The Pensacola Patriot

Pensacola Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution
Chartered March 14, 1896

July 2016

Chapter Officers

2015-2017

President	Bill Lies
1st VP	Chris Washler
2nd VP	Bill Nobles
Secretary	Bob Canavello
Treasurer	David Matthews
Registrar	Ray Judd
Chaplain	John Matthews
Genealogist	Vacant
Historian	Vacant
Member-at-large	Ray Lantz

June Meeting Notes

The June 7th meeting of the Pensacola Chapter was one of our busiest of the year so far! We had over 30 members and guests in attendance this month including members from the Aaron Snowden Chapter and the Emerald Coast Chapter. Also among our guests were past NSSAR President General, Judge Ed Butler and his wife, Robin, as well as the current DAR State Regent, Ginger Poffenberger.

One of the main reasons for such fantastic attendance was that we were honored this month to have the 2009-10 NSSAR President General, Ed Butler, as our guest speaker. Judge Butler has been touring Southern SAR Chapters to discuss his new book, and Pensacola was his final stop before he headed home to Texas. Judge Butler presented a fascinating lecture on his book, *Galvez/Spain—Our Forgotten Ally in the American Revolutionary War*.

Judge Butler's presentation covered the long and distinguished career of General Bernardo de Galvez and his contribution to the American Revolution. Judge Butler explained how General Galvez won significant battles and captured key forts from New Orleans up the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast, culminating in his victory during the Battle of Pensacola. As Judge Butler explained, without the contribution of General Galvez, we may never have won our independence!

(*continued on page 2)*

June Meeting Notes *(continued from p. 1)*

In addition to Judge Butler's presentation, we inducted five new compatriots into the Sons of the American Revolution. Walter McGill, Ted Hassebrock, and Donald Hassebrock all joined the Pensacola Chapter, and we inducted Chase and William Pellerin as compatriots in the Aaron Snowden Chapter. All five compatriots had the honor of having their rosette pinned on them by President General Butler. Additionally, we presented Compatriot Charles Flannigan with his membership certificate that unfortunately wasn't on hand when he was inducted into the chapter in April.

Compatriot Lonnie Jones presented three awards from the FLSSAR Annual meeting. Compatriots Ray Lantz and Bill Lies were recognized by the state for their significant contributions over the past year, and Ray's wife, Dianna, was also recognized for her contributions. After those awards were presented, the chapter presented a patch and certificate of recognition to new Eagle Scout, Alex Esenwein.

And finally, nominations were opened for the new chapter Board of Directors. (Look for an article on this later in the newsletter.)

We look forward to seeing everyone at our August 9th meeting when we elect our new Board of Directors!

Officer Elections - August 9

It's that time of year when we elect our chapter officers who will lead the chapter over the next year. (Actually, we are a little late, but we've been a busy chapter this year!) If you've ever thought about serving your fellow compatriots as a member of the chapter Executive Board, now is your chance!

All of our board positions are up for election. Here is a brief description of each (these are not all-inclusive descriptions):

President – Ensures the chapter affairs are conducted properly and in a timely manner. Oversees all current officers. Conducts Chapter and Board of Directors meetings. Files Chapter reports with State Officers. Represents the Chapter at various functions.

1st Vice President—Takes over the duties of the President in his absence. Responsible for the programs for Chapter meetings. Member of the Board of Directors.

2nd Vice President—Runs the Chapter in the absence of the President and 1st Vice President. Membership chairman (coordinated with the Secretary and Registrar). Member of the Board of Directors.

Treasurer—Maintains all chapter financial records. Responsible for collecting Chapter incomes and disbursing all Chapter monies. Reports Chapter financial status at monthly Chapter meetings. Member of the Board of Directors.

Secretary—Keeps a record of meeting attendance. Maintains a full record of all Chapter proceedings. Gives due notice to members for all meetings. Notifies applicants of their admission to membership. Handles correspondence of the Chapter. Coordinates membership duties with 2nd Vice President and the Registrar. Completes Chapter annual report. Member of the Board of Directors.

Registrar—Processes all applications for membership to the Chapter. Determines if prospects documentation proves line of descent. Assists applicants and members in documenting applications. Types applications on the proper paper. Submits applications and documentation to the State Registrar. Member of the Board of Directors.

Sergeant at Arms—Responsible for set up of the Chapter meetings. Assists in maintaining order at Chapter meetings. Member of the Board of Directors.

Director at Large—Member of the Board of Directors. Assists other officers as needed.

At the June meeting, nominations were taken for the officer positions and the following nominations were made:

President—Chris Washler
1st Vice President—none
2nd Vice President—Bill Nobles
Treasurer—David Matthews
Secretary—Bob Canavello
Registrar—Ray Judd
Sergeant at Arms—Randy Turner
Director at Large—Ray Lantz

Nominations will be re-opened at our July meeting prior to elections. Any current member who is interested in being on the Board of Directors is encouraged to attend the meeting. Self-nominations are accepted, or you can ask one of your compatriots to nominate you. Even if you aren't interested in being on the Board, please be sure to attend the meeting to cast your vote for our next Board of Directors!

Genealogy Research Corner

ByRay Lantz, FLSSAR Registrar and Pensacola Chapter Executive Committee Member

SAR Application Guidelines/Procedures:

- Applicant Birth Proof Acceptance Criteria Change 2005-03, Application completeness. **The applicant's certificate of birth stating the names of parents, date, and place of birth of the applicant, if available, is no longer the only document acceptable for proof of this information.** Other evidence for this information is now acceptable. Basically any evidence that is acceptable for all other generations is acceptable for the applicant's generation.
- Application Preparation Manual and Genealogy Policy Manual can be downloaded from www.sar.org by clicking on Compatriots, then clicking on NSSAR Committees, then clicking on Genealogy Committee, then clicking on Genealogy Policies and Application Preparation Manual and then click Application Preparation Manual and/or Genealogy Policy Manual. All applications regardless of type of application comply with these two documents when submitting any application

Genealogical Research Sources:

Free Research Sources:

- Findagrave.com contains user generated memorials for burials throughout the US and practically the entire world. The memorials often provide identification of the cemetery, obits, gravestone photos, family photos, death records, etc. To search for your ancestors grave use this link: http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi Beware the NSSAR typically only accepts the photos of gravestones from this site that contain legible information and do not under a circumstance accept user inputted info.
- Bas-Rhin, France Archives is for those who have ancestors that came from France and you know that they came from the Bas-Rhin region of Alsace, France. This site provides online access to both Catholic and Protestant church records dating back to the 1500s. The records are organized by the town where the church was located. There are no indexes and you must browse the church book that is identified to contain the records you are looking for. Catholic records are normally in Latin Script and the Protestant records are either German or French Script. To search these records use this link: http://archives.bas-rhin.fr/registres-paroissiaux-et-documents-d-etat-civil/ETAT-CIVIL-C89#search-results

Pay Research Sources:

- en.geneanet.org is for those who have ancestors that came from France. It has a free level of access and a fee based level of access. If you find your ancestors on this site it is recommend you use the fee based service to reap all the benefits of this site. This site was created by genealogy enthusiasts in 1996 and Geneanet represents a community of nearly two million members who share and exchange free genealogical information: more than three billion people listed in family trees, acts scanned postcards, family photos, civil recounts accessible through powerful search tools, a wiki and a blog. Via the commercial part of the site, you will discover the largest genealogy shop on the Internet, and millions of vital records slips sold by various partners. Geneanet's premium subscription allows navigation without advertising and access to additional search tools and features.
- www.Fold3.com provides convenient access to US military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served. Original records at Fold3 help you discover and share stories about these everyday heroes, forgotten soldiers, and the families that supported them. On Fold3, you can combine records found on the site with what you have in your own albums and shoeboxes to create an online memorial for someone who served. This site is a prime source records for proving Revolutionary War Service. Some information like Pennsylvania Archives records as free to use but most of the sites records require fee based membership.

Chapter Member Research Queries:

No queries have yet been submitted for this available chapter membership benefit. Should anyone desire to take advantage of this chapter benefit, please use the following guidelines for query submissions:

- Submission Guidelines:
  - ◊ Active chapter members may submit one (1) Historical Subject Query and one (1) Genealogical Research Query per Newsletter Period/Issue.
  - ◊ Query responses will provide specific answers or research advice when specific answers are not electronically available.
  - ◊ To submit a query send an email to rclantz@cox.net with your name and NSSAR Member # and the specific information required for the type query being submitted.
  - ◊ Only one query per submission and query types cannot be combined.

Historical Subject Research Query - Send (1) one brief statement of information desired using this form. Please narrow your request to a specific subject within a specified time period.

Genealogical Research Query - Send (1) one individual's name to be searched (including any dates and details you already have). Provide the following when known:

- ◊ Surname for research:
- ◊ First name:
- ◊ Middle name or initial:
- ◊ Birth date/Location:
- ◊ Death date/Location:
- ◊ Marriage date/Location:
- ◊ Spouse surname/maiden name:
- ◊ First name:
- ◊ Middle name or initial:
- ◊ Birth date/Location:
- ◊ Death date/Location:
- ◊ Names of children:

Our Patriot Ancestors

Captain Gershom Hewitt

Captain Hewitt is the Patriotic ancestor of our Registrar, Ray Judd. He was born on 16 May 1743 in Stonington, New London Co. Connecticut to Walter and Hepsibah Hewitt. Gershon began his military career in 1760 in the Stonington Militia during the French and Indian War. He was in Captain Christopher Palmer's Company in Colonel Fitch's Regiment. In 1764 Gershon moved from Stonington to Canaan, Litchfield County in northwestern Connecticut. In 1769 he and his brother Benjamin went to Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania looking for a place to settle along the Susquehanna River. Unable to find what they were looking for they returned to Canaan. When the Revolutionary War began he was a Captain in the Green Mountain Boys under the command of Colonel Ethan Allen. During the capture of Ft Ticonderoga by the Vermont troops Gershon led a daring infiltration assault party. During 1778 he served as a Lieutenant in the First Connecticut Regiment under Captain David Beebee. The unit was engaged in battle at White Plains in July 1778, at Fort Arnold in August 1778 and First Clinton in September 1778. In May 1779 he was appointed Captain of the 1st Company of the Connecticut 4th Regiment. Then in 1780 he was posted as Captain of the 2nd Regiment of the Connecticut Line. After the war her returned to Canaan and in 1818, he applied for a military pension but was refused. He reapplied in 1832 and was granted the pension. He died on11 Sep 1834 at the age of 91. He was buried in Lower Mountain View Cemetery in Canaan.

Upcoming Events

July 8-13, 2016	National Society 126th National Congress, Boston, MA
July 12, 2016	Chapter Meeting
August 9, 2016	Chapter Meeting, Officer Elections

SAR Color Guard

Have you ever considered joining the SAR Color Guard? Members of the Color Guard are some of the most visible community ambassadors that the SAR has. They represent our organization at community events ranging from new citizen swearing in ceremonies to school functions and everything in between. The Pensacola SAR Color Guard unit has been inactive for a while now, and we would like to see who may be interested in helping re-activate the unit. If you've ever considered the idea, now is your chance! The more members we have in the unit, the easier the time commitment is for everyone.

Anyone interested in helping to re-activate the Pensacola SAR Color Guard unit, please email Chris at cwashler@cox.net. Once we have a measure of the level of interest, we will start taking the next steps.

Wreaths Across America

Once again this year, the Pensacola Chapter of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is proud to be part of this effort. Our chapter solicits sponsorships for wreaths to be laid at Barrancas National Cemetery, onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. Then on December 17, 2016, our chapter members will be on hand at Barrancas to assist in the massive effort to place wreaths on each of the more than 3,500 graves.

Proceeds through the Pensacola SAR place a wreath at Barrancas National Cemetery; help support Wreaths Across America's fundraising partners, educational and veteran's services outreach. *Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.*

If you would like to help the Pensacola SAR sponsor a wreath for one of our fallen U.S. veterans, please visit the chapter website, or feel free to make copies of the sponsorship form that is at the end of this month's newsletter.

Call for Patriot Biographies

Do you have a biographical sketch of your patriot ancestor? Would you like to write one? If so, we want to publish it!! What's a biographical sketch, you ask? Nothing more than a short story or outline of your patriot ancestor's life. In future newsletters, we would like to highlight our members' ancestors by publishing whatever information you care to share about their life. There is no minimum length, but we do ask that the biographies be no more than 500 words in length.

Request for Member Information

One on-going project for the website is to have a complete listing of the Patriot Ancestors for all of our members. To that end, we are asking each member to send us the following information on your patriot:

- the patriot's name, and
- their rank and other service information.

The information can be sent to Compatriot Washler at: cwashler@cox.net.

Pensacola SAR on the Internet

Chapter Website: www.pensacolasar.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PensacolaSAR