



NMSSAR
NEW MEXICO SOCIETY OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JIM P THORNTON, PRESIDENT

Third Quarter 2009

Gene Tomlinson, Editor

New Mexico Society Celebrates 100 years with President General's Visit



SAR President General Edward F. Butler, Sr. Visits New Mexico Society

On **Friday, Nov. 6th**, PG Butler will be the guest speaker at the Santa Fe Chapter meeting beginning at 11:45AM, at the Osteria Resturante at 53 S. Federal Place in down- town Santa Fe. E-mail reservations to Gene Tomlinson at emtominson@cybermesa.com

On **Saturday, Nov. 7th**, PG Butler will present Wounded Warrior Awards to Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan at 1:00PM at the Albuquerque Veterans Memorial Park, 944 Louisiana Blvd, ABQ

On **Saturday, Nov. 7th**, the PG will be the honored guest and speaker at the Albuquerque Hotel beginning at 6:00PM for the **NMSSAR Centennial Dinner**, see below.

NEW MEXICO SOCIETY SAR STATE CENTENNIAL DINNER AND

PRESIDENT GENERAL NSSAR EDWARD F. BUTLER, SR.'S VISIT

A Dinner meeting honoring the **New Mexico Society's 100th Birthday** and a **visit by President General and Mrs. Edward F. Butler, Sr.** will be held Saturday, November 7th, 2009 at 6:00 P.M at Hotel Albuquerque located at 800 Rio Grande Blvd., NW. Reservations must be made with your choice of one of the following Entries:

Prime Rib, Chicken Wellington or Seared Salmon.

No Host Alcoholic and Soft Drinks will be available from the bar.

Spouses and Significant Others are welcome and encouraged to attend. Dinner will be \$47.00. Pay at the door with Cash or Check payable to NMSSAR. For those wishing to stay at the Hotel, Rooms are available for \$99.00. Call (800)237-2133 on or before October 31st and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution Group Rate.

For dinner Reservations call or leave message with Ray Alexander at **(505) 730-4415** or e-mail: anniealex@earthlink.net on or before **October 31, 2009** to be included in this very special occasion.

We encourage all SAR, DAR and CAR members and those seeking membership in the SAR to celebrate by attending this event with us. Even if you haven't been active recently, this is one event you won't want to miss.

President's Column
Jim P. Thornton

Compatriots Walter Baker, Perkins Patton and I attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY in September. The Society's business is conducted at these conferences. I encourage all members to attend.

The trustees voted to not change the SAR policy regarding using DAR Record Copies as supporting documentation for SAR Applications. In addition, the newly revised SAR web site was demonstrated at the meeting. Log on to SAR.ORG to see the new format.

As noted above, Our Centennial Celebration Dinner will be held on November 7th at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. You will need to respond to the notice and select your choice of entrees for the meal.

Fall activities in our SAR Chapters need to include the collecting of names and activities of people we can recognize for their contribution to patriotic activities. This includes ROTC, Eagle Scouts, Flag presentations and other outstanding community and SAR activities.

The Board of Mangers is reviewing a Handbook that outlines the duties and responsibilities of officers and standing committees. As we outline the duties of each committee, NMSSAR members will be suggested to Officers for the committees. Please let your officers know how you can serve.

Remember the 2012 Congress is in Phoenix. New Mexico is responsible for the conference registration. We need people to work at the registration desk a day of two before the Congress and during the Congress. Interested Congress attendees should let Gene Tomlinson ((emtomlinson@cybermesa.com) know their availability.

Will Hanrahan,
ABQ Chapter President Resigns

Will has informed us that due to health issues he regrettably must resign as ABQ Chapter President.

Michael Barger will step in per Will's request.

He informs us that after radiation treatments for prostate cancer in 2008, the PSA level is rising again and forcing him to consider more treatment.

We are all concerned to hear about Will and hope that all compatriots will let Will know our thoughts and prayers for the remission from the cancer and a future return to good health allowing him to again join us.

Will can be reached by writing to him at:
Will Hanrahan, 9901 Amigante NE, ABQ, NM 8711

The Secretary's Corner
Ray Alexander

The **Centennial Dinner will celebrate 100th years since the establishment of our New Mexico Society.** NSSAR President General Edward F. Butler, Sr. accompanied by his lovely wife Robin will be our honored guest and speaker. We are preparing a special evening for all of you, please make your reservations.

We continue to add new members to the society and we would like to welcome new Albuquerque members Vernon Casias, Jeff Loveless, and Sam Baty; new Santa Fe member Warren Webster; and Gadsden (Las Cruces) members Jerry Waterman and Andrew Lyngar, Jr. We have three applications currently in and being processed at National and three others just being submitted to us.

We are currently carrying 109 members in the State Society. On September 9th we had a very successful quarterly state Board Of Managers (BOM) meeting in Santa Fe where we heard a presentation by Vice President General for the Rocky Mountain District of the SAR, Rev. Perkins Patton activities from meetings held at our Congress in Atlanta in July including PG Butler's comments and the actions discussed at the Trustees Meeting.

We issued a directory (Roster) of all current NMSSAR members in August. If you didn't get one please contact me. (Cell: 505-730-4415; Home: 505-296-0446 or e-mail at: anniealex@earthlink.net)

Treasurer's Report
John Farris

Our bank balance as of 01 September 2009 is \$ 6,414.14. This balance is just \$39.22 less than our 20 June balance. Our income from new member applications nearly balances the expenses for printing and mailing of materials to members and the costs for Awards

Members should have received their copy of the NMSSAR Roster for 2009 with the printing cost of \$495 and mailing cost yet to be paid out of our bank balance. This is the only known expenditure not yet submitted to the treasurer for payment.

We can expect to have expenditures related to the visit of the President General in November that may further reduce the treasury. Our account reconciles at the end of each month with our bank statement from Bank of the West.

Sons of Liberty

“Las Cruces' chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution adds a Spanish accent to patriotic history.”

By Jeff Berg

From an interview with Gadsden Chapter President, George Biles, senior writer Jeff Berg for the Desert Exposure writes the Tumbleweeds article for Sept. 2009 providing us with another view of the SAR.

(This article is also available on our website)

Did you know that silver mining in Mexico by the Spanish was instrumental in the "good guys" winning the Revolutionary War? Did you know that some smaller armed engagements in that war took place as far west (back then) as present-day Illinois and Indiana and included participation by the Spanish army?

Those are just two of the nuggets of US history that I learned from George Biles, the president of Las Cruces' **newly renamed Gadsden Chapter** of the New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

"Before I became involved, I thought that it all centered back east," Biles says of the American Revolution. "But it is not widely known that silver mines in Mexico developed and mined silver into ingots to help the colonists pay for the war. Had it not been for Spain, we probably never would have won."

Biles goes on to explain the consortium formed by France, another important ally, with Spain against Great Britain. (England in those days)

"It helped spread the British forces pretty thin, as they had to deal with the French blockading their ports and the army had to protect their people from the colonists and French."

Though less well-known than its female counterpart, the (**DAR**), the (**SAR**) is not only a national organization, but an international one, with about 26,000 members worldwide. It includes affiliates in Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany and even (ironically) the UK, scattered among 500 chapters. In New Mexico, about 110 gentlemen officially claim ties to Revolutionary War participants; in Las Cruces, Biles oversees about a quarter of that number, as the Gadsden Chapter currently has 29 members.

One of three Las Cruces residents who attended the US Naval Academy, Biles found that he had 10 ancestors, who were, in some way, involved in the Revolution, all on his mother's side of the family. His research has also found that he had relatives who fought on both sides of the Civil War, including one who was a captain in an Ohio Militia unit.

"He was David Henry Emery, and he was with the 37th Volunteer Militia," Biles relates, "which was referred to as the 'graybeards,' because they were all age 55-plus."

The unit was sent to guard a prison camp near Alton, Ill., but sadly, Captain Emery never returned home. "They sent his property back to his widow."

His various ancestors also participated in the War of 1812, the Spanish-American War, both world wars and the Korean clash. Biles is a Vietnam conflict veteran.

"I wasn't always interested in this," says Biles. "When I was a career USN officer, and about to ship out to Vietnam, my mother, who was a DAR member, encouraged me to become an SAR member."

Her motivation wasn't exactly what he expected, he recalls with a smile: "If you don't make it, you can have a SAR plaque on your gravestone, she told me."

Biles "made it" and later became active in the early 1990s when he moved to Pittsburgh, where he held various officer positions in the Pitt Chapter of the SAR. After several years in Pittsburgh and a second career as a professor of business at American University in Washington, DC, Biles retired and began "snowbirding" in Las Cruces. He moved here five years ago.

"I didn't even know there was a chapter in Las Cruces when I came here," he says, adding, "I will probably run for state president in a couple of years."

Organized in 1876, the group was originally called the Sons of Revolutionary Sires. A fraternal and civic organization, its main goal at that time was to "salute those men and women who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the battle for independence from Great Britain."

Present-day SAR members partake in most anything that is patriotic, historical and educational. The New Mexico SAR sponsors numerous events around the state throughout the year, including, as noted on its website, "oratory and essay contests for young people (both genders!), award programs for Eagle Scouts, ROTC and JROTC members and educators and veterans." The group is also active in ceremonies involving the American flag, including programs for veterans and appropriate flag-destruction ceremonies. Biles says he is currently studying the history of the flag.

"Our awards this year went to ROTC cadets and JROTC in all of the Las Cruces high schools, Gadsden, Santa Teresa, Alamogordo and Roswell," he adds. "We feel it is really important to acknowledge these kids, because that is where the future is."

Gadsden Chapter of the SAR also acknowledges those who observe proper flag etiquette, Biles points out. "The big flag at the McDonald's across the way? They hoist it with all of the proper protocol, so we recognized them for that. We also mark veterans' graves with flags."

(Jeff Berg Article – con't)

So, if the present king of Spain, Juan Carlos, and his sons are SAR members, as are the descendents of Lafayette (we are here!), how can you get in?

Well, probably not the same way that Juan Carlos did. A predecessor, Carlos III, decreed in March 1780 that his "vassals in America contribute a onetime donation of one peso per Indian and other castes and two pesos for each Spaniard and noble to sustain the present war," thus unknowingly paving his way — and that of his descendents — into the SAR.

Supposedly money was also collected from soldiers in New Mexican presidios. They gave one peso of their salary, which went to pay for the refitting of the French fleet.

Thus, if your multi-great-granddad Ferdinand helped out financially, you could be on your way — since one of the requirements to become an SAR member is that a relative of those times had to support the cause in some way.

But just a minute, Pilgrim, it might not be that easy.

"It sometimes takes laborious research," Biles says. "You have to prove there was a direct line of seven generations, from say, son of, to great-great grandson, to the seventh grandfather, and the support could be material or financial."

Biles also points out that, nationally, SAR has a number of black members, and perhaps even some American Indians.

"About 20% of the Continental line was freedmen," he offers. "And one of the first men killed in the war was a black man, Crispus Attucks, who was one of five who died at the Boston Massacre."

Biles is a wealth of information about the Revolution and SAR. He offers one last tidbit, about Spanish General Galvez, who supplied Washington's troops before war was even declared. Galvez then went on to raise an army, which drove the British out of the Gulf of Mexico, defeated them at a battle in Michigan, and captured Pensacola, which was the British capital of western Florida.

But even if your ancestry doesn't date back to General Galvez or Paul Revere, the SAR is interested in you. The organization plans a presence at swearing-in ceremonies for new citizens, in hopes that the spirit of 1776 will continue in today's Americans.

Biles says, "We are just trying to keep patriotic values alive."

Editors Note:

Reference should be made to the Article above by Jeff Berg interviewing George Biles and the Article in the Summer 2009 issue of the SAR Magazine by PG Edward Butler regarding Spain's involvement in our Revolution. The Presidio Soldiers across Northern New Spain (including the Santa Fe Presidio) were involved with their monetary donation.

NMSSAR Progress Report

After nearly two year of effort by your State Officers and Chapter Presidents, we have completed, or are in final acts of completion the following operational, organizational and community involvement projects:

A Revised and updated Constitution and Bylaws for the NMSSAR and for each Chapter;

A published and distributed Roster of all our members in good standing;

A quarterly Newsletter to all members, of which this is the seventh;

A Website with a large storage capacity that contains general information about our Society, our officers, our Constitution and Bylaws, our newsletters, our Chapter officers and Chapter news, membership requirements, Color Guard reports and Spanish history and traditions, and photos and videos documenting our Societies' activities;

A Handbook of the Duties and Responsibilities for Officers, Committee Chairs and members – soon to be published and placed on the web site;

A Tax Exempt number from the Tax and Revenue Dept of the State of New Mexico;

An update of our Societies History over the past 100 years that is in progress and will be published and placed on the web site;

Approval to form and activities leading to a NMSSAR Color Guard dressed in 1780 Spanish Presidio Uniforms, see page 5 for more details;

A request to the Genealogical Committee to better define the requirements for our Spanish descendents of Spanish soldier and settlers that supported the American Revolution;

Awards and Certificate activities for our Eagle Scouts, ROTC and JROTC, and Special SAR awards recognizing good citizenship, proper flying of our Colors, special service to the community and to the SAR;

Used and New Clothing drive to support our Veterans at the Veterans Hospital in Albuquerque;

Las Cruces Chapter renaming to the Gadsden Chapter to reflect its history and its expanded area of members;

And the work continues to improve our State Society.

**Request for Donations for the Color Guard
Over \$500 collected toward \$3,000 Goal**

As part of the Statehood Centennial Celebration in 2012 and the SAR Congress in July of 2012, we are developing Color Guard units in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. These units will comprise up to 7 members and be available to present the Colors and to post Colors at various events and activities during these celebrations and at events of the State of New Mexico, as well as Santa Fe and Albuquerque city events including the Santa Fe 400th Anniversary. We already participate in Flag Day ceremonies and in other national holiday events in New Mexico, but we are not yet in uniform that depicts the heritage of New Mexico.

The NMSSAR campaign among its members will help defray the cost of the Coats, Breeches, and Equipment used by the Color Guard. The Color Guard members will be purchasing their own hats, shirts, socks and garters (a \$200 expense) and each Chapter will purchase the necessary Flags and Banners.

Many of us are not able to participate in Color Guard activities, such as marching in parades or presenting Colors at the Federal Cemeteries or other Official Holiday events, but all of us can be a part of the Color Guard through our monetary donations. The Spanish Soldiers were contributors back in the 1780's now we can also honor them and ourselves with a donation.

Financial Support to the NMSSAR Color Guard Uniform and Equipment Project

Please, provide a generous financial donation to our Color Guard Uniform and Equipment Project:

This will be a tax deductible donation since we are an Nationally Recognized 501 c (3) non profit organization whose NMSSAR tax I.D. number is: 86-6015024

Your Name and Address:

Your donation in the amount of: \$_____ is most appreciated

Make your checks out to: (and note that the donation is for the Color Guard Uniform Project)

Mail this form with your check to: Mr. John Adams Farris, Treasurer, NMSSAR
9303 Topanga Court NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87122-1225

(Keep a copy for your tax records)



We need to purchase up to 14 coats and breeches at \$300 per guardsman.

We have the seamstress and will buy the special material, your donations will pay for the sewing of the coats and breeches and for the special buttons other equipment needed to complete the outfitting of the basic Presidio Soldier.

Any amount will help from \$20 to \$200 or more.

We will march if you can help us with the uniforms.

Thank you for your consideration



NMSSAR Newsletter
Gene Tomlinson, Editor
2750 La Silla Dorada
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87505-6307