

Sons of the American Revolution, California Society

Sons of Liberty Chapter**The Liberty Tree**

Published continuously since 1982

*Revolutionary War
Events
This Quarter*

1775-

Apr. 18 The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes**Apr. 19** Minutemen and redcoats clash at Lexington and Concord "The shot heard 'round the world."**May 10** Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys seize Fort Ticonderoga**May 10** The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia**June 15** George Washington named Commander in Chief**June 17** Battle of Bunker Hill: The British drive the Americans from Breed's Hill

“Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.”
George Washington’s Farewell Address

Message from the President

By Gary Bohannon

For about the past year, our Chapter has tried a new approach to recruiting new members, and it is working beautifully.

In the past, when a prospective member expressed interest in joining the SAR, he was asked to prepare his application and submit it to the Registrar. As good as the Registrar was, he was only one man, and this created a bottleneck in our process that slowed application approval to a crawl at times. During this process, some applicants (more than I'd like to imagine) lost interest, and never joined the SAR, let alone become active members in our Chapter.

The key to our new process is that we now actively assist prospective members in completing their applications. We do not allow them to get bogged down in documenting items on their application that do not directly impact their approval as new members. We are "minimalists" when it comes to the applications we send to National. Unless the applicant already has ancillary information documented, we do not waste time with it.

JUST A REGULAR SAR GUY

By Barbara Johnson

Whale expeditions, boat races, scuba diving, fishing, hunts for boar and elk, and wild fraternity parties . . . yes, we're talking about our 2nd Vice-President Ronald Mayo Johnson.

It all started in San Marino, California where he was born to aging parents. His orphaned Mother, raised by her Great-Uncle, an elderly Ohio Judge, knew little about her genealogy. His brilliant Father, founder of Sterling Electric Motors and holder of over 100 patents, never spoke of his poverty-stricken Swedish immigrant parents. Thus, we would not expect to find a very promising prospect for documenting a family tree.

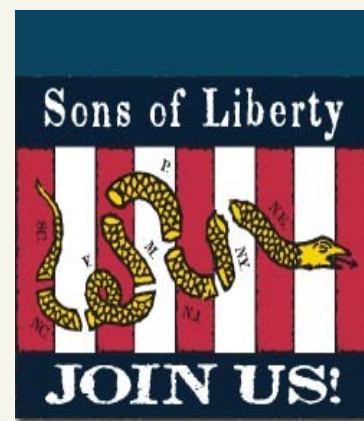
Ron spent his free time building and playing with boats at the family summer home on Lake Arrowhead from the age of three onward. He progressed from the row boat to the small horse power run-about to ski boats and an outrigger sail boat which he built. He raced his boats for a number of years and at one time was 2nd in California in the hot boat races.

My Sons of Liberty Experience

By Dana Dunlap

I first came to the Sons of Liberty to their 11:30am genealogy workshop. Both Gary Bohannon and David Hayball offered a friendly and welcoming spirit. Trying to join a select group can be intimidating. But Gary and David provided a friendly atmosphere. Their light-heartedness helped too!

The 11:30am workshop helped me know in general where I stood and what was expected to meet the SAR standards. Each generation needs primary source evidence as the most desirable proof. But secondary evidence can also be used to support your case if it comes from libraries that keep genealogical files on families. Also sometimes-strong



President's Message Continued..

A common example is that in his effort to fill in all the blanks on an application, an applicant may spend an inordinate amount of time attempting to document an exact marriage date (day, month and year), when most often it is entirely unnecessary with respect to the application's approval. The same is true for birth and death dates of ancestors who are not in the direct line of descent. We only invest time in documenting what is necessary for approval.

While this approach speeds up the time necessary for gathering documentation, a bottleneck would still occur with the traditional approach of funneling everything through a single Registrar. We have implemented a method of pairing interested men with a "coach" who helps the applicant through the process, reviewing the application and supporting documents, and only after the coach is satisfied is the application reviewed by the Chapter Registrar.

This methodology is similar to how a member would bring a close friend into the Chapter: providing one-on-one help as needed. The only difference is that we provide a "friend" for every applicant. You don't have to know an insider to be received as a friend at the Sons of Liberty Chapter.

The other benefit of this approach is that it removes the bottleneck of having only one person as the gatekeeper of all new applications. We have as many coaches available to help applicants as we

JUST A REGULAR SAR GUY Continued..

His early schooling included Pasadena's Polytechnic, Quarter Circle B Bar Ranch in Arizona and the Webb School. Eventually, it was off to USC where he experienced the afore mentioned wild parties of his Delta Tau Delta fraternity. It was while visiting her sorority that Ron met Barbara who was to be his future wife but that would happen sometime after his stint in the US Navy and little did he know that she would go to SC's Law School and become a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge.

Married life found Ron living in South Pasadena and then Pasadena where he had a small business manufacturing photographic and dark room accessories. Ron served on the boards of various conservation and boating organizations.

For recreation Ron continued his boating activities which included designing and building boats. He also taught electronics, engine maintenance and basic boating to members of the U.S. Power Squadron. Ron even found time to get his advanced scuba diving certificate. Over the years Ron has brought home abalone, fish, lobsters, wild boar and elk from his many fishing and hunting outings. You can always find plenty of these in his freezer if you visit him. Such a visit will also reveal numerous vegetables and fruit from his garden and home-made jam in the kitchen.

Ron's contacts through various oceanographic organizations resulted in an invitation to join a National Geographic sponsored grey whale expedition to Scammons Lagoon in Baja for which he prepared some of the needed equipment.

The 2012 Genealogy Jamboree

The jamboree was a great success. We made over 30 contacts. Six of these came to the June meeting and several have already join as associate members. It was also a great opportunity for the volunteers to get to know each other a little better. Thank you to the following for time they volunteered at the Jamboree: Ron and Barbara Johnson, Mark Ladd, Gary Calvin, Timothy Marxer, Dana Dunlap, the Peltons, and Bailey Kobe.

**My Sons of Liberty Experience Continued..**

circumstantial evidence will be sufficient.

The next step I took was participating in the Saturday workshop led by David Hayball at the Mormon run Family History Center (FHC) located in West Hollywood. The FHC library has one of the largest genealogical databases in the world. Here the on-site staff gave presentations on the resources available through the FHC. The library has rows of computers and a book library too. The time spent there helped in broadening my avenues of research. For example, military records exist in different places. They can be at the National Archives or on the state level. On the state level they could be in a state archives. In New York militia men who used their own equipment could be reimbursed by the state. But their official unit records are at the national level. So you learn to look in different places for certain records.

Next I met with David Hayball at the FHC to complete my application. We filled in the application online. At the same time using the FHC's databases, we augmented where needed.

We saved the application to a zip drive and then printed it out on the appropriate paper right there! The whole process in this third step took around an hour. What a relief it was seeing the completed application before my very eyes.

President's message Continued..

have members who are willing to lend a hand, and I am happy to report that we have many volunteers. You don't have to be a certified genealogist to help the vast majority of applicants; you just need the desire to help.

In addition to our coaches, we have, through the efforts of Past-president and current co-Registrar David Hayball, held regular genealogy workshops at the Los Angeles Family History Library. At these work-sessions, we take advantage of all the resources available, and try to pond out the majority of documentation a new applicant needs in one day. In addition to speeding up the process dramatically, we also "teach men to fish," genealogically speaking, so that applicants are comfortable returning to the Library to finish documenting their applications.

Through this new process we have already more than doubled the number of new Chapter members versus 2011, and we have six months to go! We have had at least one new member every month in 2012, and that's a trend I think we will continue. Thanks to everyone who has lent a hand.

In the months ahead we will be adding technology to the process, with the goal of making the entire process web-based. Compatriot Gary Calvin has been designing and developing a framework that will allow an applicant and a coach to collaborate on an application entirely online, again reducing the time required to complete and submit an application. Kudos to Gary for his effort and commitment.

JUST A REGULAR SAR GUY Continued..

Following this expedition, Dr. Roger Payne of the New York Zoological Society asked Ron to design some equipment to track the songs of the humpback whales and to join Dr. Payne's group on two expeditions to follow the whales along the Plantagenet Bank off the coast of Bermuda.

It was not until Ron's retirement that Barbara, herself a DAR member, encouraged him to explore his heritage. The research and connected travel that ensued revealed a most interesting history that inspired Ron to join the Sons of Liberty Chapter. It was his Great-Uncle, the elderly Ohio Judge, who was the key to unlocking his maternal history, ultimately revealing that Senator John Edwards, the first US Senator from the newly established State of Kentucky, was Ron's direct ancestor. This discovery led to many other noteworthy ancestral connections.

Ron and Barbara spent the last four summers aboard Ron's 42 foot Legacy yacht the Patriot. The first year was spent sailing along the east coast from Newport Rhode Island and additional destinations including the Hudson River, the Erie Canal, the Great Lakes, the Illinois River, the Mississippi River and the Ohio River. The second year Ron and Barbara took the Patriot to the Cumberland River, Tombigbee, and the Gulf of Mexico to Texas from where the Patriot was shipped to Anacortes in Washington. For the third year the Patriot traveled from Anacortes through Canada and Alaska to Glacier Bay and back. Ron and Barbara then headed south along the Washington and Oregon Coast to Portland. The fourth year took of our intrepid travelers to Portland through the infamous Colombia River Bar south past San Francisco to Benecia on the Sacramento River. This summer the Patriot is to travel home for the first time to Long Beach Harbor (so Ron will have no excuse for missing any SAR meeting).

Compatriot Jeffrey Prang with one of the Cadets presented with the JROTC Medal by the Sons of Liberty Chapter



Book Review
By Larrison C. Jackson

I highly recommend David McCullough's "1776". Dr. McCullough is one of those rare individuals who not writes popular history but is also high regarded by the academic community as well. The strength of his writing is his compelling narratives.

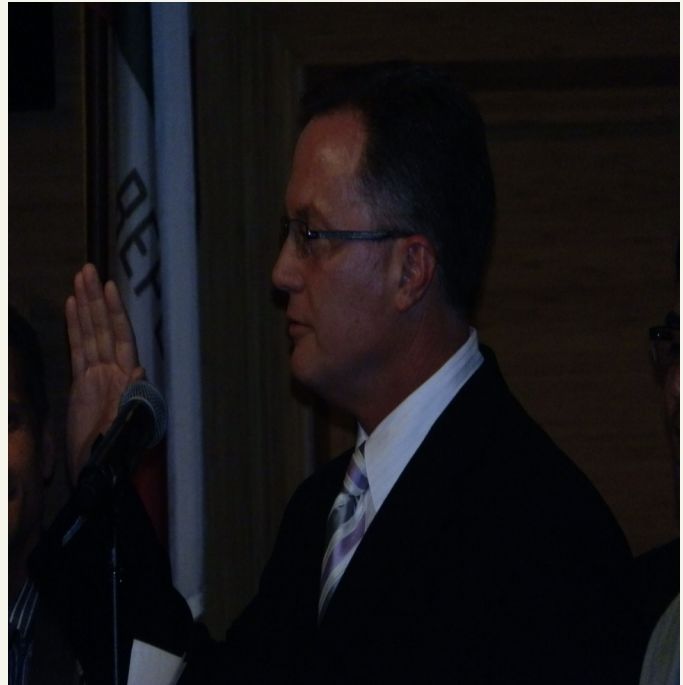
The first two chapters are a perfect example. In only a few pages he paints a complete picture of minds George III and the English people and in an equally few pages a corresponding picture of George Washington and the early defenders of the American Revolution.

In the rest of the book he continues to paint a vivid pictures of the sufferings and travails of the men in the trenches. It does not varnish the truth and it documents the strength and weakness of the heroes leading our cause including George Washington. The scene of Washington's anger as troops fled Kips Bay is particularly compelling.

It is truly amazing that General Washington was able to keep the army in the field after the lose of New York and the Battle of Trenton is nothing short of miraculous.

Please read this book if you have already done so or reread it if you have.

Compatriot Jeffrey Prang being sworn in as Mayor of West Hollywood in April



New Members and Approved Supplemental Applicants



Compatriot Tom Pelton



Compatriot Fr. George Aquaro