraculous escapes by Washington's army; the sudden weather changes that covered his withdraws; the quite by accident discovery of the Benedict Arnold treachery; the capture of an insubordinate fellow general at a prime moment; the many irrational, last minute discussions of the British Generals that spared Washington's certain capture; you have to come away with a feeling that some other presence had a hand in that war. And although it may no longer be politically correct, it is still a value we should remember above all others. God leads those who listen.

DECLINATION OF SECOND TERM IN OFFICE

It occurs to me that my serving as President for another term would require more attention than I am able to give and thus I am happy to leave the office of President in the hands of the Executive Committee to fill with someone with the necessary energy that office requires.

I will finish this year's ROTC Program, however I will accept or perform no other Chapter duties or office.

It has been my pleasure to serve and I have nothing but good wishes for the Chapter's future.

**May God Bless,
Jack Cowan**



DNA Ancestor Link:

Well, it finally has come to this. Rub the inside of your mouth with a plastic stick, put it in a small jar and send it to the lab. You will then find out if that ancestor you put down is really related or maybe find that missing link in the family tree. That is if someone else had sent their related DNA into the DNA bank.

The next step is the processing of your sample at the lab. When the lab has completed the processing, you will be notified immediately by email.

The tests meet the highest standard for precision and reliability, which requires individual verification by very skilled professionals.

Therefore, typical times between the time when the kit goes to the lab for processing and the availability of results is:

12 Marker Y-DNA - 4 weeks

25 Marker Y-DNA - 6 weeks

37 Marker Y-DNA - 6 weeks

12 to 25 Marker Y-DNA Upgrade - 4 Weeks

12 to 37 Marker Y-DNA Upgrade - 4 Weeks

25 to 37 Marker Y-DNA Upgrade - 2 Weeks

mtDNA Tests - 5 Weeks

(kits go to the lab in batches every 2 weeks)

These times are for tests that have a successful outcome from the first run at the lab.

Approximately 85% of the first runs are successful. The tests are rerun on the other 15% until a good result is obtained. Unfortunately, each rerun adds two weeks to the process.

March Meeting Speaker:

Warren Stricker gave an outstanding photo talk on the Alamo and its many changes from before and after that famous day in March. Used as an U. S. Army building for years, it was saved from certain ruin until taken over by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The Texas Shrine is more than an historic church. It maintains a book and gift store as well as a very important and little known reference library.

The library is open to the public, however books may not be "checked out" so come prepared to stay for a while.

The delay may be frustrating to participants. When a delay occurs, your sample is being rerun as many times as it takes to achieve a successful result.

If you want to explore this new and exciting technology, go to the Family Tree DNA at:

<http://www.FamilyTreeDNA.com>

or e-mail:

Bennett Greenspan

President

at:

info@familytreedna.com

The World's only website dedicated to Genealogy by Genetics

Oh! I almost forgot the cost. Well like most new gadgets in life. If you have to ask, you probably can't afford it. HA, HA.

Its not really that bad, less than \$200.00 and there is a discount for SAR members.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
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The San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the SAR can be found on the web at <http://harris.home.texas.net/sar>

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