

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



NEWSLETTER

January 2017



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Thomas Paine, journalist and inventor was born in Thetford, in Norfolk, England on Jan. 29, 1737, the son of a Quaker. Short on education, he floundered through many jobs and was in and out of debtor's prison. He met Benjamin Franklin in 1774, in London. Franklin encouraged him to migrate to America providing him with letters of recommendation. He landed in Philadelphia in Nov. 1774. He used those letters to gain a position as co-editor of the Pennsylvania Magazine. It didn't take long to acquire the spirit of rebellion that was mounting in the colonies. Using his negative experience with the British government and the positive experience of the cause for freedom, he published a pamphlet and titled it "Common Sense" on Jan. 10, 1776. It became an instant hit and sparked fervor for the cause. It sold over half a million copies. He was on a roll and went on to write a number of articles titled The American Crisis. The first one was published on Dec 23, 1776 and commenced with the statement, "These are the times that try men's souls". Washington was so impressed that he had it read to his men at Valley Forge. He served for a short time in the Continental Army but couldn't keep a secret. He designed a bridge but could get no backers. He almost lost his head in France and came back to die in N.Y. City in 1809.

2017 is off to a great start. Last month, we invited Abraham Clark, signer of the Declaration of Independence. This month, a Revolutionary Quaker, William Powell came to share with us in the induction of Tom and Tim Jones. We were treated to the reading of the Knight's Essay Contest winner about "Yorktown" read by Baycee Dawn Reed. In Nov., our Color Guard participated in a Flag Ceremony at the "Tex" Hill Squadron, CAP, in San Marcos. After the presentation, I was asked to give a talk to the cadets on Leadership. Matt Congrove, Commander of that squadron came and presented me with a Certificate of Appreciation and one of their CAP Appreciation coins engraved with my name.

It is my goal for 2017 to get more members involved in chapter activities. As a function of that, we need to groom the newer members for positions in the chapter. I'd like to have an assistant in the positions of many of the officer and Chairman functions as possible. Just as the human body is made up of many parts, it takes each member to make a chapter function. Take the time and do your part.

Earlier in the year, I asked the membership to come up with a name for our wonderful newsletter. We will present a check for \$25.00 to the winner and have extended the

contest to the March meeting. Be part of that fun contest. What would you like to see this chapter accomplish in 2017? There are many ways that you can help. In Feb., we will honor our fallen compatriots in a special ceremony, in addition to the George Washington Proclamations and parade. In March we will elect our new slate of officers and have our state convention. Make this chapter work. Get involved!

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

The Chapter acknowledged several distinguished guests in its midst for the first meeting of 2017: Knight Essay winner, Baycee Drew Reed and her mother; Major Matt Congrove, the squadron commander of the “Tex Hill” composite squadron, Civil Air Patrol; DAR ladies, Marydean Motz and Melba Shaw; and CAR President, Billie Salazar along with her daughter, Leah. The surprise of the evening was Quaker William Powell in full 18th century costume, represented by his 5th great grandson, Tom Jones. Tom and his son, Tim, were inducted during the meeting, Tim’s mother acting as his proxy since he was unable to attend. Tom’s daughter also attended and is a retired AF Lt. Col. An award was also presented to Compatriot Patrick Hollis honoring him for his past service as Vice President for District III.

After the introductions, President Stu Hoyt described his uniform and the reason behind the feather in his hat. That explanation was that not all soldiers wore uniforms and the feather helped identify the members of a specific group. During battle this was paramount.

The first award presented during the evening was to Baycee Reed. She received a \$100 check, a medal, and the Outstanding Citizenship Award with accompanying pin. She also read her winning essay entitled “Yorktown.” Baycee is a senior at the Hill Country School in San Marcos and has attended the school for all 13 years of her education. The school counselor, Leslie Olsen, usually accompanies the students but had another commitment. After her presentation, Baycee expressed her appreciation for the award.





Major Matt Congrove presented the Chapter with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the “Tex Hill” Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol in San Marcos to President Hoyt. The Chapter Color Guard and the Patrick Henry Chapter Color Guard presented a Flag Award to the squadron at their November flag raising ceremony. Following the ceremony, President Hoyt spoke with the Cadets for which Maj. Congrove presented him with a Challenge Coin.



All eyes were on the Quaker who stood up for induction. Compatriot Tom Jones and his son, Tim, were inducted, Tom’s wife standing in for Tim as proxy. Acting as Registrar, Patrick Hollis presented the rosettes, acting as Historian, Joe Cox read the history, and President Hoyt read the “Statement of Obligation.”





Compatriot Jones arrived in Quaker costume dressed as his 5th great grandfather, William Powell, would have dressed in the 18th century. William was born in 1703 in Somerset, Maryland, and was a 4th generation American. He died on February 24, 1787 in Prince William County, Virginia, unfortunately just two years prior to the ratification of the Constitution for which he had labored and sacrificed.



Traditional Quakers held a theological belief called “Peace Testimony” which meant that the authority of secular governments was accepted but not supported by the Society. However, because of the Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, the Quartering Act and the Boston Massacre, many

Quakers did eventually take up arms, resulting in their being disowned by the Society. William found a way to provide food and subsistence to the Army through his position as the “Commissary of Prince William County in Virginia” without going against the “Peace Testimony.”

To read the full version of Tom’s patriot ancestor biography you are encouraged to go to the Chapter web site. Those of you who have not submitted a biography to Mike Pryor for the web site are also encouraged to do so.



After the induction President Hoyt called Compatriot Patrick Hollis to the floor where he presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as Vice President for District III for one year 2011-12 (April to Mar).

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST has been extended until the **March meeting**. Submit your suggestions to President Hoyt or to Secretary Blauvelt. Winner will be awarded \$25! There are two entrees thus far.

Next meeting will be held on February 9th at Granzin's Bar-B-Q Restaurant, supper at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Color Guard Events: **18 Feb George Washington Parade**, Laredo, TX muster at Ramada Inn 6:30A for Int'l Bridge, 9:00A for parade. (One must submit a release form to Tom Green).

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

