



# The Texas Compatriot



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**Stephen W. Rohrbough**

**President,  
TXSSAR  
2013-2014**

## President's Message

Fellow Compatriots,

**M**y term as your President is moving very quickly. Since being installed on April 6, 2013, I have had the pleasure of visiting the Cradle of Texas Chapter in April, the McKinney Chapter in August, and have committed to the Texas Tech and Amarillo Chapters in September, leading up to the Board of Managers meeting in Houston, October 11-13, 2013.

I have attended many events and activities over these six months, including the Pioneer Ball and Pilgrimage to the Alamo in San Antonio in April, wearing an American Revolution Color Guard Uniform. In May, I participated in the Color Guard at the Fort Sam Houston Boy Scouts of America Ceremony where Scouts marked over 100,000 graves with US Flags, preparing for Memorial Day events. In June, I attended a Board of Managers Planning meeting in preparation for the BOM in Houston, in October 2013, and was the keynote speaker at the Wounded Warrior Tool Box Distribution to 20 Purple Heart recipients wounded while serving in Asia.

In July, I attended a very active 123<sup>rd</sup> Congress in Kansas City, MO, July 5-11, 2013. There were two very nice receptions, beginning with a reception at the Steam Boat Arabia Museum with 200 tons of recovered artifacts from the boat that sank in 1856 and was found in 1982. The second was a welcome reception on Saturday, July 6, hosted by the MO Society at the World War I Museum, with vintage weapons and displays, and two theaters about the World War to end all wars. The Business meetings were educational and the two formal Banquets were excellent.

In August, I attended the ceremony commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Medina on Saturday, August 17, 2013, where there were a hundred participants for the daylong seminar featuring nine outstanding speakers from History Departments of various state Colleges and Universities. They spoke on various historical subjects of Texas history in the early 1800's, the 1813 battle, and the years that followed. A dedication ceremony was held at 6:00 PM. On Sunday August 18, 2013, the actual date of the battle 200 years ago, there was a very good turnout of some 80 guests from SAR, DAR, SRT societies, and a number of descendants whose ancestor fought in the battle, including Peter Sides. The local TV station and Journalist

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televised the 10:00 AM ceremony and wrote articles published in the *San Antonio Express* Newspaper.

I also attended the South Central District meeting in Tulsa, OK, where there were about 45 members from the five States that make up the District. On Saturday evening there were over eighty members and guests attending with President General Joe Dooley as the Keynote Speaker. Past President Bob Clark and President Elect Bob Cohen and his wife Jane joined me as the only representatives from TXSSAR. All the General Officers attended the meeting as well as the Candidates running for office next year 2014-2015. All but two NSSAR positions are uncontested with the Librarian General and Treasurer General being contested. Compatriots C. Bruce Pickette and Larry Guzy are running for Librarian General and Compatriots J. Mike Tomme and Larry Cornwall are running for Treasurer General. Bruce Pickette and Larry Cornwall won the SCD vote.

In September, I have three Chapters on my calendar with visits to the Bluebonnet Chapter on Tuesday, September 10, and a visit to the Texas Tech Chapter in Lubbock, on Wednesday, September 18 followed by a visit to the Amarillo Chapter in Amarillo, on Thursday, September 19, 2013.

I will attend the 2013 Fall Leadership meeting to be held in Louisville, KY, on September 27-29, 2013. Committee meetings will be held on Friday, with Officer and Committee Reports on Saturday, and the Executive Committee meeting on Sunday. Eight to ten TXSSAR members and some wives will attend the Fall Leadership meeting. I look forward to reporting on

TXSSAR's BOM electronic vote in late June that approved the contribution of \$2,750 to the President General's Initiatives. The money will be contributed to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage, George Washington Ladies Association for George Washington Portraits in two Texas middle schools, and three USO centers at major airports in Texas. With matching funds from PG Joe Dooley (\$250) and Sam Powell (\$750) we will receive credit for a total contribution of \$3,750.

I look forward to seeing many of the Committee members and the State Officers at the Board of Managers (BOM) in Houston, October 11-13, 2013. The three host Chapters, Freedom #38, Piney Woods #51, and Robert Rankin #62, have been working exceptionally hard to have a great meeting to honor and recognize Law Enforcement Officers, three local TSCAR Societies and their representatives, and listen to Mr. Bennett Greenspan from Family Tree DNA on Friday evening, Sheriff Adrian Garcia at Lunch, and Dr. Christopher Hammonds of Houston Baptist University on Saturday.

I invite all members and wives to register and attend this middle of the year BOM event. We have a great day planned for the wives' tour, while compatriots attend various State committee meetings, visit with fellow Compatriots, and all enjoy the Saturday night Banquet. You can find the Registration Form on the TXSSAR website under Events.

Fraternally,

*Stephen W. Rohrbough*

President, TXSSAR 2013-2014

## **Inside this Issue of the *Texas Compatriot***

If you live in or near Dallas, or will be near Dallas by October 4, be sure to read the "Serendipity" article on page 12. The FREE "Hail to the Chief" exhibit at SMU is well-worth the effort to see it.

If you will be near Washington, D.C. in the foreseeable future, be sure to schedule a tour of the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon. The Grand Opening of this Library will be on September 27, 2013. The centerpiece of this new \$150,000,000 library will be Washington's Acts of Congress. This book was purchased at auction in 2012 by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for \$8,700,000, making it one of the most valuable books in America. The "Acts of Congress" contains George Washington's personal hand-annotated copy of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, together with laws passed by the First Congress in 1789. This book made a special nationwide tour (under armed guard) to all of the 13 Presidential Libraries during March to September, 2013. Alas, it left Texas on September 9, 2013. But see the pictures on pp. 6-7.

Also worthy of special note are the pictures on pp. 4-5 of the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Battle of Medina on August 18, 1813. Other Color Guard News and Chapter News will be found throughout this Newsletter.

# TXSSAR at the 123<sup>rd</sup> Congress in Kansas City



These 43 TXSSAR members and their ladies attended the 123rd Congress in Kansas City on July 5-11, 2013. Our new President General Joe Dooley (red arrow), though living in Virginia, is a dual member in Texas and attends Texas Annual meetings, BOMs, etc. We wish that all TXSSAR compatriots were as active in TXSSAR as he is.



The President's Message on Page 1 gave a good summary of the Battle of Medina Bicentennial Commemoration. The pictures on these pages were taken by Gary Younger of youngermemories.com In, 2005, the Texas Historical Commission installed a plaque at the probable battle site:

"BATTLE OF MEDINA"

"TEXAS' BLOODIEST MILITARY ENGAGEMENT — THE BATTLE OF MEDINA — MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THIS GENERAL VICINITY IN 1813. THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY WAS A TIME OF POLITICAL UPHEAVAL, AND IN 1812, WHILE THE U.S. WAS AT WAR WITH ENGLAND, SPAIN FACED REVOLTS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING MEXICO. IN THIS REVOLUTIONARY CLIMATE, AMERICANS AND OTHERS BEGAN EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THE FATE OF MEXICO, OF WHICH TEXAS WAS A PROVINCE.

"BERNARDO GUTIERREZ AND LT. A. W. MAGEE MARCHED FROM LOUISIANA TO TEXAS IN 1812 WITH THEIR REPUBLICAN ARMY OF THE NORTH. CAPTURING NACOGDOCHES AND TRINIDAD, THEY MOVED ON TO PRESIDIO LA BAHIA, WHERE THEY SURVIVED A FOUR-MONTH SEIGE BY SPANISH GOVERNORS AND THEIR ROYALIST FORCES. THE ROYALISTS RETREATED TOWARD SAN ANTONIO IN FEBRUARY 1813, AND IN MARCH THE REPUBLICAN ARMY FOLLOWED THEM AND WAS AMBUSHED IN THE BATTLE OF ROSILLO. THE REPUBLICANS PERSEVERED, CAPTURED SAN ANTONIO AND EXECUTED THE SPANISH GOVERNORS. GUTIERREZ'S NEW REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, WITH ITS GREEN FLAG, WAS MARKED BY INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

"SPAIN SENT TROOPS UNDER GEN, JOAQUIN DE ARREDONDO TO RETAKE TEXAS. AMONG HIS MEN

WAS ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA, LATER MEXICO'S LEADER DURING THE TEXAS REVOLUTION. THE REPUBLICANS MARCHED FROM SAN ANTONIO ON AUG. 15, 1813 WITH ABOUT 1400 TROOPS: AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS, TEJANOS, MEXICANS, AND NATIVE AMERICANS. LED ACROSS THE PLAINS SOUTH OF THE MEDINA RIVER, THE FATIGUED ARMY FACED SPANISH TROOPS ON AUG. 18 AND WERE SOUNDLY DEFEATED. FEWER THAN 100 ESCAPED; MOST WERE EXECUTED. THE SPANISH LEFT THE DECIMATED TEXANS ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND PROCEEDED TO SAN ANTONIO TO PUNISH CITIZENS WHO SUPPORTED INDEPENDENCE. EIGHT YEARS LATER, MEXICAN LEADERS ORDERED THE REMAINS OF THE FALLEN SOLDIERS TO BE BURIED UNDER AN OAK TREE ON THE BATTLEFIELD. ALTHOUGH THE EXACT SITE HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED ARCHEOLOGICALLY, THE STORY REMAINS AN IMPORTANT PART OF TEXAS HISTORY."



TXSSAR President Stephen Rohrbough was among the many dignitaries attending.



Part of the crowd under one of the 200+ year old oak trees on the battlefield. Numerous uniforms and clothing styles were represented by the many organizations that attended.

Look closely at the two pictures at the bottom of p. 5, and you will discover why re-enactors always wear wool, never polyester. At the instant a flintlock is being fired, the soldier is surrounded by flame which will melt polyester. Also note that the soldier will shut his eyes when he fires to prevent eye damage. Muskets are not that accurate anyway. Re-enactors generally don't have eyebrows.



Part of the diversity of uniforms worn in the crowd. Each of these men from different lineage societies was part of a color guard and each has his own musket or rifle, most with bayonettes.



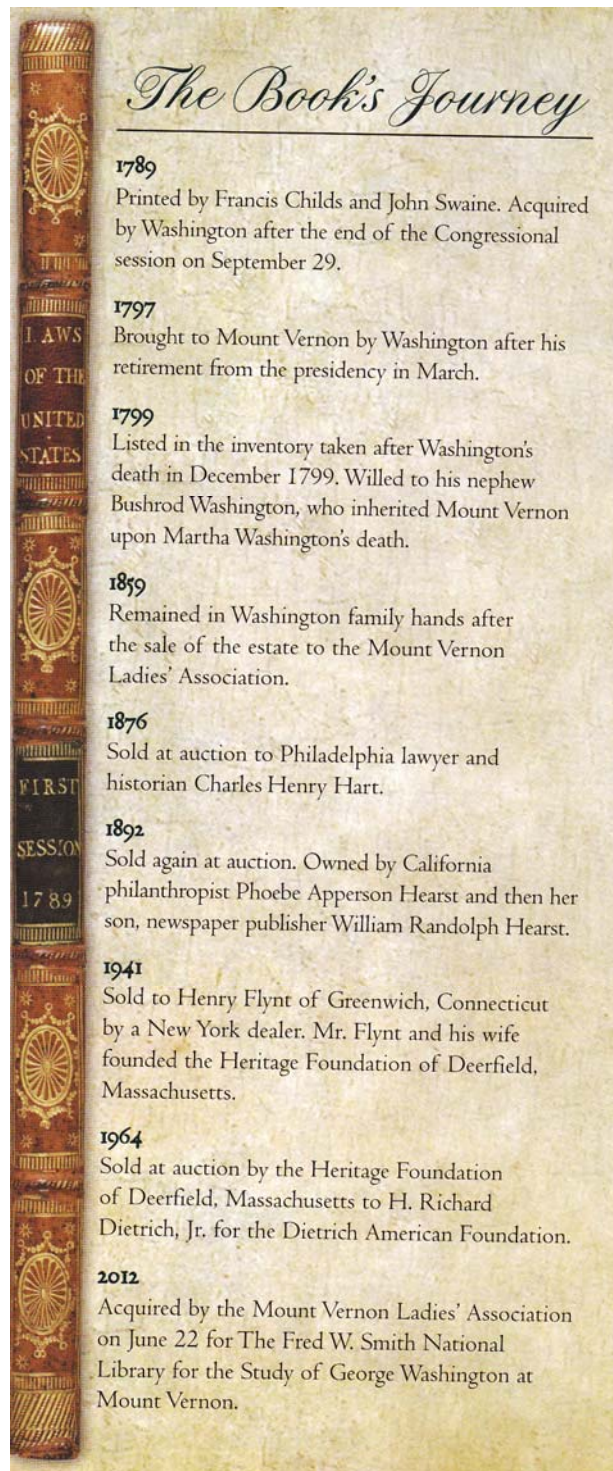
## President George Washington's personal annotated copy of *The Laws of the United States*.

After the end of the First Congressional Session on September 29, 1789, the First Congress ordered 600 bound copies of the Acts from New York printers Francis Childs and John Swaine. Each copy was an exquisitely leather-bound book containing the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the various acts approved by Congress in that First session.

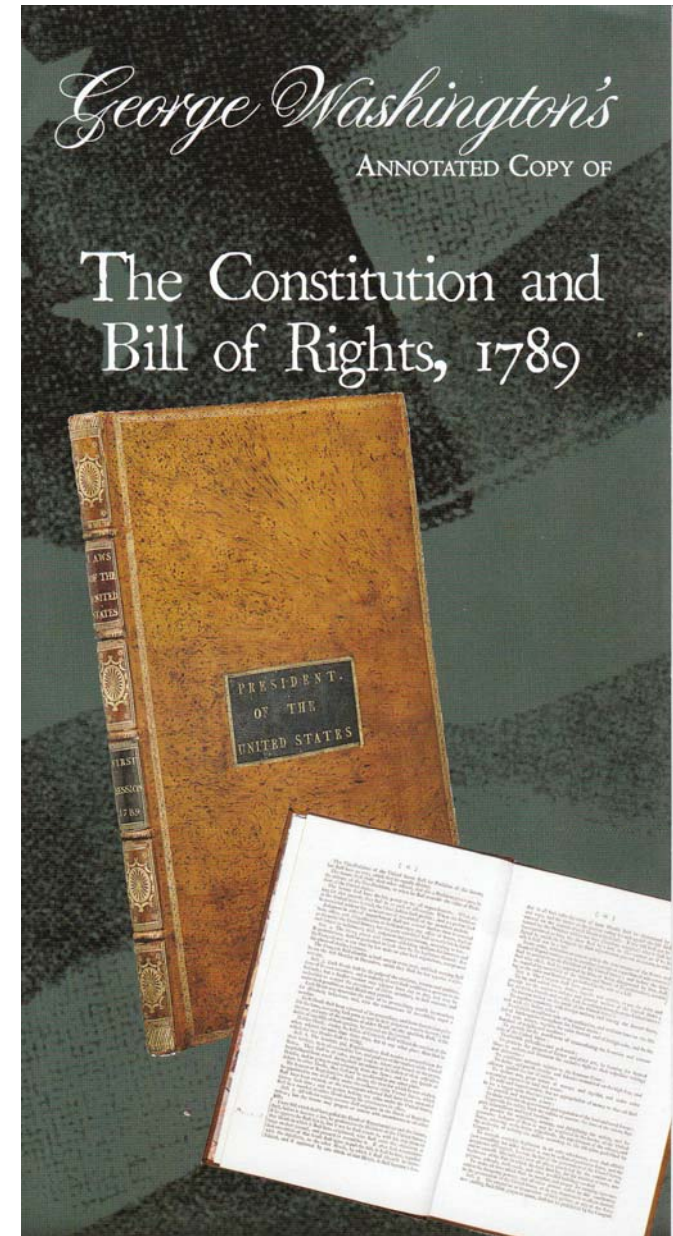
On the top of the spine of the book, it says "LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES." About halfway down the spine, it says "FIRST SESSION, 1789." On the front cover, George Washington's copy says, "PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES." This copy was presented to George Washington after September 29, 1789. It is embossed in gilt letters on the spine and cover.

The title page of the book says "ACTS passed at a CONGRESS of the United States of America, begun and held at the City of NEW YORK, on Wednesday, the FOURTH OF MARCH IN THE YEAR M,DCC,LXXXIX, and of the Independence of the United States, the thirteenth." Washington's bold signature appears at the top of the title page. Throughout the book's margins in very light penciled notation are words like "required," "recommended," etc.

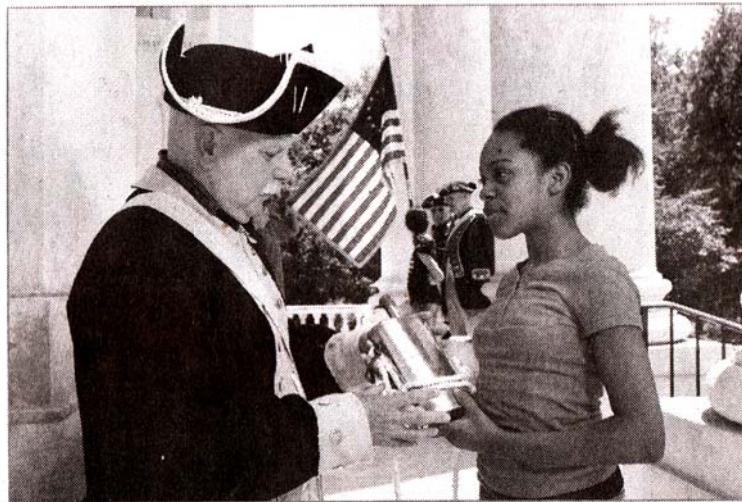
The pictures at right show scans of a brochure distributed wherever the book has been displayed in the U.S. Next to picture of the spine is a pedigree accounting for every event in the life of the book from Washington to its 2012 acquisition by the Mount Vernon Ladies for \$8,700,000.



The cover of the brochure shows the book with two pages exposed. If you look very carefully, you may be able to see that the lower paragraph of the left-hand page is bracketed with the word "President" noted in the margin.



On July 20, 2013, while the Acts book was still at SMU, several North Texas SAR Chapters participated in the SMU Community Day. In the picture at right, Compatriot Jack Hughes of the Plano Chapter met SMU mascot Peruna who made a special appearance in his new color guard uniform complete with a size 20 tri-corn hat. The SAR participated in three booths: one involving children's games from the Colonial Period; one involving writing your name with a real quill pen; a third on the history of Colonial Period flags. However, the most popular booth on this hot July day was the snow-cone sale from the food truck shown in the background of the picture. But it was nice and cool inside the DeGolyer Library where several hundred people saw the "Hail to the Chief" exhibit and the Acts book.



SMU

**Members of the Plano chapter** of the Sons of the American Revolution will serve as historical interpreters at SMU Community Day July 20.

### Sign up for some presidential fun

Kids can write with a quill pen, make a yarn toy and play Colonial games as part of SMU's Community Day celebration. Heritage Brass Band, a Dallas-based re-enactment band, will perform alongside costumed historical interpreters from the Plano chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The celebration is 9 a.m. to noon July 20 at the DeGolyer Library at Fondren Library Center, 6414 Robert S. Hyer Lane, on the SMU campus. The Community Day celebration is in conjunction with SMU's free "Hail to the Chief: American Presidential History in Word and Image" exhibit, which features George Washington's personal copy of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, along with his handwritten notes in the margins. The exhibit is Sunday through Oct. 4 (open daily through July 27, weekdays only July 28-Oct. 4). Visitors to the July 20 celebration will receive 20 percent off tickets to the George W. Bush Presidential Center for that same day. Free parking available (for the celebration only) off Airline Drive on the east side of the library. Registration requested, but not required, at [smu.edu/washington](http://smu.edu/washington).

Nancy Churnin

(Scanned from the *Dallas Morning News*, July, 2013)

# CHAPTER NEWS

## East Fork Trinity Chapter #47 presents 50-Year Membership Emblem

It's rare to find a compatriot who has been a member more than 30 years, but 50? Compatriot Robert C. Vickers achieved that distinction on September 12, 2013. East Fork Trinity Chapter Speaker and former SAR President-General Nathan White presented the rare 50-year emblem. While the official acceptance and approval of the young Mr. Vickers by NSSAR Headquarters was 1964, his paperwork was submitted in early 1963, making the 50-year certificate legitimate.



Present for the Patriot Day Commemoration were Tom Whitelock, Harmon Adair, Dr. James J. Johnson, Walt Thomas, Bob Vickers, PPG Nathan White, Montie Monzingo, William Bellamy, John Greer, Gary Lowell, Frank Roberts, and Glenn Atterberry. John Greer, the August speaker, also received a Certificate of Appreciation.





# CHAPTER NEWS

## REFLECTIONS ON THE DEATH OF A COMPATRIOT

Guest Editorial by "Doc" Joe Allen Rice

The recent death of Buddy Bollfrass brings to a dozen the roll call of people who have departed my chapter over the last three years. Three of the twelve are alive but unable to drive, but nine have died. That leaves, by my count, just seven chapter members who might be on hand at the next meeting. Not one new member has been added in the three years I have been counting.

This most recent death could be the chapter's closing bell. It didn't have to be.

- ◆ Nobody paid attention to the attrition.
- ◆ Nobody recruited.
- ◆ Nobody offered any incentives for being active, not merely enrolled. (In my thinking, an incentive is often asking a member to do something.)
- ◆ The chapter was not involved in youth contests.
- ◆ Nobody supported the newsletter editor with stories and histories of their ancestors who fought in wars, cleared land, built towns, and held offices. Some good yarns went begging.

A website might still save my chapter. But that requires a webmaster, frequent updating, money, and "bother." Members want to know: "Is it worth it?"

- ◆ A website is both a service for members and a way to reach prospects.
- ◆ The Society needs to provide website advice. This is not like email. One day none of us had email, next day we all did. Wow! Even us old guys could go online. It was magic. A website's not like that.
- ◆ Maybe we need a website workshop annually.
- ◆ The Society should monitor established websites for currency. A volunteer brimming with ideas about increasing statewide membership is president of his chapter. But his chapter website is four years out of date. How do the rest of our chapters look? I suspect widespread website neglect.

We should be ashamed of ourselves for allowing bad will towards our sister line-

age societies.

- ◆ Some SAR and DAR chapters combine for an annual banquet.
- ◆ My wife's DAR chapter adds members as fast as mine loses them. Why is that?
- ◆ For ladies in my wife's chapter, every parade is a recruitment opportunity. Are we that clever?

I am fond of both of my heritage societies (SAR and SRT), and bothered that they seem out of touch. How do "others" see us?

- ◆ Do we equate firing a smoke-belching musket with patriotism?
- ◆ Is conservatism our creed, and our only creed?
- ◆ Do we have room for agnostics and atheists, whose numbers are on the rise while the number of Christians continues to decline?
- ◆ Should we ignore black and brown people who surround us? What do we have to say to them? What do they have to say to us?

Our youth contests need much broader chapter participation.

- ◆ We need to invite educators to our meetings. We need their support and they need ours.
- ◆ The contest rules we post online are prohibitory and mandatory, filled with warnings. The kids competing have been fed such rules too long. and hate 'em. Let's give our contestants a break.
- ◆ I will continue to remind chapters that an entrant's impeccable scholastic record is not guarantee of a good Knight essay. If next year's top award goes to a C student, I won't mind.

I don't mean for this to be a Jeremiad\*, only a canary in the coal mine. I hope that your canary doesn't die.

\* A prolonged lamentation or complaint; a cautionary or angry harangue.

## Clearing Up the Mystery: An Important Chapter of SAR's Bicentennial History

By Tom B. Green, Past State President

About 10 years ago I was in Austin for the Texas Independence Day parade, and I went into the Capitol Building for a program, and there on the wall by the north door was a three foot Bronze Plaque placed there by TXSSAR naming over 50 Patriots of the American Revolution and in what Texas county they were buried. I was amazed to see the marker, had no idea it existed, and I was struck by how Clovis H. Brakebill and his committee had managed to gain permission to place this Bronze Marker on the wall of our state Capitol Building.

As I began to ask about the Bronze Plaque, I learned that several Compatriots of the TXSSAR had worked for many years to come up with a list of all the Patriots of the American Revolution that were buried in Texas. I knew former National President General Clovis Brakebill, and I had seen his book; but I had not studied his work, nor did I realize that this TXSSAR Bicentennial Committee had placed 5 large Bronze Plaques around the state of Texas with the names of more than 50 Patriots of the American Revolution who they believed had been buried in Texas.

Clovis had died in the meantime, and I felt obligated to do what I could to continue the project of finding and marking the graves of these Patriots. While working with Harman Adair on one of the burial markings, Harmon phoned me one day to ask if I knew there was another Bronze Plaque in the Centennial Building at Fair Park in Dallas. I said no, and we continued to discuss the fact that we did not really know what these Compatriots had done. So I phoned my friend, Dr. Jim Johnson, and asked Jim to go to our archives in Denton and see what he could find out about this project. In a few days, Jim called back and said there were 5 of these Bronze Plaques around the state; one in the State Capitol, one in the Centennial Building in Dallas, one in El Paso near Ft. Bliss, one in Huntsville and one in San Antonio in the Federal Building. Harmon then found a 1976 *Dallas Morning News* article telling of the ceremony dedicating the Dallas Plaque, saying that TXSSAR President William T. Barron unveiled the plaque, with Dallas City Councilman W. F. Nicol accepting the plaque for the City of Dallas. The *News* article mentioned that Miss. Lynda Gail Cleveland, director of forensic activities at Highland Park High School, gave a patriotic speech honoring the Veterans of the American Revolution.

I then asked Col. Bill Holcombe to see if he could find the bronze plaque somewhere on Ft. Bliss, and in a few weeks Bill sent a photo showing him saluting the Plaque mounted in front of the Ft. Bliss Museum. We still don't know much about who dedicated this plaque. Does anyone have any information?

Next came the plaque in Huntsville, and Compatriots from the Piney Woods Chapter went to work and learned that the marker had originally been placed at the Sam Houston Museum in Huntsville, but for some reason it was moved to the Walker County Courthouse, right by the flag pole as you walk up to the building. TXSSAR President Jim Jones, Larry Stevens, and others from the Piney Woods Chapter arranged a re-dedication ceremony of this marker, and one of our older members attended who remembered his chapter being involved in the original dedication of the plaque.

This left only the plaque in the Federal Building in San Antonio, but there are so many Federal Buildings in San Antonio that no one was able to locate the last of the 5 bronze markers. This March 6, 2013, I was at the Fall of the Alamo ceremony and I noticed that the old Post Office was open, so I went inside and asked the guard where he would have gone in 1976 if someone told him to go to the Federal Building. The guard thought for a

moment and asked if I had been to the Federal Courthouse on Cesar Chavez Street. So Dale Williamson and I headed over to the Federal Courthouse, and sure enough, there was the 5th Bronze Plaque right by the front door. I noticed that the Courthouse had only been built in 1975, and I again wondered how Clovis and his committee managed to get permission to place an SAR marker on the wall by the main entrance of a Federal building.

In tracking down these 5 Bronze Plaques, I talked with a Compatriot in Florida who had Polaroid photos of some of the tombstones of the 50 Patriots. He mailed me the photos and they were in an old envelope with the name of one member of the Committee. I found that his son was an SAR member in San Antonio, but he knew very little about his father's efforts with this project. I found the name of another Compatriot on the Committee, and his son lived in Houston; but again, he knew very little about the project. I knew Clovis Brakebill and had talked with him about learning that Peter Sides was another veteran of the American Revolution who is buried in Texas, but I did not learn about the 5 Bronze Plaques that must have been a BIG project for TXSSAR in the 1970's. Many of you have heard me say that we are losing our history as we stand here talking about it! Well, this is another example of our history almost being lost.



Tom Green contemplates the plaque in San Antonio

# Serendipity\*

\* Merriam-Webster defines *serendipity* as “the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.”

From now through October 4, 2013, we have the opportunity to see the FREE exhibit “HAIL to the Chief” which is on display in the DeGolyer Library of Special Collections at Southern Methodist University. This remarkable exhibit presents Presidential History in Word and Image. Political memorabilia, campaign biographies, letters, posters, buttons, inaugural medals, photographs and other artifacts from every campaign from George Washington to Barack Obama are here.

Pamphlets from early administrations, a number of which focus on the “Texas question” — whether it should be admitted to the Union — as well as on Native American issues, come from SMU’s extensive Western Americana collection. Manuscripts from the collection include the personal diary of George Mifflin Dallas, Vice President of the United States from 1845 to 1849, containing his account of his time in office and his opinions of contemporary political figures, relations with Mexico and the annexation of Texas,

The Doris A. and Lawrence H. Budner Collection features all things Theodore Roosevelt. Along with several books from the collection, the exhibition features a print titled “President Roosevelt Bear Hunting, Arizona, 1905, “The Bear at Bay.” Other collections included in the

exhibit are drawn from the Horton Foote papers, JCPenney papers, Caroline Rose Hunt papers, and the SMU Archives.

It is easy to find the DeGolyer Library. On the east side of the campus, go to the intersection of Airline Road and McFarlin Street. The east side of the Fondren Library complex is one block west of this intersection. You need to park and go down McFarlin to the other end of the building. Enter the DeGolyer Library from the west side. If you need ramp/elevator assistance, enter the building from the south side ramp which is marked with red, white, and blue bunting. Once inside, take the elevator to the second floor. Remember, it’s FREE.



Big Country Chapter #16 (Abilene) President Johnny Snapp presents a membership certificate to Bruce Bell of Baird, TX.. Bruce is excited to be a compatriot and is actively working to get family members to sign up.

## PRESIDENT GENERAL’S INITIATIVES for 2013-14

President-General Joe Dooly has declared several initiatives for this year, all of which were distributed via the DADA Mailer at the request of TXSSAR President Steve Rohrbough. All of these initiatives involve a significant commitment of Joe’s personal assets, including his beautiful hair, his money, etc. It is therefore our duty to relieve Joe of as much as possible of both his hair and his money..

Here is a summarization of these initiatives.

First is CAAH (our capital fund raising campaign for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage) accompanied with a \$1 million dollar challenge;

<http://www.sar.org/node/2042>

two Mount Vernon Ladies Projects;

<http://www.sar.org/node/2043>

Memorial, Markers, and Monuments Dedications;

<http://www.sar.org/node/2044>

USO contributions to support our troops at airports and local organizations;

<http://www.sar.org/node/2045>

and Membership Retention.

<http://www.sar.org/node/2046>

## A History Lesson:

### John Paul Jones

By Robert S. Cohen, TXSSAR President-Elect

During the American Revolution, the U.S. ship *Bonhomme Richard*, commanded by John Paul Jones, won a hard-fought engagement against the British ships of war *Serapis* and *Countess of Scarborough*, off the eastern coast of England.

Scottish-born John Paul Jones first sailed to America as a cabin boy and lived for a time in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where his brother had a business. He later served on slave and merchant ships and proved an able seaman.

After he killed a fellow sailor while suppressing a mutiny, he returned to the American colonies to escape possible British prosecution.

With the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775, he traveled to Philadelphia and was commissioned a senior lieutenant in the new Continental Navy. He soon distinguished himself in actions against British ships in the Bahamas, the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel.

In August 1779, Jones took command of the *Bonhomme Richard* and sailed around the British Isles. On September 23, the *Bonhomme Richard* engaged the *Serapis* and the smaller *Countess of Scarborough*, which were escorting the Baltic merchant fleet.

After inflicting considerable damage to the *Bonhomme Richard*, Richard Pearson, the captain of the *Serapis*, asked Jones if he had struck his colors, the naval signal indicating surrender. From his disabled ship, Jones replied, "I have not yet begun to fight," and after three more hours, of furious fighting, the British ships surrendered.

After the victory, the Americans transferred to the *Serapis* from the *Bonhomme Richard*, which sank the following day.

Jones was hailed as a great hero in France, but recognition in the United States was somewhat belated. He continued to serve the United States until 1787 and then served briefly in the Russian navy before moving to France, where he died in 1792 amidst the chaos of the French Revolution. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

In 1905, his remains were located under the direction of the U.S. ambassador to France and then escorted back to the United States by U.S. warships. His body was later enshrined in a crypt at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

#### Editor's Notes:

1. John Paul Jones named his ship the *Bonhomme Richard* because of his strong admiration for Benjamin Franklin who wrote and published *Poor Richard's Almanac* for 26 years, from 1732 to 1758. It was a very popular and successful pamphlet for a colonial publication, reaching annual sales of over 10,000.
2. The flag which is commonly known as the "Serapis" Flag or the "John Paul Jones" Flag was actually transferred from the *Bonhomme Richard* as it was sinking, and which Jones had abandoned after winning the battle.
3. It was John Paul Jones' bravery and techniques that impressed the French to help the Americans in their war with Britain. This factor was a major contributor to the outcome of the War for Independence.



**AMERICANISM TRIVIA QUIZ.** Correct answers from the Quiz in the Spring issue are revealed below. Nobody answered all of these correctly.

### **1776**

1. Shortly after the British arrived in New York, which of Washington's generals fell ill and had to relinquish command of Long Island? **General Nathaniel Green, who was familiar with the lay of the land, was replaced by General Sullivan, who was not.**
2. Which side was victorious in the August, 1776, Battle of Long Island? **The British, under General Howe, were victorious. They defeated American forces under General John Sullivan and Lord Stirling, inflicting 970 casualties and capturing 1000 men including Sullivan and Stirling, while incurring 400 casualties themselves.**
3. During darkness and fog, the miraculous evacuation of 9,500 men in 9 hours across the East River from Brooklyn Heights to Manhattan Island saved Washington's army from destruction. Who commanded the 21st Massachusetts Regiment that handled the boats? **John Glover. His regiment of fishermen and seafarers were mostly from Marblehead, Massachusetts.**
4. What term for army enlistment did Congress agree to after the Battle of Long Island? **After prodding from Washington, Congress agreed to a three-year enlistment.**
5. Name the inventor of the submarine. **David Bushnell invented a one-man submarine, the *Turtle*, built of oak, banded with iron, and coated with tar, in 1775.**
6. When fire broke out in New York City, on September 21, why weren't the alarm bells rung? **The alarm bells had been melted down for ammunition.**
7. Did the patriots set fire to New York City? **Yes, Patriots. Several were caught and hanged by the British. About one-fourth of the city (600 houses) burned to the ground in about a dozen fires.**

### **1776**

**NEW AMERICANISM TRIVIA QUIZ.** (Answers in the Winter Issue. Send in your answers to [hc\\_baker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hc_baker@sbcglobal.net)).

1. In the middle of December, 1776, who wrote a pamphlet that began with the words "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"?
2. Which river did Washington's army cross to attack the Hessian troops at Trenton, New Jersey?
3. When did Washington cross the river?
4. What type of boats did Washington use to cross the river?
5. Did the Hessian commander have prior knowledge that Washington was marching toward him?
6. In the Battle of Trenton, why did Col. Charles Scott of the Fifth Virginia Regiment tell his men to fire at the legs of the enemy?
7. What future American president was wounded in the Battle of Trenton?

## *FACTS*

**S**ix German states supplied over 13,000 mercenaries to help the British cause in America. The 4,500 mile trip to America was hazardous. On every transport of 900 to 1,000 troops that arrived in America, 130 to 200 were ill while 30 to 40 men had died en route. Many stayed in America after the war.

This space is reserved for news from the Ladies' Auxiliary of TXSSAR.

As we finalize this fall issue of the *Texas Compatriot*, we understand that LATXSSAR will again raffle a patriotic quilt at the conclusion of the 2015 TXSSAR Annual Meeting. However, the quilt design has not been finalized. Information and tickets will be available at the Fall 2013 BOM..

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**F**rom the Editor: The Newsletter Committee unanimously approved a new procedure for the 2013 Ross L. Shipman Newsletter Contest. Awards will be announced at the 2014 TXSSAR Annual Meeting. Chapter Newsletter Editors should send one copy each of their four best newsletter issues for 2013 in one single batch of hardcopies to the Newsletter Editor, as shown below. Only hard-copy print-outs will be accepted. This includes newsletters that are normally distributed electronically. All batches must be delivered by U.S. Mail no later than January 1, 2014. A maximum of four newsletter issues per chapter will be accepted for judging. If a chapter publishes more than four issues per year, the Chapter Newsletter Editor should submit what he considers his best four. While black-and-white issues will be considered, color issues may have a competitive advantage.

**F**inally, please observe the following deadlines for submission of items for *The Texas Compatriot*: September 15 for the Fall Issue, January 15 for the Winter issue, and May 15 for the Spring issue.

Dr. H. Charles Baker, Compatriot Editor  
8600 Skyline Drive #1005  
Dallas, TX 75243-4167

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

**FALL BOM: Friday to Sunday,  
October 11-13  
Hilton Garden Inn,  
14919 Northwest Freeway  
Houston, TX 77040  
Reservation Line for TXSSAR:  
1-877-STAYHGI, \$89/Night**

**2014 ANNUAL MEETING:  
Thurs. to Sunday, March 27-30  
OMNI San Antonio Hotel,  
San Antonio, TX**

**See details at [TXSSAR.org](http://TXSSAR.org) under "Events," as they are developed.**