



MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

February 2015

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When February 14, 2015
Where: Sizzler Restaurant
1401 N. Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA
Time: Social Begins at 11:00am
Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am
Website: www.orangecountysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Compatriots,

I am honored to serve as your Orange County Chapter President for 2015. As I write this first message, I am reminded of the goals of the California Society of SAR:

The CASSAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit corporation that seeks to maintain and extend:

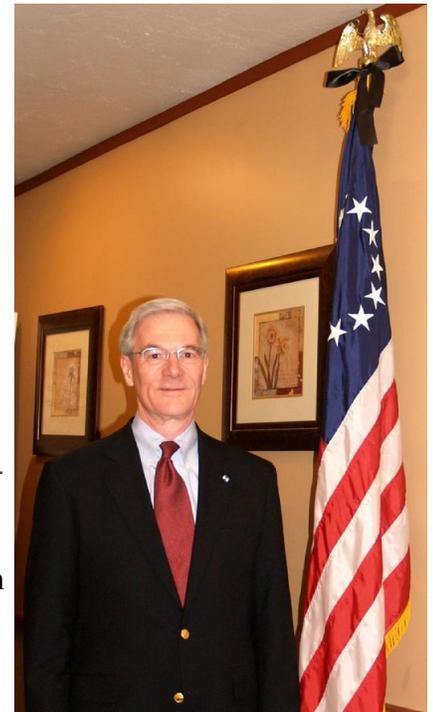
- The institutions of American freedom
- An appreciation for true patriotism
- A respect for our national symbols
- The value of American citizenship

The unifying force of *e pluribus unum* that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people.

These goals have greatly impressed me, especially in our current political and economic environment. I believe that through our service in the SAR, we can influence those around us, and make a difference in the world. This month I want to focus on the educational goals of SAR.

As stated in the August 2014 Report by the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning, the United States recently ranked 139th in voter participation of 172 democracies around the world, and less than half of eligible young people ages 18-24 voted in the 2012 elections. Just 13 percent of high school seniors showed a solid understanding of U.S. History in the same year. The Report notes that research has demonstrated that six core activities—known as the Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning—directly improve the quality and effectiveness of civic learning in schools. These practices are: classroom instruction in government, history, law and economics; service learning projects tied to the curriculum; simulations of democratic processes; extracurricular activities that have a strong civic dimension; student participation in school governance, and discussions of current events and controversial topics. The Report provides recommendations to improve civic learning in the State of California.

The CASSAR provides many educational opportunities for students to learn about U.S. History, and I believe we can be an excellent resource for our schools. Our web-



site lists the Youth Programs we offer, including the Elementary School Poster Contest, the Middle School Brochure Contest, and the High School Essay and Oration Contests. In addition, we honor Eagle Scouts, ROTC/JROTC cadets, and Navy Sea Cadets for their service.

I am grateful for my compatriots who have volunteered to be Chairman of many of these programs; however, there are still some openings for those who want to serve. I urge those of you who want to help educate our youth to become better citizens to volunteer as a Chairman of one of these programs. We can make a difference.

In Patriotism,
Jim Klingler

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

The list of chairmanships for our chapter are listed on our website. The current list is as follows; Our Program Administration Chairmen are; Activity Contest—James Blauer, Color Guard Commander—James Fosdyck, **Flag Certificate—Vacant**, Information Technology—Arthur Koehler, Medals & Awards—James Fosdyck, Newsletter Editor—James Blauer, and Veteran's Affairs—Daniel Henry.

Youth Program Chairmanships include; Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest—Hugh L. Richards, Jr., Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest—James Blauer, Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award—James Blauer, Eagle Scout Certificate Recognition—James F. Blauer, ROTC/JROTC Recognition Program—Gustave R. Fischer, Navy Sea Cadet Corps/Navy League Cadet Corps Program—Gustave Fischer, The George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest—Daniel R. McKelvie, **Middle School Brochure Contest—Vacant, Valley Forge Teacher Recognition Program—Vacant, High School Oration Contest—Vacant, Spirit of America Award—Vacant, and High School Outstanding Citizenship Award—Vacant.**

If you should see one of these vacancies that appeals to you, contact President Klingler to discuss your possible involvement in one or more of these Chairmanships.

SPEAKER—James Townsend

Our February guest speaker is Orange County Chapter SAR applicant, James Townsend, who will tell us about the Revolutionary War massacre in Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania, where one of his ancestors died. The Sugarloaf Massacre was a skirmish that occurred on September 11, 1780. In that event, a number of Native Americans and Loyalists attacked American militia based in Northumberland and Northampton

Counties, Pennsylvania. The American militia was led by a Captain Klader. The Indians and Loyalists were led by the Seneca Chief Roland Montour. The Sugarloaf Massacre was a major historical event in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

WOUNDED WARRIOR TO BE HONORED Pearl Harbor Survivor Bob Bankston's Story

It will be an honor for our chapter to recognize Mr. Bob Bankston for his service and sacrifice as a Pearl Harbor survivor and crew member on the battleship the USS California. We will present him with the SAR Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate at our February 14th meeting.

Robert Bankston joined the U S Navy in November 1940. He was an Electricians Mate when he joined the crew aboard the USS California BB-44 a Tennessee-class battleship built shortly after WWI. The California served as the Flagship for the Pacific Fleet for twenty years 1921 to 1941.

On December 7th 1941, the California was moored at the southernmost berth of Battleship Row at Pearl Harbor. Shortly after the Japanese began their attack the California was struck by two torpedoes. Minutes later she was struck by a 551 lb. bomb that pierced the top deck and exploded on the second deck setting off an anti aircraft ammunition magazine that killed as many as 50 sailors. Bob Bankston was on the deck when he was wounded by this blast. The explosion threw him in the air and he landed hard on the deck when some of the super structure collapsed on top of him trapping him. He regained consciousness enough to call for help when he saw other sailors rushing past him. A few stopped to lift and assist him in getting out from under the twisted steel. His body was covered in flash burns and bloodied from the blast and steel that collapsed on top of him. He was left injured, dazed and confused, but eventually got to the aid station.

Then a second near miss bomb exploded so close to the ship that it ruptured her bow plates. All during the attack the ship's crew fought valiantly putting up constant antiaircraft fire even while fires burned on board the ship. About 100 sailors died in the attack aboard the USS California. The California sank in the harbor at its mooring but was later raised, repaired and returned to duty to take the fight back to the enemy.

Once Bob recovered he rejoined his ship to full duty and served aboard her till near the end of the war. Late in the war he joined the USS Coshocton and was mustered out in February 1946 as an Electricians Mate 1st Class. After the war Bob worked for many years as a teacher in the Seal Beach school district. He continues

to live in Orange County.

WOUNDED WARRIOR

Lauren F. Bruner

A Survivor of the USS Arizona

On Friday Jan 30, 2015 the Orange County Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution in partnership with the Quilts of Valor organization had the privilege of recognizing Lauren F Bruner a survivor of the Battle of Pearl Harbor and the sinking of the USS Ar-



izona. This private presentation of the SAR Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate was a little unique as we did it in Mr. Bruner's home. He was unavailable for our Saturday meetings so we came to him. He was very gracious, welcoming, sharp and witty. His amazing story of duty and survival could be part of a movie but it wasn't, it was a tragic reality for him and his ship mates.

The USS Arizona is certainly the most well known Battleship in U.S. history if not world history. In the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor after she was bombed, the Arizona continued to fight gallantly even as she was sinking taking 1,177 crewmen to their graves on Sunday morning December 7, 1941.

Of the 1,510 man crew only 333 survived the attack that brought the United States into World War II. Of those survivors only about 100 were actually on the ship during the attack. The other 200 plus were away from the ship due to shore leaves, hospitals etc. As of printing only 9 crewmen remain to speak for their shipmates and remember. Lauren F. Bruner is one of these survivors. He was among the last to leave the USS Arizona before she sank to the bottom of Pearl Harbor.

Twenty one year old Lauren Bruner was a Fire Control Man, part of a ten man gun crew. His gun

post was what looked like a large metal box mounted on the forward mast of the Arizona one deck above the bridge, behind the No. 2 gun turret. Many of the younger 17 & 18 year old sailors called him "dad." He helped aim the big 14" naval guns which could shoot a variety of shells. They also relayed aiming info for anti aircraft gun crews near them. On that fateful morning Bruner was heading for church services that were to be held on the fantail of the ship in a few minutes. After services Bruner like every other sailor was looking forward to an easy day of light duty and had just come out on deck when he heard the Japanese planes approaching. It seemed unusual for planes to practice on a Sunday but he didn't give it much thought till they suddenly started shooting and dropping torpedoes & bombs in the harbor and on ships.

General quarters sounded and nearly 1300 sailors some only semi dressed scrambled to their stations and frantically rushed to get ammo to the anti aircraft and larger guns. Bruner ran across the deck and raced to climb the ladder well up the tower to his station as a Japanese plane machine gunned the deck of the Arizona with bullets pinging and ricocheting all around when he was struck in the back of his leg. Bruner was shot through his calf but he pushed on to his station to join his crew. The gun director station required about ten men to operate such as a pointer, a sight setter, a gunnery officer and a few fire control men. Since the Arizona was in port each anti aircraft gun emplacement only had a fifty round supply of ammunition. The rest of the ammunition was locked up all over the ship and men had to break open the lockers to get ammo which delayed the gunners for several precious seconds and minutes in some cases. Bruner's crew quickly broke the locks and got some ammo, loaded their guns and joined the fight.

The first bombs nearest the Arizona were too far out but then a bomb landed in the water exploding between the Arizona and the USS Vestal which was moored along side of her. It sent shock waves across the ship knocking men off their feet and some across the deck. Some of the Japanese planes passed so close that Bruner could see their faces grinning at them. One face is especially seared in his memory as the enemy pilot passed so unbelievably close, they looked directly



at each other when the plane was hit and nosed down into the water amidships. Bruner said that one was so close he could have smacked him with a baseball bat. The action was so fast paced he struggled to focus on any one target there were so many. His gun crew shouted out commands and targets keeping their cool and doing what they had trained to do.

Then the inevitable happened when the first bomb struck the turret plate near the No. 4 gun and bounced down below decks. The noise was deafening as bombs exploded and guns fired from so many ships and planes on and all around the Arizona. Bruner's guns shells were not set for such high altitude bombers and neither for the extremely low altitude torpedo bombers so they frantically adjusted their guns for accuracy.

Suddenly a bomb shot past Bruner's station toward the turret when it pierced the deck, paused a moment, then exploded with an enormous catastrophic blast that tore through the ship's bow that pierced the ship's heart and killing hundreds instantly. It was about 8:09 a.m. when that bomb struck the mighty ship and forever set a devastating footnote in American history. Despite the heavy armor plating that lined the ship the bomb pierced the forward deck near the no. 2 turret about 40 feet from the bow. It ripped through the lower decks and detonated near the forward magazine storing a full supply of gunpowder for the big naval guns. That powder magazine simultaneously detonated with such force it lifted the Arizona several feet out of the water. The explosion was only 70 feet from Bruner's location engulfing most of the ship and Bruner's station in a massive fireball. The turret and conning tower collapsed about 30 feet into the ship's hull. The forward mast and funnel tilted toward the crater and the bow sagged where it split from the rest of the hull with flames gutting the forward decks. The Arizona only lasted 14 minutes from the beginning of the battle to her sinking. The surviving anti aircraft gun crews furthest from the explosion continued to fire at the swarming Japanese planes even as the Arizona burned and began to sink. In a few moments the guns ceased as her main deck settled below the water-

The USS Arizona before the Pearl Harbor attack.



line. The hellish nightmare was still only beginning for Bruner and his few surviving crewmates. The Arizona's vast oil storage tanks had been filled just a few days before and would fuel the fire that would burn for nearly 3 days.

Bruner and his crew mates gasped for air but only sucked in heavy oil smoke and hot air. The flames shot as high as 500 feet. The heat unbearable as men burned and baked alive. Flames burned away their clothes and skin. Only 5 of 10 crewmen from Bruner's station were still alive now as they desperately sought escape. The ship was distorted and wrecked all around them and they had no way down to get off of her and out of the inferno. It was unbearable when Alvin Dvorak another Arizona crewman screamed and waved at the USS Vestal alongside them through the heavy black smoke catching the eye of coxswain Joe George. George grabbed a weighted line and threw it nearly 100 feet over to the small group of suffering men. Bruner and his mates caught the line and secured a heavier line to it and began to shimmy hand over hand 60 ft above a burning oil slick surrounding the Arizona. They endured immense pain as their skin peeled from their hands and the burning oil slick below them continued to burn them further. An officer yelled at Joe George to cut the line so they could pull away from the burning wreckage of the Arizona when Joe George shook his head no and pointed to the survivors hanging on the line. Other sailors on the Vestal saw the heart wrenching feat unfolding and started yelling encouragement to them. "Come on, you can make it, don't let go!" Miraculously the first four suffering sailors made it to the Vestal followed by Bruner and finally Alvin Dvorak. They all collapsed on the deck of the Vestal blinded by pain. Sadly Alvin Dvorak who was burned over 84 percent of his body died on Christmas Eve just 17 days later. Lauren Bruner calls him their hero as Alvin got the attention of Joe George and ultimately got them saved. Unfortunately two others from their group didn't survive their injuries

The USS Arizona following attack on Pearl Harbor.



either.

Lauren Bruner was burned over 74 percent of his body and spent 7 months in the hospital recovering. Burn treatment and recovery was no better than the initial burns in the fire. It was a brutal and long suffering experience but he did recover and return to duty. The navy was in need of experienced sailors so they didn't offer Bruner a discharge but asked if he was ready to join another ship and he piped right in "yes sir!" Bruner said "there was nothing else to be done, there was fighting to do and it was my duty... the war simply wasn't over and that's where I wanted to be, the front lines." He took the fight right back to the enemy participating in eight major engagements before war's end. He was discharged a Fire Control Man 3rd Class.

Lauren Bruner now 94 years old travelled back to Pearl Harbor last December along with 3 other Arizona survivors for what may be their final official reunion on Dec 7th 2014. The trip was bittersweet for each of them. Lauren and the others raised a final toast to their sleeping shipmates and shed a few tears as well. By special permission Mr. Bruner will eventually be interned inside the hull of the USS Arizona to rejoin his shipmate in final rest

As I swallow the lump in my throat I can only think of a fading generation of heroes whose ranks dwindle every day. We owe them much. Although Mr. Bruner's experience sets him apart in a unique way he is not unlike some 16 million Americans who served valiantly and for the over 400,000 who gave their all. Mr. Bruner like nearly all other WWII veterans refuses to think of themselves as heroes. They often say the real heroes are the ones who didn't make it home. But I still believe all who faced the horrors of war in the defense of freedom not only for America but for much of the world are heroes to me.

It was a unique and very special privilege to recognize Lauren F Bruner in his home with the SAR Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate. The event was attended by our Chapter President Jim Klingler, Jim Fosdyck (CSSAR VP South) & wife Un Hui Yi (SAR Western District Photographer), Dan Henry (Veterans Affairs Chairman), followed by a beautiful quilt presented on behalf of Quilts of Valor by Barbara Winkler. Mr. Bruner's assistant and friend Ed Hoeschen attended along with us.

Ed. Your editor wished to thank Veteran's Affairs Chairman Dan Henry for this article and the photos he sent.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

At our meeting on January 11th we had a major

installation of new members. In my 34 years as a member of the SAR I have never see 7 members installed at one time. These were all members of the Beall family. There would have been 8, but one lives in Tucson, Arizona and could not get away.

On January 17th many of our members attended the Winter Court (Meeting and Luncheon) of the California Society of Colonial Wars.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

2014 was another banner year for the activities your chapter participates in. In 2013 we amassed over 12,000 points for the California Activity Contest. Though we did not amass that many points in 2014 we still did very well. The points by monthly report are as follows; January—113.4, February—850.9, March—800.3, April—833, May—1,986.4, June—299, July—890, August—130, September 481, October—247, November 865, and December 974. This brings our total for 2014 to 8,470 points. Now we just have to wait until the April meeting to see how we stacked up to the other Large Chapters in the state. If you come to the State Meeting in April, you will be able to find out how we did when they pass out the awards for the various items reported on as well as the Best Chapter award for the various chapter size categories.

BOY SCOUT MONTH

On February 8, 1910, just a couple years after Lord Baden-Powell started the Boy Scouts in England (January 24, 1908), it came to the United States. This is considered the birth of this organization here in the U.S. This makes the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) 105 years old this month.

As is the custom of our chapter we will have the Eagle Scout chapter winner, Russell Cooper Cecil, at this meeting where he will read his essay and be presented his medal as the chapter winner and some participation patches.

Eagle Scout Cecil's application was sent on to the State Eagle Chairman, Gary Jensen, for the competition at that level and earlier this month was declared the State Winner. He and his family will be in attendance at the Spring meeting to receive his award from the state at the Youth Awards Luncheon on Saturday April 18.. Meanwhile we wait to hear from National as his application was forwarded to them as the State winner to be judged with other state winners around the country for the top prizes.

We have several members who are Eagle Scouts and I would like to request that they contact me with their year of becoming an Eagle Scout. You can send the information to jblauer@pacbell.net.

Massing of the Colors & Salute to Our Armed Forces

The largest celebration of its kind in the western United States, 2015 will be the 33rd annual celebration of George Washington's birth sponsored by the Sons of Liberty Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution! This upcoming event will be held at 3:00 PM, Sunday, February 15, 2015, at Hall of Liberty, Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles.

Previous Massing of the Colors have been a great success. Over 600 people and fifty color guards participate each year, including over ten of our brother SAR Chapters. Many greater Los Angeles area high school and college color guards take part in this celebration.

Forest Lawn might initially seem a strange place for our event, but it offers an area that showcases a collection of American architecture and artworks that honor our country. There's the world's largest historical mosaic, The Birth of Liberty, a faithful reproduction of Boston's Old North Church, and larger-than-life-sized bronze statues of Washington and Jefferson. You can watch a free 26-minute movie about the American Revolution as well.

<http://www.sons-of-liberty-sar.org/index.php/events/massing-of-the-colors>.

Your Orange County Chapter has participated in this event for over 20 years. It is a spectacular display of American Patriotism that should not be missed.

Though the show begins at 3pm, you should plan to be there early to check out the Hall, the Wall and bring your cameras as you will want to capture some of these festivities to show to your friends and family and maybe get them to plan to attend next year.

CASSAR Color Guard Commander James Fosdyck will coordinate and lead the procession of the Color Guard.

140TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

As we begin the new year we are looking forward to the State Meeting in April. Your Orange County Chapter will be hosting this year's event as Compatriot Kent Gregory becomes the new State President.

It will be held in Irvine on Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18th. It is being held at the Wyndham Hotel and they are giving us the special room rate of \$109.00 per night. To make your reservations call 949-863-1999. Mention that you are with the Sons of

the American Revolution to get the special rate. Parking is only \$5.00 per day. (Registration Form is on Page 11).

Besides our exciting business meetings there will be great food, enjoyable companionship and activities for the ladies. The Saturday evening Gala Banquet entertainment will include a professional magician from the Magic Castle.

NSSAR President General Lindsey Brock will be in attendance, making this a National Color Guard Event.

SPIRIT OF '76 CALENDAR

The Spirit of '76 calendar, created by Compatriot Jim Blauer his is still available for purchase. Besides the write ups last Fall and last month in our newsletter there have been some great articles in both the California Compatriot (Current issue) and the SAR Magazine that came out recently. Compatriot Blauer has a good supply of his calendar still available for sale. They are \$20 each and all the money goes to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. Information on the center can be found by going to; <http://www.sarfoundation.org/center-for-advancing.html>.

The calendar can be used for your own personal use, for schools, students, newsletters, or give to friends and family who may be interested in American History. Copies will be made available for purchase at the February meeting. If you are unable to make the February meeting, you can email Compatriot Blauer at Jblauer@pacbell.net. And let him know how many you would like and where to mail them to.

LORD BADEN POWELL

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, OM GCMG GCVO KCB ([/ˈbeɪdən ˈpoo.əl/](#) *Baden as in maiden; Powell as in Noel*) (22 February 1857 – 8 January 1941), also known as **B-P** or **Lord Baden-Powell**, was a [lieutenant-general](#) in the [British Army](#), writer, founder of the [Scout Movement](#) and first [Chief Scout](#) of [The Boy Scouts Association](#).

Several of his military books, written for military [reconnaissance](#) and scout training in his African years, were also read by boys. Based on those earlier books, he wrote *Scouting for Boys*, published in 1908 by [Sir Arthur Pearson](#), for youth readership.

On his return from Africa in 1903, Baden-Powell found that his military training manual, *Aids to Scouting*, had become a best-seller, and was being used by teachers and youth organisations. Following his involvement in the [Boys' Brigade](#) as Brigade Secretary and Officer in charge of its scouting section,

with encouragement from his friend, [William Alexander Smith](#), Baden-Powell decided to re-write *Aids to Scouting* to suit a youth readership. In August 1907 he [held a camp on Brownsea Island](#) to test out his ideas. About twenty boys attended: eight from local Boys' Brigade companies, and about twelve [public school](#) boys, mostly sons of his friends.

Baden-Powell was also influenced by [Ernest Thompson Seton](#), who founded the [Woodcraft Indians](#). Seton gave Baden-Powell a copy of his book *The Birch Bark Roll of the Woodcraft Indians* and they met in 1906. The first book on the Scout Movement, Baden-Powell's [Scouting for Boys](#) was published in six installments in 1908, and has sold approximately 150 million copies as the [fourth best-selling book](#) of the 20th century. Boys and girls spontaneously formed Scout troops and the Scouting Movement had inadvertently started, first as a national, and soon an international phenomenon. The Scouting Movement was to grow up in friendly parallel relations with the Boys' Brigade. [A rally for all Scouts](#) was held at [Crystal Palace](#) in London in 1909, at which Baden-Powell discovered the first [Girl Scouts](#). The Girl Guide Movement was subsequently formalized in 1910 under the auspices of Baden-Powell's sister, Agnes Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell's friend [Juliette Gordon Low](#) was encouraged by him to bring the Movement to the United States, where she founded the [Girl Scouts of the USA](#).

In 1920, the [1st World Scout Jamboree](#) took place in [Olympia](#) in West Kensington, and Baden-Powell was acclaimed [Chief Scout](#) of the World. Baden-Powell was created a [Baronet](#) in 1921 and [Baron Baden-Powell](#), of Gilwell, in the County of Essex, on 17 September 1929, [Gilwell Park](#) being the International Scout Leader training center. After receiving this honor, Baden-Powell mostly styled himself "Baden-Powell of Gilwell".

In 1929, during the [3rd World Scout Jamboree](#), he received as a present a new 20-horsepower [Rolls-Royce](#) car (chassis number GVO-40, registration OU 2938) and an Eccles [Caravan](#). This combination well served the Baden-Powells in their further travels around Europe. The caravan was nicknamed Eccles and is now on display at Gilwell Park. The car, nicknamed Jam Roll, was sold after his death by [Olave Baden-Powell](#) in 1945. Jam Roll and Eccles were reunited at Gilwell for the [21st World Scout Jamboree](#) in 2007. Recently it has been purchased on behalf of Scouting and is owned by a charity, B-P Jam Roll Ltd. Funds are being raised to repay the loan that was used to purchase the car. Baden-Powell also had a positive impact on improvements in youth education. Under his dedicated command the world Scouting movement grew. By 1922 there were more than a million Scouts in 32 countries; by 1939 the

number of Scouts was in excess of 3.3 million.

At the [5th World Scout Jamboree](#) in 1937, Baden-Powell gave his farewell to Scouting, and retired from public Scouting life. 22 February, the joint birthday of Robert and Olave Baden-Powell, continues to be marked as [Founder's Day](#) by Scouts and [Thinking Day](#) by Guides to remember and celebrate the work of the Chief Scout and Chief Guide of the World.

In his final letter to the Scouts, Baden-Powell wrote ... I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have a happy life too. I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness does not come from being rich, nor merely being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so you can enjoy life when you are a man. Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one. But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. 'Be Prepared' in this way, to live happy and to die happy — stick to your Scout Promise always — even after you have ceased to be a boy — and God help you to do it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Baden-Powell,_1st_Baron_Baden-Powell

THE FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS OF THE ST. JOHN RIVER VALLEY

By

Stephen Davidson

New Brunswick was the first colony in the British Empire to be founded by loyal American refugees after the War of Independence. Created in 1784 from the western frontier of Nova Scotia, the colony had received over 14,000 displaced Americans from the victorious thirteen colonies at the revolution's conclusion. Not large by Canadian standards, New Brunswick has more territory than either Connecticut, Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maryland, or New Jersey— states that had once been home to its loyalist settlers. New Brunswick was destined, felt Edward Winslow, a Massachusetts loyalist, to

become "the envy of the American states."

However, New Brunswickers are also unique in that they have more patriots among their ancestors than any other component of Canadian society.

Most American history books have forgotten about the only battle that was fought within the borders of modern day Nova Scotia. And they have ignored the settlers of the St. John River Valley who rallied around a Massachusetts patriot named Jonathan Eddy. Despite this oversight, it is a fact of Canadian history that there were active patriots within the fourteenth colony of Nova Scotia, and that their descendants are with us still. Here are the stories of those forgotten rebels.

The Planters of Nova Scotia

Fearing persecution from their patriot neighbours, 60,000 loyal American refugees fled the new United States of America. They were the largest population of displaced people to ever seek sanctuary at that point in time in the Western Hemisphere. Three quarters of those American refugees flooded into the colony of Nova Scotia. At that time Nova Scotia included most of modern day New Brunswick (Maine's eastern neighbour).

As 14,000 loyal Americans poured into Sunbury County in 1783, the western frontier of Nova Scotia, most of them favoured the St. John River Valley, establishing their homesteads next to New England Planters. Their neighbours had lived in Sunbury County since the 1760s.

After the British expelled the Acadians (the ancestors of Louisiana's Cajuns) from Nova Scotia, they were desperate to fill its vacant lands with loyal (preferably English) Protestant settlers. It offered Acadian farms and crown land to colonists in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Between 1759 and 1775, approximately

8,000 New Englanders responded to Nova Scotia's offer, establishing homes along the Atlantic coast, throughout the Annapolis Valley, on the plains of Cumberland County, and along the St. John River Valley. These New Englanders were known as Planters, an old English word that means those who establish a colony or a plantation.

At least thirty of those Planters had sided with the patriots during the American Revolution. They remained in what became New Brunswick, and, over time, their children married the children of the loyalists. During the American Revolution, these Nova Scotia patriots were described as "very great rebels and of very bad character".

In addition to Portland Point (which would become the city of Saint John) at its mouth, there were seven English settlements along the St. John River before the arrival of the loyal refugees. These townships had been established by the New England Planters. Despite being separated by a sea journey of two weeks, these settlers maintained contact and trade with their families back in the original thirteen colonies. When the revolution broke out, most of the Planters pledged their Yankee cousins that they were "*ready with their lives and fortunes to share with them the event of the present struggle for liberty, however God in His Providence may order it*".

Emboldened by the successful destruction of Fort Frederick by American forces near Portland Point in 1775, the rebels of the St. John River Valley decided to join Jonathan Eddy in his attack on Fort Cumberland. The fort guarded the Isthmus of Chignecto, the narrow neck of land that today links New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Eddy had once lived in the Cumberland area, but had returned to Massachusetts. In August of 1776, he headed toward the St. John River with 28 men, a force he intend-

ed to increase with patriot sympathizers among the Planter settlers.

"I found the people," he later wrote, *"to be almost universally hearty in our cause; they joined us with one captain, one lieutenant and twenty-five men, as also sixteen Indians."* By the time Eddy arrived at Cumberland he had a rebel force of about 200 men. They only had their hunting muskets and no artillery whatsoever.

The Planter patriots looted the loyal settlers who lived near Fort Cumberland, seized several sloops, and took a number of prisoners. Their repeated attacks on the fort itself were unsuccessful. Under the leadership of Major Batt and Captain Gilfred Studholme, the rag-tag army of rebels was overthrown in late November, and the men made a hasty retreat back to their farms along the St. John River.

Amnesty or Retaliation?

Having routed a local patriot army, what would the British forces do next? For six months, all was quiet along the St. John River. The rebel Planters remained on their farms without any reprisals. Then, in May of 1777, Colonel Arthur Goold arrived at the mouth of the St. John River. With him was Gilfred Studholme, recently promoted from captain to major – and a man who remembered fighting the Planter rebels.

However, rather than expelling the patriots from their river farms, Goold made an offer of clemency. In a letter to the seven Planter settlements, the colonel notified the inhabitants that Nova Scotia's government was *"well informed of their treasonable doings, and that the tenure of their present*

possessions was due to the clemency of the most just, generous and best of Princes." His desire was *"to effect a reconciliation for them with Government"*. Goold cautioned the rebels that while he came to them with the olive branch of peace, should they refuse the government's overtures of mercy, *"an armed force would follow and employ a very different argument"*.

Major Studholme knew the names of over thirty men who had either been combatants at Fort Cumberland or were "active rebels" – men who had spied on the British or formed republican committees. Should they refuse Goold's offer of mercy, they were very aware that they were marked men.

After a town meeting at Maugerville, the settlers sent a reply to Goold's letter. The Planters said *"that their greatest desire hath ever been to live in peace under good and wholesome laws."* They were *"ready to attend to any conditions of lenity and oblivion that may be held out to them."*

After reading the letter from the St. John River settlements, Goold was pleased at *"their resolution to observe loyalty and obedience to the government under which they lived"*. He said he was surprised that had allowed *"a few incendiaries to disturb the public tranquility."* He challenged the settlers to form a committee in favour of the British government instead of a rebel committee. He felt sure that in the end the settlers would see that their best hope lay within the British Empire.

But the American Revolution was far from over in the spring of 1777 and could easily tip in favour of either side. Nova Scotia's government sent troops to fortify the mouth of the St. John River. Gilfred Studholme, who knew the river's rebels by name, was put in charge of building Fort Howe. For the next six years, this fort de-

fended the Planter settlers and warded off patriot attacks from New England.

In May of 1783, Fort Howe looked down on the harbour it defended as the first fleet of loyalist evacuation vessels from New York City dropped anchor. Studholme, who was still the military commander, knew that the loyalists desperately needed land and had to move on to it before the winter.

Within a month of the first fleet's arrival, Studholme sent a four-man party up the river to take a census of its settlers and to determine the validity of their land claims. When the commissioners returned with their data, Studholme read their report and made his own additions, making a point of noting which farmers had turned on the crown during the revolution. Studholme had it within his power to confiscate the patriots' river farms and grant them to the loyalists – much as the victorious states had seized loyalists' land and given it to patriots. Would Studholme honour the amnesty of 1777 or take vengeance on those he had fought at Fort Cumberland seven years earlier?

To be continued in our March newsletter.

[Stephen Davidson is a historian who lives in Nova Scotia. As well as having served as a consultant for two loyalist websites, he is the author of loyalist history books, children's stories and over 400 articles in the online newsletter, *Loyalist Trails*. Some of his loyalist descendant cousins currently live in Orange County. Stephen can be contacted at \[<loyalistsed@gmail.com>\]\(mailto:loyalistsed@gmail.com\)](#)

HEREEDITARY SOCIETIES

Many of you who belong to the SAR also belong to several other hereditary societies.

In this series we will visit several of these that your Editor belongs to, to let you know of some of the other groups that are out there and that you maybe eligible to join.

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF THE PILGRIMS

The Society was founded on December 21, 1908 and has been in continuous existence since then. Its motto is "Land of our Fathers! Ours to Preserve. Ours to Transmit. Liberty in Union; Now and Forever."

The Society is a nonprofit corporation approved for tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The objects of the Society are primarily educational in nature. With 36 current branches and over 1500 members, the Society actively supports its educational purpose by means of national projects, publications, and the local participation of its members through meetings and projects of its numerous, virtually nationwide branches.

Eligibility is that a male or female over the age of 18 is eligible to join the Society, without regard to religion or place of origin, if he or she is a direct descendant of a "Pilgrim". That term denotes any immigrant who settled before 1700 within the territory which later became the forty-eight contiguous states of the United States of America.

The objects of the Society are as follows;

- To perpetuate the memory and to foster and promote the principles and the virtues of the Pilgrims.
- To commemorate publicly, at stated times, principle events in the history of the Pilgrims and to erect durable memorials of historic men, women and events.
- To encourage the study and research of Pilgrim history, especially as related to the foundation of civil government and the principles of religious freedom.

To foster and establish such departments of study and organization as shall seem best to promote social rights, civic virtue, industrial freedom, political equality, the supremacy of just laws, the value and sacredness of the ballot, the purity of the home, temperate and Godly living, and the dependence of individuals, communities, states and nations on the guidance of Almighty God, as taught by the Pilgrims.

This information came from the National website at <http://www.nssdp.com/>.

Your fellow Compatriot Jim Blauer is the Southern California Branch Governor. You can contact him for information on membership at jblauer@pacbell.net.

Photo Album



On January 4th, Dan Shippey as General George Washington and James Gill from the California Color Guard join the Olds family at the service for Compatriot Jim Olds' father who passed away recently.



Members of the Color Guard at the Olds' service included Commander Jim Fosdyck, Dan Henry, James Gill and Dan Shippey.



Col. Rick Fuller our speaker is presented our Certificate of Appreciation for his talk by President Dan Shippey, left.

At right, Karen Richards on behalf of Quilts of Valor, presents Col. Fuller with a quilt to thank him for his service in our military.



At Left Heather Henson is presented the Bronze Good Citizenship medal by President Shippey.

At right, President Shippey presents Jim Klingler with the Silver Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate.



Photo Album

January Meeting



At left, Color Guard Commander Jim Fosdyck presents Dan Henry with the Bronze Baron Von Steuben Color Guard Medal.

At right President Dan Shippey presents Dan Henry with the Distinguish Service Medal & Certificate.



At left President Shippey presents Un Hui Yi Fosdyck with the Lydia Darragh Medal & Certificate as Jim Klingler looks on.

At right Hammond Salley is presented the Distinguish Service Certificate.



Below Executive Vice-President Kent Gregory presents Bill Gaumer with the Lamplighter award from National as President Shippey looks on.

President Shippey breaks the chapter record by installing 7 members at one time all from the Beall Family.



Photo Album

January Meeting (Con't.)



Installation of the officers for 2015 was conducted by President Shippey.

Following the installation of the officers, President Shippey installed Jim Klingler as the new Chapter President.



The Beall family men. Here are 7 of the 8 that attended the meeting. John who lives in Arizona was unable to make it at this time, but hopes to make it in the future.



Below, Society of Colonial Wars Governor Charles Read presents Compatriot Jim Quinnelly with the society's distinguished Service Medal and Certificate.

President Klingler was presented the gavel then President Shippey placed the ribbon around President Klingler's neck.

At right President Klingler presents the Past President's pin and Certificate to Dan Shippey



At right Un Hui Yi Fosdyck, Barbara Winkler, Jim Fosdyck, Jim Klingler and Dan Henry present the wounded Warrior coin and Certificate to Lauren F. Bruner one of the few Pearl harbor Survivors still with us.

Barbara Winkler presented Mr. Bruner a quilt from the Quilts of Valor.



140th Annual Spring Meeting

of the

California Society,

Sons of the American Revolution

April 17 – 18, 2015

Hosted by the Orange County Chapter

Wyndham Irvine Hotel

17941 Von Karman Ave., Irvine, CA 92614

A Special SAR Room Rate of \$109.00 per night (single or double) is available until March 15th

Make Hotel Reservations at (949)863-1999. Parking is \$5 per day. Free Shuttle from OC Airport.

Meeting Reservation Form

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Chapter: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Arriving: ___ Thursday, April 16th, ___ Friday, April 17th, ___ Saturday, April 18th

Registration is \$135.00 per person by March 15, 2015 or \$150.00 after March 15th. The fee includes meetings, Friday and Saturday luncheons, and the Saturday Gala Dinner Banquet.

Number of Registrants: ___ @ \$135 Late Registrations ___ @\$150 Total: _____

Non-registered Friday Luncheon: ___ @ \$35 each

Non-registered Saturday Luncheon: ___ @ \$35 each

Non-registered Gala Dinner Banquet: ___ @ \$65 each

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Checks should be payable to Orange County Chapter, SAR and mailed with this registration form to:

Jim Klingler, 33 Bethany Drive, Irvine, CA 92603

Questions? Contact Kent at drkentgregory@earthlink.net or 562/493-6409

Please mark your meal choices:

Friday Public Service Luncheon

___ Salmon with Orange Butter Sauce *or* ___ Cobb Salad

Saturday Youth Luncheon

___ Open Face New York Steak Sandwich *or* ___ Island Chicken Salad

Saturday Gala Dinner Banquet