



The Courier



April 2015

Sacramento Chapter— Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 47, Issue 4

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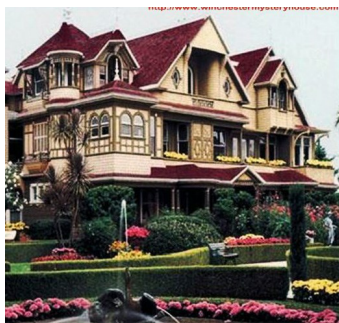
April Program

The speaker for the April meeting will be Susan Gillespie, portraying Sarah Winchester, of Winchester Mystery House fame.

Susan states that she has been doing characterizations most of her life, but since becoming activities director at an assisted living facility she has been doing characterizations of historical characters. These have included roles as Betsy Ross, Martha Washington, Lillian Disney (Walt Disney's wife), Lucille Ball and others. When playing Lucille Ball she followed her change from a placid brunette (her natural hair color) to the flamboyant redhead we know so well.



Sarah Winchester



Winchester House of Mystery

It was said that a medium convinced Sarah Winchester that she was cursed by the ghosts of those killed by the Winchester rifle, and that she should move west and build a house for herself and the spirits. She spent the next 38 years building, rebuilding and remodeling the famous Winchester Mystery House in San Jose.

Editor's Note: The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor, the Sacramento Chapter, the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.

Cattlemens Meal Selections

Sirloin Steak	\$25.
Grilled Salmon	\$25.
Lemon Chicken	\$25.
Pesto Spinach/Cheese Ravioli (vegetarian)	\$25.

Friday, April 17, 2015, 7:00 PM
Cattlemens Restaurant

12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

If the telephone committee has not taken your reservation and menu selection(s) by **Wednesday evening, April 15** please call Don Littlefield at (916) 985-6544 directly and leave a message by noon on Thursday. We strongly encourage reservations be made in advance. All reservations are guaranteed. Don't be a "no show."

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, EIN # 68-0004288

Current Officers

Craig Anderson
President

Don Littlefield
Executive Vice-President
Treasurer and Webmaster

Carl Ahlberg
Vice President & Secretary

Alan Brooking
Vice President & Registrar

Jim Faulkinbury
Genealogist

Jeff Goodwin
Chaplain

Don Spradling
Photographer
Guardian of the Flags

Neil Elvick
Newsletter editor

Committee Chairmen

Roy Adkins
ROTC/JROTC Program

Neil Zinn
Eagle Scout Program

Tom Chilton
Americanism Poster Contest

James Warrick
Program Committee

Ernie Garcia
Law Enforcement Program

Alan Brooking
Calling Committee
Cashier

President's Corner

We had a fantastic turnout for our March meeting. I want to thank the Sacramento Chapter membership along with members of the Delta and Mother Lode Chapters of the SAR, and Sacramento, Gold Trail, Sierra-Amador, and El Dorado Chapters of the DAR for making this meeting a success.

We have four members celebrating membership anniversaries in April: Gregory Stephen Jones with 5 years, and Seward Louis Andrews Jr., Dean Hepler Cowan, and Rudolph Rodriguez with 10 years. Thank you for your support.

Please join me in welcoming three new members to the Sacramento Chapter: Christopher Eric Gilles and Junior Members Reagan Lee Gilles and Patton Armstrong Lee Gilles (sons of compatriot Kirk Jeffrey Gilles).

I recently was saddened to learn of the passing of former compatriot William C. "Kelly" Rightmer. Unfortunately, I didn't personally know Kelly, but in my previous role as chapter secretary, I processed the documents to the NSSAR to enroll him in the California Company of World War II veterans. He was awarded the NSSAR Certificate of Patriotism in 2012 for his service. As a young Marine PFC, Kelly was in the first landing wave at Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands, on November 20th, 1943. Kelly was wounded during the battle and was discharged in 1944.

I would like to remind the membership that the National History Day-California competition is going to be held at William Jessup University in Rocklin on May 8th and 9th. I encourage you to join me at this event. If you're interested in learning more or would like to sign up to judge, please visit this website: <http://www.nhdca.org/#1volunteer/c24vq>. At this site you can also RSVP if you are not able to attend this year but would like to be kept on a list. This is a great opportunity to serve our community.

We are getting some response on our request for Patriot Biographies, but it could be better. While this is an ongoing program, in order to receive the President General's Flag streamer, we need to submit patriot biographies equal to 20% of our membership (about 36) by June 1st 2015. We have a long way to go; so if you haven't done so, please submit yours as soon as you can. Please be aware that we can submit bios for patriots that are not ones we have claimed as our own ancestors if we have already uncovered relevant information about them. This information is being put online on the SAR Patriot Search on our NSSAR website at <http://patriot.sar.org/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=Grave%20Registry&-loadframes> and will help potential members in researching their ancestors. **Be sure you include your NSSAR and CASSAR numbers with your submission so that our chapter will receive credit for them.**

Hope to see you at our April meeting!

Craig Anderson, SARSAC President



Craig Anderson

Sons of the American Revolution—Sacramento Chapter

Meeting Minutes March 20, 2015

Prior to the start of the meeting members arrived early to view and vote on the poster contest that featured posters on the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Posters came from four schools. Tom Chilton did a great job organizing this event with the help of Don Littlefield, Russ Kaiser, and Marilyn Chilton.

President Craig Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and Jeff Goodwin gave the invocation. Doug Cross led the Pledge to the SAR and Ernie Garcia led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Anderson introduced the following:

CASSAR Officers and Past Presidents: Jim Faulkinbury, CASSAR President and Sacramento Chapter Past President 2005 and 2006; Tom Chilton, Past President 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2012; Don Littlefield, Past President 2010 and 2011, current Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Webmaster, and CASSAR Chairman of the Wreaths Across America Program; Russ Kaiser, Past President 2013 and 2014 and current Color Guard Commander; Jeff Sylvan, Past President of the Delta Chapter and current Registrar; Jim Warrick, Programs Chairman; Carl Ahlberg, Chapter Secretary; Alan Brooking, Registrar, Calling Committee Chairman, and Cashier; Ernie Garcia, Chairman Activities; Don Spradling, SAR Photographer; Roy Adkins, Chairman JROTC/ ROTC Program; Neil Zinn, Chairman Eagle Scout Program.

DAR members: Sacramento Chapter: Marilyn Chilton; Medora Allen.



Carl Ahlberg

Gold Trail Chapter: Susan Brooking, Regent; Karen Faulkinbury; Kathy Stovall

Sierra Amador Chapter: Sharon Murphy, First Vice Regent; Catherine Burr, Second Vice Regent; Ruth Edmonson-Johnson, Past Regent and current Registrar; Deborah Tasker-Brady; Carol Olney; Collette Furguson; Laura Clark; Teddt West; Eileen Johnson

El Dorado Chapter: Linda Swystun

CASSAR LAUX members: Karen Faulkinbury 1st VP; Marilyn Chilton; Susan Brooking; Donna Spradling.

Guests: Guest speaker tonight, Sacramento Chapter member, Ted Robinson; JROTC Cadet Senior Master Sgt Ethan Cao and his father Ener; New member Samuel Smith; prospective members: Larry Stoval; Chuck Barnett; David Paulson and his parents Ray and Julia; and Benjamin Renfro and his daughter Carlie and parents Linda and Gene Swystun; Steve Eckles; John Chiles; and Dave Allmuth.

CASSAR President Jim Faulkinbury presented a historical overview of the Join or Die and the Gladsden flags.

Past President Russ Kaiser presented Jeff Goodwin and Neil Zinn Certificates of Appreciation for helping the Chapter during the 2014 year.

President Craig Anderson announced that we need volunteers to attend the National History Day – a California competition to be held at William Jessup University in Rocklin on May 8th and 9th. President Anderson has volunteered to help judge the event but more volunteers are needed and he invited members to join him. Anyone interested in participating was asked to contact President Anderson after the meeting for more information.

President Anderson asked Alan Brooking and new member Samuel Smith Senior Master Sgt Ethan Cao. Ethan received the JROTC Medallion and Certificate from ROTC Chairman Roy Adkins, and Don Littlefield then presented Ethan with a \$250 check. Past President and Color Guard Commander Russ Kaiser explained that that his duties involve the traditional Color Guard and also the School Guard. He explained the School Guard presents programs to 16-17 schools each year and presently includes Jim Faulkinbury, Tom Chilton and Ernie Garcia and Helena Hurst. The group is looking for new members to help. They make 1-2 presentations a day and Commander Kaiser encouraged members to visit one of the presentations to see if it is something they might be interested in

(Continued on next page)

March Minutes Continued

(March 20 Minutes continued)

doing. There are two presentations on March 23 and one on March 26. President Anderson encouraged members to support this group.

Dinner was served.

After dinner President Anderson introduced Sacramento Chapter member Ted Robinson who is best known as the naval officer who rescued future president John F. Kennedy from PT 109 in the Pacific during World War II. Lt. Commander Robinson shared his experience with the Battle of Okinawa. He told a heart-warming story of one sailor under his command, Seaman Kelly. Before entering the navy Seaman Kelly was headed for trouble but through the efforts of his, “adopted mother” (the mother of his best friend) he joined the Navy. After struggling to find the right path he was made Coxswain of an LCVP that was a working boat of the ship LST 1062. Lt Commander Robinson shared how they were attempting to rescue 100 soldiers in extremely bad weather from behind enemy lines. The LST was being pushed in the wrong direction and onto rocks. Seaman Kelly used his LCVP to push the ship out of danger and saved the ship and soldiers from the Japanese. It was thought Seaman Kelly had died but he was able to make his way back to the ship. Lt Commander Robinson promoted him two ranks to Boatswain’s Mate. Boatswain Kelly lost the use of his arm but went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam, making the Navy a career, all because his adopted mother, Florence, and Lt Commander Robinson who saw something in this previously troubled young man.

President Anderson thanked Ted Robinson for a great program and presented him with a Liberty Bell and a Certificate of Appreciation. He announced the speaker of April would be Susan Gillespie, portraying Sarah Winchester.

After the guest speaker was finished President Anderson conducted the raffle. Those donating raffle gifts were: Alan and Susan Brooking, Tom and Marilyn Chilton, Sandy and Craig Anderson, Jeff and Ursula Sylvan, Jim and Karen Faulkinbury, Ernie and Helen Garcia, Harlan and Sidney Ann Tougaw, Doug and Wilma Cross.

President Anderson thanked Don Spradling for taking pictures and maintaining the flags; Susan Brooking for selling the raffle tickets; Alan Brooking for chairing the Calling committee, acting as cashier, and conducting the raffle; and Neil Elvick for editing the newsletter.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Tal Norwood led the Recessional and Jeff Goodwin gave the Benediction and led the Chapter in singing God Bless America. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Carl E Ahlberg, Chapter Secretary

Eagle Scout Program

Past President Russ Kaiser, Zachary Kazee, family and friends at Eagle Court of honor, 3/22/15



Photos from the March 20th Regular Meeting

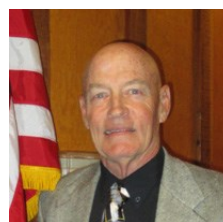
Photos by Don Spradling



Above: The speaker, Ted Robinson, receives the Certificate of appreciation and Liberty Bell from President Craig Anderson.

At left: Ted and his wife, Lynn, at the table where they were selling the books that chronicled his experiences in WW II.

New Member Samuel Thayer Smith



Samuel Thayer Smith was born in St. Petersburg, FL, and spent his childhood in Florida, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Florida, Japan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and California. His Father was retired Air Force. He graduated from Highlands High School, American River (AA), California State College (Hayward) (BS), University of San Francisco (MA) and US Army – Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, TX.

He is married to Kaaren Kendall. Sam and Kaaren have 2 adult children, Keegan T. Smith, and Summer K. Grassl. They are blessed with four grandkids; Aidan (7), Tula (6) and Killian (5) and Augusta (3 mo.).

Sam served in the US Army in 1967 – 69, the Army Reserve Command Group 1969-73, and the California Army National Guard 1982-2006.

Sam is retired from Grant Union High School District where he taught Math. He also retired from the California Army National Guard at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. His hobbies include motorcycle riding and working on his small 5 acre ranch.

Sam's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on March 27, 2015. His patriot ancestor, Reuben Ferris, was a Major on May 6, 1776. He was designated a Lt. Col. On July 16, 1776, serving under Col. Henry Ludington.

Photos from the March 20th Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



Ener Cao & his son, Ethan



**Senior Mst. Sgt. Ethan Cao
receives award from Roy Adkins**



Steve Eckles



**Chris & Colette Furguson
Colette is from Sierra Amador DAR Chapter**



**Don Littlefield, Ethan Cao, Roy Adkins (JROTC
Committee Chairman), Craig Anderson**



**Alan Brooking, new member Samuel Thayer
Smith, Craig Anderson**



Neil Zinn, Russ Kaiser, Jeff Goodwin

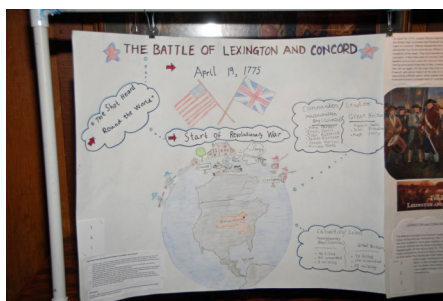
Posters from 2015 Poster Contest

Photos by Don Spradling

The Battles of Lexington and Concord were the themes for this year's Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest. This contest is sponsored by the national society each year and is open to those elementary students in the grade that is studying the American Revolution, which in California is mostly 5th graders. The posters pictured below were from students in the four schools that participated this year in the chapter's contest. They were Green Valley Elementary, Sandra Gallardo Elementary, Oak Chan Elementary, and Isadora Cohen School. The posters are judged on such things as creativity, originality, historical accuracy and artistic merit and also on how well the poster exhibited the theme. Small cash prizes are awarded to students creating the five top posters in each classroom and the top overall winner's poster is entered in the statewide contest. Tom Chilton is the chairman of this program and was responsible for organizing this display. This program reaches approximately 500 families each year.



This was the winning poster by Ryan Yi from Mr. Brown's classroom at Sandra J. Gallardo Elementary School.



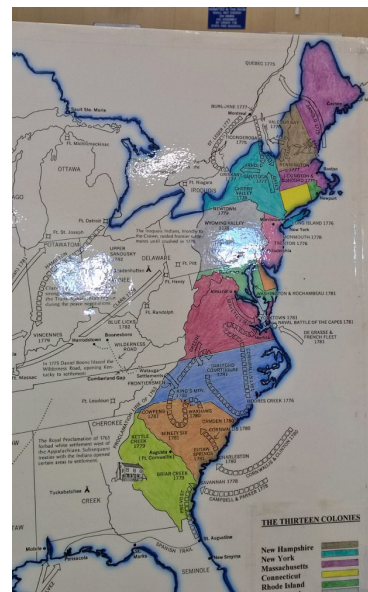
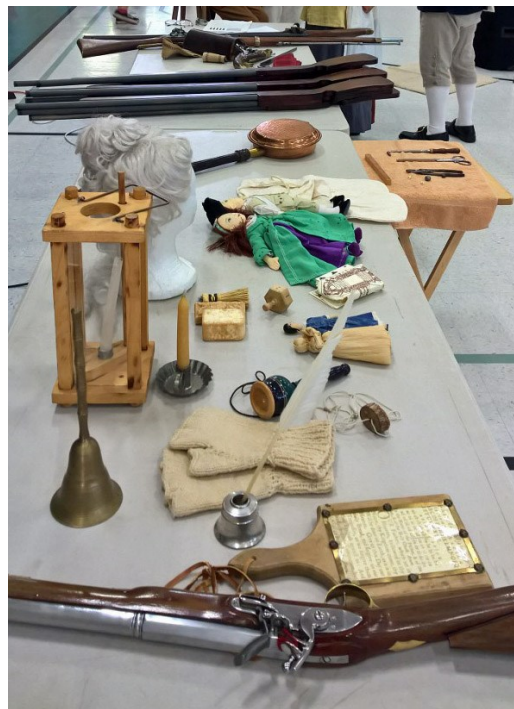
Sacramento Chapter School Guard 2015

The Color Guard and School Guard pursue very busy schedules. The Color Guard continues to be in great demand for performances at parades, historical re-enactments and other civic events. The School Guard gives presentations several times a month to large audiences of school children all around the Sacramento area. The photographs below were taken at Green Valley Elementary School in Rescue, California.



Above is Ernie Garcia in his role as a “soldado” in 1770's California. Below is Alan Brookings in his first time role as a Patriot spy in George Washington's army and Helena Hurst as Molly Pitcher at the Battle of Monmouth.

Pictured on the right are some of the props used in their presentation and a map of the Eastern Seaboard in the 1770's.



Patriot Biographies

Jim Faulkinbury reports that so far 11 of the biographies have been submitted to the national organization from the Sacramento Chapter. The Chapter will qualify for a Streamer if a total of 36 are submitted by June 1. To reiterate, there is no required format but it is requested that the information be limited to approximately 500 words and be submitted as a Microsoft Word document. Your patriot biography can be submitted to patriotbios@sar.org but also send a copy to either Craig Anderson (craig@winfirst.com or 916-257-7892) or Neil Elvick (neilel@aol.com or 916-730-6345) so we can present them here. Either of them would be happy to assist you with this if you wish.

The following two Patriot biographies were submitted by a descendant and Chapter member, Peter Hefler. The accounts were taken from an autobiographical account that was written down in John Arndt's family bible that has since been handed down to the oldest male descendant in each generation.

Jacob Arndt, the Patriot, was born in Baumholder [Germany] on March 24, 1725. Following the family's immigration to America, Jacob married Elizabeth Gieger and purchased a farm in Rockhill, Bucks Co., Pennsylvania. He worked there as a shoemaker following his father's trade. In 1755, with the French and Indian War, he accepted a commission as Captain in the Provincial service. His company was stationed on the frontier at Forts Norris and Allen to prevent Indian incursions. By the end of the War, he was a Major in command of Fort Augusta until the troops were disbanded and discharged from military service. He returned to Bucks Co. but soon purchased a new farm on Bushkill Creek near Easton in Northumberland Co., Pennsylvania in 1760. When the discontent with Great Britain commenced, he used much of his financial resources to support the patriot's cause. He was elected by the citizens of Northampton County to represent them in the first convention where he worked on the committee with Benjamin Franklin that framed the First Pennsylvania Constitution. He was a member of the Pennsylvania House Representatives and the Pennsylvania Executive Council. Jacob died on August 3rd, 1805.

John Arndt, the Patriot, son of Jacob and the author of the autobiography was born in Rockhill, Bucks Co., Pennsylvania on June 5th, 1748. He moved with his parents and siblings to the farm near Easton. He married first to Elizabeth Fiet of Sussex Co., New Jersey on December 13th, 1774. Elizabeth died in January 1776, shortly after the birth of her first child who had also died a couple of days earlier. Without a family he continued his occupation as a miller but the crisis with Great Britain quickly changed his occupation. He was asked by the county committee to take command of a company of riflemen for the Flying Camp. He was appointed Capt. In the First Battalion of Associators, part of the Flying Camp of ten thousand men commanded by Col. Hart. His company was ordered to Long Island. Capt. John Arndt's career was short lived. At the Battle of Long Island, he was hit in the left arm by a small cannon ball on August 27th, 1776. The ball shattered his elbow and left him unable to use that arm. While in the hospital, being treated for his wound, the remaining members of his company were transferred to another officer. During the ensuing continuation of the battle many of the members of his company were killed. When he returned home, having recovered enough from his wounds, the parents of the lost members of his company brought charges of incompetence against him for their losses and he was put on trial. In his defense it was shown that he had been hospitalized and most of those killed were under the command of another officer while he was recovering from his wound. He was acquitted. In 1777, the new Pennsylvania government appointed him as Register for the probate of Wills and Recorder of Deeds for Northampton County. On April 5th, 1779 he was appointed to the Council of Exchange for Northampton County, and on October 20th, 1783 appointed to the Council of Censors representing Northampton County. Even though not responsible for the loss of his company at the Battle of Long Island, he declined ever applying for a pension from the state of Pennsylvania for his service. John married 2nd to Elizabeth Ihrie on August 12th, 1777 and had a family of ten children by this second marriage. In 1796 he moved from the farm near Easton to the town of Easton where he remained for the rest of his life. His oldest son, George, who received the Bible following John's death, followed the autobiography with the comment that John Arndt died on May 6th, 1814 at age 65.

Coming Events

April 17, 2015--Regular Meeting
7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant
Speaker Susan Gillespie portraying Sarah
Winchester

May 15, 2015—Regular Meeting
7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant
Speaker Major General William H. Wade II
(USA Ret.)

**A PUBLICATION BY THE
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**

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