



The Courier



May 2017

Sacramento Chapter— Sons of the American Revolution

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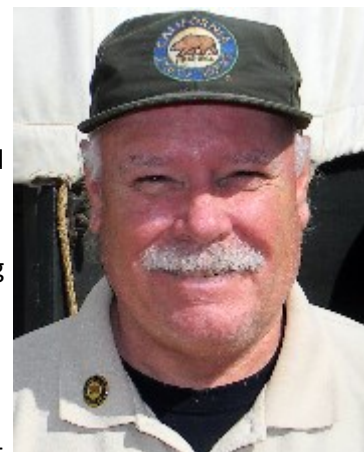
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Steve Beck

Since 1997 Steve Beck has worked in a variety of positions at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. He is currently the "Director of History and Educational Programming." Beck was also the archivist for the Sacramento Historic Sites Association for several years and is still extensively involved with the Fort collections. Beck has written several monographs on the history and anthropology of the Sacramento region including articles about the Donner Party, Bear Flag Revolt, and the relationship between John Sutter and the Indigenous People of the Sacramento Valley. Beck frequently is invited to speak on the subject of John Sutter and the history and anthropology of the Sacramento Valley and overland migration. He has appeared on the History Channel, Discovery Channel, PBS, and the Sacramento Public Access Channel. In 2012 Beck was the recipient of a cable television WAVE award for a documentary on the Bear Flag Revolt. In 2013, he received the same award for a documentary on "The Donner Party," and is a 2014 finalist for a video about the "Birth of Sacramento City." He was the keynote speaker for the grand opening of the Bureau of Land Management's California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, and has given talks there on multiple occasions. Beck holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Anthropology and Geology from California State University Sacramento.



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

Ribeye Steak	\$30.
Sirloin Steak	\$25.
Grilled Salmon	\$25.
Lemon Chicken	\$25.
Pesto Spinach/Cheese Ravioli	\$25.
(vegetarian)	

Friday, May 19, 2017 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, May 17**, please call Michael Brady at (916) 647-3716 directly and leave a message by noon on Thursday or mlbrady@sbcglobal.net. We strongly encourage reservations be made in advance. All reservations are guaranteed. Don't be a "no show." Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always encouraged and welcome. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, EIN # 68-0004288

Current Officers

Alan Brooking
President

Don Littlefield
Executive Vice-President
Treasurer and Webmaster

Carl Ahlberg
Vice President of Meetings

Jim Faulkinbury
Genealogist & Secretary

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

Alan Brooking
Americanism Poster Contest

Carl Ahlberg
Program Committee

Mike Hull & Del Hansen
Law Enforcement Program

Michael Brady
Calling Committee
Cashier

President's Corner May 2017**President's
Corner May 2017**

We observe a very important holiday in May. Memorial Day. Formerly known as Decoration Day, the name was changed to Memorial Day in 1971 by an act of Congress. As a young boy, I remember going to the cemetery with my Grandmother on Decoration Day to put flowers on the graves of our relatives who had served. Sacramento Chapter Color Guard will be doing two events, one at Sylvan Cemetery and one for Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon. As always if you are interested in our Color Guard either of these would be a place to observe us in action. Come Join the Fun.

**President Alan Brooking**

April was a busy month for SAR activities. CASSAR Spring meeting in Irvine, CA. Sacramento Chapter winning Poster won 2nd place. The Brochure entry gained an Honorable Mention, and in Best Chapter Sacramento was awarded 1st for Chapter Meetings and CASSAR Programs. Our Color Guard collected another Streamer for participation in Wreaths across America.

Two of our members were elected to CASSAR offices. Craig Anderson is the new State Secretary and Dr. Matthew Bowdish MD is the new State Surgeon.

May will see Sacramento Chapter wrapping up the School Guard, Poster Contest and JROTC awards. A big Thank you to the Committee Chairs and all who made these programs possible. If any new members are interested we welcome you.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the May 19th Chapter Meeting

Yours in Patriotic Service.

Alan Brooking

alan.brooking@sarsac.org

Minutes of April, 2017 Meeting

Sons of the American Revolution – Sacramento Chapter

Minutes Sacramento Chapter Meeting, April 21, 2017

Sacramento President Alan Brooking called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. He then gave the Invocation and asked Mike Kramer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Carl Ahlberg who led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Brooking next introduced the National and State Officers and Sacramento Past Presidents who were present. They included NSSAR Vice President General for the Western District Jim Faulkinbury who was also CASSAR Past President 2014, Sacramento Chapter Past President 2005-2006, and current Sacramento Chapter Secretary; CASSAR Executive Vice President, Derek Brown; CASSAR Vice President North and CASSAR Poster Contest Chairman, David Gilliard; CASSAR Secretary and Sacramento Chapter Past President 2015-2016, Craig Anderson; CASSAR Surgeon, Dr. Matthew Bowdish; CASSAR Color Guard Commander and Chief of Protocol, Mark Kramer; Sacramento Chapter Past President 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2012, Tom Chilton; Sacramento Chapter Past President 2010-2011, Don Littlefield who is the current Sacramento Chapter Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Webmaster as well as CASSAR Wreaths Across America Chairman; Vice President of Programs and Chairman of the Middle School Brochure Program, Carl Ahlberg; Custodian of our historic flags and Co-Chair of the Community and Law Enforcement Program, Michael Hull; Chairman of the chapter ROTC/JROTC Program, Roy Adkins; and Chapter Photographer, Don Spradling.



Jim Faulkinbury, Secretary

The DAR members attending were, from the Sacramento Chapter DAR Marilyn Chilton and Medora Allen; from the Gold Trail Chapter, Past Regent, Susan Brooking, Karen Faulkinbury, and prospective member Rebecca Beach; and from the Sierra Amador Chapter, Regent Ann Taylor, Deborah Tasker-Brady, and Past Regent Ruth Edmonson-Johnson.

CASSAR LAUX members present were Susan Brooking, Marilyn Chilton, Karen Faulkinbury and Donna Spradling

Our other guests were David Cofer and the family of Dale Lyon who are new members, and JROTC Cadet Lt. Kelsey N. McWhirt our Chapter Outstanding JROTC Contest winner.

Following introductions, Michael Hull was asked to come forward and discuss the two flags he brought tonight --- the Spanish Burgundy Cross and the Taunton flags.

The next item of business was the swearing in of our new member, David Cofer. His bio was read by President Brooking after which President Brooking inducted him and the membership came forward to welcome him with the usual handshake. The son of Dale Lyon, Joshua, was asked to come forward and accept the membership certificate for his father who passed away April 13th. A Memorial certificate was also presented to the family and the traditional ringing of 8-bells was sounded in recognition of Dale's passing.

Following this, CASSAR Color Guard Commander, Mark Kramer, brought greetings on behalf of CASSAR President Jim Fosdyck who is planning on attending our next meeting. Then CASSAR Executive VP Derek Brown also brought greetings

We then recessed for the dinner meal.

Following dinner, the first item of business was the presentation of the Outstanding JROTC Medallion and \$250 cash award to Cadet Lt. Kelsey McWhirt. Chairman Roy Atkins and President Brooking presented the medallion and, with the help of Treasurer Don Littlefield, presented the cash award. Kelsey then read her winning essay to the attendees.

(Continued on following page)

March Minutes Continued & New Members

(Continued from previous page)

President Brooking then introduced our guest speaker, Compatriot and member of the Sacramento Chapter, Philip Noble. Compatriot Noble, a docent at a couple of Sacramento's historical sites, is a collector of documents bearing signatures by our founding fathers as well as other famous personages. He showed original documents signed Timothy Pickering, John Adams regarding James McHenry (the namesake of Fort McHenry of the 'Star Spangled Banner' fame), Thomas Jefferson, Aaron Burr, George Clinton, Elbridge Gerry (from whom the term 'gerrymandering' came from), James Madison, and Abraham Lincoln. He gave backgrounds about each document and the men who signed them.

VP Programs, Carl Ahlberg announced that we are still looking for a speaker for our next meeting Then, with the help of Susan Brooking, President Brooking held the raffle. Those donating gifts were, Susan & Alan Brooking, Don & Donna Spradling, Ron & Luann Hollis, Ruth Edmondson-Johnson, Will Gunter, Evan Jonas, Joseph Lucas, Carl & Inga Ahlberg, Clair & Medora Allen, Craig & Sandy Anderson, Jim & Karen Faulkinbury, and Tom & Marilyn Chilton. Following the raffle, he thanked Don Littlefield for cashiering the table, Don Spradling for taking the pictures, Neil Elvick for editing the newsletter, and Donna Spradling for all of the support she has given to the Chapter. He then asked for a motion to adjourn which was followed by Ernie Garcia leading us in the SAR Recessional. President Brooking then gave the Benediction after which we sang *God Bless America*. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Faulkinbury, Secretary

New Members

David Cofer



David Cofer

David was born in College Park, Maryland and spent his childhood in La Plata, Maryland. He graduated from La Plata High school. He is married to Rosalba Garcia. He was in the US Army from 1972—1975. He is retired. His hobbies include Genealogy, Kayaking and Fishing.

His application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on March 15, 2017. His patriot ancestor, Josias Cofer, paid property tax in Bedford County, Virginia in 1783.

Dale Michael Lyon

(Dale Lyon passed away April 13, just eight days before his scheduled induction into membership. His biography is presented below. His son, Joshua, was present to receive the membership certificate.)

Dale Lyon was born in Paramount, California, where he spent his childhood. He graduated from Paramount High School. He attended UC Davis Extension, where he studied Labor Law, a topic very close to his heart. He was married to Jean Lyon in 1993 and has two children, Joshua and Rachel. He retired from AT&T in 2010, where he worked as an Account Representative. His hobbies included reading news and staying aware of current events, taking his three dogs for walks, visiting with friends, trying new places to eat, going shooting at the range with family and watching movies. His favorite thing was spending time with his family.

Dale's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on 17 March 2017. His patriot ancestor, Daniel Moses, was a Private in the Connecticut 17th Regiment, (Col. Huntington) under Captain Bissell's Company.

April Program and JROTC Award

Photos by Don Spradling



Above: Alan Brooking presenting Liberty Bell and Certificate of Appreciation to the speaker, Phillip Noble.
At right: He presents his talk on his very interesting collection of historical autographs and various documents dating from early America.



ROTC/JROTC Commander Roy Adkins,
Cadet Kelsey McWhirt and Martha Adkins



Cadet Lt. Kelsey McWhirt with her parents,
William and Stephanie



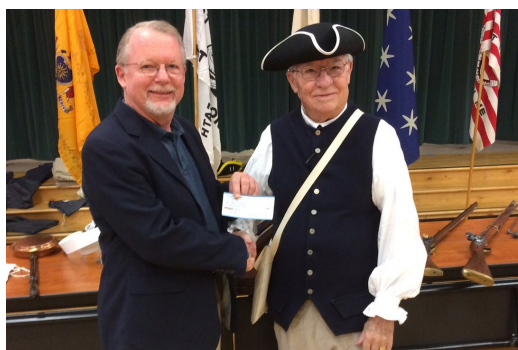
Cadet Lt. Kelsey McWhirt received the Outstanding JROTC Medallion and \$250 cash award. She is a student at Vanden High School in Fairfield. She read her winning essay.

New Member

Photos by Don Spradling



Joshua Lyon receives membership certificate from Alan Brooking. Joshua accepted the certificate on behalf of his father who passed away just a week earlier.



President Alan Brooking presenting donation of \$250 from SAR Sacramento Chapter to Haslet's Delaware Regiment



New member, David Cofer, receives his membership certificate from Alan Brooking



Ruth Edmiston-Johnson, George & Ann Taylor



Craig Anderson and Charter Bell



President Alan Brooking and CASSAR Poster Contest Chairman, David Gilliard, with Poster Contest Check



**Janet and Derek Brown
CASSAR Executive Vice President)**

239 Years Ago This Month

The Month of May 1778



Depiction of General von Steuben instructing troops at Valley Forge in the winter of 1778.

Two hundred and thirty-nine years ago, in May 1778, the Continental Army had just finished spending the difficult winter at Valley Forge. It had started with retreat, after defeats at Brandywine Creek and Germantown, and the British had followed up by occupying the city of Philadelphia as Washington's army was setting up winter quarters at Valley Forge. The hardships endured from the outset have been well documented, but they had been buoyed by the victory at Saratoga by General Gates and General Arnold and by the signing of an alliance with the French government.

Near the end of February, Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben arrived here from the Kingdom of Prussia. Although he had padded his resume of his military career in Europe, he turned out to be the solution to the problem of how to turn raw recruits into a disciplined army. He did not speak English and so he wrote his *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States* in French and although his staff struggled to translate it, these translations were passed on to the various military units and the prescribed drills began at once. Some military historians date the origin of America's Special Forces to this incident.

There was a Grand Parade held on May 6 to celebrate the completion of the French alliance. Von Steuben, himself, organized the event and he is quoted as saying his "enterprise succeeded better than he had expected."

The British subsequently decided to leave Philadelphia and to consolidate their North American presence in New York, and when they marched out of Philadelphia and across New Jersey, the Continental Army followed. The Americans left Valley Forge on June 19 and engaged the British at Monmouth Courthouse on June 27th. In stifling 100 plus degree heat, they proved that at least on that day they were the equal of the British army.

On the 100th anniversary of the troops departing Valley Forge, author and orator, Henry Armit Brown, delivered a commemorative speech that included the following excerpt: ***And here, in this place of sacrifice, in this vale of humiliation, in this valley of the Shadow of Death out of which the Life of America rose, regenerate and free, let us believe with an abiding faith that to them Union will seem as dear, and Liberty as sweet, and Progress as glorious as they were to our fathers, and are to you and me, and that the institutions which have made us happy, preserved by the virtue of our children, shall bless the remotest generations of the time to come.***



Mary Ludwig Hays, who has come down to us as Molly Pitcher, is depicted above at the Battle of Monmouth as she is loading cannon in place of her husband who has just been killed.

The Chapter School Guard

School Programs



Carl Ahlberg
as Private William Foster
from North Carolina at
Valley Forge

The costumed characters seen on this page are all from our chapter's School Guard. The costumes are authentic period replicas from the time of the Revolutionary War and they range from fairly fancy uniforms characteristic of high ranking officers to the more common clothing worn by new recruits. The weapons shown here are also authentic replicas of those that would have been used in that era. Each Spring Commander Russ Kaiser arranges with about thirty area schools to host the School Guard as they present programs to fifth and sixth graders.

Each School Guard member impersonates a soldier from the Continental Army and explains his role, both on the battlefield and in the camps. In some cases they are representing the roles of their actual ancestors. Battlefield tactics are explained and the students are allowed to participate. The boys are provided with simulated rifles to load and fire a volley and then to retreat to the rear as the next rank moves forward to fire the next volley. (It could take well over a minute to load and prepare to fire a single shot from a rifle or musket at that time.)

Helena Hurst, from the DAR, impersonates Molly Pitcher and the role she played at the Battle of Monmouth. (See photos on the following page.) She also has an array of props representing everyday items that were in common use in that era, and she explains what they were and how they were used. She explains the role that women played on the home front and as camp followers.

The programs last from 60 to 90 minutes and are exceptionally well received and the children receive important lessons in both history and patriotism.

The School Guard and Color Guard would be happy to accept more members. Those interested, please contact Commander Russ Kaiser.



Craig Anderson
Lieutenant Hezekiah Davis
Pennsylvania Flying Camp



Russ Kaiser
Sgt. John Wilkelow
Prisoner on Long Island



Jim Faulkinbury
Capt. Jim tells tales
from his regiment



Alan Brooking
First a drummer boy
and then a spy

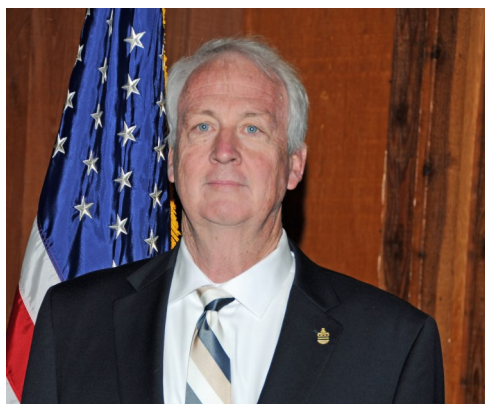
School Guard (continued) & Photos from April Meeting



In the above photo on the left, DAR member, Helena Hurst, and Alan Brooking are setting up the table with the props that are used in the School Guard program and then Helena demonstrates what hardtack is



Ron & Luann Hollis



Mark Kramer, CASSAR Color Guard Commander and Chief of Protocol



Evan Jonas, William Gunter and Joseph Lucas

Links

SAR Sacramento Chapter photos from our dinner meetings can be accessed and downloaded at <https://sar.smugmug.com/> & enter **Patriot**

The "Great Courses" organization has a 24 lecture course on the American Revolution available on DVD. The course is on 4 DVD's each containing 6 lectures. Our Chapter has one set of these which can be made available to members to borrow. Contact either Neil Elvick or Carl Ahlberg.

Information for assembling a uniform or militia outfit is now online at: <http://www.sar-sacramento.org/uniforms.shtml>.

Coming Events

May 29, 2017— Memorial Day

The Color Guard will participate in the ceremonies at
9:00 AM at the National Cemetery in Dixon and at
11:00 AM at Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights

May 19, 2017 —Regular Meeting

7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant
Speaker: Steve Beck, Director of History and Educational Programming at Sutter's Fort

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

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On the Internet at
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