



February

February Program

Joe "Doc" Allen Rice will present...

Noah Smithwick's
*"Evolution of a State
or Recollections of Old Texas Days,"*



Noah Smithwick (at age 91)
1808-1899

Joe Allen Rice answered to "Doc" even before he earned his PhD in American Literature and linked-up with Lynn 52 years back. Doc is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Houston. He served as an Air Force navigator/bombardier. Then he

worked on a team of reporters who received the Pulitzer Prize.

He says, "I was born in a farmhouse surrounded by four-leaf clovers. I maintain that's better than being born smart and good looking with a silver spoon in your mouth." Lynn is a Florida State University graduate. Doc attended UT. After the Air Force he earned his doctorate at Florida State.

Lynn is in the DAR and Mayflower Society. Doc is in SAR and SRT He is a Life Member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Smithwick's work was first published by the Gammel Book Company of Austin, Texas and has remained one of the most significant accounts of life in early Texas. Dr. Rice says about the book "...came out in 1909 and has received too little study by recent generations. I'm single-mindedly focused on it all this year. Each month, I do a dozen pages for the newsletter of my SRT chapter.





Minutes, January 2010

Meeting Minutes
Cradle of Texas Chapter No. 33
Minutes, January 8, 2011

The Cradle of Texas Chapter No. 33, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution met on January 8, 2011 at 11:30 A.M. at Mikeska's Bar-B-Que in El Campo, Texas. President Russell Dart gavelled the meeting to order, George Easterly led the invocation; Bill Sanders led the pledges to the U.S., Texas, and SAR flags. The President provided service medals to the following: Arnold Seidule and Don Pugh the Meritorious Service Medal, and to Mike Bailey, Bill Sanders, Bill Greenwood and Tim Hall the Bronze TXSSAR Service Medal. We presented Mikeska's BBQ with a Flag certificate for the flag that is flown at this place of business. President Dart provided us with an abbreviated President's report that is sent to the TSSAR offices.

President Dart informed us that Mr. William Greenwood would no be ale to fill the position of Secretary; Mike Bailey was nominated, approved, and voted to be the Secretary, congratulations Mike. Dr. Don Pugh then performed the induction ceremonies.

Bill Sanders introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Allen Collins from El Campo to discuss the Kawakawa Indians. In tribal dress of many US Indian Societies, Mr. Collins began the discussion of the Indian dress and also the history of the Kawakawa Indians.

President Russell Dart gavelled the meeting to a close. The benediction was provided by George Easterling and the SAR closing by President Dart.

Those in attendance: Don Pugh, Bill Sanders, Donald Mudd, Arthur Evans, Tim Hall, Russell Dart, George Easterling, Winston Avera, and

Johnnie Ruy Gresham. Guests included, Earlen Pugh, Kay Mudd, Sue Dart, Connie Avera, Curt Osborne, Doc Rice, Lynn Rice, Speaker Allen Collins and wife Dottie, Karen Thomas, Lanette Gresham, and Jeanette Stockton.

Presented by Tim Hall

President's Corner

Several of us have had the pleasure of judging the 5th grade poster submissions, and it has been interesting to see how the children are depicting the Battle of Cowpens. Most of the posters show real imagination and an interesting insight into the battle. Perhaps this will spark their interest in the Revolution. We are also going to have the treat of hearing Tommy Dunham give his oration at our February 12 meeting, which will be at Scott's Barbeque in West Columbia. Hope to see you there - a good way to observe Lincoln's Birthday!

Russell



THIS MONTH DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Franco-American Alliance

"The two contracting Parties shall each on its own Part, and in the manner it may judge most proper, make all the efforts in its Power, against their common Enemy, in order to attain the end proposed. "

*Treaty of Alliance
Article Three*



THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF AMITY
AND COMMERCE AND OF ALLIANCE
BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

Artist Charles E. Mills
Created between 1900 and 1920

On February 6, 1778, France and the fledgling United States of America signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance in Paris, France. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce recognized the United States as an independent nation and promoted trade between France and the United States. The Treaty of Alliance created a military alliance against Great Britain, stipulating American independence as a condition of peace. The treaty also required France and the U.S. to concur in any peace agreement.

Secretly aiding the American colonies since 1776, France's helpfulness was spurred by resentment over the loss of American territory to Britain in the French and Indian War. In 1776, the Continental Congress sent diplomats Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee to secure a formal alliance with France. American victory over the British in the Battle of Saratoga convinced the French that the Americans were committed to independence and worthy partners to a formal alliance. Over the course of the war, France contributed an estimated 12,000 soldiers and 32,000 sailors to the American war effort.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/feb06.html>

George Washington's Birthday

February 11, 1731- Julian Calendar

February 22, 1732 - Gregorian Calendar

George Washington's Birthday is celebrated on the third Monday in February.

On April 30, 1789, George Washington, standing on the balcony of Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York, took his oath of office as the first President of the United States. "As the first of every thing, in our situation will serve to establish a Precedent," he wrote James Madison, "it is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents may be fixed on true principles."

Born in 1732 into a Virginia planter family, he learned the morals, manners, and body of knowledge requisite for an 18th century Virginia gentleman.

He pursued two intertwined interests: military arts and western expansion. At 16 he helped survey Shenandoah lands for Thomas, Lord Fairfax. Commissioned a lieutenant colonel in 1754, he fought the first skirmishes of what grew into the French and Indian War. The next year, as an aide to Gen. Edward Braddock, he escaped injury although four bullets ripped his coat and two horses were shot from under him.

From 1759 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Washington managed his lands around Mount Vernon and served in the Virginia House of Burgesses. Married to a widow, Martha Dandridge Custis, he devoted himself to a busy and happy life. But like his fellow planters, Washington felt himself exploited by British merchants and hampered by British regulations. As the quarrel with the mother country grew acute, he moderately but firmly voiced his resistance to the restrictions.

When the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, Washington, one of the Virginia delegates, was elected Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. On July 3, 1775, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, he took command of his ill-trained troops and embarked upon a war that was to last six grueling years.

He realized early that the best strategy was to harass the British. He reported to Congress, "we should on all Occasions avoid a general Action, or put anything to the Risque, unless compelled by a necessity, into which we ought never to be drawn." Ensuing battles saw him fall back slowly, then strike unexpectedly. Finally in 1781 with the aid of French allies--he forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Washington longed to retire to his fields at Mount Vernon. But he soon realized that the Nation under its Articles of Confederation was not functioning well, so he became a prime mover in the steps leading to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787. When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington President.

He did not infringe upon the policy making powers that he felt the Constitution gave Congress. But the determination of foreign policy became preponderantly a Presidential concern. When the French Revolution led to a major war between France and England, Washington refused to accept entirely the recommendations of either his Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, who was pro-French, or his Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who was pro-British. Rather, he insisted upon a neutral course until the United States could grow stronger.

To his disappointment, two parties were developing by the end of his first term. Wearied of politics, feeling old, he retired at the end of his second. In his Farewell Address, he urged his countrymen to forswear excessive party spirit and geographical distinctions. In foreign affairs, he warned against long-term alliances.

Washington enjoyed less than three years of retirement at Mount Vernon, for he died of a throat infection December 14, 1799. For months the Nation mourned him.

WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV

February Meeting

Our meeting will be at **Scott's Bar-B-Que** in

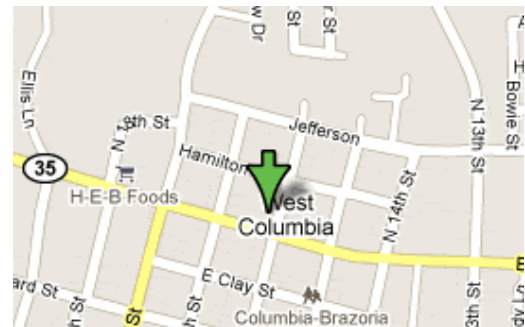
West Columbia. 11:30 a.m. -

February 12, 2011.

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