



# The Duty Roster

Wayne Courreges Editor

**General Society of the War of 1812**

**Texas Society**

**2018 Winter**

## **President's Message**

### **Keeping Family History Alive**

In past generations, reminiscing about family life and history was an important part of the family and community.

The story-telling function was often the responsibility of older persons as a way to make sure new generations learned about the history and heritage of their family.

In today's technology, historical information is recorded instantly via social media. It may capture the moment but does it really capture the essence? How many pictures do you have of people with no names on the back or narrative of what the picture is about? Remember all those 8mm film your parents took? Can you play them now? What about those DVD's you may have made, will your grandchildren be able to play them in the future? Sadly many families today know very little about their own family's stories and it is only going to get worse.

As a parent or a grandparent (as is my case) you have a unique opportunity to pass on some of those treasured stories. By passing on the family history, you'll help your children and grandchildren gain greater self-knowledge and self-esteem.

I am fortunate enough to have the written stories of my wife's parents and

grandparents. It's a story that goes from a Norwegian arctic fjord to the American prairie. I am not so fortunate to have my parents or grandparents written story, and that is where my Colonial War/SAR/SR/1812 connections are. So, it became incumbent upon me to write what I could remember, interview family members, and collect documents and pictures of my family history. I have 5 grandchildren and I have a package for each of them. Will they appreciate it? I don't know.

I know one thing, I've upheld my responsibility and I have a feeling that somewhere down the line one of my descendants will treasure the story as much as my wife treasure's hers, and that Compatriots makes it worth it.

What will you leave your Grandchildren?

*"The objectives of the Society are the collection and preservation of rolls, records, books, and other documents relating to the War of 1812; the encouragement of research and the preservation of historical data, including memorials to patriots of that era in our national history; the caring for the graves of veterans of the War of 1812; the cherishing, maintenance and extension of the institutions of American freedom; and the fostering of true patriotism and love of country."*

## **Secretary/Treasurer's Message**

Thank you for another successful General Society War of 1812 Texas Society annual dues renewal.

We submitted our Annual Report to National with a check for our paid 2018 members on time and we have received a reimbursement check in the amount of \$290.00. When you send in your dues timely, our Texas Society gets money back!

**NOTE:** National is requiring us to drop Texas Society members from our active Roster who are not current in their membership dues when submitting our Annual Report.

Please remember that our annual dues renewal notice will be sent out in August this year for 2019 in accordance with our bylaws.

**A Perpetual Life Membership is available for \$500.00** and you will never pay annual dues again!

Thank you for your membership!

## **Now Hear This**

Annual "GSW 1812 Texas Society"  
Breakfast  
April 8, 2018 (Sunday Morning)

**Hotel:** Hyatt Regency North Dallas, 701 East Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75081  
972-619-1234

<https://northdallas.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/our-hotel.html>

**Room Reserved:** Spur Room

**Time:** 7:00 to 7:30 breakfast (Buffet style, \$15.00 + tax and a tip)

7:30 to 8:30 GSW 1812 Texas Society Meeting

**Purpose:**

- Reports
- Electing/Installation 2018-2019 Officers
- New Business

**RVSP Requested:** The Hyatt Regency is asking for a head count for this meeting so please email if you plan on attending:

Wayne Courreges [wcourreges@icloud.com](mailto:wcourreges@icloud.com)

**Note:** Please remember that this is in conjunction with the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution Meeting. We will have to be flexible because there will be a Texas Society SAR Sunday Service and a Texas Society BOM meeting on Sunday morning as is tradition.

We look forward to having you with us as we chart the coming year together!

**If you are ready to serve as an officer of the GSW 1812 Texas Society. Please make yourself known by contacting President William Sekel:**  
[firstsgtusmcret@yahoo.com](mailto:firstsgtusmcret@yahoo.com)

## **Did You Know**

- Mary Pickersgill (1776-1857), along with her daughter and several other women, made the "Star Spangled Banner Flag" that was raised at Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The flag was made from over 400 yards of fabric, displayed 15 stars and 15 stripes, and weighed 50 pounds. The flag took six weeks to make. It was originally 30 feet by 42 feet but now measures 30 feet by 34 feet because pieces of it, including one of its stars, were occasionally cut and given away as gifts.
- "The Star Spangled Banner" was composed during the War of 1812. However, it was originally a poem called "The Defense of Fort McHenry." After it was written, it was set to a popular melody written by English composer John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London.