



Patrick Henry Advocate

Published Monthly by the
Patrick Henry Chapter (Ch. 11, Dist. 4)
Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



President

Henry Shoenfelt 512-459-6728
hesut@aol.com

President Elect

Jim Nelson 512-261-3387
jimandalicenelson@gmail.com

Registrar/Genealogist

Dan Stauffer 512-931-2153
dangeorgine@aol.com

Secretary

Marvin Morgan 512-346-8349
marvin@mbmcpa.com

Treasurer

Tom Ridpath 512-258-5420 (eve.)
tridpath@earthlink.net

Historian / Newsletter

David Smith 512-496-0607
dasmith51@earthlink.net

Sergeant-at-Arms (Co-officers)

Christian Nelson
James Horton

Color Guard Commander

Vacant

Chaplain

Wayne Courreges 512-422-1300
66@austin.rr.com

Webmaster

Michael Dunavant 512-280-3705
michael.dunavant@sbcglobal.net

January 2012

JANUARY MEETING

January 21, 2012 11:00 A.M.

Texas Land & Cattle Co.

6007 N. IH 35

Austin, TX 78723

512-451-6555

Guest Speaker: Ms. Ali James

Curator of the Texas Capitol and

Director of Capitol Visitor Services

Topic: The Capitol, the Governor's Mansion,
and the Capitol Visitors Center

Upcoming speakers:

February—Rev. Mark Collins, on George Washington

March—Judge Craig Enoch, retired Texas Supreme Court Justice

April—Prof. Jan Swearingen, Patrick Henry's life and politics

December Chapter Meeting



*Statue of Popé (Po-pay)
Leader, 1680 Pueblo Revolt*

December's meeting was a great way to finish the year - we had an outstanding presentation, inducted new officers and members, and hosted some special guests.

Our speaker was "Buzz" Buzzard, an inactive member of SAR, who lives in Lakeway. His topic was "The First Revolt in America - The Pueblo Indians against the Spanish in 1680." As Buzz pointed out, almost 100 years before the shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, North America was witness to another Rebellion.

Buzz made a lively presentation, full of realistic detail, involving clashing religions, the hunt for gold, and native American culture. But what happened, in short, was that this “Pueblo Revolt” was an organized rebellion of Pueblo Indians against Spanish rule in New Mexico in 1680. Led by Popé (Po - pay), a Tewa medicine man of the San Juan Pueblo who had been imprisoned by the Spaniards, the Pueblo united to attack Spanish settlers on August 10. The Spaniards fled on August 21, many to the El Paso region, with fatalities numbering some 400. In 1692 Gov. Pedro de Vargas reconquered the Pueblos in an expedition to recover New Mexico. Thanks to Buzz for a great talk.

The meeting then moved to the induction of new members, and the swearing-in of our Chapter officers. We were honored by the presence of William M. Marrs, President of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, who conducted the officers’ induction. Ron Walcik, who is President of the Heart of Texas Chapter in Salado, was also present. Our officers for this year are: President, Henry Shoefeldt; President Elect, Jim Nelson; Registrar/Genealogist, Dan Stauffer; Secretary, Marvin Morgan; Treasurer, Tom Ridpath; Historian / Newsletter, David Smith; Sergeant-at-Arms (Co-officers), Christian Nelson and James Horton; and Chaplain, Wayne Courreges.



“Buzz” Buzzard



William M. Marrs, President, TxSSAR

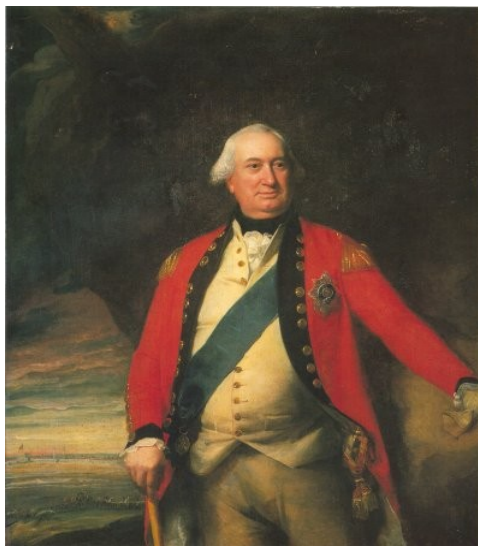


New Members, John Collins and Henry Collins, not related

This Month in the Revolution
The Battle of Princeton
January 3, 1777
Or, the Story of a Spy Map, a Hoodwink, and a Myth



General George Washington Rallying His Troops at the Battle of Princeton
by William Tylee Ranney (1813 – 1857)



Charles Cornwallis
by John Singleton Copley, ca. 1795

In the week following Washington's crossing of the Delaware and routing of the Hessians at Trenton on the day after Christmas, 1776, [See December's newsletter], the deeply-concerned British prepared to counterattack.. Washington had gone back into Pennsylvania, putting the river between his army and the British. General Cornwallis had assembled a British force of more than 9,000 Redcoats at Princeton, intent upon overwhelming Washington's 5,000 exhausted Continentals and militia.

The story of what happened next involves a spy map of uncertain origin, a masterful hoodwink, and a myth about the historic Mercer Oak, debunked.

Washington, aware of the British plans, re-crossed the Delaware on December 29th, to join forces with



Cadwalader Spy Map. Above, entire map. Below right, detail showing, among other things, the British headquarters and artillery placement

General Cadwalader, who had crossed into New Jersey and was advancing on the British. On January 2nd, Cornwallis marched south out of Princeton with 8,000 Redcoats, headed toward Trenton, leaving a force of roughly 1,000 behind. Washington sent troops to skirmish with the approaching British and delay their advance, but instead of fortifying Trenton, he established two entrenched lines outside the town, on the south side of Assunpink Creek, on high ground overlooking the creek.

This was a strong position. The British, attacking from the north with superior numbers, made three failed attempts to take the bridge across the creek. With night falling, Cornwallis called off the attack. Fearful of Washington's known ability to retreat and escape, Cornwallis's officers wanted to continue, but Cornwallis was confident that he would, in his words, "bag the fox" the next morning. Expecting Washington to simply reverse the path across the river taken on Christmas Day, Cornwallis sent troops to guard the Delaware, to prevent his escape.

During the night of January 2nd, Washington held a war council with his officers to

explore the options. They could stand and fight. Or, they could look for a way back across the river and retreat. Or, they could take the back roads to attack the remaining British forces in Princeton, which they would outnumber 5 to 1. Washington had learned from his Generals Cadwalader and St. Clair, based on their intelligence collection efforts, that an attack on Princeton was indeed possible. [Many credit St. Clair with the strategy for the attack].

In fact, on December 31st, Cadwalader had provided Washington with a "spy map," a roughly drawn sketch of the town of Princeton, revealing the British fortifications and a back road leading into town. In the letter accompanying



the map, Cadwalader did not identify his source, but wrote that it was based upon information from “a very intelligent young Gentleman . . . returned, just now, from PrinceTown.” While speculation and disagreement continue about the identity of that “young Gentleman,” no one disputes the map’s value to the American cause. Washington decided to move on Princeton.

Now for the “hoodwink.” [**hood • wink:** to deceive by false appearance; to dupe; *obsolete:* to cover or hide.]

It was still night, and Washington left a relatively small number of men behind to keep the campfires burning and work with picks and shovels as if the army were entrenching. He had the wheels of the wagons muffled, and ordered silence. Commands were given in whispers. Taking back roads the Americans snuck around the British. Some of the back roads then were little more than trails, many unused, running through thick woods. The ground was frozen, which was good for moving heavy artillery, but horses slipped on ice and men broke through the ice on ponds. Even so, dawn on January 3rd found the Americans gone from Trenton.



The British 17th Regiment under Colonel Mawhood attacking the Americans at Princeton

Dawn also found the remaining British troops in Princeton beginning to follow in Cornwallis’s wake, heading south to Trenton, under the command of Colonel Charles Mawhood, his 17th Regiment in the lead.



Hugh Mercer
by John Trumbull (1756-1843)

Under orders from Washington, the first to encounter them was General Hugh Mercer, from Virginia, by way of Scotland and Pennsylvania, whose brigade was leading one wing of the Americans’ advance. Mercer formed his men for battle in an orchard. Mawhood’s 17th Regiment attacked, and was able to drive the Americans from the orchard. In the fighting, Mercer’s horse was shot from under him, he became separated from his men, and he was quickly surrounded by the British. The British mistook him for Washington, and ordered him to surrender. Refusing to do so, Mercer drew his sword and charged at the British troops. In the resulting melee, he was severely beaten with musket butts and run through with bayonets.

Leaving him for dead, the British, greatly outnumbered, continued the battle. Mercer’s troops fell back, but not for long. More American troops began arriving, Washington and his

officers rallied them, and Washington himself lead them toward the British. Waiting until he was only 30 yards from the British lines, Washington ordered his men to fire. The British fired as well, and Washington disappeared in a cloud of smoke.

When the smoke cleared, Washington reappeared, hat in hand, waving his troops forward.. The British scattered and began to flee. Mawhood gave the order to retreat.



Fighting continued for sometime, with the Americans pursuing the British, killing some and capturing others. Eventually Washington turned around and rode back to Princeton. Some of the British troops in Princeton fled, and others took refuge in and around Nassau Hall, the centerpiece of the Princeton University campus. Alexander Hamilton brought up cannon and fired at the building. It was said that one shot decapitated a portrait of King George the 2nd hanging on the wall. Ultimately, the Americans broke down the front door, and the British surrendered. With news that Cornwallis was approaching, Washington knew he had to leave Princeton. In the following days, he moved his army to Morristown. But this American victory would ultimately lead to the loss of control of most of New Jersey by the British, and helped convince the Americans that they could, in fact, win the war. Unfortunately, among the American casualties was General Hugh Mercer, who died from his wounds on January 12th.



Now, about that myth. Mercer is said to have lain underneath an oak tree as Washington avenged his falling, and only later taken to a house in town for treatment. Until March 2000, when it collapsed in a storm, one particular gnarled old oak had long been labeled “the Mercer Oak,” reportedly the very tree under which Mercer had lain. In fact, early written accounts show that the actual oak was “cut down by heartless barbarians,” (as one report describes it), sometime between 1822 and 1838.

Detail, The Death of General Mercer at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777, by John Trumbull (1756-1843)

Our Patriot Ancestors

Most of us are familiar with the famous oil painting shown at the right, entitled “The Sprit of ’76.” The original measures eight by ten feet, and hangs in Abbot Hall in Marblehead, Massachusetts. It is a powerful image - an iconic symbol.

The three main figures, the white-haired old man, the middle-aged man with his head bandaged, and the youth, all marching in step, seem to literally radiate the courage and determination demanded by the cause for American Independence - the courage and determination shown by “Our Patriot Ancestors.”

This month, I have decided to highlight my very own Patriot Ancestor, William Search. (I am David Smith, the Patrick Henry Chapter’s officer designated as “Historian/Newsletter”).

Some of our members with famous Patriot Ancestors can explore “libraries” of books describing what their ancestors did in the cause. Most of us are not so lucky – we have to scratch like hungry chickens to uncover even the smallest bit of information about our ancestor. I am definitely in this latter group.



*The Sprit of '76 (aka Yankee Doodle)
by Archibld MacNeal Willard (1836-1913)*

William Search was born in Scotland in 1736, immigrated to America in 1770, and settled in New Jersey. He farmed, raised a family, and served in the Revolution. But what exactly did he do? I’m sure most of us have been asked some version of that question about our ancestor, at one time or another. I’m still looking, but so far the most detailed description of my ancestor’s service that I have from “official” records is contained in a certificate from the New Jersey Adjutant General, that reads as follows:

“Certificate of William Search, as Private Minute Man in Morris County, New Jersey, Militia, during the Revolutionary War. Militia Men frequently drew pensions, but it does not appear that William Search did.”

That’s it. New Jersey Miuteman. No mention of length of service, a specific unit he was in,



*Captain John Parker of the Lexington Militia
by English sculptor Henry Hudson Kitson*

in the continental service. They were to furnish themselves with "a good musket or firelock and bayonet, sword or tomahawk, a steel ramrod, worm, priming wire and brush fitted thereto, a cartouch box to contain 23 rounds of cartridges, twelve flints, and a knapsack." Each man was to keep at his house one pound of powder and three of bullets. But what exactly did they do?

They provided vital assistance at large battles like Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth Courthouse. They kept the British bottled up in a few towns during the "forage war." They disarmed local Tories and battled Loyalist and British raiders along the coast, the New York border and deep into the South Jersey Pine Barren. They even conducted amphibious raids and attacks on British coastal enclaves and shipping. In fact, so many battles and skirmishes were fought in New Jersey, the state acquired the nickname "cockpit of the Revolution."

Wow. So that's what my ancestor did. Awesome.

officers he served under, or battles he was involved in.

Just who were these New Jersey men, these Militia, these Minutemen?

After Lexington and Concord in 1775, the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, sitting in Trenton, provided a "plan for regulating the Militia of this Colony," "being apprehensive," said the resolution, "that all pacific measures for the redress of our grievances will prove ineffectual." One or more companies were to be formed in each township and corporation, composed of men between the ages of sixteen and fifty. New Jersey militiamen flocked to the flag. They came from every occupation, social level, and background imaginable.

Soon the Continental Congress called for the organization of minutemen, who were to hold themselves in constant readiness on the shortest notice to march whenever and wherever their assistance might be required. Minutemen were given "precedency of rank of the common Militia," and the recommended uniforms were hunting frocks similar to those worn by riflemen



Revolutionary Reenactor, Continental Rifleman

Web Sites: www.austinsar.org/
www.txssar.org/
www.sar.org/

Check out:
www.sar.org/. Once signed up you can follow your application progress.

Check out: the Compatriot Store for insignia and other things.

Our Insignia may be ordered from the store.



Item # 0390
Member Badge \$70.00

If anyone has knowledge of where the Chapter podium, magnetic signs and Plaque with past President's names, are, please let us know.

**Chapter Meetings:
Third Saturday Monthly
11:00 A. M. until 1:00 P. M.**

**Texas Land & Cattle Co.
6007 N. IH 35 at Hwy. 290 E**

**SPOUSES, FAMILY, GUESTS,
VISITORS WELCOME**



Color Guard Corner

Color Guard News

The next scheduled Color Guard activity will be the presentation of the colors at the combined DAR/SAR luncheon in February.

If you're interested in participating in the Color Guard, or if you just want to learn more about the whole thing, contact Henry Shoenfelt, President.

Genealogist News

Registrar/Genealogist Dan Stauffer estimates that one or two new members will be inducted at the January meeting.

Make plans to come to the meeting to watch the ceremony and help us welcome our new members.