



**Cradle of Texas Crier**  
 Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
 Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 19, Number 1                      January, 2015                      Michael J. Bailey, Editor

**January**

**Next Meeting**  
**JANUARY 09, 2016**  
 11:30 A. M.

**Fat Grass Restaurant**  
 1717 Seventh Street  
 Bay City, TX 77414

**Program**  
*Ben Pfeiffer*  
**Education Specialist**  
**Texas Historical Commission**



**LEVI JORDAN PLANTATION**  
**STATE HISTORIC SITE**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
 Sons of the American Revolution  
 Cradle of Texas Chapter #33  
 December 12, 2015

President Michael Bailey called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. at Brian's Barbeque, 151 Commerce Street, Clute, Texas. After posting the colors,

Ray Beall led the chapter in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas and SAR Pledges.

Chaplin George Easterling gave the blessing for our meal.

President Bailey informed the Chapter that George Easterling's birthday was today and everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday to George.

Winston Avera introduced our speaker, Bob Arnold of Friendswood.

President Michael Bailey called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Winston Avera moved to accept them as written and Russell Dart seconded it. The motion carried.

President Bailey handed out Arthur Evans' Treasurer's report for November. Russel Dart moved to approve it and Winston Avera seconded the motion which carried.

<b>General Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance	
11/1/2015	\$4,421.05
Deposits	\$0.00
Expenditures	\$0.00
Ending Balance	
11/30/2015	\$4,421.05
McAlexander Fund	\$883.00
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$5,304.05</b>

### Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee Chairman George Easterling presented the following nominations for 2016 officers:

- President - Winston Avera
- Vice-President- Michael Bailey
- Secretary - Ray Beall
- Registrar - Bill Sanders, Sr.
- Treasurer - Arthur Evans
- Color Guard Captain  
- Frank Seidule
- Chaplain - Ted Bates

President Bailey asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Bailey asked if there was a motion to elect the nominees by acclamation. Tillman Daniel made the motion, Russell Dart seconded it, and the motion carried.

Registrar Bill Sanders:

- Ray Beall's application has been reviewed and accepted by NSSAR.
- Douglas Rhodenbaugh's application should be the next one approved.

### Program:



Pres. M. Bailey Presents Bob Arnold a Certificate of Appreciation.

Speaker Bob Arnold grew up in Mount Pleasant, Texas and graduated Texas

Tech University with a degree in chemistry in 1965. Bob served as an Army Signal Corps officer and afterward was employed by Union Carbide Corporation for 35 years. After retirement in 2002, Bob spent several years researching and writing *First in Texas*, a book about three of Bob's Texas ancestors

Josiah Bell, a member of Austin's Old 300, (1791-1838) was the founder of East and West Columbia, Texas. His father died when he was five and at age eleven was apprenticed to two uncles in the hat business in Tennessee. Following his apprenticeship he moved to Missouri Territory where he became justice of the peace of Bellevue Township in 1813 and served in the Indian wars of the War of 1812. In 1818 he sold his farm in Missouri and on December 1st married Mary Eveline McKenzie of Kentucky with whom he had eight children. Bell's son, Thaddeus C. Bell, was the second Anglo child born in Austin's colony. After a period in Natchitoches, Louisiana, Bell came to Texas with Austin in 1821. He settled on New Year Creek, near old Washington. There he served as *síndico procurador* (public prosecutor) in 1821 and alcalde (mayor) in 1822. From 1822 until August of 1823, when Austin was in Mexico, Bell took charge of Austin's colony. Bell's land grant was on the west side of the lower Brazos. Bell moved to what became known as Bell's Creek in January 1824, was made a militia lieutenant the same year, and was joined by his family in the fall. By 1829 the community known as Bell's Landing or Marion became an important inland port which grew up around the landing

he constructed. He built the area's first hotel in 1832, constructed a school, and provided garden plots for new residents.<sup>1</sup>

James Hall Bell, son of Josiah and Mary Bell, (1825–1892) was born at Bell's Landing (now East Columbia) on January 2, 1825. He first entered St. Joseph's College at Bardstown, Kentucky, followed by Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, and later Harvard University. When he returned to Texas he served under Alexander Somervell in repelling the Mexican invasions of 1842. In 1847 he practiced law in Brazoria. From 1852 to 1856 Bell was district judge and from August 1858 to August 1864 he served as associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court. He was Secretary of State under A. J. Hamilton from August 7, 1865, to August 17, 1866. After Reconstruction, Bell engaged in mining in Mexico. He died in Austin, Texas, on March 13, 1892.<sup>2</sup>

Robert M. "Red" Arnold, Bob's father, was born near Longview in 1915 and raised on the family farm. After graduating high school, he spent four years in the Marines, then applied to be a Texas Highway Patrolman in 1938. When WWII began, Red Arnold rejoined the Marines and served in the Pacific Theater. There he was wounded in the assault on Pelieu and was one of only three in his unit that survived. In 1945 he was discharged in California, returned to his family in Texas, and rejoined the Texas Highway patrol. In 1954, Officer Arnold was promoted to the Texas Rangers where we were later

inducted into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. Ranger Red Arnold passed away in 1979.<sup>2</sup>

President Bailey presented the following Membership Service Certificates:

- **Five Years** – John D., John H., and Kinnan J. Stockton; Matthew D. and Michael L. VanGorp
- **Ten Years** – Johnnie R. and Jordan L. Gresham; Timothy E. Hall
- **Fifteen Years** – Russell M. Dart, George O. Franklin, John E. Liles, Robert A. Seidule, Jeffrey D. Smith
- **Twenty-Five Years** – Byron L. Novasad, Garland S. Novasad

#### Upcoming Events:

- El Campo cemetery, laying of wreaths. DAR will have ceremonies in Wharton and East Bernard.
- Brazoria Museum will have an Old Train exhibit.
- December 26<sup>th</sup> – Stephen F. Austin funeral re-enactment beginning in West Columbia and ending at Gulf Prairie Cemetery in Jones Creek
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – 119<sup>th</sup> Annual George Washington Parade in Laredo

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by George Easterling, second by Charles Bernard.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from *The Handbook on Texas* Online

<sup>2</sup> Excerpts from the *Texas Ranger Dispatch*, "A Legend In His Own Time: R.M. 'Red' Arnold, part 2, Bob Arnold, Issue 9, Winter 2002

Michael Bailey led the SAR recessional and retirement of the colors.

George Easterling gave the benediction.

**Members Present** – Ted Bates, George Easterling, Ray Beall, Thomas Mayerle, Bill Sanders, Michael Bailey, Arnold Seidule, Doc Rice, Russell Dart, Tillman Daniel, Charles Bernard, and Winston Avera.

**Guests Present** –Connie Avera, Joan Bates, Sue Dart, Bob Arnold, John H. Minkert, Judy Bernard, Pat Sanders, Alice Royalty, Max Royalty, Freda Daniel, Caroline Wiggins, and Carl Wiggins.

### Next Meeting

JANUARY 09, 2016

11:30 A. M.

Fat Grass Restaurant

1717 Seventh Street

Bay City, TX 77414

1-979-24GRASS

(1-979-244-7277)

<http://www.thefatgrass.com>



### 2015 Officers of the Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

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