



# THE TEXAS DUTY ROSTER

Published by the General Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Texas  
2020 Summer Edition \* Wayne Courreges Editor



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

Wayne Courreges – State of Texas President

Greetings Texas Warhawks!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and strong. Summer is officially here and we find ourselves still coping with the Coronavirus pandemic and mass civil protests. Both have us distracted, but we continue to do our best under the circumstances. We are all looking forward to all of this becoming a distant memory. Until then, we will keep the 1812 story alive and well even as our War of 1812 statues and monuments are under duress across our country!

The Coronavirus curtailed our ability to personally present our GSW 1812 ROTC medals to worthy ROTC Cadets at our various Texas colleges this year. Vice-President General Bill Sekel once again did an outstanding job of coordinating with the many college ROTC officers to provide our GSW 1812 ROTC medals. The challenges were many, but he handled each one successfully. Please let Warhawk Bill know how much his tireless service is appreciated!

I want to recognize the efforts of our chapter presidents for their strong leadership by keeping our local chapters “alive” during this difficult time. Warhawk Frank Rohrbough has successfully revived the David Crockett Chapter in San Antonio serving south Texas. Warhawk Stewart Glover Hoyt revived the Stephen Fuller Austin Chapter in Austin serving central Texas. Warhawk Mark Witt Compton, Sr. has formed the new President James Madison Chapter in Midland serving west Texas. We will formally welcome the President James Madison Chapter at our upcoming GSW 1812 in the State of Texas breakfast on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Warhawk Gene Howard Pilgrim Sr. continues to be the pillar of strength for the Ensign James Luna Chapter serving northeast Texas. Warhawk Walt Thomas continues to lead the incredible Craig Rowley Chapter in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area serving north Texas, while Warhawk John Kenton Thompson tirelessly keeps the Zachery Taylor Chapter strong in the Houston area serving southeast Texas. I am so very proud of these leaders for their hard work and outstanding leadership.

The health and welfare of our beloved GSW 1812 in the State of Texas is strong and moving forward because of our great leaders and by you supporting their efforts. We have welcomed several new Warhawk recruits these past few months. Warhawk Registrar David John Temple and Warhawk Secretary/Treasurer Henry Elvin Shoenfelt II have been working seamlessly to process our new member applications. I want to take this opportunity to thank Warhawk David Temple for his long, faithful service as our GSW 1812 in the State of Texas Registrar for so many years. We will be voting to fill his huge shoes with Warhawk Mark Witt Compton, Sr. as Registrar at our August 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast. Please thank Warhawk David for his long selfless service and welcome Warhawk Mark for volunteering to take on this critical role.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual breakfast at the upcoming TXSSAR Convention at The Westin at the Woodlands, 2 Waterway Square Place, The Woodlands, Texas 77380 beginning at 7 AM on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The hotel phone number is 281-419-4300. We know this is a difficult time for many of us, but it is my hope that we will be able to come together at the TXSSAR Convention for our annual breakfast Sunday

morning August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is my understanding that our room will be large enough to accommodate social distancing. Please wear your mask as appropriate.

This meeting is important because we will be voting on unexpected leadership changes:

**Proposed 2020-2021 GSW 1812 in the State of Texas Officers\***

President – John Kenton Thompson

Vice-President - Drake McNeely Peddie

Secretary/Treasurer-Henry Elvin Shoenfelt, II

Registrar – Mark Witt Compton, Sr.

Chaplain – Thomas Bruce Green, III

Sergeant-at-Arms – Robert Lorne Mennell

Webmaster – Brian Paul Ridenour

Vice-President General of the State of Texas – Wayne A. Courreges, Jr.

*\*What prompted this unexpected change was the desire of Warhawk Larry Casey, with encouragement from now past GSW 1812 President General Rick Hollis, to get more State of Texas Warhawks on the National Staff. We had to move quickly if this was going to happen before votes were cast at the recent National GSW 1812 meeting. We conducted a vote of our State of Texas officers and past presidents for approval and this action was approved unanimously. For this to happen, Warhawk John Kenton Thompson agreed to fill the unexpired GSW 1812 in the State of Texas President position. We are very grateful to him for agreeing to do so. The National GSW 1812 votes were certified by the GSW 1812 Executive Committee on June 20, 2020. Congratulations go to the following Texas Warhawks: Treasurer General Gary Roger Neal, Counselor General Lyttleton Tazwell Harris, IV, Assistant General Genealogist Floyd Robert Miller, Vice-President General of Military Awards William Edward Sekel, Jr. and Assistant Vice-President General Military Awards Mark Witt Compton, Sr. Wayne Allen Courreges Jr., was approved to take William Edward Sekel, Jr.'s place as Vice-President General of Texas. Our heartfelt thanks to past GSW 1812 President General Lawrence King Casey, Jr. for making this possible.*

Special thanks to GSW 1812 in the State of Texas Webmaster Brian Paul Ridenour, of the Craig Austin Rowley Chapter, for updating our GSW 1812 in the State of Texas Website: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~txsw1812/>

It is critical to have a functioning website that we can go to for current information. He is proposing that we consider another website provider for our website. We will discuss this at our August 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast. Thank you Warhawk Paul!

**Welcome New Recruits**

Steven Dale Gibson	Midland, TX
George Ronald Powell	San Antonio, TX
Scott Eldred deMasi	Humble, TX
Edwin Ray Sellards	The Woodlands, TX
Robert Lorne Mennell	Magnolia, TX
Robert Roy Hazelwood, Jr.	Iraan, TX

**Last Roll Call**

William Marshal Marrs II – Stephen Fuller Austin Chapter



## **NOW HEAR THIS**

The annual membership renewal for our General Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Texas will begin this August, but if you did not renew this past year; you can do so for 2021 without penalty by making your \$45.00 check payable to “GWS 1812 Texas” and mail to:

**Henry Shoenfelt, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**1523 Weyford Drive**  
**Austin, TX 78757**

Or you can pay \$47.00 online with AffiniPay using this link:  
<https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/texasocietythewarof1812/payments>

**Perpetual Life Membership is still only \$500.00**

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Ensign James Luna Chapter:**

The Ensign James Luna Chapter is located in northeast Texas. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this chapter is not meeting currently. For meeting information please contact Chapter President Gene Howard Pilgrim, Sr. by sending him an email: [7pilgrim7@gmail.Com](mailto:7pilgrim7@gmail.com)

### **Stephen Fuller Austin Chapter:**

President Stewart Glover Hoyt advises as of this writing that due to the restrictions incurred by social distancing, the Stephen F. Austin Chapter is “Mark-time March” mode until the Patrick Henry Chapter, TXSSAR is able to meet again as a group. When this happens, we will meet quarterly at the Saltgrass Restaurant located at the Hill Country Galleria, 12613 Galleria Circle, Bee Cave, TX 78738 before the Patrick Henry Chapter meetings begin. Our next order of business will be to discuss and implement changes to the original bylaws, which will allow us to proceed as a functioning chapter. Contact Chapter President Stu Hoyt for more information: [stu\\_hoyt@yahoo.com](mailto:stu_hoyt@yahoo.com)

### **David Crockett Chapter:**

A re-organizing meeting of the Chapter was held on February 28th with six members of the Texas Society War of 1812 attending. As a result of the strong interest shown supporting the re-activation of the Chapter, a draft Constitution and By-Laws for the Chapter were presented and reviewed. A second planning meeting will be held when the current restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic will allow a face to face meeting in the near future.

Hopefully, we will be able to schedule a Re-Activation of our Chapter later this summer. All Society Members in good standing who reside in the greater San Antonio area will be invited to join us so that we can vote on our Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. Nominations, elections and the installation of Officers will follow at a subsequent meeting in the Fall.

This south Texas chapter is being revitalized by Warhawk Frank Rohrbough. Please contact him for more information: [frankr@gvtc.com](mailto:frankr@gvtc.com)



## Craig Austin Rowley Chapter:



*Greenwood Cemetery November 2019, (left to right)  
Drake Peddie, Walt Thomas, Terry Holden, Steve Johnson*

As with most of Texas, the Craig Austin Rowley Chapter has been semi-dormant lately, just trying to survive the virus. Our last dedication was in Greenwood Cemetery at Dallas for 1812 veterans Thomas Lucas and John Thomas. We have our second chapter meeting this year scheduled on July 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing possible marker dedications for *later this year*.

*On July 18<sup>th</sup>, our chapter will join with several North Texas SAR chapters to honor one of our own, as we move Montie Monzingo from Rockwall Cemetery to his final earthly resting place in the Old Saltillo Cemetery at Saltillo, Texas.*

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, we will partner with the U.S. Daughters War of 1812 to dedicate markers for 1812 veteran Levi Snow in Kaufman Cemetery, Kaufman, Texas. Our chapter will set both the GSW1812 and the USD1812 markers prior to the dedication.

If you would like to attend one of their chapter meetings or events, please contact Chapter President Walt Thomas: [w3thomas@gmail.com](mailto:w3thomas@gmail.com).

## Zachary Taylor Chapter:



*Beloved GSW 1812 in the State of Texas Chaplain and Zachary Taylor Chapter member  
Thomas Bruce Green III sharing his vast knowledge and wit this past October*

The Zachary Taylor Chapter is a very active chapter serving southeast Texas and is currently under the leadership of Chapter President John Kenton Thompson. Meetings are on hold currently due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Contact Chapter President John Kenton Thompson for more information: [johnkthompson@rocketmail.com](mailto:johnkthompson@rocketmail.com)

**President James Madison Chapter:**

Greetings from the soon to be approved new West Texas Chapter! The President James Madison Chapter expects to be approved at the August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Texas’ Breakfast Meeting. Upon approval, we will be posting the time and place of our meetings. The vast size of our chapter area makes meeting a challenge for all our members, but we invite any, and all members of the Texas Society to attend our meetings, once published.

Currently, we are in the process of identifying new members. SAR and SCV chapters have been contacted in anticipation of identifying new members. Those chapters have been more than willing to provide their members’ contact information. Since beginning, we have added two new members, have one pending, and have several in the process of being submitted. I want to thank Warhawk Joe Tucker for assisting in getting those applications sponsored and moved along. In addition, universities that have Military Science programs have been contacted, Texas Tech and The University of Texas at El Paso, to make sure they are aware of our Military Awards program and that they have the necessary forms to be submitted. Also, information is being gathered and submitted to update the President James Madison Chapter page of the Texas Society website.

Contact Chapter President Mark Compton at [mwc2191960@gmail.com](mailto:mwc2191960@gmail.com) for more information.

**1812 Articles**

Our heartfelt thanks to Warhawk John Aaron Wade of Jarrell, Texas for sharing another of his ancestor’s interesting stories for our reading pleasure:



*Kentucky War Memorial Located at Frankfort, in the Frankfort Cemetery in Franklin County. This monument commemorates the names of Fallen Kentucky Officers from various conflicts. Eighth from the bottom is Lt. Thomas Overton who was killed at the River Raisin, 1813*

**A Scene from the Life of Lieutenant Thomas Jefferson Overton, 17<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry Regiment**

*By: Nephew John Aaron Wade*

During the 19th Century, personal honor was more than just a formality for the American populace. It served as a form of social currency in which one could exchange acts or deeds and attain respect within a community. The men who made up the ranks of the American fighting force knew this fact of life all too well. One such individual was Thomas J. Overton of Kentucky.

Born in Louisa County, Virginia, Thomas resided in his youth within the confines of Lexington. He studied the Law, and became a Lawyer of some prominence in the South-Central Region of the State. While residing in Barren County, Kentucky, Thomas was within easy riding distance of Nashville, Tennessee. At some point, a friendship with Andrew Jackson was formed (probably through the political connections of Judge John Overton, an Uncle of the subject).

In the summer of 1805, Overton had an argument with a Law Office Clerk named John Dickinson, of Nashville. When the argument became heated, Overton struck Dickinson over the head with a cane. Promptly, Dickinson

challenged Overton to a Duel. Overton secured Andrew Jackson as his “second,” and Jackson demanded that the tradition be upheld in which the challenged would decide upon the rules of the duel. Dickinson refused to bend to any of the sort, and insisted that the two should fire at each other from a distance of twenty-four feet. Jackson was so furious that Dickinson would suggest his own rules for the duel. Jackson “advised” Overton to “beat” Dickinson again to “show his contempt for him.” Nevertheless, Overton accepted the duel.

The terms of the duel were to stand back-to-back, walk twenty-four feet, then turn and “advance or not,” and then fire. Overton took the first shot, and missed. When Dickinson’s turn came, he advanced towards Overton, and did not stop until pistol was approximately less than twelve inches from Overton’s chest. In this manner, Dickinson discharged his weapon, and the ball tore through Overton, and exited out the left arm.

Overton penned a letter from his residence while recovering to Andrew Jackson. In this letter, Overton described his animosity towards Dickinson:

*“Have confidence my dear friend, all that I ask, is that you may be along side of me in the hour of difficulty, when life ceases to be a blessing unless held on honorable terms. I have but one life to lose, and they shall have a chance for that, as long as it lasts; though I trust the God of heaven is just, and with your assistance will enable me, to give some account of the greatest monster of depravity, in the shape of a man, that ever disgraced the animal creation-I mean John Dickinson.” August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1805*

Thomas recovered, and later joined the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment with his brother, James Overton. Commissioned as a Lieutenant, Thomas met his fate, and was killed in action at the River Raisin.

Sources:  
*Murder and Mayhem in Nashville*, by Brian Allison, The History Press, Charleston South Carolina, 2016  
Library of Congress; Andrew Jackson Papers (online)  
Agraveinterest.blogspot.com (Kentucky War Memorial photograph). Accessed Online



*Tom Freeman's painting of the August 24, 1814 burning of the White House by British troops during the War of 1812. (White House Historical Association)*

Finally, like most of you, I have been staying at home because of the Coronavirus pandemic. I have stayed busy with “honey do’s” and by joining several hereditary organizations. As I worked on the various society applications, it struck me that I benefitted from the willingness of several genealogist that had the time to help me. One hereditary organization is the General Society of Colonial Wars. If you are interested in joining the General Society of Colonial Wars, the time could not be better. The current Governor is William F. Cole. He is a fellow Warhawk and is also the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Texas Registrar. He was one of those genealogists that went beyond the call of duty to help guide me.

If you are interested, I encourage you to go to the SCW-TX website to download the application and checklist:  
<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~txscw/>

Governor William F. Cole is the Sons of the Revolution Registrar too:  
<https://www.sr1776.org/state.php>