



# The Hightower Recorder

Newsletter of the William Hightower Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution



September 2020

2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award Winner

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## Coming Soon...

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

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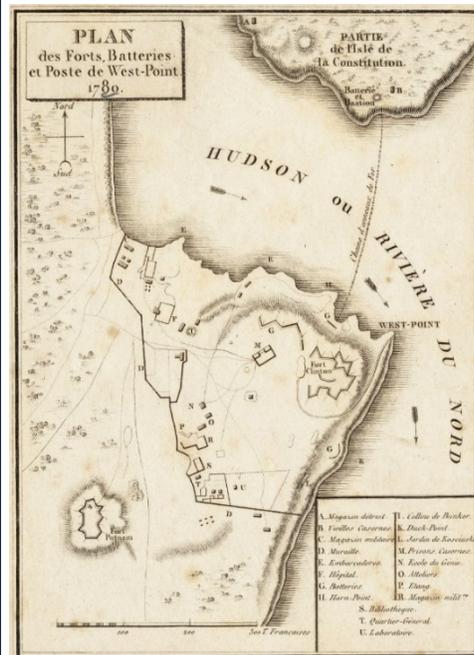
## This Month in the American Revolution

### West Point, New York

By Stu Hoyt

West Point located at a bend on the Hudson River about an hour's drive, or three day's walk, from the city is a scenic, but otherwise non-descript, location. Yet in 1778, General Washington felt it was strategic enough to make it a defensive location. Actually, the Continentals constructed a defensive position closer to the river on either side of Popolopen Creek where it meets the river. Fort Montgomery was on one side of the creek and Fort Clinton, the smaller of the two, on the other. A large iron chain was mounted in the river stretching from Fort Montgomery to the west side of the Hudson to prevent British ships from navigating the river.

In 1777, British General John Burgoyne marched an army from Canada down Lake Champlain towards Albany but was stalled at Saratoga. It was his desire that British General Sir Henry Clinton come up the Hudson to meet him at Albany. Clinton has been left to guard the city and had no plans to venture too far away. He did on 6 Oct 1777, create a diversion by sailing up the Hudson and destroying Forts Clinton and Montgomery including the chain across the Hudson River. American General James Clinton was wounded retreating from that battle. Those forts were left in ruin.



1780 Map of West Point Defenses

Tadeusz Kosciuszko convinced them of the necessity of defending Crown Hill and drafted a blueprint accordingly. Gen. Israel Putnam's younger cousin, Col Rufus Putnam, and three hundred men arrived on four sloops with lumber to build Fort, Putnam.

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On January 27, 1778, American General Samuel Holden Parsons marched across the frozen Hudson to claim the high ground above the two forts. A little later, General Alexander McDougall wrote to Gen. Washington, "Genl. Parsons, Clinton and Col. Delaradiere went with me to View the Rock & Crown Hills in the rear of our works ... (Fort Clinton)."

# Message from Chapter President Tom Jones



I want to welcome everyone back after our summer break as we go forward to fulfill the missions of our Chapter.

In many ways, similar to our patriots, we are now experiencing difficult times with the future of our great nation at state. We all remember the famous words of Thomas Paine "These are the times that try men's souls."

The virus, riots throughout our Country and the extreme division in our two major political parties are taking a toll on our everyday living.

In spite of all this turmoil we must not forget our obligations to our Patriots and our Society to carry on to complete our Chapter's mission to be "patriotic, historical and educational, and shall ...perpetuate the memory of those, who by their service during the war of the American evolution, achieved the independence of the American people."

Since our Chapter was established in 1984, it has faithfully fulfilled our Chapter's mission, I am sure in some difficult times also.

All of us have taken an oath to continue our work for our Patriots and those that preceded us. To fulfill our mission the Chapter has established 14 Committees. The names of our Committees and Chairman are listed after my message. Our first Chapter meeting this session is devoted to our Committees. I have asked each Committee Chairman to give a short presentation on what their Committee does.

As you know, our Chapter does not have the facilities to conduct a regular meeting and fulfill all the current meeting restrictions due to the virus. For our next meeting, and probably more in the future, we are going to use a new procedure called "Zoom", right in your home. Many of our members are already familiar with it to be able to conduct business meetings, talk to their relatives and grandchildren. If you are not currently using Zoom, you will see how easy it works and you can also use it to stay in touch with your family members and friends.

We look forward to "seeing" you at our meeting on September 10, 2020. The meeting will start at 6:30 PM. More information will be sent to you to acquaint you with this new "Zoom" procedures.

I ask you to "come and be with us" 🌟

Tom Jones  
President  
William Hightower Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution

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## William Hightower 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

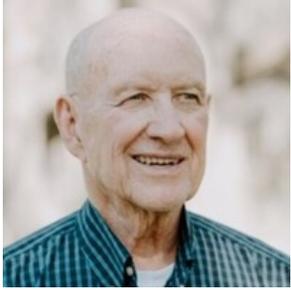
Color Guard: Blair Rudy  
Flag Awards: Tom Jones  
Finance & Budget: Stan Trull  
Fund Raising: Steve Polk  
George Washington Proclamations: Joe Cox  
Grave Marking: Cliff Caskey  
Medals, Awards & Citations: Kris Krueger  
Public Events: Patrick Hollis  
Public Service Awards: Lou Colontoni  
Publicity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



## William Hightower Chapter Says Goodbye to Compatriots

### Compatriot John Booth: Soldier, Healer, Husband, and Father

By Kris Krueger



On June 30, 2020, Compatriot John Booth passed away quietly at his home. He was 81. John had 26 years of military service, retiring from the United States Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. He had a successful second career in nursing. John had been an active member of the chapter since August 11, 2011. He served on a number of committees, participated in many events, and served as the Chapter's Sergeant at Arms for many years. The Chapter was privileged to honor John's memory and his legacy of service with a Memorial Certificate and an Honor Guard during his visitation at Doeppenschmidt Funeral Home July 9. Our Honor Guard and our Society's flag stood watch over John during visitation hours. We also provided support to the funeral services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery July 10. John's wife, Mildred, and the

entire Booth family were appreciative of our support and all the thoughts and prayers our Chapter continues to provide the Booth family. ❄️



The William Hightower Chapter thanks Compatriots Don Chandler, Jim Clements, Robert Duckworth, Stu Hoyt, Tom Jones, and Blair Rudy for their service on John's Honor Guard.



Compatriots Don Chandler, Robert Duckworth, and Blair Rudy at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

## A Tribute to a Great Man, Past State President, and National Vice President General

By Stu Hoyt



On June 22, 2020, at 2:00 pm, William Marshall Marrs, II, left the campground and went to points beyond. Bill is survived by his wife Sylvia and a long list of family members. Bill may be remembered as a Texas Society President, and a Vice President General but most of all for his work in updating the SAR IT system and his ten years as the Texas State Secretary. When he left that job it took three people to cover all that he did. His remains were cremated and an urn of them placed center table at his memorial service held at the United Methodist Church in Round Rock, Texas, at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 11, 2020.

As part of the eulogy, both President Generals Tom Lawrence and Ed Butler shared remembrances of his life in the Sons of The American Revolution. In the congregation were Past Texas Society Presidents Stephen Rohrbaugh, Larry Stevens, Bob Cohen, David Temple and current President Drake Peddie. Members of the Texas SAR Color Guard participated in the service as an Honor Guard.

In addition to acting as a Bridge of Honor, as the family was escorted in, the Color Guard, wearing Black Plumb Feathers, paired up as guards at the urn table, in a ceremonial rotation throughout the service. The Patrick Henry Chapter, of which Bill was a member, presented his widow with an SAR Memorial Certificate. The family requested a Bag Piper, who played an interlude prior to the start of the service. 🇺🇸

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the Color Guard were all masked. From left to right are Ron Walcik (Heart of Texas), Blair Rudy (William Hightower and Texas Color Guard Commander), Ron Moulton, (taps) (Patrick Henry), Stu Hoyt, (William Hightower), Lary Fowler (Piper), Jim Clements (Patrick Henry and Texas Society Secretary), Shiidon Hawley, Wayne Courreges, and John Knox (all from Patrick Henry).



### Interested in Continental Uniforms & Period Dress?

Are you interested in putting together a continental uniform or period dress? While there is no SAR supplier, Compatriots have worked with several companies for uniforms and period dress. You can find a list of suppliers on the Texas Society website. Find links to several suppliers at <https://www.txssar.org/suppliers.htm>.

## This Month in the American Revolution

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McDougall wrote, "The hill which Putnam is fortifying is the most commanding and important of any that we now attend to ... the eastern most face of this works must be constructed as to command the plain." The fort was located near the Military Academy's current Cadet Chapel.

When the British retired from Philadelphia in the spring of 1778, Gen. Benedict Arnold was given command of the city. In his attempt to control the produce and the populace, he made a few enemies. It was there that it is believed that he laid the foundation for more lucrative ground where his efforts might be better appreciated. In 1780, Arnold requested Washington to post him as commander of West Point. On August 3, he assumed command of the defensive site. He was tasked to repair the forts on the complex. One of Stu Hoyt's Patriot Ancestors walked from Massachusetts to West Point, in June 1780, to enlist for six months. He was there during the Arnold caper. Arnold never did much to restore the complex and the next time it was updated was 1794. It fell into disrepair until the site was designated as the location for the US Military Academy in 1802. 🇺🇸

### The Show Must Go On!

By Stu Hoyt

When the Declaration of Independence was finished on July 4, 1776, it was noted that this would become a day of celebration. Little did the Founders know that there would be years that would alter that celebration. Little did we know that 2020 would be one of those years with a pandemic haunting every gathering.

Each year the city of Wimberley, Texas, has a three-day rodeo with fireworks and parade as part of its Fourth of July celebration. It would not be this year because of the restrictions imposed on social distancing. The Wimberley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post (VFW) sponsors these events each year and could not let this year's celebration go by unnoticed. They teamed up with the Texas SAR Color Guard to perform an all services flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in the morning.

The top of a hill, on the southwest side of the town, had been leveled a few years ago and flag poles were mounted around a large green with the US flag in the center. The flags of all the Services were placed at half-staff for the start of the ceremony. The Texas SAR Color Guard led off by circling the green, with the Betsy Ross Flag, stopping at the American flagpole.

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Pictured are members of the Texas Society Color Guard: Left to right are Rowan Carlisle (drummer), Ron Moulton (played taps), and Casey Cotton (Patrick Henry Chapter), Stu Hoyt (William Hightower Chapter), Fred Duncan and Jim Clements (Patrick Henry Chapter), Jason Bourgeois (San Antonio Chapter), Jim Horton and Robert Hites (Patrick Henry Chapter)

### Texas SAR Color Guard Posts Colors for Virtual Convention

By Stu Hoyt

The Texas Society Convention was delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions on the size of group meetings. It was rescheduled for July 30 to August 2 in The Woodlands, outside Houston. As the Governor attempted to relax restrictions, the number of cases started skyrocketing. Restrictions were again imposed preventing a live convention. A "virtual" meeting was planned for August 8 with most committee meeting to be held via "Zoom" the week prior.

The Texas SAR Color Guard was asked to record a three-minute Posting and Retrieving of the Colors for the virtual conference. Color Guard members from the Austin area met at the Texas State Cemetery on the morning of July 22 to record this event to include our musician, Ron Moulton with drum accompaniment and Taps. In a group photo from left to right are Wayne Courreges, Ed Schoenfelt II, Casey Cotton, and Jim Clements (all of Patrick Henry Chapter); Blair Rudy (Incoming State Color Guard Commander of the William Hightower Chapter); Ron Moulton, Musician; and Robert Hites (Patrick Henry); Stu Hoyt (William Hightower Chapter); Shiidon Hawley (Patrick Henry); Jason Bourgeois (San Antonio); and Fred Duncan (Patrick Henry). Fred's with Judy, who helped with videoing of the event. 🇺🇸



## The Show Must Go On!

Continued from page 5

The National Anthem played, followed by the Texas State Song and each military service anthem was projected over the speakers. The Texas SAR Color Guard assisted the VFW members in raising the flags to full staff. The Post Commander gave a short talk on the significance of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. The crowd was smaller this year due to the pandemic, but the ceremony remained significant and poignant. The celebration continued that evening at the VFW Post with three days of fireworks being shot off in one evening. What a BANG! 🇺🇸

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### Washington's Rules of Civility

#### Rule #53

Run not in the Streets, neither go t[oo s]lowly nor wit[h] Mouth open go not Shaking y[ou]r Arms [kick not the earth with yr feet, go] not upon the Toes, nor in a Dancing [fashion].

## William Hightower Chapter Going Virtual

By Kris Krueger

With the ongoing precautions to COVID-19, the William Hightower Chapter is going virtual! The Chapter will be conducting its first virtual meeting using Zoom on September 10, at 6:30 p.m.

In August, the Texas Society conducted its convention using Zoom. Several Compatriots commented on their ability to use Zoom with the Society's Convention. The positive feedback helped us decide to give Zoom a try.

Our virtual meeting with Zoom will include everything we do in traditional meetings. In fact, wear your American Revolution uniform or period attire.

Zoom will offer the ability for us to talk to each other and see each other. We will be able to show presentations that everyone will see from the comfort of their own computer (or tablet, or even smart phone) at home.

The Chapter will be offering Compatriots a chance to test Zoom before our meeting. See the Zoom supplement included with this month's newsletter for more information. If you already have a Zoom account you can access our meeting at this [link](#) on September 10 at 6:30 p.m. 🇺🇸

## Celebrating America's Independence

by Kris Krueger

The COVID-19 pandemic made for a unique Independence Day. Gone this year were parades, fireworks, concerts, and the dozens of other American traditions across the country enjoy. Community events were replaced by family events this Fourth of July. With our own annual tradition of the New Braunfels Independence Day Parade cancelled, we asked our compatriots what they were planning this year, or if they had any great memories to share from past holidays.

Compatriot Will Moravits and his family celebrated independence with barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs. Swimming and family time rounded out the day. And of course, Will made sure he flew our National Flag and wore a Betsy Ross Flag t-shirt.

Compatriot Don Chandler made his celebration a day of family and respect. Remembering celebrations past, Don said, "crepe paper, red, white & blue hung anywhere the kids wanted! We loved to see multiple sizes of flags blowing in the air to remind us why we celebrate this day." Of course, there were fireworks in those great celebrations, topped off "with a couple freezers of homemade ice cream." Don has fond memories of "singing any patriotic songs that came to mind as the evening was ending! Last song of the day was God Bless America! Such good memories remembering how blessed we are to be Americans. May our Flags still stand!"



Chapter President Tom Jones did not let prevention measures for COVID-19 slow him down this year. Tom's home is on a corner lot at the major entrance to his neighborhood. He took advantage of the opportunity to share his patriotism with the neighbors. I set up a small display and was there for 3 hours," Tom said. "I estimate that over 100 cars drive by my house ever hour." Tom wore colonial attire in honor of a Patriot Ancestor that served as an Ensign in the 8th Pennsylvania Line, where he fought in New Jersey and wintered at Valley Forge. His Ancestor also saw service in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Tom found he was "well received by drivers and passengers as they waved and tooted their car horns. Many people stopped to take a picture and talk to me."

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Chapter President Tom Jones at his Independence Day display.



**William Hightower Chapter Visits Cub Scouts on Memorial Day**

By Kris Krueger

This year's Memorial Day was another holiday impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. For one group of Cub Scouts, cancelled ceremonies became a chance for a lesson in the American Revolution, patriotism, and the sacrifice our Patriot Ancestors made to build the world's beacon of democracy.

On May 25, Cub Scout Pack 109's Den 2 in Lockhart got a visit from the William Hightower Chapter. Chapter Historian and Past President Stu Hoyt spoke to the Scouts and their families about the American Revolution and patriotism. The Scouts had a chance to see the tools used to win the war in a table display.

The Scouts had plenty of questions and Stu had plenty of answers. 🌟



Stu Hoyt with Cub Scouts and family from Den 2, Pack 109

**Celebrating America's Independence**

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Past President Steve Polk provided what may be one of the best views of Independence Day 2020. The photo below shows how he celebrated the Fourth of July in Gruene.



For me, it was a relatively quiet Fourth of July. It was a day of US Flags, food with family, and fireworks on television replacing the city display. It was also an opportunity to break from the usual hustle of uniforms, parades, and speeches. The opportunity this year was to take some time and remember the sacrifices made that we may have a Fourth of July to celebrate; and, to remember it was not just our Patriot Ancestors that make each Independence Day. Each generation chooses to ensure there are Independence Days to celebrate for generations to come. 🌟

*Happy Birthday to our Compatriots and our Patriot Ancestors*

**Happy Birthday, Compatriots!**

**Remembering our Patriot Ancestors**

- Cyde Parsons, Jr., September 4
- Harold Storer III, September 5
- Raymond Sanford, September 15
- Ed Blauvelt, September 20

- Samuel Johnson, Ancestor of Richard Johnson, born September 12, 1739
- Thomas Boyd, Ancestor of Charles Motz, IV, born September 14, 1734
- Frederick Blauvelt, Ancestor of Ed and Evan Blauvelt, born September 16, 1764
- Stephen Hoyt, Ancestor of Stu Hoyt and Raymond Sanford, born September 23, 1746
- Pierre Firmin Breaux, Ancestor of Michael Mark, Sr. and , Jr., born September 29, 1749

## The Star Spangled Banner on YouTube

By Kris Krueger

Compatriot Stan Spraitzer shared a YouTube video about the creation of the Star Spangled Banner. It is an inspiring video that I encourage everyone to visit. You can find the video at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/YaxGNQE5ZLA>

Francis Scott Key wrote the poem after observing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on September 13-14, 1814.

Today, the flag that inspired Key to write those words still exists. It is on display at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

The flag was commissioned by Major George Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry. The contract went to flag maker Mary Pickersgill of Baltimore, Maryland. It was made in July-August 1813. The flag we know as the Star Spangled Banner was a 30 foot by 42 foot garrison flag. The contract also included a smaller storm flag. Both flags contained 15 stars and 15 stripes as called for by federal law at the time. Pickersgill spent between six and eight weeks making the flags, and they were delivered to Fort McHenry on August 19, 1813. The government paid \$405.90 for the garrison flag and \$168.54 for the storm flag, equivalent to \$6,573.07 and \$2,729.31 in 2020.

The 25-hour bombardment of the Fort McHenry began on September 13, 1814, as part of the Battle of Baltimore. Due to the weather, the smaller storm flag was used during most of the bombardment. Major Armistead ordered the larger garrison flag raised at dawn on September 14 to show the British the garrison stood after the nonstop shelling. This is the flag Francis Scott Key saw that inspired him to write his poem.

Military engineers had figured out that sloping walls made of earthworks prevented cannon ball damage, protecting the garrison inside. Using cannon to break through defensive walls became futile. Fort McHenry had been built with this defensive strategy against cannon. To overcome this defensive innovation, rockets and mortars were used as siege weapons. They could be launched over fortifications, instead of through them, to then explode inside or above the walls to inflict as much damage to men and material as possible. When Francis Scott Key saw the rockets' red glare and the bombs bursting in air, he saw the British attempting to break the American garrison's will to hold and fight, not the British trying to break through the walls of Fort McHenry.

Fort McHenry held. The British withdrew on September 14, many with a new respect for American resolve. This battle helped turn the tide of the war and a treaty was signed 3 months later.

Thirty feet by 34 feet of the Star Spangled Banner survives today. It was first preserved by the Armistead family. It was first loaned to the Smithsonian in 1907. The flag became a permanent gift in 1912 and has been on permanent display since 1964.

Stan, thanks for sharing this amazing video with us. 🇺🇸



By Dawn's Early Light  
by Edward Percy Moran, ca. 1912

## The Battle of Medina Remembered

by Blair Rudy

On August 17, 1813, the makeshift Republican Army of the North continued its Gutiérrez–Magee Expedition, made up of Americans, Mexicans, Tejanos, former slaves, and even some Europeans led by Mexican and American officers, encamped about 20 miles Southeast of San Antonio. They were fresh from successful battles at Nacogdoches and Goliad. They were about to engage the Royal Spanish Army outside of San Antonio. Europe and the Americas were at war. Mexico was rebelling against the Kingdom of Spain to end Spanish tyrannical colonization.

On the morning of August 18, the expeditionary forces became anxious and gave away their position. The Royal Spanish Army took advantage of the situation and began a rampage that went back through San Antonio almost to Louisiana. Fewer than 100 of the Republican Army of the North's 1,400 men survived. It was the bloodiest recorded battle on Texas soil. Interesting enough, Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana was a Royal Spanish Army lieutenant in that butchering.

What does this have to do with the American Revolution? At least one of those slaughtered was a Patriot of the American Revolution named Peter Sides. The field remained untouched until 1822, when the first Texas Governor of the new Republic of Mexico ordered the bones buried. The only notation was that they were buried under a large oak tree. Researchers have narrowed the location of the battlefield to a point and the largest oak in the area has been marked with a plaque.

In the year 2000, Compatriot Tom Green, then of the William Hightower Chapter, read about this battle and started a celebration to commemorate the Battle of Medina. This is the 20th year to recognize that battle. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the celebration was officially cancelled.

On Saturday, August 22, 2020, a few family members and members of the Texas SAR Color Guard commemorated the occasion with a short ceremony and a wreath laying. The ceremony concluded with a musket salute just in time to beat a fierce thunderstorm that blew through the area.



TX SAR Color Guard members presenting the colors were from left to right: John K. Thompson of the Freedom Chapter, Frank Rohrbaugh and Jason Bourgeois of the San Antonio Chapter and Texas SAR Color Guard Commander Blair Rudy of the William Hightower Chapter. Not pictured because he was taking the pictures is David Hamaker, also of the Freedom Chapter, and fourth generation grandson of Peter Sides. 🇺🇸

