



The Hightower Recorder

Newsletter of the William Hightower Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution



October 2020

2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award Winner

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This Month in the American Revolution

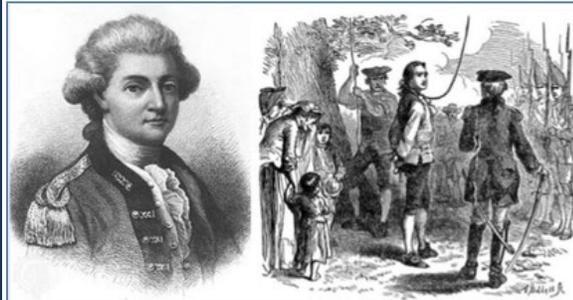
The Turning of the Colors and Ultimately Falling
by Stu Hoyt

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At this time of year, in the New England states the leaves of the trees are turning and preparing to fall. In the American Revolution it was a sign of the end of the campaign season, the last push if it was going to be attempted before the weather turned bad. Life moved slightly slow back then and to move an army took time. When the road turned soft the wheels of progress ground to a halt.

Battles were won and lost in the month of September or the groundwork was laid for an impending defeat. In the Battle of Eutaw Springs, General Greene finally retreated only to win the ground. The British Navy was chased from Chesapeake Bay by the French, which set up the Battle of Yorktown. Last month we talked about a bend in the river, which was later called West Point. That was a battle that never came to fruition because it was foiled in the planning stages. Benedict Arnold escaped shortly before he would have been exposed and managed to get to the safety of a British ship on the Hudson.



British Major John Andre (left) hanged as a spy by American forces on Oct. 2, 1780. Patriot Nathan Hale (right) hanged as a spy by British forces on Sept. 22, 1776.

His accomplice was not as fortunate probably because he was too sure of himself. The area in which he was traveling had bands of marauders from both sides. Thinking he was discovered by loyalists, he revealed his true name and rank. The marauders, looking for buried treasure found the maps when they asked him to remove his boots. The rest is history except for his hanging,

which may have been an eye for an eye. Four years earlier in that same month Nathan Hale was caught spying and hanged by the British. They did not wait twenty-four hours. The British appealed to Washington but to no avail.

In this same month, the Battle of Saratoga would begin, which was the end of Gentle John Burgoyne and the entry of the French into the war. In 1781, it was the beginning of the siege of Yorktown and the beginning of the end of the British suppression of her colonies. At this time of year colors change and things fall. ☼

Coming Soon...

- Oct. 8: Chapter Meeting
- Nov. 12: Chapter Meeting
- Dec. 10: Chapter Meeting

Would you like to receive the Hightower Recorder? Get on the email list! Email the editor, Kris Krueger, at krisk96@gmail.com

Message from Chapter President Tom Jones



Well, we are going into the second month in our Chapter's 36 years and looking forward to continuing our Chapter's missions.

We had four major events last month:

- 1) We presented an Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate and medal to Jack Suhr, grandson of Compatriot Patrick Hollis at Patrick's home. Other members of Jack's family were in attendance. A picture of this event is in this newsletter. Congratulations to Jack for his achievement.
- 2) We started the month with our first Zoom Video Conference. We had 20 members in attendance and two dignitaries: National President General John Manning and Texas State President Drake Peddie. I want to thank our Committee Chairs for their presentations. The meeting was highly informative.
- 3) We celebrated with the DAR at the Constitution's 233rd Birthday in San Marcos. Stu and Blair represented our Chapter. Pictures are in this newsletter. Thank you Stu and Blair.
- 4) Blair was in the Blanco County News with a picture of him and members of our State Color Guard. The name of the article was "Blanco man helps others understand American history. The article is in this newsletter, please read it. It is great.

We still will be meeting by the Zoom Conference Video System and working on our missions in our Youth Awards Program, Public Service Awards, Civil Air Patrol Awards, Flag Awards, Color Guard Activities, Eagle Scout Awards and our new Mentoring Program. In addition, we will discuss our various Chapter communication's websites. We will also introduce a new Chapter meeting item called "Soap Box." An opportunity for members to express their positive recommendations to improve our Chapter's activities.

Please attend our meeting to receive the latest information on these programs. If you are interested in joining any of these committee, please let me know. We will be delighted to have your participation to achieve our Chapter's missions and obligations to our Patriots. In addition, it is extremely rewarding personally to participate in these awards and share the honors with some very patriot citizens, both young and old, in many different occupations.

I have sent a letter to 32 of our members who live within a reasonable driving distance to our meeting's and activities to solicit their help to participate in our various Chapter's missions. I recognize that several have other responsibilities in their day to day requirements to work, raise a family and fight health issues. But I hope that we have some that will be able to help us despite those life challenges.

I hope to see you at our next Video Conference Meeting at 6:30 PM, October 8, 2020. Please contact Kris to make sure you are on our attendee list to receive the information to join us. His email address is krisk96@gmail.com or call him at 830-237-4257.

God Bless You,
Tom Jones, President

Know Your Sons of the American Revolution

The Patriot Medal

The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual. The January 1964 issue of the "The Sons of the American Revolution Magazine," printing the minutes of the National Trustee meeting held on October 12, 1963, listed the criteria for receiving the award and its description. The Society established no awards would be awarded until the first award was presented to General Douglas MacArthur. It was approved February 28, 1964, but General MacArthur had become ill and died before the presentation could be made. The medal was presented posthumously in October 1964 at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Patriot Medal has come to symbolize significant service made to a State Society by a Compatriot. The William Hightower Chapter has had seven recipients beginning in 1990. All of the Chapter recipients are well known for their contributions to the success of the SAR. The most recent Chapter recipient is Stu Hoyt, who received the honor in 2018.

While none of these names is going to surprise anyone, the William Hightower Chapter recipients of the Patriot Medal are Billy E. Hightower (1990), Charles Motz (1996), Richard L. "Dick" Robinett (1998), Major John C. Lee (1999), Thomas B. Green (2004), Wayne D. Justiss (2005), and Stuart G. "Stu" Hoyt (2018). 🇺🇸



Chapter Has First Virtual Meeting

By Kris Krueger



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways. We have learned so much about things we take for granted. The idea that the William Hightower Chapter would not be able to meet in person never crossed our minds. In fact, COVID-19 called into question that feeling of brotherhood experienced by Compatriots because the Chapter could not meet.

Gatherings were shut down at the end of March. The Chapter had just had its March meeting, with no idea that would be the last time we would meet in person.

The Chapter went to work looking for a solution. What began as quite a task turned into an obvious solution in the modern

world of the Internet, computers, tablets, digital cameras, and microphones. Virtual meetings using these technologies have been around for some time. This Chapter Executive Board and Committee Chairs met with a virtual meeting this Spring. That meeting showed us we could do this.

This summer, the Texas Society conducted its convention using a series of virtual meetings. Several Chapter Compatriots attended and liked the opportunity to get together virtually. The Chapter used its first virtual meeting and its experience from the convention to build a program to host our first Chapter meeting virtually.

Word spread and before long the Chapter attracted the attention of State Society President Drake Peddie and National Society President General John T. Manning. Both agreed to join us for our meeting.

The Chapter organized a meeting using Zoom. The main topic of the meeting was our committees, with guest speakers President General Manning and Society President Peddie. Fourteen committees shared their program. The committee chairs did an amazing job sharing the roles of each committee and showing Compatriots there is something to do for every interest.

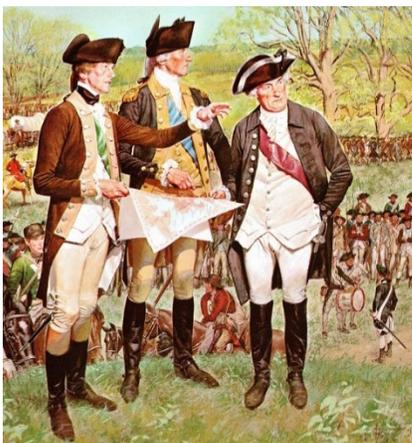
We were honored to receive the latest updates at the National and State Societies. President General Manning gave us the latest updates on how things are going in Louisville. He also answered questions from Compatriots. Society President Peddie reminded us during these times of COVID-19 remains the opportunity to look internally and work on those things that can make us a better organization. Both President General Manning and Society President Peddie stayed with us throughout the meeting.

Sure, there were some slow starts and rough patches for that first meeting. We have plenty of lessons learned to help us move forward. We learned we can host an effective meeting that informs and entertains our Compatriots virtually. This meeting allowed us to hear from some Compatriots we do not see often.

The Chapter looks forward to our next meeting October 8, which will be a Zoom virtual meeting as well. I hope I see you there. 🌟

Rank Insignia in the Continental Army Part 1: General Officers 1776-1779

By Ed Blauvelt & Kris Krueger



Continental Officer Uniforms
1776-1779

The Continental Army, like all Armies, needed a system to identify the chain of command. The insignia identifies not just rank, but also responsibility...both to the service and the soldier. This is the first part of a series on the insignia used by the Continental Army to identify its leaders.

Commanders wore a gold lace epaulet on each shoulder and a light blue sash over the right shoulder. Of course, the Continental Army only had one Commander, or Commander-in-Chief.

Major Generals wore a gold lace epaulet on each shoulder and a light purple sash over the right shoulder. Brigadier Generals wore a gold lace epaulet on each shoulder and a pink sash over the right shoulder.

The Continental Army uniform began as whatever pieces soldiers could put together, making a sash system a simple, yet effective method of identify rank and position within the Army.

Constitution Week, a Public Law

By Stu Hoyt



Each year since 1956, September 17 through 23 is declared Constitution Week by Public Law 915. Annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe such week in schools, churches, and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies and activities. The Captain Thomas Moore Chapter DAR of San Marcos encourages such a proclamation by inviting all to ring bells at 3:00 p.m. on September 17. One of their members, Martha Moore, a member of the First United Methodist Church in town, rings the historic church bell. This bell was given to the church by Benjamin Hawkins, Indian Agent appointed by George Washington, who first hung it in the Fort Hawkins chapel in Macon, Georgia, in 1806.

The Captain Thomas Moore Chapter called on the Texas SAR for color guard support. At 3:00 p.m., the church bells rang out for one minute. Then "Town Crier" Blair Rudy rang forth a large hand bell, followed by the reading of a Constitution Week proclamation by Texas SAR Sate President Drake Peddie. 🇺🇸

Reading the proclamation is Blair Rudy, TX SAR CG Commander, with Stu Hoyt, Wayne Courreges, Jr., and Jim Clements, Jr behind.

William Hightower Chapter Recognizes Eagle Scout

By Kris Krueger, with Tom Jones and Patrick Hollis



On September 8, Chapter President Tom Jones and Eagle Scout Committee Chair Kris Krueger joined Compatriot Patrick Hollis to recognize one of New Braunfels' newest Eagle Scouts. Eagle Scout Jack Suhr earned the highest rank in Scouting earlier this year. Jack is a member of Troop 133 in New Braunfels. Patrick Hollis was not just representing the Chapter. He is Jack's proud grandfather.

We met at Patrick's home on Tuesday evening. We were joined by Jack's family. The family included Jack's father and his brother, both of whom are also Eagle Scouts. Jack's mother and grandmother looked on with pride as Tom and Patrick

presented him with a recognition certificate and the SAR Eagle Scout Medal.

We are privileged to recognize these young Americans that earn the Eagle Scout rank. Their work in achieving Scouting's most notable award shares much in common with the Sons of the American Revolution including patriotism, leadership, and service.

We were able to record the event for the Chapter and showed the video as part of our virtual meeting two days later. 🇺🇸



Pictured in front left to right are Captain Thomas Moore DAR Carol Blue-Garcia, Martha Moore, and Athena Reiche, Constitution Week chairman with Blair Rudy following and Stu Hoyt, William Hightower Chapter, Wayne Courrage, Jr. and Jim Clements, Jr. of the Patrick Henry Chapter.

Blanco Man Helps Others Understand American History

By Emily Hilley-Sierzchula

Reprinted from the Blanco County News, September 23, 2020

For one local man, American history is neither dusty nor forgotten. It's very much alive.

Blair Rudy, of Blanco is on a mission to help folks, especially youngsters, understand its importance.

Rudy is the color guard commander for Texas in the Sons of the American Revolution. He's been a member of the organization known as the Texas Society for the past 15 years.

He also has logged some interesting experiences as a Civil War reenactor, even climbing the same hill that one of his ancestors fought upon and survived.

"It was really chilling," Rudy said. "There's an emotion in Civil War reenacting that's known as 'The Moment.' I just felt a sense of 'wow.'"

He was not as enthralled with history as a youngster, though.

"I didn't start out as a history buff," he said. "I got into history through Civil War reenacting. I met this really great group of guys and some of them were members of the Sons of the American Revolution."

The men are quite varied in their political views, life experiences and professions, but they have one thing in common.

"We just want to honor our ancestors."

Rudy said that his genealogical research shows that he has at least five Patriot ancestors.

Joining historical societies such as the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution involves much more than writing a check for annual dues.

"It's a really involved genealogical process—you have to prove birth, marriage and death between yourself and your Patriot ancestor, which can be 12 or 13 generations back," Rudy said. "It took me about a year and a half, and many, many hours at the National Archives in Fort Worth looking through microfiche documents."

Sons of the American Revolution members also have to prove the military service of their ancestor or assistance given as money, food or supplies.

"There are lots of ways people served in the Revolution," Rudy said.

He said that it has gotten easier for people who want to be part of the Texas Society to prove their genealogy, especially as records become digitalized.

"We have genealogists, called 'registrars,' to help people do research on their Patriot ancestors," Rudy said.

Reaching out

Rudy, 67, said that many members of the Sons of the American Revolution are age 60 and older.

"Like many others in the Society, I'd like to see our students taught as much American history as possible," he said. "The Sons of the American Revolution is attempting to reach out to kindergartners through high school seniors."

The group hosts a range of contests from posters for elementary-age students to essays and oration for high-schoolers.

"It's a way for us to help teachers," Rudy said.

Rudy has learned lessons from being a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

"It's important to look at history through the glasses of the people who lived it," Rudy said. "I try hard to see things the way they did. People have a way of turning history around to meet their own needs."

He suggested seeking out original historical documents.

"What I enjoy the most is the untold history," he said. "I enjoy helping people look back through time." 🌟

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Blair Rudy of Blanco, fifth from the right, said that he has met many good men who are members of the Sons of the American Revolution, or Texas Society. (Contributed photo)

Blanco man helps others understand American history

By Emily Hilley-Sierzchula

They have one thing in common.

"We just want to honor our ancestors,"

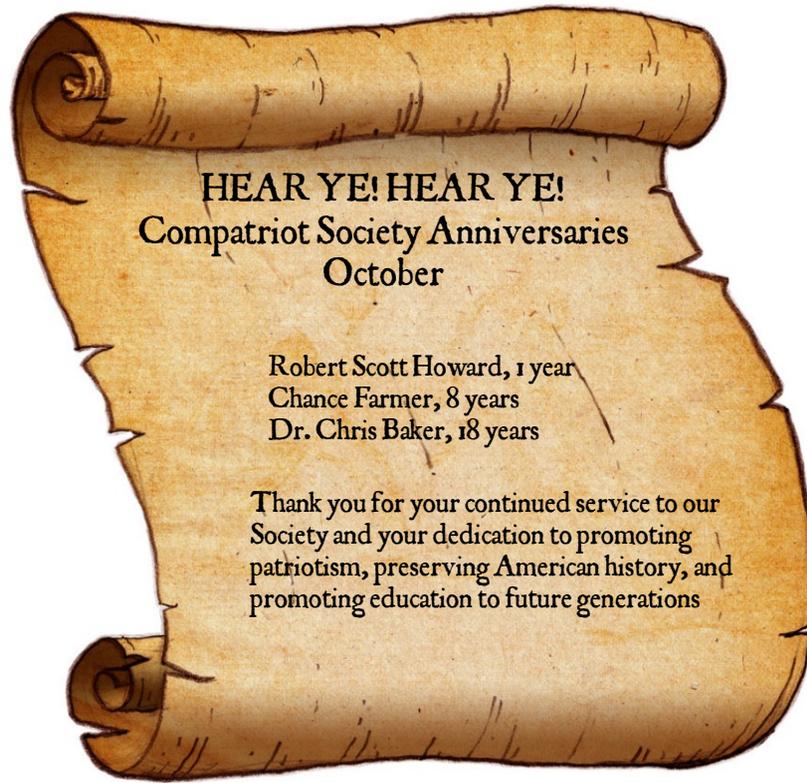
he said.

County health authority dies

Dr. Craig Masfield, who was appointed the local health authority for Blanco County last March after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, died unexpectedly.

Masfield served as an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Health Sciences at the School of Health Professions at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He also served as medical director for several EMS agencies in the San Antonio area, which included as the local health authority for Blanco County.

According to the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, he served as a joint sergeant for the Texas Air National Guard, and Commander for the 14th Medical Group of the Texas Air National Guard in San Antonio, until his retirement last year. "He was devoted to advancing military medicine and the military medicine who served our country," the NAEMT said in a statement.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
Compatriot Society Anniversaries
October

Robert Scott Howard, 1 year
Chance Farmer, 8 years
Dr. Chris Baker, 18 years

Thank you for your continued service to our Society and your dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to future generations

Happy Birthday to our Compatriots and our Patriot Ancestors

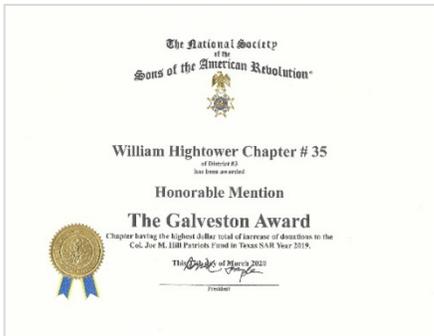
Happy Birthday, Compatriots!

Remembering our Patriot Ancestors

Michael Pryor, October 2
Joe Cox, October 6
Cleburne Mathies III, October 6
Charles Motz IV, October 17
Lewis Corbell, October 19
Wendell Cox, October 25

Martin Walton, Ancestor of Westley Hensley and James Shaw, born October 1, 1761
Isaac Allen, Ancestor of Lou Colantoni, born October 17, 1719

William Hightower Wins Awards at Texas Society Convention
By Kris Krueger



At the 2020 Texas Society Convention, held virtually in August, the William Hightower Chapter received three awards. The awards represent the Chapter's dedication to the mission of the SAR and the efforts we went to in 2020 to promote that mission.

The Chapter received the Galveston Award, the Harrell Award, and the Outstanding Public Service Award. The Galveston Award is presented to the Chapter donating the highest



dollar amount donated to the Patriot Fund. The Harrell Award recognizes a Chapters support to the Children of the American Revolution. The Outstanding Public Service Award recognizes chapters that award all five public safety awards in the year.

The awards were presented to the Chapter by President Tom Jones at the September Virtual Meeting. The William Hightower is honored to be recognized for our service to the community and look forward to many more years dedicated service to our community. 🇺🇸

William Fichtower Chapter Leadership

2020-2021

Officers

President Tom Jones
Vice President Ed Blauvelt
Secretary Kris Krueger
Treasurer Stan Trull
Registrar Robert Duckworth
Chaplain Don Chandler
Historian Stu Hoyt
Parliamentarian Cliff Caskey
Sergeant at Arms Robert Duckworth
Past President Steve Polk
Webmaster Will Moravits
Newsletter Editor Kris Krueger

Committee Chairs

Color Guard: Blair Rudy
Flag Awards: Tom Jones
Finance & Budget: Stan Trull
Fund Raising: Steve Polk
George Washington Proclamations: Joe Cox
Grave Marking: Cliff Caskey
Medals, Awards & Citations: Kris Krueger
Public Events: Patrick Hollis
Public Service Awards: Lou Colontoni
Publicity & Media: Will Moravits
ROTC & CAP: Tom Jones
Scouting: Kris Krueger
Youth Awards & Contests: Will Moravits

