



# The Hightower Recorder

Newsletter of the William Hightower Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution



May 2020

2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award Winner

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## Coming Soon...

- May 25: Memorial Day, Austin State Cemetery
- July 4: Fourth of July Parade New Braunfels
- July 4: Color Guard at Dell Diamond, Round Rock
- July 30-Aug. 2: Texas Society Meeting, The Woodlands
- Aug. 14: Battle of Medina, San Antonio
- Sept. 10: Chapter Meeting, New Braunfels

## This Month in the American Revolution

### Comte de Rochambeau and George Washington meet in Connecticut, May 1781

By Stu Hoyt, Chapter Historian

New York City became a fortress for the British Army and a thorn in the side of General George Washington. When Washington chased the British Army out of Boston, he knew that they would target New York City next. He sent General Charles Lee to survey the land for fortifications and report back to him. He reported back that the British Navy could get close to any land fortifications and destroy them thus New York City was indefensible. The British Army had no problem chasing Washington's Army all the way out of New York and New Jersey.



Painting by David R. Wagner

In February 1778, the French signed a treaty of alliance with the American Colonies, which was ratified by the Continental Congress in May of that year. France's first attempt to remove the British from the city failed because their ships could not navigate the shallow waters with their deep draft boats. They settled for Rhone Island. In Sept of 1780, Washington made an agreement with French Gen. Rochambeau to meet in Hartford, CT, to discuss plans for taking New York City.

This meeting had mixed results because they could only agree to disagree on a successful plan to take New York City without the support of the French Navy, which was fighting elsewhere at the time. Washington planned to visit West Point on his return trip to see how General Benedict Arnold was doing with Washington's plan to strengthen the fortifications of West Point. He had hoped to join Arnold and his new wife for breakfast, but Arnold was nowhere to be found when he arrived. Shortly after, Major John Andres was found with plans of West Point on his person and all attempts to return Benedict Arnold to be tried for treason failed.

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## Chapter Compatriot Joins his Patriot Ancestor in Eternal Peace

By Tom Jones, Chapter President

It is with great regret that our Chapter has lost Compatriot Jerry Koch on December 4, 2019. Jerry was just inducted into our Society on October 10, 2019. He lived with his wife, Linda, in Gatesville, Texas. Chapter President Tom Jones talked to her and expressed our Chapter's sympathy. Also, Chaplain Don Chandler has sent the Koch family a condolence card on behalf of the Chapter. Linda was with Jerry at his induction. She relayed to President Jones how very grateful Jerry was to be a member of our Society so he could honor his Patriot Ancestor.

Cliff Caskey, Grave Marker Committee Chair, is making the arrangements with Linda to honor Jerry with a Society Grave Marker. It would be appropriate for the Chapter to have a ceremony at the grave site when the Grave Marker is presented. It will be in Gatesville. No date has been determined at this time. Anyone who would like to represent the Chapter in this ceremony please contact our Color Guard Committee Chairman, Blair Rudy. Blair's phone number is (214) 505-1452. May Jerry rest in Peace. ❄️

### *Message from Chapter President Tom Jones*

Well, the second month has gone by without a Chapter meeting. Our next meeting, hopefully, will be in September.

It looks like the July 4 parade is still in jeopardy. Don't really know. Patrick is following it for us.

Unfortunately, we could not overcome all the obstacles to have our very small Chapter's Memorial Day display at the bandstand at the square in New Braunfels to help in some way to compensate for all the canceled major Memorial Day Ceremonies. I want to thank those who volunteered to attend.

We must remember that Memorial Day is a day to honor all military personnel who gave the "Ultimate Sacrifice" to safeguard our liberties.

Do not confuse Memorial Day with Veterans Day. The vast majority of the individuals we pay homage to on Memorial Day never got to hear themselves called "Veterans". They died from wounds suffered on the battlefield, on the sea and in the air; in concentration camps; in hospitals and at their homes. We also must remember those classified as "Missing in Action." The majority of them probably did not survive and never had a military funeral with all the military honors or burial in a military, or any other, cemetery in our nation.

It is my desire that next year our Chapter will be involved in a Memorial Day Ceremony. We all know that it is our "obligation" to our Patriots to not forget their sacrifice.

In the Benediction that I gave at our State Ceremony in Austin, I prayed for our approximately 25,000 Patriots that lost their lives especially those 8,000 who died in the British floating boat jails under terrible circumstances. See Stu and my article for more on the ceremony.

Tom



## This Month in the American Revolution

Continued from page 1

Washington scheduled a second meeting with The Comte de Rochambeau in May of 1781, this time at the small town of Wethersfield, CT, just south of Hartford. The meeting would take place on 21-22 May. Washington believed that he had a plan that would work. They would meet in Westchester County, NY, just north of the city to prepare a siege. Rochambeau arrived at the appointed place with 5,500 soldiers and officers to find Washington with an army of 6,500. They just needed to await the arrival of the French Navy to complete the siege. In a reconnaissance in force from 21-23 July, Washington determined that his force was too small for a siege.

In Mid-August, they received news that Admiral Comte de Grasse was rerouting his navy to the coast of Virginia. Now Washington would have to delay his plan to take New York City and move a large army under the noses of the British Army, without being detected. Forces were in motion to position British General Cornwallis to a small Virginia coastal town called Yorktown. The trap was being set. 🌀

### Honoring Memorial Day at a Time of Social Distance

By Stu Hoyt and Tom Jones

Compatriots Tom Jones, Stu Hoyt and Jim Clements were set to be a part of the Texas State Cemetery's Memorial Day ceremony. Each year the combined Austin SAR and DAR chapters come together to perform a memorial service for fallen veterans reaching all the way back to the American Revolution. The ceremony had been scheduled for Monday, May 25, but is cancelled in response to social distancing requirements.

This year the chapters will carry on the ceremony through a video presentation, taping segments to produce a Memorial Day video for release to the public. The DAR agreed to do the filming and editing and the SAR to schedule the different segments to video.



The ceremony includes the reading of names of those who died in 2019 followed by the ceremonial ringing of a bell. Eulogies of Patriots buried at this cemetery are read. Chapter presidents provide a message. The ceremony ends with a musket salute and a benediction.

Participants filmed segments on May 11. Chapter President Tom Jones gave the benediction for the ceremony.

Pictured are Tom Jones, Chapter President, and Jim Clements, Secretary of the TXSSAR and Past President of the Patrick Henry Chapter, standing with the Betsy Ross Flag as Tom delivers the benediction.

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### The Revolution Never Ends... Memorial Day 2020

By Kris Krueger, Editor

While Americans have always taken time to remember their fallen, Memorial Day has been an official National Holiday only since 1971. Growing out of both Federal and Confederate traditions to remember their fallen Civil War soldiers, Memorial Day became an American holiday to remember all those who have fallen in the service of our country across all wars.

Memorial Day remembrances include gatherings and speeches, parades, and a hundred other ways we come together as a nation. But not this year. Memorial Day 2020 is going to be in quarantine. Even though the parades are cancelled, the speeches are no longer public, and the face mask is the uniform of the day, we still owe a day of remembrance not just to those who fell for our freedoms in the past. We owe Memorial Day to the generations coming.

Memorial Day is just as much about our children and our grandchildren as it is about our ancestors. Memorial Day is the day we teach future generations that freedom is not free. Every generation since our Patriot Ancestors has had to confront the cost of freedom and pay the bill. And each Memorial Day, we instill the value of that payment in future generations.

This Memorial Day, though we may not be able to come together, we can still remember our past and remind our future. On Memorial Day, take the time to remember those who cannot be with us, but also take an extra minute to share the meaning of Memorial Day with those at home. Though it may look a little different without the crowds, the remembrance should always be the same. 🌀

## Honoring Memorial Day

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Tom said, "There was no audience in the [Texas State] Cemetery, only the producer, a video technician and my daughter who drove me there. The other participants will be separately videoed, like we were."

Tom took a minute to speak about his participation in the ceremony. "In my prayer, in addition to honoring all our military veterans who died in numerous battles, I especially mentioned the Revolutionary War Patriots that died in the prison boats in the Hudson River, New York City. Eight thousand Patriots died on those boats as a result of mistreatment, malnutrition and sickness. The British did not consider our Patriots as soldiers but as traitors, so they did not apply the 'rules of war' to them," he said.

The Texas State Cemetery is the final resting place of two American Revolution veterans: Robert Rankin and Stephen Williams. Both served in the American Revolution and the Texas Revolution. Stephen also served in the War of 1812. These are 2 of 59 currently known patriots buried in Texas. 🇺🇸

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## Washington's Rules of Civility

### Rule #5

If you cough, sneeze, sigh, or yawn, do it not loud but privately; and speak not in your yawning, but put your handkerchief or hand before your face and turn aside.

## Stu Hoyt Completes Years of Service as *Hightower Recorder* Editor

By Kris Krueger, Editor

As the incoming Editor of the *Hightower Recorder*, I took the chance to talk to Stu about his years editing our newsletter. I was excited to pick up any advice and insight Stu was willing to provide.

Stu began working with the newsletter writing history articles for then-editor Milynn Tate, who also happens to be Stu's sister-in-law. Stu based his history articles on what was happening in the Revolutionary War the same month as the newsletter. After finding a topic, Stu would research his articles through the internet and his own personal collection of books about the American Revolution. He even tracked down a Compatriot in California who had authored a calendar for the SAR. With the Compatriot's permission, Stu used the calendar research in newsletter articles.

In 2017, Milynn went to Stu to tell him she would have to step down from the newsletter. "When no one jumped up and volunteered, I started looking for ways to produce a newsletter," Stu remembers.

Milynn also recommended the newsletter should have a name and recommended a contest. Compatriot Jerry Bullock offered a name and the Chapter voted in the *Hightower Recorder*.

"I am not technically inclined so I looked for something that was not overwhelming. By trial and error, I started to format the newsletter. I was looking for a way to highlight key items and used the remaining space with interesting fillers," Stu said.

Those key items and interesting fillers have become mainstays for Compatriots. They include current events, Chapter meeting news, updates on fellow Compatriots and, of course, quotes from Washington's "Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior" and Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanac."

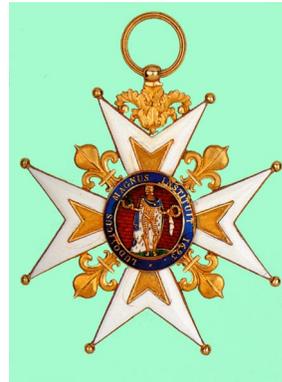
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## Know Your Sons of the American Revolution The Member Badge

By Kris Krueger

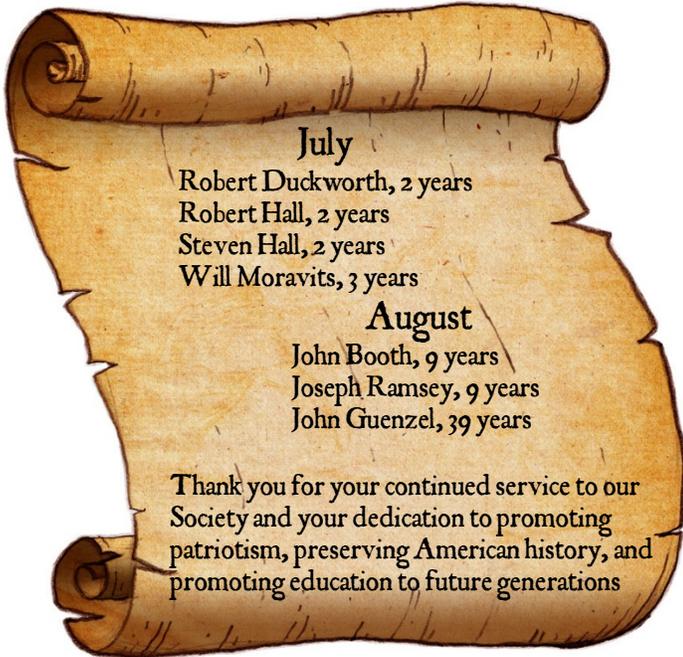
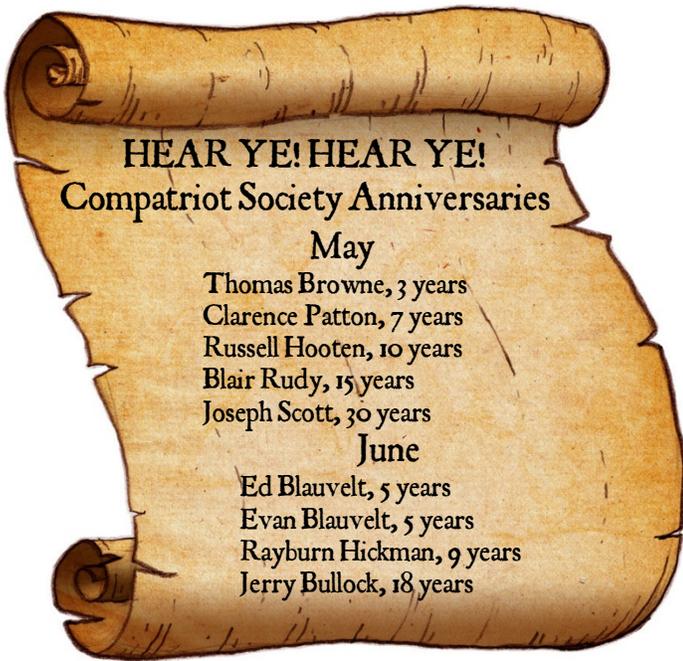
Our Society was founded in April 1889. Only a few short months later, in December of that same year, our member badge was approved. "The insignia was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President of the Alabama SAR. Its source is the cross of the ancient chivalric Order of St. Louis, founded by Luis XIV in 1693." (NSSAR website)

The Order of St. Louis was unique in its time. Nobility was not a requirement to be inducted. The Order of St. Louis was limited to commissioned officers of the Army and Navy who were of Catholic faith. While selection to the order conferred nobility, the Order was seen as fairly egalitarian for its time due to its focus on meritorious service over noble birth. An equivalent award for Protestant officers was created later. By the time of the American Revolution, both awards would be well known in the Continental Army as indicators of military merit and long service with several awarded to French officers fighting alongside our patriots.



Order of St. Louis  
Medal

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### Committee Spotlight

With more than a dozen working committees within the William Hightower Chapter, it is hard to know where to help. This section of the *Hightower Recorder* is dedicated to helping Compatriots find a home to volunteer with. Each issue will spotlight at least one committee for you to learn about.

### Awards Committee

By Kris Krueger, Committee Chair

The Awards Committee promotes patriotism, preserves American history, and promotes education through the Society's award systems. The National and Texas Societies have robust programs with over 75 awards available between them for Compatriots and non-members. The committee identifies award recipients and solicits nominations from the Chapter. It reviews award nominations for the Chapter and for submission to the Texas and National Societies.

While a number of awards are made by the Chapter, there are also awards the Chapter can recommend to the Texas Society and the National Society. The Awards Committee recommends our Compatriots for these awards and helps prepare the nomination to submit. The SAR has a number of awards for Compatriot service outside the Society. The Awards Committee also helps identify these Compatriots for recognition.

The Committee is chaired by the Chapter Secretary. It assists the Chapter President and Secretary ensure every Compatriot receives recognition for his service in meeting the mission of the SAR. If helping recognize our Compatriots for their hard work is something you would be interested in, please contact Committee Chair Kris Krueger at [krisk96@gmail.com](mailto:krisk96@gmail.com). 🌟

### Stu's Years of Service as Editor

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When questioned about all the pictures he is able to get into each issue, Stu said, "pictures and articles came easy because I was heavily involved in state activities and had my camera available for photos."

With Stu as the Editor, the Hightower Recorder has seen much success. It has been recognized by the Texas Society each year he served as editor and won the 2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award for its category. If you ask Stu, he will tell you the newsletter still has opportunity for improvement.

Fortunately for us, Stu will be staying on writing our history articles and the occasional guest piece. I cannot promise the number of road trips Stu has made over the years to get those photos, but I will try to keep up with the standard he set for interesting features, articles, and even some of those fillers. The William Hightower Chapter joins me in congratulating Stu Hoyt on all his great successes with the *Hightower Recorder* and knows he will continue to be one of its great contributors. 🌟

## Member Badge

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During the French Revolution, the award was stripped of its association with royalty and initially kept as the "military decoration." The military decoration was dropped a little more than a year later. When Napoleon came to power, he sought a system to reward both military and civilian service. One of the awards he adopted was the Legion of Honour. The medal borrowed heavily from the Order of St. Louis, including in the red ribbon and similarity in the design of the cross. The Legion of Honour became known for merit across France regardless of class.

When it was time for the Sons of the American Revolution to design an emblem to recognize their membership, they looked for something that embodied both the spirit and reality of what it took to win our freedom. Our member badge does just that.

France was our most fervent ally and top supporter. She provided money, supplies, troops, and ships to get us to victory. The design borrowed from the Order of St. Louis pays homage to that alliance. The replacement for the Order of St. Louis, the Legion of Honour, also provided inspiration. The laurel wreath and the overall size of the badge both come from the Legion of Honour.



SAR  
Member  
Badge

Other symbols in the badge recognize our patriots. The center medallion includes the bust of George Washington and the SAR motto. The laurel wreath symbolizes republican victory. The colors of the ribbon are taken from General Washington's uniform: blue, white, and buff. The cross is suspended from an American Eagle. The reverse, or back, of the badge includes the image of a minuteman surrounded by the name of our Society.

When put together, the symbols contained in our member badge tell the story of how our nation gained its independence. It recognizes heroes and allies, ideals and the realities of what our patriot ancestors went through to make that victory possible. 🌟

### Sources:

National Society Sons of the American Revolution. Official Handbook, Volume IV: Insignia, Protocol & Rituals. September 28, 2018

National Society Sons of the American Revolution. "About the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution." [www.sar.org/sar-missions-and-goals/](http://www.sar.org/sar-missions-and-goals/)

# Happy Birthday to our Compatriots and our Patriot Ancestors

## Happy Birthday, Compatriots!

### May

John Wommack, May 12  
Curtis Trull, May 14

James Lanning, May 29  
Rodney Young, May 31

### June

Robert Duckworth, June 1  
Jerry Bullock, June 2  
Blair Rudy, June 5  
Alan Cook, June 7

Richard Johnson, June 9  
Cliff Caskey, June 17  
Will Moravits, June 23

### July

Jason Nelson, July 1  
James Shaw, July 1  
Steven Griffin, July 7

Steven Hall, July 14  
Stu Hoyt, July 23  
Joseph Ramsay, July 27

### August

Robert Howard, August 5  
Richard B. Robinett, August 6  
Chance Farmer, August 15

Dr. Chris Baker, August 27  
Allen Chandler, August 31

## Remembering our Patriot Ancestors!

### May

William Storer, Ancestor of Harold Storer Jr. & III, born May 11, 1765

### June

Ann Lenoir Westmoreland, Ancestor of Michael Pryor, born June 28, 1731  
Mary Marshall Tabb, Ancestor of John Hall, born June 12, 1737  
Daniel Troxell, Ancestor of Robert and Steven Hall, born June 1753  
Michael McGee, Ancestor of Clarence Patton, born June 17, 1759

### July

James Richey, Ancestor of Don & Thomas Richey, born July 25, 1724  
John Whisenant, Ancestor of Kris Krueger, born July 31, 1743

### August

James Small, Ancestor of Thomas Browne, born August 4, 1734  
John Young, Ancestor of Rodney Young, born August 22, 1760

## Upcoming Summer Events

As this edition of the *Hightower Recorder* is being published, we do not know how the summer is going to move forward. The nation continues to respond to the COVID-19 crisis through social distancing, quarantines, and staying home. Right now, the William Hightower Chapter will continue to work with our local communities.

### Independence Day Parade in New Braunfels

The William Hightower Chapter participates every year in the parade with a float and plenty of Compatriot participation. We are watching closely and keeping in contact with our Downtown New Braunfels friends to stay up to date on the parade. We will be in regular communication with you as we learn more about the parade. The best we know right now is be prepared to be there. After all, it is better to be prepared and able to participate than to miss this great event! 🇺🇸



Our float from the Independence Day Parade 2019

### Battle of Medina

The Battle of Medina took place at what is today San Antonio on August 18, 1813. It was an early attempt of Mexico to free itself from Spain. Spain won the day, defeating the fledgling "Republican Army of the North." By the end of the battle, less than 100 of the 1,400 Republican soldiers survived. Fifty-five Spanish soldiers were killed. This remains the deadliest battle in Texas history. Of course, the William Hightower Chapter's participation is not just because this is a unique piece of Texas history, but because among the Republican Army were sons of American Revolution Patriots and at least one American Revolution veteran, Peter Sides (or Seitz), who did not survive the battle.



William Hightower Compatriots participate at the 2019 Battle of Medina Commemoration

Each August, the battle is commemorated in San Antonio. We do not know if this remembrance will be another victim of COVID-19. The William Hightower Chapter will continue communicating with the organizers and pass on the information to our Compatriots. 🇺🇸

### 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>.

### Texas Society Annual Meeting Postponed to July 30 to August 2

Texas Society's 125th Annual Convention scheduled for March 26-29 was postponed due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The convention is now scheduled for July 30-August 2. It is still scheduled at the Westin Hotel in The Woodlands. The expectation is Texas and the nation will be moving past the COVID-19 crisis by the time of the convention. We will keep everyone up to date of any changes in the plan. The convention is a great opportunity to visit with Compatriots from across the state. If you are interested in attending, please contact Chapter President Tom Jones for details at [tomandbet@aol.com](mailto:tomandbet@aol.com). 🇺🇸