



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



Volume 16, Number 9

November 2013

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

November

Next Meeting
November 9, 2013
 11:30 a. m. at
River Point Restaurant
111 Abner Jackson Pkwy, Lake
Jackson, TX 77566

Program
Chapter's 30th Anniversary

The Chapter will be recognizing members' years of service and Charter Members, Past Presidents and other awards for Chapter Compatriots.

MEETING MINUTES

Sons of the American Revolution
 Cradle of Texas Chapter #33
 October 5, 2013

President Michael Bailey called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. at Baytown Seafood in West Columbia. Winston Avera led the chapter in the U.S. pledge of allegiance, Texas pledge and SAR pledge. Mike Rees gave the blessing for our meal.

The September 2013 Minutes were approved on a motion by Russell Dart and second by George Easterling.

Treasurer Arthur Evans' financial report showed the following:

General Fund	\$4,258.94
<u>McAlexander Fund¹</u>	<u>\$833.00</u>
Total	\$5,141.94

The financial report was approved on motion by Winston Avera and Tim Hall's second.

¹ Available for purchase of uniforms

Tom Green told us about the development of the first submarine used in combat, dubbed The American Turtle. It was conceived, engineered and built by Yale University student David Bushnell in 1775 to attack British war ships blockading New York Harbor. Bushnell's ingenious use of water as ballast and the screw propeller are still used in today's submarines. He also proved that gunpowder could be exploded under water.

Also, Tom Green told about an effort to place portraits of prominent patriots' in our schools. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association in conjunction with SAR have a program to supply pictures of George Washington in a military uniform for \$250 each. Through Tom's efforts, the Alexander Hodge Chapter bought a portrait. At the school's request, the portrait was donated to Pearland's Alexander Middle School for displaying in a prominent location.

Discussion of the upcoming 30th Anniversary Celebration centered on the lack of response to the invitation sent to all members and the cost to the Chapter of about \$1,000. George Easterling moved that the Celebration Committee be charged with making the decision to hold or cancel the event depending on further responses. Mike Rees seconded the motion and it was approved.

President Bailey reported on past and upcoming events.



- Michael and Tom Green participated as reenactors in the Battle of Medina Memorial August 17th outside of Pleasanton, near the battle site.
- Constitution Day, September 17th was celebrated with the ringing of bells. Bill Sanders rang the Methodist Church bell in Louise and Michael attended the luncheon at Columbia Lakes and the ceremony at the replica of the First Capitol of Texas.
- The TXSSAR BOM will be October 11th, 12th & 13th at the Hilton Garden Inn, 14919 Northwest Freeway in Houston.
- Texas Navy Day at Surfside on September 21st was cancelled because of heavy rain.
- Stephen F. Austin's birthday celebration will be held November 3rd at the statue in Angleton.

President Bailey named Russell Dart, Tillman Daniel and Mike Rees as the nominating committee for the 2014 offices.

Preparations for the November 11th Veterans Day parade in Lake Jackson still need a suitable trailer although a pickup to pull a trailer has been volunteered. After some discussion, George Easterling moved that we forgo this year's parade. Russell Dart seconded the motion and it was approved.

President Bailey asked George Easterling to get additional information about Flag Certificates for schools and individuals.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. on a motion by George Easterling and a second by Tillman Daniel.

Mike Rees gave the benediction.

President Bailey led the SAR Recessional.



Members Present -Bill Sanders, Michael Bailey, Russell Dart, Tillman Daniel, George Easterling, Tom Green, Mike Rees, Tim Hall, Arthur Evans, Doc Rice and Winston Avera.

Guests present were Pat Sanders and Connie Avera.

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER #33
SONS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

FINANCIAL REPORT
October 31, 2013

General Fund Balance	
Sept. 30, 2013	\$ 4,258.94
Deposits	-0-
Donations	-0-
Subtotal	\$ 4,258.94
Disbursements	
Postage (Sanders)	\$12.86
NSSAR supplies (Dart)	\$162.25
Guest meal	\$15.99
Total	\$191.10
Outstanding Checks	
None	-0-
General Fund Balance	
Oct. 31, 2013	\$4,067.84
Balance of McAlexander Uniform	
Purchases Fund	\$ 883.00
Total Bank Balance	
Oct. 31, 2013	\$4,950.84

**This Month During
The American Revolution
November 23, 1780
Battle of Fort George**

A VISIT TO FORT ST. GEORGE

Except locally, Fort St. George at Smith's Point, Mastic, Long Island, is an almost unknown military work. Yet an interesting Revolutionary event occurred there which is related in the Memoir of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge, who also gives us a plan of the Fort. This plan led the Society's Field Exploration Committee to visit the spot with the hope of finding physical evidence in the shape of revolutionary relics to definitely locate the site. Without previous knowledge of the place an unlooked-for surprise greeted them upon their arrival on May 14th last. Instead of the usual unoccupied field of Revolutionary encampment or fort site, we found ourselves on the estate of the original Colonel William Tangier Smith (1654–1705), which is still the home of the family, and before the original homestead, beautifully located upon the point overlooking the Great South Bay. Three hundred feet from the homestead is the family burial ground. We were greeted by Miss Martha Tunstall Tangier Smith, the present owner and resident of Smith's Point, who informed us that the estate was part of the "Manor of St. George" originally granted to Colonel Smith by Governor Benjamin Fletcher in 1693.

The well-kept grounds about the point did not admit of excavation work by the Committee. It is apparent that much of the ground had been leveled (sic) and it would be difficult to locate the exact outlines of the fort; while the homestead has been moved about one hundred or more feet from its first site. Lossing in his "Field Book of the

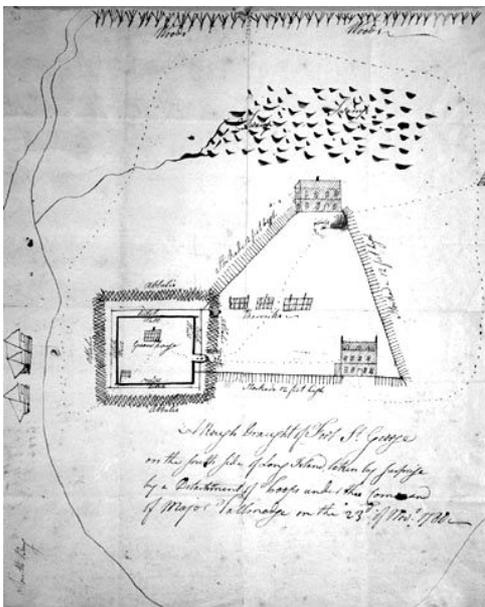
Revolution" states that when he visited the place in 1851, the lines of the fort "might be distinctly traced," and tells of the attack of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge on Fort St. George as follows:

"In the autumn of 1780, some Rhode Island Tory refugees took possession (sic) of the manor-house of General John Smith, at Smith's Point, fortified it and the grounds around it, and began cutting wood for the British army in New York. At the solicitation of General Smith, and with the approval of Washington, Major Tallmadge proceeded to dislodge them. They had named their fortress Fort George, and appeared too strongly intrenched (sic) to be in fear. Tallmadge crossed the Sound from Fairfield with eighty dismounted dragoons, and landed in the evening at Old Man's, now Woodville. On account of a storm, he remained there until the next night, when, accompanied by Heathcote Muirson, he marched toward Fort George. At the mills, about two miles from the fort, he procured a faithful guide, and at dawn he and his gallant soldiers burst through the stockade on the southwestern side, rushed across the parade, and, shouting "Washington and Glory!" they furiously assailed the redoubt upon three sides. The garrison surrendered without resistance. At that moment a volley was fired from the upper windows of the mansion. The incensed Americans burst open the doors, and would have killed every inmate, had not Major Tallmadge interfered.

Having secured his prisoners (three hundred in number), demolished the fort, and burned vessels lying at the wharf, laden with a great amount of stores, Tallmadge set out on his return at sunrise. On his way, leaving his corps in command of Captain Edgar, he proceeded with ten or twelve men to Corum, and there, after overpowering the guard, they destroyed

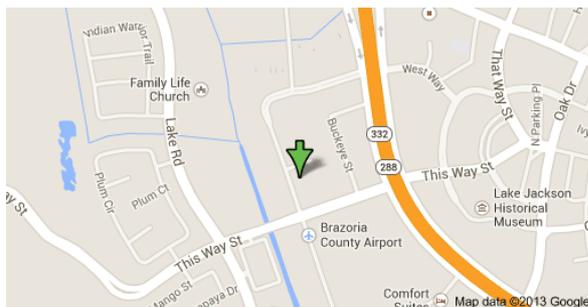
three hundred tons of hay collected for the British army in New York. He arrived at Fairfield with his prisoners early in the evening, without losing a man. This brilliant exploit drew from Washington a very complimentary letter, and from Congress a gratifying resolution.

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Sketch by Benjamin Tallmadge of Fort St. George

Next Meeting
November 9, 2013
11:30 a. m. at
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