



The Courier



June 2019

Sacramento Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 51, Edition 2

Presidents Corner

Hope my note finds you all well.

By the time you see this, we will have had our first members only meeting on June 1st. We have started planning the April 2020 CASSAR Spring Meeting. We had to decide on which venue would be best for us as far as accessibility, location, price, surrounding attractions.

We have also had a few members who will be awarded NSSAR Veterans Recognition Certificates. Since I can see more of these Certificates being awarded, I will be announcing them at our next meeting.



I would like to thank CASSAR E.V.P. Don Littlefield for representing the CASSAR and Sacramento Chapter of the SAR by attending the Memorial Day Event at the Presidio, San Francisco, in uniform, along with two members of the San Francisco Chapter. Of course, there was the Memorial Day Parade and 21 Cannon Salute. And, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, was in attendance.

We have the Carmichael 4th of July Parade coming up. All but 2, I believe, of our Color Guard will not be able to participate due to the NSSAR Congress in Costa Mesa, Ca. They all will be attending the Congress except for David Beach, who I believe will be out of state. We do have a truck to pull the trailer, Russ Kaiser's wife, Donna, will be driving the truck and pulling the trailer.

Cattlemens Meal Selections:

Ribeye Steak \$30.

Sirloin Steak \$25.

Grilled Salmon \$25.

Teriyaki Chicken \$25.

Pesto Spinach/Cheese Ravioli \$25. (Vegan)

Next Meeting

Friday, September 20, 2019, 7:00PM

Cattlemens Restaurant

12409 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova

Make a reservation and meal choice when a member of the telephone committee calls. Or, contact Chair Phil Noble at email phil7476@aol.com by noon on Thursday before the meeting.

Payment accepted at the door. We accept cash or personal checks. We do not accept credit cards.

Wives, guests, and visiting compatriots are always welcome.

Come and socialize at 6:00PM. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00PM

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

Photos courtesy of Don Spradling

Presidents Corner (Cont.)

However, we still need someone with a truck to return the trailer on the 5th. So far, the plan has been that Phil, Ernie and myself would be on the trailer. We need more people to join in. Unfortunately, I might not be able to make the parade as I'm have to have a little surgery preformed and was told that I'm going to have to take it easy for a few weeks (no heavy partying like we do at the SAR, LOL). So we still need some people to step forward and a volunteer to return the trailer.

So here is a little bit of very nice and surprising news, cause this is a BIG DEAL. Don Littlefield, being the CASSAR E.V.P., was informed by current President, Robert Taylor, of the CASSAR, that two Teachers from Sacramento County have been selected to attend a one week Valley Forge Teachers Program this summer, July 5th through the 10th at Valley Forge, PA. The lucky recipients of these scholarships are Scott Steffens, an 8th grade Teacher from St. Patrick's Academy, and Melissa Wolking, a 5th grade Teacher at Oak Chan Elementary. Beside the State funding the registration fees, the Sacramento Chapter of the SAR will be contributing \$500.00 to each toward their travel, lodging and meals. Scott and Melissa are to be congratulated. Obviously, they are doing something right in order to receive this honor.

Well, that's it for now. We have more stuff happening in August and September that I will be telling you about next time.

Until then, please enjoy your summer.

Will Gunter
President
Sacramento Chapter

Flag Certificates



VFW POST 1747, 1901 Elgin St., Oroville, Ca



FXP Firearms, 1940 Feather River Blvd., Oroville

New Members

Two new members were inducted into the Sacramento Chapter during the May meeting:

Edward George Heidig II is a resident of Sacramento, and he is the Regional Director for the Department of Health and Human Services. His patriot ancestor was John Peter Haas, and his application was approved on February 1, 2019

Dark Christopher Alvarado is a resident of North Highlands and he is a 2nd grade student at Cyril Spinelli Elementary School in Antelope. His patriot ancestor was Patrick Anderson and his application was approved on April 12, 2019.



L-R Craig Anderson CASSAR VP-North, Dark Christopher Alvarado; Ed Heidig II, President Trumps Regional Director for the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Don Littlefield CASSAR Executive VP, and Will Gunter Sacramento Chapter President.

Intel Foundation Grant

Don Littlefield presented a check for \$10,000 to the Sacramento Chapter from the Intel Foundation. This check was earned through Don's volunteer work for the Sacramento Chapter during the previous year.



Meeting Minutes

President Gunter called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Chaplain Jeff Goodwin gave the invocation and Roy Adkins led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dave Paulson led the Pledge to the SAR. He then introduced past SAR Chapter presidents and California Society Officers: Don Littlefield, Current CASSAR Executive V.P., Past V.P. Calif. North, Treasure and Past President; Dr. Mathew Bowdish, California Surgeon; Craig Anderson, CASSAR V.P. North, Secretary and Past President; Tom Chilton, Past President; Jeff Goodwin, Past President; and Ford Osborn, Past President of the Silicon Valley Chapter. He introduced DAR members: Sacramento Chapter Marilyn Chilton; Gen. John A Sutter Chapter June Epperly; Gold Trail Chapter; Bobbie Constable, and Lois Koenig; Sierra Amador Chapter; Carol Olney and Ruth Edmonson-Johnson. President Gunter introduced guests: Edward Heidig II and his wife Beth. Edward is President Trump's Regional Director for the Department of Health and Human Services; Larry Brasher, President of the Sacramento Chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge; Dark Alvarado, a new Jr. Member; Rudy Rodriguez, Flag Certificate recipient; and prospective members Gary Morgan, Mark Mozdy, and George Brinlee.



Michael Hull came forward and presented and discussed the historical flags: The Green Mountain Boys Flag and the Grand Union Flag.

School Guard Commander, Carl Ahlberg, came forward and briefed the members on the 2019 activities of the School Guard. He pointed out that they gave living history presentations to 38 classes in 14 schools during the year, and he gave a brief overview of the roles the various members played in these presentations. He discussed plans for next year that were being considered to expand the inventory of artifacts and possibly to donate books to each classroom if funds can be found to purchase them. Secretary Craig Anderson came forward to tell the membership about a teacher at New Castle Elementary who was nominated by Past President Tom Chilton a few years ago to the Freedom Foundations Valley Forge Program sponsored by the State Society. She told us that the Valley Forge Program made a powerful positive impact on the way she taught American History, and she has attended the program in subsequent years at her own expense. She also told us that our "School Guard" presentations have a tremendous positive effect on students. Secretary Anderson also announced that an application for the Valley Forge Program has been forwarded to the State Society from Scott Steffans, a teacher at St. Patrick's Academy here in Sacramento.

Secretary Anderson also gave a brief overview of the Wreaths Across America Program and acknowledged the chapter members who participated last year: Russ Kaiser, David Beach, Jim Faulkinbury, Ernie Garcia, Phil Noble, and Don Littlefield. He presented President Gunter flag streamer from the CASSAR for their participation in this event.

New members Edward Heidig II and Dark Alvarado were inducted into the Sacramento Chapter. All members were invited to come forward to welcome our new members.

Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

Don Littlefield came forward and presented President Gunter a check for \$10,000 from the Intel Foundation for Don's volunteer work for the chapter during the past year.

Chaplain Jeff Goodwin made a motion for the Sacramento Chapter to award a \$500 grant to the "School Guard" to enhance their program. Craig Anderson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by a voice vote of the membership.

President Gunter called Rudy Rodriguez forward and presented him with a flag certificate for properly flying the American Flag in front of his home.

Larry Brasher came forward and gave the membership a brief overview of Freedom Foundations activities such as the Spirit of America Youth Leadership program where they sponsored 76 youth from our area to a four day leadership workshop at Valley Forge. He also invited the chapter to participate in their Constitution Day event that they are planning at Johnston-Springview Park in Rocklin in September.

President Gunter introduced guest speaker, Dr. Matthew Bowdish, who gave a very interesting talk on DNA and how it can be used in genealogy. Following his presentation, President Gunther presented Dr. Bowdish with a Certificate of Appreciation.



President Gunter announced that Joe Mohammed would be hosting a Constitution Day Event at his home on Tuesday Sept. 17, 2019. He has asked for chapter support for this event with our color guard participation, a display of our historical flags, and the communication of this event to other SAR and DAR chapters. More information is to come. President Gunter mentioned the Elks Carmichael 4th of July Parade again. Russ Kaiser has volunteered to get the Trailer for the parade. He can pick up the trailer, his wife Donna can drive the vehicle, but he will not have time to return it; there is an issue with getting the trailer back to the rental agency on the 5th. Do we have a truck that can be used to get the trailer back to the rental agency?

President Gunter thanked Joe Morehead for volunteering to edit the newsletter. He asked all members and prospective members to come to the June 1st members only meeting

President Gunter thanked Phil Noble for being the Calling Committee Chairman and Cashier and Don Spradling for taking the pictures. He asked for a motion to adjourn and a second. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM. Vice President Terrence Conklin led the recessional and Chaplain Goodwin gave the benediction. Past President Tom Chilton led the singing of God Bless America.

Sacramento Chapter "School Guard"



L-R Carl Ahlberg, Jim Faulkinbury, Helena Hurst, Ernie Garcia, Craig Anderson

In California, the American Revolution is generally taught in 5th grade classrooms. For many years, members of the Sacramento Chapter SAR and DAR (School Guard) have been invited into local elementary schools to give presentations to students on the events and people of the American Revolutionary War in an effort to enhance the students' learning experience of American History. The School Guard also displays and discusses artifacts of this period, displays a selection of regimental flags of the era, and discusses the evolution of the American Flag.

These events are coordinated and managed by our School Guard Commander, Compatriot Carl Ahlberg. This year the School Guard made presentations to 1,125 students and teachers, in 14 elementary schools. Our SAR and DAR members donated over 250 hours of community service in scheduling and giving these presentations, and logged over 1,300 travel miles. We currently have six SAR and DAR members who participate in this program, but we are always looking for others to join our group. If you would like to help and become part of this great program, please contact Carl Ahlberg: icahlberg@sbcglobal.net.

Our “School Guard” Members

Ernie Garcia portrays his patriot ancestor, Josef Manuel Valenzuela, who was a cavalry soldier assigned to the Santa Barbara company, Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara, Alta California under Capitan Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada. He talks about the role that the Spanish Soldados in California played in the American Revolution.

Helena Hurst (Sacramento DAR) portrays, Mary Hayes, a woman who followed her husband to war. During the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, she replaced her wounded husband on a cannon and became known in history as “Molly Pitcher.” Helena also presents and discusses the various 18th century artifacts that we take to the classrooms. She discusses and demonstrates some of the practical items of 18th century life as well as some of the toys the colonial children may have used, including a whirligig. A whirligig is given to each class.

Jim Faulkinbury portrays Captain Jim, a captain in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental army. He describes the uniform and equipment of a Revolutionary War soldier. He relates his experiences with one of his soldiers who was a woman masquerading as a man who served in his unit, Deborah Samson. Captain Jim also tells the students about the evolution of our American Flag from the Sons of Liberty Flag to the current “Stars and Stripes”.

Carl Ahlberg portrays his patriot ancestor, William Foster, a soldier who served with George Washington at Valley Forge. He describes the hardships faced by the soldiers during the winter of 1777, their lack of food, clothing, and shelter. He also describes how General Washington overcame the threat of Small Pox to his army by utilizing inoculation. Carl also presents each class with a letter, in Abigail Adams’ handwriting, with an embossed stamp depicting the English Stamp Act and sealed in wax with Thomas Jefferson’s wax stamp.

Craig Anderson portrays his patriot ancestor, Patrick Anderson. He describes the structure of the colonial militia and the minutemen, discusses the historical characters and events around the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill, including Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott. He talks about the contributions of young people in the war such as Sybil Ludington and Joseph Plumb Martin. He talks about some of the equipment that a militia soldier may have carried, and he demonstrates how flint and steel is used to make fire.

Our “School Guard” Members

Susan Checchittini (Sacramento DAR) portrays Molly “Mom” Rinker, a spy for General Washington. Her family kept a tavern in Philadelphia and during the English occupation, “Mom” would listen in on the conversations of the English Officers and pass messages to General Washington. Each night, after gathering her intelligence, she would write the information on a small piece of paper. She then would wrap yard around the stone until she had a normal ball of yarn. Every day, “Mom” would go to a little spot along her favorite creek, seat herself on a rock, and begin to knit. At some point she would subtly drop the ball of yarn and watch it roll down the hill where it would be picked up by one of Washington’s men. Today that spot along Wissahickon Creek, in Philadelphia is called Rinker’s Rock.



Don Littlefield talks about the Penobscot Expedition, a 44-ship American naval task force mounted by the Provincial Congress of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. The flotilla of 19 warships and 25 smaller support vessels sailed from Boston on **July 19**, for the upper Penobscot Bay in the District of Maine carrying a ground expeditionary force of more than 1,000 colonial Marines and militiamen.

Included was a 100-man artillery detachment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Revere. The Expedition's goal was to reclaim control of what is now mid-coast Maine from the British who had seized it a month earlier and renamed it New Ireland. It was the largest American naval expedition of the war. The fighting took place both on land and at sea in and around the mouth of the Penobscot and Bagaduce Rivers at what is today Castine, Maine over a period of three weeks in July and August of 1779.



One of its greatest victories of the war for the British, the Expedition was also **the United States' worst naval defeat until Pearl Harbor in 1941.**

Honoring Our Patriot Ancestors

Jacob Bickel and Patrick Anderson

In 1776, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives authorized the formation of 1500 men for the defense of the province. They determined that one thousand of the levies should be riflemen, divided in two battalions of five hundred men each, and the remaining to be a battalion of “musketmen”.

A volunteer in one of the Rifle Regiments was Jacob Bickel. He was born June 16, 1744 in Massenbach, Wuertemberg. He immigrated to America with his parents and sister in 1749 at the age of five years. He served two tours of duty. Initially he was with the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment that fought the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776. He and about two hundred others returned home without permission after the battle and then petitioned to return to action under different leadership. Their units had been decimated in the battle and their commanders “lost.” Their plea to the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania for reinstatement is quoted: *“We lost our Chief Commanders on Long Island, and not knowing who to apply to for Redress when out of the Province we returned to seek Redress, and hope your Honours will take it into your Consideration. Your Petitioners did not leave New York for Cowardice but for bad usage, and we are willing to fight to Defend the Province where we were Inlisted.”* Jacob subsequently served in Captain Martin Weaver's Company. There is no record of the type of duty that this Company performed, but some conclusions can be made from the pay records. These records strongly suggest that this was one of the Pennsylvania Militia Companies that George Washington took across the Delaware on Christmas Eve, 1776.

One of the volunteers in the Musketry Battalion was Patrick Anderson. He was born July 24, 1719 in Charlestown Township in Chester County. In April 1776 he accepted a Captains commission in the Musketry Battalion. The musketry battalion was formed in Chester Pennsylvania and was ordered along with the rifle battalions to Perth Amboy in early July. The Musketry Battalion, along with the two rifle battalions, took part in the Battle of Long Island on August 27th and suffered heavy losses including their commander (captured) and adjutant (killed). As the senior Captain, Patrick was given command of the battalion. The Musketry Battalion along with the other units were evacuated from Long Island and fought a retreating action up Manhattan and went into camp above Kings Bridge. In late September, many soldiers of the Rifle and Musketry Battalions mutinied because they had never received promised food, clothing, and pay, and they returned to Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Archives hold a letter Patrick wrote to Benjamin Franklin asking for guidance following this event. General Washington ordered the remaining troops back to Pennsylvania. The remnants of Patrick Anderson's company eventually became part of the Pennsylvania State Regiment and fought in the Battles of Germantown and Brandywine. His enlistment expired in April 1778, and following his military service, he served two terms in the Pennsylvania Assembly.

243 years later, descendants of these two patriots serve the SAR as members of the Sacramento Chapter. Jacob Bickel is the patriot ancestor of chapter member Neil Elvick and Patrick Anderson is the patriot ancestor of chapter member Craig Anderson.

Coming Events

Next Dinner Meeting

September 20, 2019 7:00PM

Cattlemen's Restaurant

12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova



Special Members Only Meeting

Saturday August 17, 2019 at 10:00AM

Cattlemens Restaurant

12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

Doors Open at 9:30 - Light Refreshments will be served

Chapter Planning Meeting for 2020

A PUBLICATION BY THE
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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