



# The Courier



April 2013

Sacramento Chapter – Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 45, Edition 4

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## March Meeting



**Barry S. Martin** started collecting Revolutionary War autographs, and accumulating books as a teenager. He is an honors graduate of The College of William and Mary, has a M.A. in Colonial American History from the University of Washington and a J.D. from UC Berkeley. After retiring as a Social Security Administrative Law Judge, Martin has written a pilot's biography and is working on his second book. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, Carolyn.

### Cattlemens Meal Selections:

10 oz. Top Sirloin Steak	\$24.
Grilled Salmon	\$24.
Teriyaki Chicken	\$24.
Pesto Spinach/Cheese Ravioli	\$24.

### Next meeting

**Friday, April 19, 2013, 7:00 PM at**

**Cattlemens Restaurant**

12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

If the telephone committee has not taken your reservation and menu selection(s) by **Wednesday evening, April 17**, 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." Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always encouraged and welcome.

**Officers for 2013****Russ Kaiser**

President

**Don Littlefield**Executive Vice President  
Treasurer, Webmaster and**Craig Anderson**

Vice President &amp; Secretary

**Ron Carello**

Vice President &amp; Registrar

**Jim Faulkinbury**Color Guard Commander  
Genealogist**Ernie Garcia**Chairman  
Law Enforcement Program**Jeff Goodwin**

Chaplain

**Don Spradling**Photographer  
Guardian of the Flags**Committee Chairmen****Tom Chilton**

ROTC Program Chairman

**Neil Zinn**

Eagle Scout Program Chairman

**Calling Committee****Carl Ahlberg**, Chairman

Tom Chilton

Ernie Garcia

Ed Heidig

Russ Kaiser

Don Littlefield

# President's Corner

April showers bring May flowers or so they say. April brought us more than rain this year. We had a fantastic poster contest. Due to the efforts of Don Littlefield, Tom Chilton, and myself, we received over 160 entries. Tom put together a display (see photos on page 11) and we all were able to vote for a poster to send with Jim Faulkinbury to the Spring Conference. Hopefully we have selected a national winner.

A special thanks to Tom Chilton. Tom collected the posters, built and set up the display, drew up the rating sheets, distributed the rating sheets, collected the sheets, took down the display, tabulated the votes and announced the winner. And let's not forget Marilyn. She helped Tom at every step of the way. Tom worked with Jim Faulkinbury to design a certificate for the students who participated. Many thanks to Tom, Jim, Don, and Marilyn for making this a successful program!

April 19<sup>th</sup>, besides being the date of our April meeting, is the 238<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord (see page 5). Several states, including Massachusetts, Maine, and Wisconsin, celebrate this holiday (but on the weekend before or after the 19<sup>th</sup>, making for a long weekend). Several of our members' ancestors answered the Lexington call that day. It must have taken a lot of courage to stand up to the most powerful army in the world. We are eternally indebted to them for their service to our country. I hope you will remind your relatives, friends, and neighbors of this important date in our history.

May 18<sup>th</sup> is our first Color Guard and matchlock practice. We are offering a chance to come out and see us practice and perhaps fire a real flintlock. We are also offering a free lunch and hopefully spark some interest in joining us. We have some parades coming up so this is the best time to come out and learn what it's all about.

I received notification earlier in the month that compatriot Richard Violet had passed. We were also saddened to learn of the passing of Jane Tolman (wife of Richard Tolman), and Jo Strong (wife of Judd Strong). Our condolences to their families and friends. See page 4.

In patriotic service  
Russ Kaiser



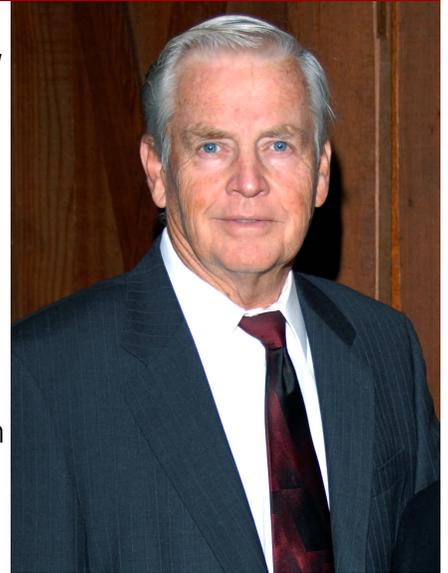
President Russ Kaiser

## George Washington Helps the Redcoats

by Carl Ahlberg

There were many contributing factors leading to the Revolutionary War. One involved the perception the English had about Colonists. The story below shows how British arrogance cost the lives of many British soldiers and had a profound effect on George Washington.

A prelude to the French and Indian War occurred when the French started to establish forts along the waterways from the Great Lakes to the Ohio Valley. England knew it would have to stop this or allow France to hold land in America. Major General Edward Braddock was selected to command troops in America *"to vindicate our just rights and Possessions in those parts."* He was a blunt, self-assured, and experienced officer. After arriving in America he met with the Governors and Ben Franklin. He was advised to change his tactics when fighting Indians because the conditions were not like Europe. George Washington joined his staff as an advisor and also gave him the same advice. But Braddock said not to worry, *"these savages may, indeed, be a formidable enemy to your raw American militia, but upon the King's regulars and disciplined troops, sir, it is impossible they should make any impression."* With that the British Army marched off with more than, *"2,200 men, an artillery train of 6 and twelve-pounder cannon, howitzers and mortars, plus shot, shells, and powder, and all the other material required by an army on the march, the general had to reckon also with enough food for those soldiers for a month and a half, plus forage for the horses, since the dense forest afforded no natural feed."* The army stretched over 4 miles long and the heavy wagons meant the small trail had to be widened for a large portion of the 110 miles they were going to travel with men wearing wool uniforms working in the summer.



Carl Ahlberg

*On July 8, thirty-eight days after leaving Fort Cumberland at Wills Creek, with an enormously difficult and fatiguing march behind them, when men had sickened with dysentery and horses dropped dead from exhaustion and exertion, Braddock's men still had experienced not a shred of opposition and were within 10 miles of the French fort at the Forks. With drums beating and fifes tootling Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gage led the advance guard into a clearing. Just then the scouts spotted a white man dressed as an Indian but with an officer's silver gorget at this throat, darting from one tree to another. He waved his hat in the air; the unearthly shriek of Indian war hoops shattered the silence of the dense woods, and someone shouted, "The Indians is upon us!" and Braddock's men were suddenly hit by a hail of musket balls. Within minutes the British force was surrounded on three sides, unable to advance, but the wagons and artillery kept moving forward into and among the frantic infantrymen blocking their line of retreat, and almost no one could see an enemy to shoot at. For nearly three hours the Redcoats were under continuous fire, fighting desperately, often hitting their own men in a futile effort to retaliate, until finally discipline collapsed and the survivors fled the field in wild panic. Every officer in the two grenadier companies was killed or wounded. Braddock was badly hurt; Gage was hit; Washington had two horses shot out from under him and four bullet holes in his coat. Of the fifteen hundred men who had gone into action, one thousand were casualties. Braddock died of his wounds an agonizing five days later, and to avoid having his body recovered and mutilated by Indians, Washington had him buried under the road so the boots of marching men, horses' hoofs, and wagon wheels would obliterate the site.*

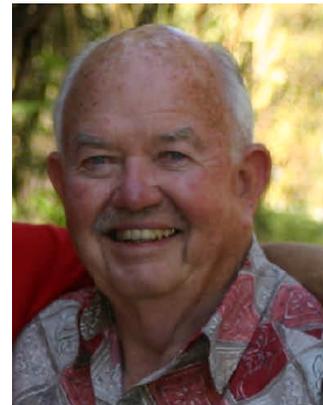
The Colonists thought of themselves as free Englishmen with the same rights as those living in England. England, and especially the army, did not treat the Colonists as equals. George Washington wanted to be an officer in the British Army but the British officers had a very low opinion of "colonials." Lower ranking British officers would outrank higher ranking militia officers whenever they joined forces and this caused George Washington to give up his idea of a career in the British Army. After assuming command of the Continental Army, Washington insisted that officers be promoted by deed and not by who they knew, and the story above surely had something to do with the formation of that policy. Events like this pushed both sides closer to the French and Indian War which the British won and thought the colonies should help pay for it.

Article compiled by Carl Ahlberg with information from: *Divided Loyalties* by Richard M. Ketchum

## Richard Everett Violett

Richard Everett Violett passed away peacefully on March 19, 2013. He had suffered a heart attack in 2009, and his health had deteriorated since that time. Born on January 30, 1925, in Lone, CA, he was a third generation native California whose great-grandparents settled in Lone in 1853. He graduated from the Lone Union High School in 1942, and attended the University of California at Berkeley, and the College of Marin.

Because of his strong academic history, Richard was recommended to enlist in the Army Air Corps as an officer. Once inducted, he was accepted into the officer candidate school, fast tracked to the cadet program, and commissioned as a bombardier in April 1945. After his



Lt. Colonel Richard Everett Violett

discharge, he worked in the lone area until he was recalled into service in 1951. He served as a bombardier-navigator on B-26's in Korea in 1952, flew on 55 combat missions, and was awarded the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. A Master Navigator, he retired from the United States Air Force in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel. At the time of his retirement, he was serving as Director of Training for the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reserve Region at Hamilton AFB. After retirement, he accepted a position with the State of California Public Employees Retirement System, where he managed the Sacramento area office. His hobbies included golfing, genealogy, and travel.

Richard's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on January 23, 1991. His patriot ancestor, Joseph Hite, served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in Capt. Wallace's 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. James Wood (1778-1779). Joseph Hite was the grandson of Jost Hite, one of the original colonizers of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

Richard is survived by Jacqueline (Garcia), his wife of 54 years, their son, Paul Violett and his wife, Michele, his brother, Edwin Hughes, grandsons Zachary Violett and Phillip Violett, and granddaughter Sara Violett. A graveside service, with full honors, was held at the Lone Public Cemetery on March 25, 2013.

## Obituary - Jane Tolman

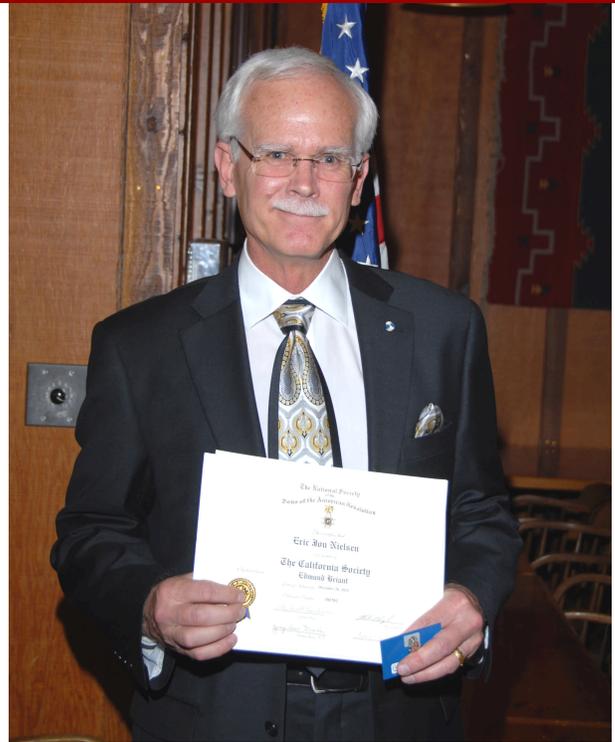
Jane Tolman, wife of Compatriot Richard Tolman, passed on into eternal life on March 3, 2013. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up with her sister, Linda, in Folsom, where she graduated from high school. She was a loving and devoted mother to her three children, Natalie, Theresa and Josh. Jane was an active mom who never missed any of her children's events. She worked as a Legislative Analyst for the State of California, but her favorite and most important job was being a loving wife, mother, friend, and Nana. Family was everything to Jane. She loved her sons-in-law, Michael and Derald, and her daughter-in-law, Jennifer, as well as her grandchildren, Dante, Kiya, Marley, Isabella, Zelia, and Cole. Her favorite place to vacation was Disneyland with her husband, children and grandchildren. Six years ago she was blessed with a lung transplant which gave her more time to enjoy her family and grandchildren. She was a devout Lutheran and believed strongly in the power of prayer and cherished her blessing of faith. She and Richard were married for over 38 years.



## New Members



**Neil Henry Elvick** was sworn in as a new member of the Sacramento Chapter on Friday, March 15, 2013. His application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on February 6, 2013. His patriot ancestor, Jacob Bickel, served in the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment and later in Captain Martin Weaver's Company in the Pennsylvania Militia.



**Eric Jon Nielsen** was sworn in as a new member of the Sacramento Chapter on Friday, March 15, 2013. His application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on December 28, 2012. His patriot ancestor, Edmund Briant, was a soldier, lieutenant, and captain in the New Ipswich, N. H. Militia on three occasions in 1775 and 1777.

## "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" - 238 Years Ago, Lexington, MA

It was dawn on April 19, 1775, when the British advance troops under Maj. John Pitcairn arrived from Boston. Capt. John Parker, who was forewarned, had his militia lined up on the Lexington Common. Because he had only 77 men, Parker had no thought of impeding the 700 British soldiers. He wanted to make a display of patriot resolve. But, as the militiamen slowly obeyed Pitcairn's order to disperse, a shot was fired - it is not clear from which side - and the green British soldiers, ignoring orders to stop, began firing at will at the fleeing Americans. When Pitcairn and Smith regained control, eight Americans lay dead.

Ralph Waldo Emerson coined the phrase "the shot heard 'round the world" to describe the significance of the skirmishes that took place at Lexington and at North Bridge in Concord.

Although the British fought two small skirmishes at Lexington and Concord, they fought a battle along the road from Concord to Lexington. Some may criticize the tactics used by the Patriots in their engagements with the British along the road. However, the tactics they used can be clearly found in any military handbook. When an enemy that has attacked is turned to retreat, defense forces should pursue the retreating enemy. Not to pursue has been a mistake made, even today, by many military commanders. It is often not done because of troop exhaustion or for humanitarian reasons, but the result is often that the retreating enemy is able to recover and fight another day. There is no doubt that the sting of Lexington and Concord was on the minds of the British during their occupation of Boston. They did not launch any further penetrations into the surrounding countryside.

## Minutes of the March 2013 Meeting

by Craig Anderson

President Russ Kaiser called the meeting to order at 7: 00 PM. Tom Chilton gave the Invocation. Steve Hurst led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Ernie Garcia led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Kaiser recognized past and current presidents of the SAR and guests: Stephen Hurst CASSAR Executive Vice President and Past President of the George Patton Chapter, Wayne Griswold, Past President of the CASSAR and Gold Country Chapter and a current member of the Mother Lode Chapter, Jim Faulkinbury, Sacramento Chapter Past President in 2005 and 2006 and CASSAR Vice President – North, Tom Chilton, Sacramento Chapter Past President 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2012, Don Littlefield, Past President 2010 and 2011, and current Treasurer, Jim Young, Mother Lode Chapter Past President and current Registrar, and Tom Adams, Chairman CASSAR Youth Programs.

President Kaiser recognized and welcomed DAR members present: Medora Allen, Marilyn Chilton, and Helena Hurst from the Sacramento Chapter, Lee Lawson and Ann Taylor from the Sierra-Amador Chapter, Susan Brookings, Vice-Regent of the Gold Trail Chapter, and Sarah Watkins, Central Valley DAR.

Other guests recognized included new members Eric Nelson and Neil Elvick. Neil Elvick was accompanied by his nephew, Caden, and his wife, Corin. Also recognized was Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest winner, Chris Konstad and his parents Rolf and Andrea.

Jim Faulkinbury presented and gave a historical overview of the Serapis Flag and Green Mountain Boys Flags.

New members, Eric Neilsen, and Neil Elvick were asked to come forward. Registrar Ron Carello introduced them and read their biographies. President Kaiser administered the SAR oath and presented them with their membership certificates; Registrar Carello pinned the SAR Rosettes on the new members. All members came forward to offer the customary welcoming handshake.

Jim Faulkinbury and Wayne Griswold were asked to come forward. Jim presented Wayne Griswold with the NSSAR Meritorious Service Medal on behalf of Larry Magerkurth for his work as the Scheduling Secretary during Larry's term as NSSAR President General.

Craig Anderson was asked to come forward. Past President Tom Chilton presented Craig with the Meritorious Service Medal for his work as Sacramento Chapter Secretary during 2012.

President Kaiser recognized Sarah Watkins, Senior C.A.R. Society President. Sarah is a recent UC Davis graduate, and now is a UC Davis staff member working with young people, their families, and the community through the 4-H Youth Development Program. Sarah has offered to serve as the Senior C.A.R. Society President of the newly forming C.A.R. Society here in our Sacramento area. Sarah gave the membership an overview of the C.A.R. and the plans to form a C.A.R. Society in Sacramento.

Tom Adams, CASSAR Youth Program Chairman, came forward and encouraged SAR members to get their children and grandchildren involved in the CAR.

Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Neil Zinn came forward and presented the Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest Award to Chris Konstad on behalf of the Sacramento Chapter.

President Kaiser announced that Craig Anderson is back following bypass surgery. He also announced that Compatriot Rich Tolman's wife, Jane, passed away on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Compatriot Judd Strong's wife, Jo, passed away on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Christie Kaiser was unable to join us tonight because of recent cancer treatments.

President Kaiser announced that proposed revisions to the Chapter Bylaws have been posted on the Chapter website for review by the membership per the provisions of the bylaws. A motion was made and seconded to accept the by-laws as written. President Kaiser called for a vote and the bylaw changes were unanimously accepted by the membership.

President Kaiser announced that the CASSAR Board of Managers Meeting will be held in Ventura on April 11-14. A registration form can be found on the CASSAR website at [www.californiasar.org](http://www.californiasar.org). The planned ladies tour will be visiting the Reagan Library.

(continued on page 7)

## Minutes from the March, 2013 Meeting

By Craig Anderson  
(continued from page 6)

After dinner, Russ Kaiser introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Stephen Hurst, Executive Vice President of the CASSAR. Executive Vice President Hurst gave an interesting presentation about the 110 Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation as used by George Washington. They are based on a set of rules composed by French Jesuits in 1595. It is thought that they were copied as part of an exercise in penmanship assigned by young Washington's schoolmaster. The rules have in common a focus on other people rather than the narrow focus of our own self-interests that we find so prevalent today. President Kaiser thanked Vice President Hurst for an interesting presentation and presented him with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation and SAR Liberty Bell.

Marilyn Chilton conducted the drawing. Those donating gifts were Mary Ann and Don Littlefield, Marilyn and Tom Chilton, Donna and Don Spradling, Alan and Susan Brookings, Jim and Karen Faulkinbury, Medora and Clair Allen, Rob Lawson, Hal and Lee Lawson, Helen and Ernest Garcia, Ron and Luann Hollis, John Vawter, Eric Neilsen and Joanna Osuga, Craig and Sandy Anderson, George and Ann Taylor, Doug and Wilma Cross, and Russ and Christie Kaiser.

President Kaiser announced that our guest speaker for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting would be Barry Martin, a Revolutionary War Autograph Collector.

President Kaiser thanked Marilyn Chilton for her assistance with the raffle, Don Spradling for taking pictures and maintaining the flags, and Don Littlefield for handling the door collections. He then asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded.

Eric Neilson led the Recessional; Tom Chilton gave the Benediction. The members then sang "God Bless America" after which the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Craig Anderson, Chapter Secretary

## March Meeting Photos



Jim Anderson, and his wife, Joni



Tom Adams, and his wife, Anne. Tom is a member of the Mother Lode Chapter.

## A Search for Bob Rechtenwald's Ancestors

By Sarah Molina Rechtenward

Roving Sacramento SAR member Robert Rechtenwald and his WOSAR (wife of SAR) Sarah Molina made a heritage journey to Kentucky and West Virginia in March 2013 to research some family lines that were hard to learn more about online. They landed in Louisville, KY, and stopped at the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) headquarters, which is based there, and did some research at the new SAR genealogical library. The nearby SAR headquarters houses a small, but impressive, museum, which includes among its artifacts a life-size model of the Liberty Bell, a life mask of George Washington, and signet ring that was passed down from George Washington to an SAR member who donated it to the museum.

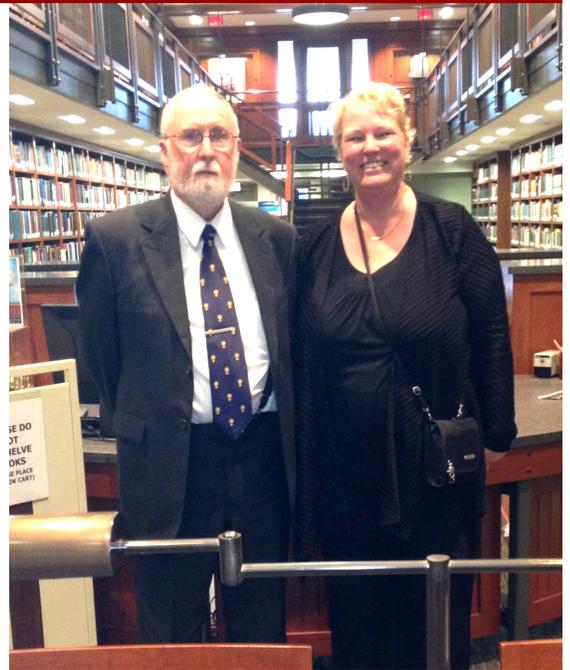
Next stop was Charleston, West Virginia, which is located in the Kanawha River Valley in the western Appalachians, where they did some genealogy research at the WV State Archives at their beautiful Capitol Complex, and dug through 100-200 year old records at the county courthouses at the Kanawha and Cabell county seats. In fact, all the records books of births, deaths, marriages, wills, fiduciaries, and land exchanges they looked through were numbered 1-7 out of several hundred volumes that have been created since the counties were formed.

They had intended to follow ancestor John Van Bibber's footsteps as one of George Washington's surveyors of the Kanawha River, who later fought in the battle of Point Pleasant. But Bob and Sarah soon found more information than they were looking for about Van Bibber's son-in-law and Bob's 4th great grandfather Colonel John Reynolds, who also fought at Point Pleasant and left a legacy of his own. They located John Reynolds' grave, which led to more interesting clues about his past.

John Reynolds was a younger contemporary of John Van Bibber and his good friend Daniel Boone, and he undoubtedly knew them both. All three served in the Virginia militia together before and during the Revolutionary War, and Reynolds and Van Bibber are both listed in the roster of soldiers who fought at the Battle of Point Pleasant. About 35 families settled the Kanawha River Valley in the late 1700's, including the Van Bibbers, Reynolds, and Boones, and their children intermarried.



**Bob Rechtenwald next to John Reynolds' grave. Reynolds was Bob's 4th great grandfather.**



**Sarah Molina Rechtenwald with NSSAR Library Director Michael Christian**

After the war, John Reynolds rose to some prominence in the area, and at one time owned sizable portions of land originally owned by George Washington. He donated the land in Charleston, WV, where the county courthouse was built, and a newer version of it still stands. He was considered a "salt baron" during the early industrial exploitation of the rich mineral resources that are still being mined today in the Kanawha River Valley. Salt production along the Kanawha River was highly lucrative for many years while Cincinnati was the Midwest center for meatpacking. The salt industry introduced technology that led to later innovations in oil drilling, and coal was originally mined in West Virginia to fuel the salt furnaces, and later riverboats, railroads, and other industries. John Reynolds was also voted to five consecutive terms as one of Kanawha's representatives to the Virginia State Legislature, a position held a few years earlier by Daniel Boone.

## A Search for Bob Rechtenwald's Ancestors

By Sarah Molina Rechtenward  
(continued from page 8)

After making several investments in salt technology that came a little too late to see a return on their investment as the industry moved westward nearer the Chicago meat packing plants, the Reynolds family started a gradual decline. They mortgaged their land holdings over many decades to the point they were finally lost due to foreclosure, and the descendants appeared to slowly lose the memory of their ancestors of the early Kanawha River Valley settlement period. John Reynolds' homestead changed hands a couple of times, and the home and family cemetery appeared to be lost to time until overgrown remnants of the cemetery and homestead were found in a horse pasture in the late 1990s. That's when an Army Corps of Engineers crew began conducting surveys for a project to expand the river locks at Marmet (formerly Brownstown). Since the find appeared to be of historic significance, the Corp commissioned an archaeological excavation of the site. A video link below goes to a 30-minute documentary that chronicles the project. Our tax dollars at work preserving family history!!

Interestingly, John Reynolds is not listed in either the SAR nor DAR patriot lists, apparently because his memory and contribution to history was largely forgotten until the Army COE project brought attention to his past.

Just goes to show that genealogy research can be a journey in more than one way.

### Kanawha Valley West Virginia history videos:

"Red Salt and Reynolds" documents the excavation of Col. John Reynolds homestead and relocation of his family cemetery (29 minutes):

<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/video-guide/video-guide-menu/video-guide-summary/184-red-salt-a-reynolds>

"The Great Kanawha: An American Story" documents the settling of the Kanawha River Valley and helps explain it's development from pre-historic times until present day (55 minutes):

<http://vimeo.com/34625013>

## March Meeting Photos



Corin and Caden Elvick,  
with new member, Neil Elvick.



Sacramento Registrar Ron Carello with new  
members Eric Neilsen and Neil Elvick.

## March Meeting Photos



Mother Lode members Jim Young and Tom Adams with C.A.R. California Past-President Sarah Watson.



CASSAR Past-President Wayne Griswold displays the NSSAR Meritorious Medal Certificate. With Wayne are CASSAR VP North Jim Faulkinbury and President Russ Kaiser.



President Russ Kaiser presents CASSAR Executive VP Steven Hurst with the NSSAR Certificate of Appreciation and SAR Liberty Bell.



Past-President Tom Chilton presents Secretary Craig Anderson with the SAR Meritorious Service Certificate and medal.

## March Meeting Photos



Eagle Scout Chairman Neil Zinn presents Eagle Scout Chris Konstad with the Eagle Scout Medal, Certificate, and a check for \$250 for winning the Sacramento Chapter's Eagle Scout Contest.



Eagle Scout Chris Konstad with his parents, Rolf and Andrea Konstad.



Posters entered in the Sacramento Chapter's Poster contest.



Posters entered in the Sacramento Chapter's Poster contest.

Photos courtesy of Don Spradling

## Coming Events

**7:00 PM Friday, May 17, 2013 — Dinner Meeting**

**Albert and Carol Howenstein, "Mansion Memories" California Governor's Mansion**

**7:00 PM Friday, June 21, 2013 - Dinner Meeting**

A PUBLICATION BY THE  
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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