



Patrick Henry Advocate

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



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December 2011

DECEMBER MEETING

December 17, 2011 11:00 A.M.

Texas Land & Cattle Co.

6007 N. IH 35

Austin, TX 78723

512-451-6555

Guest Speaker: Mr. Buzz Buzzard

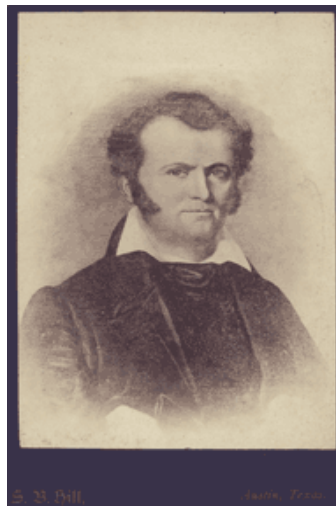
Inactive Member of the SAR

Topic: The First Revolt in America -
The Pueblo Indians v. the Spanish in 1680

We need Compatriots to help with
the following standing Committees:

**Awards and Medals, Membership,
Program, Publicity, and Communication**

November Chapter Meeting



Stephen F. Austin

If you're a fan of Texas history, last month's speaker was right up your alley.

Stephanie Malmros, Head of Archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, spoke on "Documenting the Texas Revolution and Beyond."

The Dolph Briscoe Center describes itself as a leading research center that collects, preserves, and makes avail-

able documents, photographs, and artifacts encompassing key themes in Texas and U.S. history. Some of the Center's extensive collections can be viewed online. Ms. Malmros gave a power point presentation showing some of the documents at the Center from the Texas Revolutionary period, now part of an online exhibit about the Texas Revolution, such as the Texas Declaration of Independence, an 1835 broadside in which Stephen F. Austin declared that "war is inevitable; we must prepare," and Sam Houston's call for volunteers made on December 12, 1835, at Washington, Texas.



Alamo Daguerreotype, 1849

Although not part of Ms. Malmros's presentation, you can also view the famous 1849 daguerreotype of the Alamo online, said to be the earliest datable photograph taken in Texas. It shows the front facade of the chapel building, still bearing all the scars of the famous siege of 1836, and is the only extant photograph made prior to the reconstruction of the chapel in 1850. To see that exhibit, and much more, visit the center's website at www.cah.utexas.edu.

After Ms. Malmros's presentation, the meeting heard from two others, Ron Walcik and our own Maurice Adams. Walcik, who is President of the Heart of Texas Chapter in Salado, presented Dan Stauffer with an Oak Leaf Cluster for his already-awarded Liberty Medal. The Liberty Medal is given by NSSAR for achievement in recruiting new members, and oak leaf clusters are awarded for recruiting additional new members. Adams gave a short presentation on

"Tombstone Rubbing," a process to create an impression or image on paper, of the surface of the stone. It is one way to record and preserve the inscription, which often contains invaluable information for the family historian. But some tombstones are truly works of art, and taking a rubbing is a good way to capture and preserve their beauty and symbolism. Adams displayed a rubbing given to him as a gift by his daughter, and distributed a handout describing the process: what materials to use, where to get them, and the steps to create a readable impression. The most important steps are to check and see if rubbings are allowed, and to take precautions not to damage the headstone.



This Month in the Revolution

Washington Crosses the Delaware

December 25, 1776



*Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851), by Emanuel Leutze.
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.*



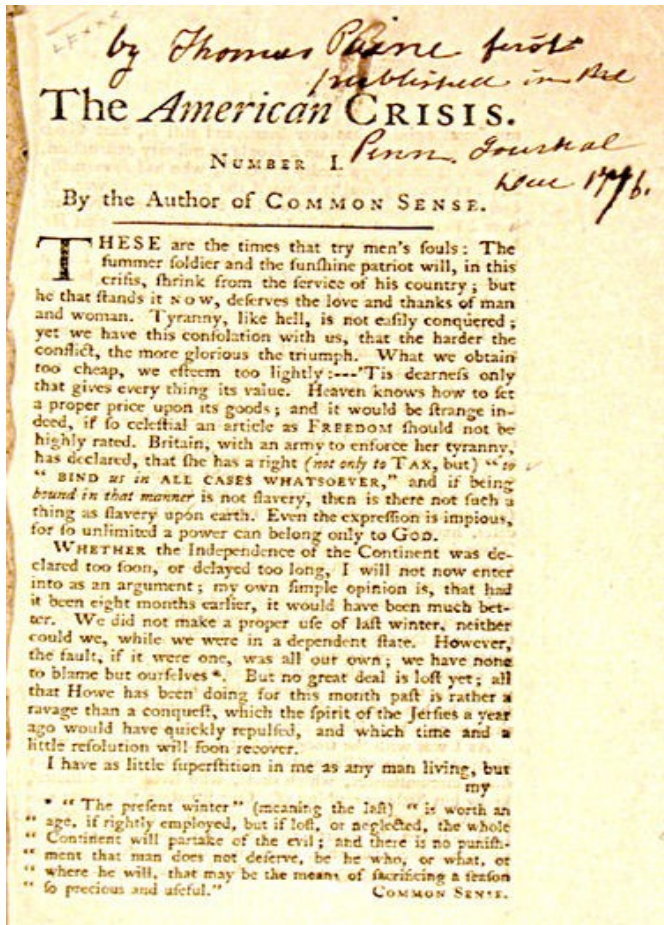
*Charles Cornwallis
by John Singleton Copley, ca. 1795*

December 1776 was a desperate time for the Americans.

After the defeat in the Battle of New York, the fall of Fort Mifflin, and the abandonment of Fort Mifflin, the main American army under George Washington had been chased by Charles Cornwallis [Earl, Lord, General, 1st Marquess Cornwallis], under the command of Lieutenant General Sir William Howe, across the state of New Jersey, across the Delaware River, and into Pennsylvania. [See November newsletter].

The ragtag Continental Army was encamped along the Pennsylvania shore, exhausted, demoralized and uncertain of its future. To make matters worse, Washington's army was shrinking, from desertions and the expiration of enlistments. In fact, the majority of the

militia enlistments under Washington's command were due to expire at the end of the month, with the troops returning to their homes. Cornwallis was of the opinion that the defeated American army was finished, and ordered his troops into winter quarters. In his mind, it was just a matter of waiting for spring to round up the survivors. He was so certain of this that he ordered his personal baggage to be placed aboard a ship bound for England.



The Americans' morale was given a boost on December 19 by the publication of a new pamphlet by Thomas Paine, titled *The American Crisis*, which began with words well-known to American schoolchildren:

“ These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

Within a day of the pamphlet's publication in Philadelphia, Washington ordered it read to his troops. He knew he had to do something quickly. His decision was to attack the British. The target was the Hessian-held town of Trenton just across the Delaware River. His plan was for three crossings, with his troops, the largest contingent, to lead the attack on Trenton.

A wide variety of watercraft were assembled for the crossing, primarily through the work of militia men from the surrounding counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and the assistance of the Pennsylvania Navy. In addition to the large ferry vessels (big enough to carry large coaches, and likely used for carrying horses and artillery during the crossing), a large number of Durham boats were used to transport soldiers across the river.

These boats were designed to carry heavy loads from the Durham Iron Works, featured high sides and a shallow draft, and could be poled across the river.



Reenactors cross the river in Durham boats

On Christmas Day, at 4 pm Washington's army turned out for its evening parade, where the troops were issued ammunition, and even the officers and musicians were ordered to carry muskets. They were told that they were departing on a secret mission. Washington's plan required the crossing to begin as soon as it was dark enough to conceal their movements on the river, but most of the troops did not reach the crossing point until about 6 pm, about ninety minutes after sunset. The weather got progressively worse, turning from drizzle to rain to sleet and snow. "It blew a hurricane" according to one soldier. Washington was among the first of the troops to cross, going with Virginia troops led by General Adam Stephen. These troops formed a sentry line around the landing area in New Jersey, with strict instructions that no one was to pass through. The password was "Victory or Death".

Elisha Bostwick, a soldier in the Continental Army who took part in the battle and published his memoirs shortly thereafter, described the crossing this way: "[Our] army passed through Bethlehem and Moravian town and so on to the Delaware which we crossed 9 miles north of Trenton and encamped on the Pennsylvania side and there remained to the 24th December. [O]ur whole army was then set on motion and toward evening began to re-cross the Delaware but by obstructions of ice in the river did not all get across till quite late in the evening, and all the time a constant fall of snow with some rain, and finally our march began with the torches of our field pieces stuck in the exhalers.

I heard his Excellency as he was coming on speaking to and encouraging the soldiers. The words he spoke as he passed by where I stood and in my hearing were these: Soldiers, keep by your officers. For God's sake, keep by your officers! Spoke in a deep and solemn voice. While passing a slanting, slippery bank his Excellency's horse's hind feet both slipped from under him, and he seized his horse's



Depiction of the crossing by Thomas Sully, 1819

mane and the horse recovered. Our horses were then unharnessed and the artillery men prepared. We marched on and it was not long before we heard the out sentries of the enemy both on the road we were in and the eastern road, and their out guards retreated firing, and our army, then with a quick step pushing on upon both roads, at the same time entered the town. Their artillery taken, they resigned with little opposition, about nine hundred, all Hessians, with 4 brass field pieces; the remainder crossing the bridge at the lower end of the town escaped.... “

The news of the American victory spread rapidly, reinvigorating the spirit of the Revolution, and giving Washington and his officers the confidence to mount another campaign. [A subject for next month's newsletter] Although not apparent at the time, these battles were a decisive turning point in the Revolution. The victories pulled the languishing Revolution out of the depths of despair, galvanized support, shocked the British, and convinced potential allies such as France, Holland and Spain, that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.

Our Patriot Ancestors



*President John Adams (1735-1826)
by Asher B. Durand (1767-1845)*

Many of you know Maurice Adams, one of our distinguished Patrick Henry Chapter members.

What you may not know is that the Patriot Ancestor that earned Maurice his membership is *not* . . . I repeat, *not* President John Adams.

It is Peter Adams (no portrait available), born in Townsend, Middlesex County, Massachusetts on February 25, 1761. Peter served in the Massachusetts Militia, but he moved to Andover, Windsor County, Vermont, after the Revolution. He built a home there in 1800 that is still standing today. He died on July 30, 1832, and is buried in Andover in a cemetery on a hill.

After proving his lineage to Peter Adams, and establishing Peter's revolutionary service, Maurice could have filed away his research, settled back, and just basked in the glow of being a member of the NSSAR. Not Maurice. He kept researching.

Now, a number of years (and three books) later, Maurice has identified (and has had supplemental applications approved for) an additional 21 Patriot Ancestors, for a grand total of 22! That's a lot of research, full of some interesting tidbits. For example, one ancestor qualifies him for membership in the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.

And not all of the tidbits he gathered are "Revolutionary." Maurice discovered that one of his ancestors had fought in the "Battle on Snowshoes," a skirmish between Rogers' Rangers and French and Indian troops during the French and Indian War, on January 21, 1757. The battle occurred near Fort Carillon on Lake Champlain, which straddles the boundary between present day New York and Vermont, and was given its name because the British combatants were wearing snowshoes. The French reported that they were at a disadvantage, since they were without snowshoes and "floundering in snow up to their knees".

He also discovered that one ancestor, Robert Thompson, was killed in 1772, before the "official" start of the Revolution, in the Battle of Alamance, the final battle in the War of Regulation, a rebellion in colonial North Carolina over taxation and local control. Thompson, who had been trying to negotiate a peace between the two sides, was detained as a prisoner, and in a moment of anger was shot dead by the Colonial Governor himself, William Tryon,.

Four of Maurice's ancestors were Huguenots, eleven qualify him for the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and if Maurice can find that last bit of proof, one ancestor may qualify him for membership in the Jamestown Society, for descendants of stockholders in the Virginia Company of London or those who owned land or who had domiciles in Jamestown or on Jamestown Island prior to 1700. Given his track record, I wouldn't bet against Maurice finding that last bit.

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 Color Guard is looking for a new Commander. Our previous Commander, Marvin Morgan, was recently elected as our Secretary, leaving his old position up for grabs. Please join us in thanking Marvin for the outstanding job he did as our Color Guard Commander, and in wishing him success as our new Secretary.

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're interested in serving as the new Commander, or if you just want to learn more about the whole thing, contact Henry Shoenfelt, President.

Genealogist News

Registrar/Genealogist Dan Stauffer estimates that two or three new members will be inducted at the December meeting. He also has one approved supplemental application to be presented in December.

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