



The Duty Roster

David Temple, Editor

General Society War of 1812 in Texas

Fall 2010

Message from the President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past two years have been extremely successful in locating Veterans of the War of 1812. Cecil Coale our Historian has located some 14 grave sites in Collin County. Through his extensive research of Texas State and County records as well as other resources during the past four years has provided the location of these grave sites.

One of our goals set forth several years ago by the Texas Society and the local CAR Chapter is placing a bronze grave marker at 1812 grave sites. To date we have placed five (5) markers.

The first was discovered three years ago at a private family cemetery plot located in McKinney, TX by members of the CAR Chapter. The person is Ziza Moore 1850-1876 grandfather to Claude Frazier. Claude's family farm was originated by his grandfather and he was unaware that his grandfather was a veteran from the War of 1812. The dedication took place October, 2007 in conjunction with the family's 150 year celebration.

The next three grave markers have been placed without conducting a formal dedication. We are attempting to locate family members to be present. Should members not be located, we will move forward with a formal dedication. The locations are; 1) Pecan Hollow Cemetery, McKinney, TX. 1812 Veteran Henry Wetsel 1791-1880, 2) Fairview Cemetery, Fairview,

TX, 1812 Veterans George Fitzhugh 1790-1863 and John Fitzhugh 1792-1878, brothers.

The most recent marker placement and dedication was for Thomas Finley on Saturday, November 13th, 2010. In conjunction with the City of Plano Parks and Recreation, grave site committee, and with assistance of Candace Fountoulakis, Guardian of the Young Cemetery, an official dedication, with family members present, took place to honor Thomas Finley 1790-1859. Also in attendance were guests and members of the Society of the War of 1812 local CAR Chapter.

We have gained approximately nine (9) new members during the past 14 months. Gerald Irion is providing our Society with his valuable service as Registrar and processing potential members.

Wishing you a most enjoyable Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and successful New Year!

Peter H. Rowley

President

2010 SPRING MEETING

Our Annual meeting was held at the Hilton Houston Westchase as a Sunday breakfast during the TXSSAR meeting. 19 members were in attendance plus guests with President Mike Radcliff presiding. Following reports from the Secretary and Treasurer a discussion was held regarding the perpetual fund and the

continuing need to pay dues to the National Society for perpetual members. The following changes to dues and fees were proposed to be effective May 1, 2010:

Annual Dues \$45.00
New Membership \$60.00
Supplemental Application \$60.00
Perpetual Membership \$500.00
Moved, seconded and passed.

The following slate of new officers was elected for 2010/2011:

President – Peter H. Rowley
Secretary/Treasurer – David J. Temple
Registrar/Genealogist – Gerald W. Irion

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Our next meeting of the Texas Society will be at the Sunday morning Breakfast during the Annual meeting of the Sons of the America Revolution convention, in Dallas March 24-27, 2011. The president looks forward to greeting all at that time.

TEXAS SOCIETY NATIONAL OFFICERS

Between elections at the last Triennial in 2008 and now your Texas Society is pleased to have several officers in the mix.

Deputy President General – LTC Lawrence K. Casey, Jr.
Gulf District Deputy President General - James E. Heath
Asst. Historian General – Thomas D. Yeilding
Asst. Judge Advocate General – Edward F. Butler, Sr.
Vice President General for Texas - Michael Radcliff

CHAPTER ACTIVITY

CRAIG AUSTIN ROWLEY CHAPTER

As mentioned above members of the Rowley Chapter have been busy and planted 1812 grave markers in Fairview Cemetery, Fairview, Texas on the graves of War of 1812 veterans George Fitzhugh and John Fitzhugh. They also planted a marker in Young Cemetery, Plano, Texas on the grave of Thomas Finley. The newest two grave markers are part of a project by the Chapter to mark every War of 1812 grave in Collin County. Secretary Cecil Coale has identified five more graves for future activity.

Peter H. Rowley, President

DAVID CROCKET CHAPTER

The chapter met on April 24, 2010 to discuss future plans.

Gerald W. Irion, President

ZACHRY TAYLOR CHAPTER

Harrison G. Moore, President

No report received.

War Of 1812-1814 Web Site

To learn more as a basis for your ancestral research, the War of 1812-1814 Web site at <http://members.tripod.com/~war1812/index.html> is loaded with links to articles, photographs, music, a video, a bibliography, and other informative materials. To contact others looking for ancestors in the war or to seek help try:

WARof1812-L@rootsweb.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thirteen new members have joined the society since the last edition of the *Duty Roster* in Fall 2009. They are:

David C. Scott
Brian V. Smarker
Jack Landis Chisenhall
Roald T. Gustafson
Gerald Allen Gieger
Gene P. Munson
Charles Warren Sprague
Thomas Ingle Jackson
Frank Ernest Roberts
Joseph M. Tucker
Gene Howard Pilgrim
Charles Leonard Jackson
Van Ray Perryman

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly note the passing of one of our longtime compatriots from Dallas:

William Henri Barris, MD

TREASURER'S REPORT

The State Society is in solid financial shape with a paid or life membership of 152. As of October 31 the society had \$3,158.70 in a checking account at Llano National Bank and a time deposit of \$11,309.55 at Compass Bank, for total assets of \$14,468.25.

DUES TIME

Once again it is time for annual dues which are due December 31, 2010. Members should mail a check for \$45.00 made out to Society of the War of 1812 in Texas to:

David J. Temple, Sec.-Treas

Society of the War of 1812

933 Creek Crossing

Coppell, TX 75019

\$10 goes to the national society and \$35 goes to the state Society.

The Battle of the Thames and future President William Henry Harrison

William Henry Harrison began military life in 1791 following the death of his father, Benjamin Harrison. Left without money to continue his schooling he was commissioned an ensign in the First Infantry of the Regular Army and sent to the Northwest Indian War. During the Indian campaign he served as aide-de-camp to General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The victory led to settlement of the Ohio territory. After seven years, Harrison resigned from the army and served in various political capacities. He was Governor of the Indiana Territory when war broke out in 1812.

The Indian chieftain Tecumseh had organized and led a confederation of Indian people to withstand further settlement of the wilderness areas of the Northwest. In 1811 Harrison led 1,000 troops in a campaign to drive off Tecumseh and his allies. While encamped on the Tippecanoe River on November 7, Tecumseh attacked and after fierce fighting was driven off by Harrison's men. The Battle of Tippecanoe temporarily slowed the Indian attacks.

When war with Britain broke out in 1812, Harrison was given command of the Army in the Northwest as Brigadier General. He led the attempts to recover Detroit and capture Fort Amherstburg from the British Army in Upper Canada under Major General Henry Proctor.

On October 5, 1813 Harrison would again lead men against Tecumseh and his allies, this time British troops. Known as the Battle of the Thames, it occurred near modern Chatham, Ontario north of Lake Erie.

Lying near Lake Erie, there were limited resources to support the British troops and their Native American allies. As long as the British controlled Lake Erie they could supply the Fort. But should the Americans take control of Lake Erie then the Americans could cut Proctor off from his supplies and any reinforcement from the east.

In late July 1813 the British ships on Lake Erie were forced to lift their long blockade allowing Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry to get his ships across a sandbar at the entrance to the harbor near Fort Amherstburg. Perry began his own blockade leading quickly to a shortage of supplies. The British naval commander, Robert Heriot Barclay was forced to take to sea to battle Perry. On September 13, Perry defeated Barclay in the Battle of Lake Erie. Perry sent a short note to General Harrison

saying "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

General Harrison knew that Proctor would no longer be able to remain at Fort Amherstburg and ordered his troops forward. One thousand mounted riflemen were arriving from Fort Meigs under Colonel Richard Johnson to join his 3,500 Kentuckians and regular infantry. Harrison planned to lead his troops along the lake shore to Detroit. Once Perry's ships had been repaired they were used to transport some 2,500 foot soldiers to Detroit and to Fort Amherstburg. These included the five brigades of Kentucky militia and a small detachment of the 27th U. S. Infantry.



Proctor had prepared for this eventuality once he heard of Barclay's defeat. He prepared to take his troops to the British position at Burlington Heights on the western end of Lake Ontario. Proctor removed the guns from Fort Malden to have them mounted on Barclay's ships and led his troops in retreat up the Thames River. Tecumseh realized his confederation would no longer have the protection of his British allies to guard their lands unless they stood to fight.

Proctor led his troops to Moraviantown (Fairfield) where he planned to make a stand. Unfortunately he prepared no formal fortifications to defend his position. His troops were strung perhaps four miles along the river and marched on half rations due to the lack of supplies.

Harrison's forces continued to advance and began capturing stragglers in the British retreat. Late on October 4 he caught up with the British and Indian retreat. Tecumseh led his warriors in a delaying action that was quickly defeated.

In the early morning of October 5 Proctor ordered his troops to abandon their breakfast and retreat further before deploying in line of battle along the river. While he planned to trap the Americans against the river he made no plans to throw up defensive works for his position. Tecumseh settled his warriors in a swamp along the British right.

Harrison ordered the attack by his mounted Kentucky riflemen. Riding through Tecumseh's flanking fire the Americans hit the British regulars' weakly protected position, breaking their line and rode on for the reserves. A single cannon in support of the British position had mysteriously failed to fire during the assault. The British attempted only one semi-organized volley before giving way. Proctor and some 250 of his men fled the field. His remaining forces surrendered in isolated clumps to Harrison.

Tecumseh's warriors continued the fight, repelling a small cavalry charge. Many of the mounted Kentuckians were killed or wounded. During the attack Tecumseh was killed and the Kentucky commander was badly wounded. The remainder of the American force came through the swamp to rescue the remaining Kentuckians. As word of Tecumseh's death reached his warriors they began leaving the field.

The enlistment terms of much of the militia were about to expire so Harrison moved his troops back to Detroit.

Harrison reported British losses at 12 killed, 22 wounded prisoners and 601 captured. The Native Americans reported 16 killed including their chief. American reports of losses varied. Harrison reported 7 killed and 22 wounded.

The victory was decisive for the American Forces in that control of the Northwest frontier was theirs again. Shortly after the battle Harrison signed an armistice at Detroit with the representatives of several of the warring tribes. He sent his troops on to Niagara and left for Washington where he was declared a hero. He would resign his commission as Major General and be elected President in 1840. Before he had been in office one month he caught a cold that turned into Pneumonia. President William Henry Harrison died on April 4, 1841.

Remember Our 1812
Vets

Pay your Dues

David J. Temple
Secretary-Treasurer
Society of the War of 1812 in Texas
933 Creek Crossing
Coppell, Texas 75019