

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WILLIAM HIGHTOWER Chapter #35



# NEWSLETTER

April 2016



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Who is he? Born to a Huguenot immigrant and metal smith on Jan. 1, 1735, in Boston, he had a simple education and apprenticed in his father's business. He served in the French and Indian War for a short period in 1756. He married Sarah Orne and joined his father in the business of molding metals. By 1770, he was using his skills to engrave copper for printing political cartoons. His most famous work was called "Bloody Massacre on Kings Street". He became noted for his work in pewter and silver. He was brought into the circle of Samuel Adams and John Hancock and was credited as the organizer of the "Boston Tea Party". He became a rider for the Committee of Correspondence in Boston. He delivered messages to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He was part of the "First Shot Heard Around the World". He was involved in saving the munitions at Ft. Wm. & Mary from the British. He took an active part in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He became commander of the Garrison at Ft. Castle William from 1776-1779. He was commander of the artillery during the Penobscot Bay, Maine, expedition, which failed and he was tried for cowardice and insubordination, Court Martialed and acquitted. He left the military in some dispute. He had learned how to make gunpowder early in the war, so he started his own mill in Canton, MA. He learned to cast bronze cannons and even printed the first Continental Paper Currency. He designed and made the first Seal of the State of Massachusetts, which is still used today. In addition to cannons, he cast many bells, which are still in use today. He built the first copper factory in the United States. None of this made him as famous as a poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1860, which he titled "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere". He was so proud of his roll, he wore Revolutionary garb until his death in 1818 at the age of 83.

As April rolled in, I was already on the road in Richardson, at the TXSSAR State Convention. A lot of information came out of the business sessions. You should plan to attend next year. The Fall BOM is in Austin, 14-16 Oct and the 2017 State Conference will be held in San Antonio in the spring. We are almost ready to roll out an all new Web data base to include on-line applications. We had a great response to our booth at Folkfest and we are in the process of presenting our annual ROTC awards. Due to a time constraint, we will present our scholarship awards at the May meeting.

Recruiting is everyone's job. Ask others about their heritage and get their info. to our registrar. We need ten new members to meet our goal. I need you to find the graves of Veteran's in your area. We have a goal to place flags at 200 veteran's grave between Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. If you visit a sick Vet, let me know when, who and how long you visited. If you attend a Vet's funeral, I need to know who, when, and how far you traveled. If you know of a non-commercial venue that honors our flag, let me know so we can recognize them, even your neighbor.

It is my goal to recognize each member of our chapter. Help me do that by sending me your bio. It'll take just a few minutes. We still need the bio's of your Patriot Ancestor. We want to make our display on the 4<sup>th</sup> a big one. Plan to join our float at the NB Parade. If you don't have a uniform, come in Red, White, and Blue. I asked the Secretary to distribute the updated Committee List's. Do your part and get active, by email, on your committee. Join us at the May meeting to honor the scholarship and enhanced ROTC winner of 2016. Make time to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in New Braunfels. Be an active member, wherever you are. We need you.

Stu Hoyt, Pres. WH#35, TXSSAR, NBSAR.net

It was a busy month for the Chapter which began with the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual TXSSAR Convention in Richardson, TX held March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Chapter was represented by President Stu Hoyt who is pictured below along with the other members of the Color Guard who raised the colors prior to the meeting. Passers-by were in awe of the ceremony unfolding as they drove by on the sunshine filled morning.



Folkfest, held on April 9-10 at the Heritage Center here in New Braunfels was another success. Unlike last year, fraught with rain, this year we had sunshine and a great location. Our displays always bring much attention and this year we had over a dozen very interested and possible candidates. Manning the tent were Compatriots Joe Tafolla, Lou Segaloff, Patrick Hollis and Stu Hoyt.



During that period, Joe had been a member of numerous committees and also chaired both the Essay and Oration Committees, guiding many of those winners to the State competition. His unselfish devotion to the promotion of the Chapter in the public view warrants recognition by this award.



This medal is named after Roger Sherman (1721-1793), who was a founding father, and the only person to sign all four Congressional papers of the United States: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

President Hoyt extended special greetings to Compatriots Louis Smith, Stoney Stonebreaker and John Booth who had been unable to attend recently and also to two associates, Jim Lanning and Tom Jones.



Compatriot Joe Tafolla presented the Program this month which he entitled, "Jim Tafolla, My Great Grandfather." It is a fascinating account of his great grandfather's life. He has generously made it available for anyone wanting to read it by putting it in the Chapter's Yearbook. President Hoyt read the 69 paged (one sided) memoir and was so fascinated with it that he asked Joe to present it as a program.

Santiago Tafolla was a humble man of 71 years in 1908 when he, through much persuasion, agreed to write his memoirs. In his words, "These are events that I have experienced through the Providence of God." He was orphaned at the age of 12, became a runaway whose life began in Santa Fe, New Mexico and ultimately spanned across the East through Maryland, New York, Washington D.C., down through

the Deep South and west to Texas. He participated in the Texas Indian War and the Civil War and served as a bugler in the U.S. Army and the Confederate Army. He was one of the first Methodist preachers of Hispanic descent in the U.S. and spent the last 35 years of his life in this profession, building and establishing churches from San Marcos to Monterrey, Mexico. He married, was widowed in Feb. 1868, left with three daughters and two sons. He remarried a year later to a lovely woman who had a son and a daughter. In 1875 he was in Bandera, TX, swearing to uphold the laws of Texas and became the Justice of the Peace for the Privilege Creek precinct, his home. Here his memoirs end abruptly. Santiago died suddenly in 1911 before he was able to finish them.

Of our fifty plus members, only fifteen have submitted short bios of their patriotic ancestors. President Hoyt encouraged the membership to visit the site on the web page and to consider contributing a few moments of time towards this endeavor.

On Memorial Day and on Veteran's Day the Chapter will place flags on designated SAR veterans grave sites. If you know of any of these sites please notify President Hoyt so the Chapter may honor these deceased Compatriots. One way to locate these sites is to visit your local records office where gravesites are recorded. Your help is needed for this project as we hope to mark 200 grave sites.

Compatriot Patrick Hollis has written several historical articles on the Revolutionary War, thirteen of which are now available on the Chapter website, [www.nbsar.net](http://www.nbsar.net). We are honored that he is doing this and also that the Herald-Zeitung is publishing them. You are encouraged to visit the site and enjoy history.

The Richard and Joanne Robinett Scholarship Awards Committee determined the winner of this year's award and has scheduled the presentation for the May meeting. At that time Citizenship Awards will also be presented.

The Chapter's new Registrar is also our Web Master. He has made available at the website a "Donate" (Pay Pal) button for anyone wishing to make donations to the Richard and Joanne Robinett Scholarship Fund or any other Award. These donations are deductible. He has also added a video of a Fife and Drum Corp. that will make one want to stand up and salute, in addition to application forms for various contests and an interface to various committees. Browse the site and notify him of any suggestions you may have.

President Hoyt has been elected Color Guard Commander for the Southern Region. He has two handsome uniforms available for purchase to anyone interested in joining the Color Guard. He displayed them at the April meeting:



When the Color Guard attends events such as NSSAR meetings, events in which the President-General is in attendance, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, to name a few, it gives the Color Guard member credit towards the Color Guard medals. It also gives the chapter credit on the annual report. And it also draws attention to the SAR and the history that it represents. One such local event will soon take place in New Braunfels. The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast featuring Mr. H. Wayne Huizenga Jr., is scheduled for Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 AM at the NB Civic Convention Center.

Compatriot Lou Colantoni's wife, Mary, is going to be a guest editor to this Newsletter, submitting articles on genealogy. Her column will be called "Genealogy Tips" and her first article begins with this month's newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*Genealogy Tips\*\*\*\*\*

For those of you who did not attend the March 2016 meeting, there is a wonderful website for genealogy education that you may not know about. [www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com) is the home page for Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Webinars (online seminars) are broadcast live, then added to the library about once a week. They are free to view for 6 days after the broadcast, with the exception of bonus webinars that are added for subscribers only.

To see the schedule of upcoming live webinars, click on "upcoming webinars" in the black bar across the top. There is no need to register unless you want to attend the live broadcast, which will entitle you to be eligible for door prizes towards the end. If you click on "webinar library" you can view the holdings in various ways. To see the most recent webinars, click on "view all by date" which also indicates if the webinar is still in the free zone.

Some webinars in the library remain free indefinitely. To see that list, click on "view all-free". If you want to get an idea of how the webinars work, I highly recommend viewing "The War of 1812 Records: Preserving the Pensions" by Rebecca Whitman Koford, and

“Microsoft Word Series - #1 Getting Started with Microsoft Word” by Thomas MacEntee. Both are extraordinarily informative. Since they are pre-recorded, you have the ability to hit the pause button and take notes.

I encourage you to browse the entire site when you get a chance. Subscription prices are modest, and the shop carries lots of goodies. Good luck with your research! From Mary Colantoni.

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## February Events

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In February, President Hoyt attended the George Washington Parade in Laredo, TX. The parade route was two and one half miles long. The SAR float carried approximately twenty compatriots, their families and guests. After the parade, participation medals were presented. In the pictures below, the first one shows the breakfast room at the hotel prior to the parade, the second shows the parade line-up with float, and the third is President Hoyt admiring one of his favorite cars. For more pictures refer to the Spring 2016 issue of the Texas Compatriot.



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Also in February, the Chapter was presented with George Washington Proclamations from the mayors of San Marcos, Wimberley, and New Braunfels.



San Marcos:  
Front row: Mayor Guerrero, President Hoyt, Compatriots Caskey and Cox;  
second row: DAR Regent Lynda

Dawson, Helen Cox, Phyllis Shell, Compatriot Trull; back row: City Manager Miller,  
Councilman Gregson

Wimberley: Mayor Steve Thurber, President Hoyt, Chaplain Jerry Bullock



New Braunfels: Registrar Patrick Hollis, Mayor  
Baron Casteel



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**The Newsletter needs a name that is not generic. If you have any suggestions route them to either President Hoyt or Travis Tate.**

**The next meeting at Granzin's is May 12th.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nbtxsar> Website: <http://www.nbsar.net>

