



The Courier



September 2015

Sacramento Chapter— Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 47, Issue 8

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Mindi Russell

Chaplain Mindi is a career Law Enforcement Chaplain overseeing several programs:

- **Law Enforcement Chaplains Program** who serve law enforcement personnel and their families at both professional and personal levels.
- **Community Chaplains Program** who respond at the initiation of law enforcement to victims and vicarious victims of critical incidents and crises including death notifications, suicides, homicides, hostage situations, kidnapping, and other traumatic events.
- **Outreach Chaplains Program** who serve radKIDS program, Courage To Be You chaplains, school campus chaplains, business chaplains, outside chaplains agencies.
- **Office of Transportation Safety Program** which educates high school students in making right choices of driving and being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Every 15 Minute 2 day program and the Court DUI Sentencing in High Schools are both intense and life changing to the students who participate.



Mindi is the author of two books: "New Beginnings Journal" and co-authored "Chaplains Crisis Manual." She is a National disaster responder and works with first responders and victims (ie: Ground Zero, Hurricane Katrina, Florida & Nebraska for the Haiti responders). She is a Christian Gospel Singer and has created a Peer Support Curriculum for High School students and developed curriculum and teaches Church Security.

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

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

Friday, September 18, 7:00 PM
Cattlemens Restaurant
12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

If the telephone committee has not taken your reservation and menu selection(s) by **Thursday evening, Sept. 17** please call Alan Brooking at (916) 315-3799 **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."

Current Officers

Craig Anderson
President

Don Littlefield
Executive Vice-President
Treasurer and Webmaster

Carl Ahlberg
Vice President & Secretary

Alan Brooking
Vice President & Registrar

Jim Faulkinbury
Genealogist

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

Tom Chilton
Americanism Poster Contest

Don Littlefield
Program Committee

Ernie Garcia
Law Enforcement Program

Alan Brooking
Calling Committee
Cashier

President's Corner

Welcome back after our mid-year break; I hope everyone had a great summer.

We had two members celebrate SAR anniversaries this summer. Congratulations to Neil Zinn, our Eagle Scout Committee Chairmen, who celebrated 5 years in July, and CA Life Member Brice Jones who celebrated 20 years in August. Thank you both for your support of the SAR.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our August meeting. I was pleased to see some faces that I haven't seen for a while and I thought the meeting was very productive. We were able to develop our list of officer candidates for 2016, and we had a great discussion regarding the recruitment of members for our color guard. Four compatriots at the meeting committed to obtaining uniforms and participating in future color and school guard events. I believe that our chapter's color/school guard provides an important service through our educational outreach programs in our local schools as well as the patriotic events within our communities. I have personally committed to joining this effort, and I would like to thank Del Hanson, Eric Hanson and Carl Ahlberg for joining me. We would welcome additional help; volunteers don't have to commit to doing this full time – any time that you could donate to help us out would be greatly appreciated. Questions about the program should be directed to our Color Guard Commander, Past President Russ Kaiser or myself.

On a sad note, we lost compatriot Vince Gantt on July 29th after a short illness. Vince was an expert on early American firearms and gave the membership an excellent presentation at our June meeting. He was an important member of our color guard and participated in many events, including the Wreaths Across America Ceremonies at the Sacramento Valley Cemetery in Dixon.

As a reminder to the membership, the 2016 SAR dues notices will be mailed out at the end of this month. I want to remind everyone that the National Society SAR dues have been increased this year from \$30 to \$35 dollars. The state (\$20) and chapter (\$10) dues will remain the same. Total regular member dues will now be \$65. Junior members dues will not change and will remain at \$5. It is through your dues and generous contributions that the chapter has been able to maintain the high quality of our educational outreach programs that benefit the schools in our area. For example, our chapter's winner of the 2014 Enhanced JROTC Program went on to win the California State and National awards. Our 2015 chapter winner of the Americanism Poster Contest went on to win at the state and national level; this student's poster is now on display at the National Society's headquarters in Louisville, KY. These great youth programs are only possible through your continuing support.

I hope you all can join us at our September 18th dinner meeting at the Cattlemen's in Rancho Cordova. We have a great guest speaker, Mindi Russell, the Executive Director and Senior Chaplain of the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy of Sacramento. Also mark your calendars for our annual community awards dinner on October 16th. We are working on a great program.



Craig Anderson

Obituary for Vince Gantt

Vincent Abbott Gantt

Vincent Gantt, 73, of Roseville, passed away July 29, 2015, in Roseville. He is survived by his loving wife Jenifer, his daughters: Krista Jean Gantt-Hopper of Roseville, and Rebecca Ann MacEgan (Kevin) of Modesto, sons: Christian Maurice Gantt of Roseville and Jason Sean Gantt of Loomis, stepson: Paul Babin of Los Angeles, 8 grandchildren, and his sister, Lynn Yancsurak (Wes) of Stuart, Florida.

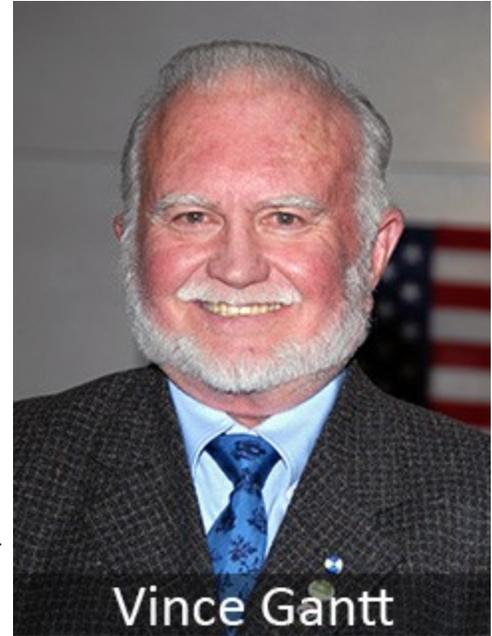
Friends are invited to attend a memorial service Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 1:00 pm at Shepherd of the Sierra Presbyterian Church, 5400 Barton Road, Loomis, CA.

Vincent Abbott Gantt was born September 15, 1941, in central West Virginia, his family had lived in the area for nearly 300 years. His ancestors had been forced to take refuge there after being charged with treason for suing King George of England after 2000 acres of the Shenandoah Valley was confiscated from them in the King's name.

In his 73 years, Vince had been around the world, lived in many places, and done many things. At age 7, he witnessed an atomic bomb detonation in New Mexico. At age 10, he was paralyzed by polio. At age 18, Uncle Sam classified him 4F due to polio. In their infinite wisdom, he was reclassified 1A at age 22, and promptly drafted for the Vietnam War. He spent nearly 14 years in the military (full time and reserve), where his duties included time as an Air Force airstrike controller, as well as an Army counter intelligence agent. Vince spent 25 years as a manager for 4 different insurance companies. Vince has spent 20 years as a scoutmaster and taught middle school students for 21 years.

Vince was a graduate of Ohio State University (Youngstown), held an MS in Education from National University, and was a graduate of Harbridge Executive School (Chicago).

Vince's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on May 5, 2009. His patriot ancestor, Leonard Hyer, performed public service in Virginia. Vince Gantt considered it a great honor to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.



Vince's unfortunate death came just a few short weeks after he was the featured speaker at our June SAR regular meeting during which time he showed us a vast array of Revolutionary War weaponry that he had collected over the years. His expertise in Revolutionary War weaponry, his enthusiastic participation in the Chapter's Color Guard and his regular attendance at our monthly meetings will be greatly missed. Some photos from his presentation are presented on the following page.

Photos from June 18, 2015 Regular Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



Revolutionary War Era collection of weapons



Vince Gantt brought some of his extensive collection of Revolutionary War era weapons and explained their various mechanisms and how they were used.



Vince and Jeni Gantt



Revolutionary War Rifles

Sacramento Chapter Color/School Guard

Although there are various educational and patriotic outreach programs that the chapter provides, the aspects of the Sacramento Chapter of the SAR that are most visible in our community are the Color Guard and School Guard. Both of these institutions are in need of additional members because requests for appearances by these two groups are increasing. In the past year the Color Guard has participated in parades and events that have included Memorial Day Ceremonies, 4th of July parade, Veteran's Day parade, Wreaths Across America and others. The School Guard has provided educational programs at fifteen area elementary schools. **If you are considering joining one or both of these groups you can contact Commander Russ Kaiser at (916) 801-2818 or russ.kaiser@sarsac/org.**



Memorial Day at Sylvan Cemetery

Color Guard/School Guard 2015

The Color Guard and School Guard have been busy over the past several months. Their appearances at various events are always well received and appreciated. They are our most visible presence in the community.



Jim Faulkinbury, Ernie Garcia, Tom Chilton, Helena Hurst (Sacramento DAR), Alan Brooking



Color Guard at the Memorial Day Parade



Props used by the School Guard for their presentation



Army dentist (Tom Chilton) explaining how tooth extractions were done back then



Learning how to load and fire in battle formation

Photos from the June 19, 2015 Meeting

Photos by Don Spradling



Don Littlefield



Martha and Roy Adkins

Los Californianos

Last month we included a story about Los Californianos and their annual celebration of the arrival of the de Anza expedition to the Presidio of San Francisco. Spain was an ally of the Thirteen Colonies throughout our Revolutionary War and they confronted the British on fronts throughout the world. In 1769 the Spanish started their colonization of California with the establishment of the Presidio of San Diego and then extended further north with the Portola Expedition in 1769 to Monterey and finally to San Francisco with the de Anza Expedition of 1776. Our Chapter member, Ernie Garcia, is a descendant of three separate soldiers of the 1769 Portola Expedition. One of the purposes of these expeditions was to check England’s claims



Donna Spradling, Helen Garcia, Ernie Garcia

to the northwest coast of Alta California. Spain was also confronting the British in the Caribbean and in the Philippines and this led to supply interruptions to California which caused suffering to these soldiers and settlers. In 1780 King Carlos III of Spain asked each soldier to contribute two pesos (about the equivalent of a week’s pay) and for every neophyte Indian soldier to contribute one peso to support the war effort. The total collected from California amounted eventually to \$ 2,683 pesos and it was used to help defray the cost of the war effort against England.



Ernie Garcia with participants in the ceremonies

Essay by Chapter Member Peter Darnall

Times Change

By Peter Darnall

Rampaging mobs and property destruction seem to be dominating the evening news on television these days. One recent television program on the subject featured a tweedy pundit who assured the audience that such behavior should not be considered lawless. America, he opined, has a tradition of violent opposition to authority. Destruction of property is to be expected. At the Boston Tea Party, he concluded, our patriotic forefathers wrecked the harbor to protest British taxation . . .

Sam Adams would not have been amused by this drivel . . .

The Boston Tea Party was a carefully planned—and apparently well-financed—activity with a specific objective. The objective was the destruction of British East India Company tea. The tea was destroyed with virtually no damage to other property. After the raid, the crowd dispersed quietly. Today the Boston Tea Party is recognized as a significant turning point in the American colonists' struggle against British tyranny.

We all know the story of the Boston incident, in which a number of American patriots, some dressed as Indians, boarded ships and threw the cargo of tea overboard. The actual jettisoning of the tea took about four hours and occurred in the late afternoon and evening of December 16, 1773. The description "Tea Party" is something of a misnomer. This quasi-humorous reference began to surface in the 1830s, more than fifty years after the boarding of the ships in Boston and the end of the Revolutionary War.

Britain had always considered the American colonies subservient to British rule even though the colonies had no representation in Parliament. Opposition in the colonies to this perceived injustice had been festering for years. The Tea Act, which was passed on May 10, 1773, was the final straw. This legislation granted a monopoly to the British East India Tea Company on tea sales in the American colonies. The law was hurriedly enacted by Parliament in response to a worldwide glut of tea and was intended to provide an economic bailout for the British East India Company. Although the tea carried a British tax stamp, the product did not represent an increased cost to the colonists. The British intended to 'dump' the tea on the American market at a price far below any competitive product. In Boston a demonstration by the Sons of Liberty had been organized by Sam Adams to protest the imported tea. The group demanded that no British tea be offloaded from three ships which were tied up at the Customs House in Boston Harbor. This demand had been successful elsewhere and tea laden vessels had been forced to return to England without offloading their cargo. In Massachusetts, however, Governor Thomas Hutchinson refused to accede to ultimatum; the boarding of the ships in Boston Harbor and destruction of the tea followed.

Due to the clandestine nature of the operation, little information on the Boston Tea Party is documented. History does record that a large number of people either participated in the destruction of the tea or watched the activity from the sidelines. With one exception, there is no evidence of looting or property damage other than the targeted tea; one man, Charles Conner, was seen pocketing small amounts of tea rather than throwing it overboard. He was taken aside and severely disciplined for his thievery.

The concept of sanctity of property was deeply engrained in both the British and the American psyche. The initial reaction of the colonists was one of revulsion; many thought the raiders had gone too far. When news of the activity reached Benjamin Franklin, he demanded that the colonists immediately compensate the British East India Tea Company for the lost tea. Robert Murray, a New York financier, attempted to do so, but the offer was refused by the British. George Washington, although voicing support for the cause, strongly condemned the destruction of property in private correspondence.

John Adams, prominent Boston citizen, cousin of Sam Adams, and future president of the United States, scathingly referred to the activity as "the Destruction of the Tea in Boston." He soon came to view drinking of tea as unpatriotic and, in a letter to his wife, Abigail, wrote that he had decided to switch to coffee. John Adams was not alone in his revelation. The consumption of tea in the colonies declined during the Revolutionary War and never

(continued on page 8)

“Times Change” essay continued

regained its status as the American beverage of choice .

Although no historic documentation directly links Sam Adams to the Boston Tea Party, his activities as leader of the Sons of Liberty in the Boston area are a matter of record. It would be hard to imagine such an event taking place without Sam Adam’s planning and influence. Following the incident, he immediately worked to publicize and to defend it. He argued that the Tea Party was not the act of a lawless mob but should be viewed as a principled protest; the destruction of the tea was the only remaining option the people had to defend their rights.

Historians view the Boston Tea Party as a turning point in the long American struggle against British tyranny. The actual raid on the ships took place only after other efforts to block the import of the tea failed. The historic significance of the raid on the ships is that this event marked the time when the Americans stopped talking and took direct action to further their cause. The Revolutionary War would soon follow.

The Destruction of the Tea was considered a serious crime at the time. Even after the American victory in the Revolutionary War, those men who participated in the raid lived in the fear that they might be arrested and brought to trial. The end of hostilities with England did not mean that their activities would be forgiven by the American people.

Comparing the Boston Tea party to the wanton destruction of property that takes place in today’s demonstrations and riots is essentially comparing apples to oranges. The Boston Tea Party targeted the East India Company’s tea. They left the property of others alone.

Photos from the June 19, 2015 Meeting Photos by Don Spradling



Jim Faulkinbury and early American Flag

At right, Roy Adkins

**ROTC/JROTC
Program Chairman**



Ron and Lu Ann Hollis



Neil Elvick and Don Clark

Patriot Biographies



Your editor snapped this picture while on a trip to Washington DC last month. This is the main room of the DAR library. It is located right across the street from the West Wing of the White House and is part of the DAR Museum.

Below is one of the patriot biographies submitted to the national organization as part of their program to collect these articles from members as a resource for prospective members researching their family histories. These biographies may also be submitted for publication in the Courier as described below.

Andrew Mershon [Le Marchand] - a Patriot of the American Revolution

Andrew Mershon, a son of Cornelius and Mercy (Furnace) Mershon, was born in 1761 in Hopewell, Cumberland County, New Jersey. He was the youngest of at least five children. Andrew's great-grand father, Henri II, and second great-grandfather, Henri, immigrated to this county from France in about 1685 to escape religious persecutions. The senior Henri returned to France for the rest of his family, but was never heard from again.

Andrew's grandfather, also named Andrew, kept an inn along what was know as the "Trenton-Bear Tavern - Harbourton Road". This is in the area that Washington and his soldiers traveled on their way to the Battle of Trenton. While there is no proof, we like to think that Washington may have stopped at the Mershon Inn on that early Christmas morning in 1776. The senior Andrew signed the "Oath of Allegiance" on February 22, 1777.

Andrew Mershon (born 1761) is listed in a manuscript found in the Virginia State Archives. It states that "A list of classes in Culpeper County for January, 1781, for recruiting this state's quota of troops to serve in the Continental Army - Class #8 [include] Andrew Mershon".

Andrew migrated to Culpeper County before 1781, and married Phyllis Jett in 1784. In about 1797, he and his family moved to the vicinity of Lancaster in Garrard County, Kentucky, where he had a large plantation. and became a "real southerner". Yet, he must have retained a decent amount of French qualities since he was known locally as the "Old Frenchman". Andrew died in November 1822, in Lancaster County. Andrew and Phyllis had eleven children including: Cornelius, Andrew, Burkett, William, Robert, Clementine, Henry, Furness, Benjamin, John, and James.

Andrew Mershon is a patriot ancestor of Thomas Hobert Chilton, Thomas Holly Chilton, Steven Charles Chilton, Trevor Thomas McMarthy, and others.

Instructions for Submitting Patriot Biographies

Patriot biographies, such as the one above, are being solicited by the national organization. The purpose is to publish them online and so make it easier for potential SAR applicants to find the information they need in order to find potential ancestors and to complete their applications. The biographies should be about 500 words and should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to patriotbios@sar.org as an email attachment. When you submit your entry, please include your name, Chapter and SAR Member number. If you have a patriot number assigned, include it with your submission. If not, one will be assigned. It would be appreciated if a copy could also be sent to neile@aol.com or to craig@winfirst.com so that the bios could also be presented in future Courier editions.

Coming Events

September 18, 2015—Regular Meeting
7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant
Speaker Mindi Russell, Executive Director,
Senior Chaplain, Law Enforcement Chaplaincy-
Sacramento

October 16, 2015—Regular Meeting
7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant
Community Awards Banquet

October 17, 2015 6:00 PM
Sacramento Valley Nat'l Cemetery Support Committee
Steak Dinner Fundraiser
Veterans Memorial Building, Dixon, CA

November 20, 2015—Regular Meeting
7:00 PM at the Cattlemens Restaurant
Speaker Jennie Stocks, Valley Forge
Contest Winner

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REVOLUTION**

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**On the Internet at
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