



# THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Compatriot Dustin Whittenburg, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Jul-Aug 2019



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

**Compatriots:** On Tuesday morning July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we held our “**Independence Day Celebration**” at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort. This was our 9th year to make this presentation to over 100 Hotel Guests. Again, our Program was very well-received. We had 13 members (10 in revolutionary uniforms or period clothing) participate in the various activities to include: Battle Flags Presentation, Remarks on “What is SAR” and “Why Do We Celebrate Independence Day”, the Firing of Muskets, a Bell Ringing Salute to the Original Colonies and 6 Show and Tell Table Demonstrations Tables. For our presentation, the Hyatt Staff made a \$500 donation which funds our annual Knight Essay Contest — a very welcomed gift. The Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort has agreed to be our Sponsor of the Essay Contest for 2019. For more details, go to **Pages 2-3**.

On July 4th, we participated in the “**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony**” at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston. This program is conducted each year by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez and included many of the local Patriotic, Historical, and Military organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. I participated in the Program by presenting our Chapter Wreath along with other organizational wreaths. I was pleased to be invited to give the closing Benediction. For more details, go to **Page 4**.

Five chapter members attended two Events in remembrance of the **Battle of Medina** on August 17th. The Commemorative Event was held at 10:00 A.M. on Old Appleton Road near the sight of the Battle Site. Many attendees include members of the Daughters and Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution. The History Symposium was held at 1:00 P.M. at the Old Leming School where Guest Speakers were well received addressing the settling of Texas that created the First Texas Republic and its demise at the disastrous 1813 Battle of Medina in Atascosa County. Go to **Page 5** for more details.

We are saddened by the passing of Compatriot Phillips Huck on July 10th. Phillips’ keen mind and recall of American and Texas historical events will be missed at our Chapter Meetings and Special Events. He was a member of our Chapter for over 59 years and will be missed. For more details, go to **Page 6**.

Remember, **we will resume our monthly chapter meetings in the Fall beginning September 18th at the Petroleum Club**. The speaker for this meeting will be Kevin Claus from Texas General Land Office. Please remember to make your reservations by Noon Monday, September 16th, if you are not on the Standing Reservations List, with our Treasurer Kevin Kanter at [reservations@sarsat.org](mailto:reservations@sarsat.org).

I hope you had an enjoyable summer that included some travel and family gatherings. I look forward to seeing you in September at our next Chapter Meeting.

Respectfully, *Dustin Whittenburg*

## CHAPTER'S GALA BANQUET

The Chapter's Annual Gala Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. Our Keynote Speaker will be Monty Monroe, Texas State Historian; his topic will be “Preserving Texas History.” The primary purpose for conducting this event is to have fun and share in fellowship with many of our members who usually cannot attend our monthly Chapter Meetings during the work week and celebrate the event with the Texas Daughters of the American Revolution.

**A Chapter News Release will be sent out in early November reminding you to make your Reservations!**

**Save the Date!**  
San Antonio SAR  
Chapter GALA

**Saturday**  
**January 18, 2020**  
**@ 6:00 PM**  
Petroleum Club

## CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT



(Photo at Left) This year we celebrated the 243rd anniversary of our nations Declaration of Independence from England. At the Invitation of Ms. Aneka Muniz, Marketing Communications Manager for the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio, our chapter conducted our **9th Educational and Historical Independence Day Event** for hotel guests visiting the resort on July 3rd. Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Past Chapter President (2007-2008) served as the Master of Ceremonies. Additionally, 14 other chapter members participated in this morning event. They included President Dustin Whittenburg, Roy Leonard (Immediate Past President in 2018), Larry Loop (Past President in 2017), Stephen Rohrbough (Past Vice-President-General for NSSAR's South Central District in 2016-2017), David Brooks (Past President in 2016), Kevin Kanter, Paul Reynolds, Henry Garcia, Fred Soupiset, Peter Baron (Past President 2009) and his 10 year old son Campbell Baron, Bud Davenport and Mike Bowles. Nine members wore Period Uniforms. The National Colors were presented by Acting Color Commander Peter Baron

(Guardsman for US Flag), Compatriots Larry Loop (US Flag Bearer), Stephen Rohrbough (Texas Flag Bearer), Fred Soupiset (Guardsman for the Texas Flag).

Compatriot Frank Rohrbough welcome approximately 100 hotel guests. President Whittenburg spoke on "What SAR Is" and does. Compatriot Larry Loop gave the overview on "Why We Celebrate Independence Day". He noted that as British subjects, the British Parliament had placed heavy taxes on them and increasingly denied them the freedoms they expected and self-rule they wanted.

(Photo Below) Compatriot Peter Baron explained the evolution of the Patriot Uniforms during the Revolution starting with the Minutemen of Massachusetts and Mountain Men of Virginia and the Carolinas to the Regimental Uniforms that were approved by the Continentals Congress in 1778. He explained the various Battle Flags of the Revolution highlighting the "Continental Colors" flown in early 1776 at General Washington's Headquarters in Cambridge overlooking Boston, also known as "Grand Union Flag" as shown at left.



Compatriot Baron provided an overview of the guns used by Foot Soldiers in the Militia and the Continental Line Army during the Revolution, notably the 75 caliber flintlock musket and a 50 caliber flintlock rifle. He noted that a well-seasoned soldier could load and fire a musket four times in one minute. He stated that the musket was not very accurate beyond 50 yards and thus during a battle, muskets were fired in volleys in succession at the enemy standing in formation over 50 yards away. Comparatively, a rifleman could load and fire only once every 90 seconds. However, Compatriot Baron conceded that the rifle is a more

accurate weapon used for targets up to 250 yards away. Baron described the firing positions of soldiers in formation — shoulder to shoulder and standing 3 rows deep — when engaging the enemy on the field of battle. Following several volleys, the command was given to fix bayonets and advance against the enemy.

(Photo at Right) Compatriot Baron gave instructions to a young recruit from the hotel on firing the musket. Many others followed wanting the shoot the "Big Gun".



At the closing of the Program, President Whittenburg spoke of his Patriot Ancestor Christopher Frederick Burckhardt who served in the Eight Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line, served on the Committee of Observation in 1775, served as an Interpreter for General Washington at the Battle of Trenton in

December 1776 because of his fluency in German against the Hessian Regiment residing in Trenton and served as a First Lieutenant in Pennsylvania Militia in Frederick County Maryland in 1777. (Cont'd on Page 3.)

## HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT EVENT (CONT'D)



**(Photo at Left)** The Ringing of the Bell Ceremony was the highlight of the Event. As Compatriot Frank Rohrbough named each of the 13 original Colonies in the order in which each Colony was established, Compatriots Campbell Baron and Fred Soupiset (Militia Uniform) rang the Bell to call attention to the founding of the Colony. Virginia was the first Colony to be founded in 1607 with the settlement of Jamestown on the banks of the James River just west of the Chesapeake Bay. Other Colonies were founded over the next 125 years along the eastern seaboard of North America. Georgia was the last of the Colonies to be founded in 1732.

### DEMONSTRATION TABLE EXHIBITS

**(Photo at Right)** Major Scott Woodard from the US Army Museum at Ft. Sam Houston gave a superb presentation on the practice of medicine during the American Revolution. He explained how battle wounds were treated and what medicines and procedures were used to treat illnesses within the Continental Army.



Looking on are hotel guests who are viewing the table display of instruments used to remove bullets from gun shot wounds and amputations of limbs when needed. Woodard explained how General Washington directed the inoculation of the troops to prevent them from contracting small pox that was prevalent throughout the colonies at that time. Through this innovated process, General Washington was able to maintain a viable and fit Army through the spring of 1778 and return it to the battlefield in June of that year.

**(Photo at Right)** Compatriot Fred Soupiset explains the process for making a Black Powder Horns. Cow horns were the primary horns used for storing gunpowder used for making cartridges and priming black powder weapons. The horns usually included the name of the owner and often etched showing an event, location of home or battle where a soldier fought.



**(Photo at Bottom Left)** Lady Di Rohrbough explains that if a spouse or other family members accompanied a soldier as Camp Followers, they would bring clothing and personal articles for themselves. They would perform duties in support of their sponsor or other soldiers in the unit to sustain their livelihood.



**(Photo at Bottom Right)** This Table Display includes the items a soldier would have as his camp gear and be expected to bring them when reporting for duty in his unit of assignment.



The gear would include a musket, blanket, haversack, axes, canteen, knives, food bowls and any personal articles they needed.

**(Photo at Left)** Compatriot Larry Loop explained to the guests the types of currency that were used in the Colonies during the American Revolution. While some colonies printed their own currency, the British Pound was the most widely accepted currency when buying goods or services.



## ORDER OF GRANADEROS Y DAMAS GALVEZ INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT



On July 4th, we participated in the “35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony” conducted by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez. The event was held at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston and included many of the local Patriotic, Historical, and Military organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the



Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard.

**(Photo at Above)** Shown from right to left are Compatriots Frank Rohrbough, President Dustin Whittenburg, Jason Bourgeois, Kenneth McAnear and Campbell Baron. As President of the Denny Anderson CAR Chapter, Campbell presented his Chapter Wreath. Whittenburg and Bourgeois presented our Chapter Wreath along with many other organizations. President Whittenburg gave the Benediction. Other members attending but not in the photo were Compatriots Peter Baron (a Color Guardsman and Musket Detail), Stephen Rohrbough and George Whittenburg.

**(Photo Above Right)** The Fife and Drum Unit of the Granaderos is a centerpiece of the Granaderos Events. It is directed by Jessie Benavides.

### STORY OF BETSY ROSS FLAG

On July 31, 1871, Rachel Fletcher confirms the Betsy Ross Flag Story.



Today, most Americans are taught that Betsy Ross created the first American flag. This was not the case, however, until after the 1870s. The Betsy Ross Flag Story was first told publicly by her grandson, William Canby, in a speech to the Historical Society of Philadelphia. Canby, who was only 11 years old when his grandmother died, told that he heard his grandmother say from her own mouth that she had created the first flag, along with other details of the event.

Canby told that a secret committee, consisting of George Ross, Robert Morris and George Washington, approached Betsy shortly before the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The men showed Betsy, a seamstress, a flag design and asked her if she could make it. Betsy said she would try and offered several suggestions to change their design, including the use of 5-pointed stars, instead of 6-pointed stars. George Washington then redrew the design himself, incorporating Betsy's suggestions.

Betsy completed the flag and it was approved by Congress. Betsy then embarked on a lifelong career of flag making for the government. The Betsy Ross flag story was first told to a national audience in the July, 1873 issue of Harper's New Monthly magazine. From there, it entered into American folklore.

The problem with Canby's story is that there is absolutely no other evidence corroborating his story. Extensive searches have been made in the National Archives, the Pennsylvania Archives and Betsy's own papers and no such evidence has been found. This makes the affidavit of Rachel Fletcher, signed on July 31, 1871, all the more important. Rachel stated that she heard her mother tell the story of George Washington asking her to make the flag on numerous occasions. In addition to Rachel's testimony, a niece and a granddaughter of Betsy's signed written affidavits affirming the same.

There is circumstantial evidence indicating Betsy's story may be true, such as the fact that she and George Washington sat next to one another at church, George Ross was her husband's uncle and some paintings place the 13 star flag in battles that would corroborate her story.

Since the story cannot be proved with outside evidence, it may not be true or it may be true, just unverifiable. We will most likely never know for certain if Betsy Ross created the first American flag, but one thing is for sure, she will remain a part of American folklore for many years to come.

Source: <http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com>

## COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF MEDINA

The 19th Symposium and Commemoration of the Battle of Medina, “the bloodiest battle in Texas history”, was held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 17th. The Commemorative Event has been conducted by Compatriot Tom Green, Former President of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution and long time member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT). Others organizations participating in the event included Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution (TSDAR) and the Historical Commissions of Atascosa and Medina



Counties.

**(Photo at Left)** The Color Guard and Musket Detail consisted of members of the SRT as seen in the Photo.

The Battle of Medina occurred on August 18, 1813 about 20 miles south of San Antonio on the Bexar-Laredo Road near Leming. Approximately 1,800 soldiers of the Royal Spanish Army engaged the 1,400 men in the Republican Army of the North. Only 100 Republicans survived the battle. The Royal Army lost only 55 Spanish soldiers.

**(Photo at Right)** According to Judge Robert H. Thonhoff, a winning author and educator, he writes in his book “This was the biggest and bloodiest battle ever fought on Texas soil. An expedition to wrest Texas from Spain. Flying the Green Flag, the Republicans Army of the North crossed from Louisiana into Texas on August 7, 1812 and

capture Nacogdoches and Trinidad de Salcedo before heading toward Presidio La Bahia. During the winter of the 1812-1813, the Republican Army conducted the longest siege in American history on the Presidio La Bahia. With the fall of the Presidio, the Republican Army marched towards San Antonio and defeated the Spanish Royalist on March 29, 1813 in Battle of Rosillo Creek. The Republicans took control of San Antonio on April 1, 1813, and on April 4, 1813 two Spanish governors were brutally executed. On April 6th a Declaration of Independence establish the first Republic of Texas.” However, the rebellion was short lived. The Spanish Royalist forces led by Spanish General Jose Joaquin de Arredondo responded decisively on August 18, 1813 defeating the Republican Army ending the First Republic of Texas.

**(Photo at Right)** Following the Commemoration Ceremony, a Historical Symposium was held at 1:00 P.M. at the Atascosa County Leming Annex (Old Leming School) in Leming TX. Judge Robert Thonhoff, Former Karnes County Judge, Educator, Historian and Author extended greeting to attendees and spoke of the Battle of Medina as a long forgotten event that has been brought back to life as a significant event is the founding history of Texas and its Independence.



**(Photo at Left)** Compatriot Bob Hancock, a member of the San Antonio Chapter SAR, represented the Medina County Historical Society where he has served on the planning committee for this event for the last 16 years. He welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for their interest in Early Texas History and for remembering those who lost their lives so long ago in their struggle for freedom from Spanish Rule.

Also hosting this event was the Atascosa Historical Commission. The presentations addressed the settling of Texas that created the First Texas Republic and subsequently met its demise at the disastrous 1813 Battle of Medina in Atascosa County.

Dr. Caroline Crimm, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Sam Houston State University, provided a wonderful overview of the world events in England, France and Spain that affected the Independence of Mexico from Spain, the territory of New Spain and the eventual establishment of Texas as a Republic.

## PASSING OF CHAPTER MEMBER



Compatriot Phillips Clarke Huck, 91, passed away Wednesday, July 10, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born on July 31, 1927 in Washington, D.C.,

lived for a short time in Miami, FL, but moved with his parents as a young boy to San Antonio where he spent the majority of his life. He is preceded in death by his parents, Laurie Meriwether Huck and Cornelia Clarke Huck and his brother Laurie M. Huck, Jr. Phillips is survived by his brother Minor Lewis Huck (C'Leeste), and his sister, Cornelia Huck Swayze. He is also survived by nephews and nieces Laurie LeBarre, J. B. Huck (Gina), Mary Minor Huck, Lew Villarreal (David), Walter Gundlach (Ginger), Steven Gundlach, Mark Gundlach (Karen), Mimi Macmurdo (Bill), and great nephew Malik Jabeir (Citlalli) as well as numerous other great nieces and nephews.

Phillips graduated from Texas Military Institute in San Antonio and attended the University of Texas. He joined the Navy in World War II and served in the Philippines.

He had a lifelong love of history and genealogy, with an amazing recall of historical events, dates and people. A passionate and proud American, he was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, The Sons of Republic of Texas, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Society of Colonial Wars. His careers spanned several areas including insurance, teaching, and ranching.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to the Morningside at The Meadows Retirement Community where Phillips resided for the past seven years and received loving and compassionate care. Services were held at St. Peter Prince of the Apostles Catholic Church, 111 Barilla Place, San Antonio, Texas on Saturday July 27 at 9:30 A.M. Private services for the family followed at Sunset Memorial Park.

Phillips Huck was inducted to Sons of the American Revolution on January 19, 1956. He was a loyal member attending many of our Chapter Meetings and Special Events. He always had a great interest in early American History and did extensive research on his family genealogy finding his lineage connected to 56 Patriot Ancestors. After he no longer paying his annual dues after 2014, he was dropped from the Roles of Texas Society SAR and the Chapter Membership Roster effective January 12, 2015 as a "active member". Thus, his membership as a SAR Member ended after 59 years.

Phillips keen mind and recall of American and Texas historical events will be missed at our Chapter Meetings and Special Events.

**An Early American Historical Quote:** "Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light." George Washington

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Next Executive Committee:** Thursday, September 12, 2019, 11:30 A.M., **New Location** - Mo's Irish Pub, Alamo Quarry Market off of McAllister Freeway (US Hwy 281) inside Loop 410.

**September General Membership Meeting:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 11:30 A.M., The Petroleum Club (7th Floor), San Antonio, TX

**Texas Society SAR Board of Managers Meeting:** October 4-6, 2019, Arlington, TX, The Hilton Arlington - 2401 East Lamar Blvd. Register On-Line at <http://www.txssar.org>.

**Operation Ancestry Research:** Training Sessions are announced as they are scheduled. Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; (All Members are invited) (Peter Baron)

**Annual Chapter Gala:** Saturday,

January 18, 2019, Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 6:00 PM. (See Page 1 for more details.)

For more information about SAR and our activities, go to **SASAR Chapter Website:**

<http://www.sarsat.org>