



The San Antonio Compatriot

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

MARCH 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Compatriots:

Dear Compatriots: Thanks to all the members and their guests, 36 in all, who attended our February meeting. The guest speaker, Mark Collins who portrayed General George Washington, was marvelous. He addressed the parallels and deviations of education in Colonial times with today's education system in America. It is disturbing to know how far our education systems have strayed from that received by our Patriot Ancestors and that of the foundations of God in our education and in our Government today. He will speak about this eye-opening matter at the gala banquet at the TXSSAR 112th Convention meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel on March 24th.

As a reminder, we are the Host Chapter for the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution (TXSSAR) from March 23rd to 25th at the DoubleTree Hotel at 37 NE Loop 410 (at McCullough). Preceding the convention, on Thursday March 22nd,

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112TH TXSSAR CONVENTION

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER HOSTS THE STATE WIDE MEETING

GEO. WASHINGTON ADDRESSED THE CHAPTER

You cannot miss it - the March chapter luncheon will be held in conjunction with the State Convention. It will be on Saturday March 24th at the Doubletree hotel - a departure in time and place from our normal meetings. This is an event you don't want to miss. The registration form for the event is in the envelope this newsletter came in.

The chapter calendar of events is on page four. It covers March through May of 2007.



FEBRUARY'S CHAPTER MEETING

Mark Collins, portraying General George Washington, entertained the 36 attendees with his talk on education. See the President's message for more detail.

At left is Mark Collins holding the Kentucky Long rifle that will be raffled at the state convention. Tickets are \$10 each - contact Stephen Rohrbough - see page 3.

CONVENTION HAPPENINGS

It will be a busy weekend at 112th convention. Thursday will see the all day genealogical seminar, Friday there will be committee meetings and the opening general session. Saturday morning starts off with the nominating committee meeting followed by the general session that will break for the Youth Awards Luncheon. The program is below. Following lunch the ladies will tour the McNay Art Museum and the general session will reconvene. At 5:00 PM the general session is recessed, the ladies return from the McNay as all prepare for the Gala Banquet. At the banquet the procession of

officers both state and national will be honored by the color guard, the children's choir from St. Pius X will perform, Mark Collins will reprise his role as General George Washington, the silent auction will conclude, the raffle will award the

Kentucky Long rifle to some lucky ticket holder and then the awards ceremony begins. We will have the opportunity to thank those hard working Compatriots who have kept our Society at the forefront of the SAR. The evening concludes with the induction of officers for 2007-2008 and a few words from the President General, the outgoing president and the incoming president. Don't miss the events this special weekend - see the meal reservation form enclosed.

112TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG OF TEXAS

Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible.

THE STATE SONG OF TEXAS

Texas, Our Texas! all hail the mighty State!
Texas, Our Texas! so wonderful so great!
Boldest and grandest, withstanding ev'ry test
O Empire wide and glorious, you stand supremely blest.

THE PLEDGE OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

"We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices, established the United State of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe"

CALL TO ORDER

ADVANCE THE COLORS

INVOCATION

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE PLEDGE OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

POSTING OF THE COLORS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

LUNCH

RUMBAUGH ORATION CONTEST

OUTSTANDING HISTORY TEACHER

EAGLE SCOUT

OUTSTANDING ROTC

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST

LOONEY POSTER CONTEST

PRESIDENT TOM GREEN, III

RETIRE THE COLORS

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ADMONITION

BENEDICTION

SILENT AUCTION OPEN UNTIL 7:45 PM
RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE UNTIL 7:45 PM
LADIES TOUR MEET IN LOBBY AT 2:00 PM



THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ADMONITION

"Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men."

C H A P T E R ~ R E P O R T S

V E T E R A N S / M I L I T A R Y

In February 36 magazines and 25 paper back books were delivered to Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital. Please continue to bring books and magazines to the EC and general meetings. The donations are truly appreciated by the Veterans.

E X E C U T I V E C O M M I T T E E

The meeting was held on February 15th. Compatriots present were: Tommy Richardson, John Holije, Ed Butler, John Knobelsdorf, John Orr, Courtland Snyder, Stephen Rohrbough, Ed Heath, Brad Stephenson, Joe Ware, David Bowles, Harry Long, Jim Massingill, George Harcourt and the chapter president presiding - Frank Rohrbough. Following the EC meeting the weekly convention planning meeting was held. The registration committee is the only committee meeting on a weekly basis. All other committees meet on an as needed basis.

W E B M A S T E R IT'S ALL ABOUT PHOTOS!

We, (not the Army, but SASAR), want you!

Have **you** visited our [Photo Gallery Page](http://sarsat.org/photo_gallery.htm) (http://sarsat.org/photo_gallery.htm)? If not, *why not?*

The Photo Gallery Page has finally come to life, thanks to the assistance of a prospective Compatriot, Max Strozier.

Currently, the Photo Gallery Page will display sets of photos for each of several different Monthly Meetings and Special events. All you have to do to view the photos is click on the link of your choice for the meeting or event you wish to see.

The Photo Gallery Page will expand as more and more photos are provided to me.

Also, if you visit the [Honorariums Page](http://sarsat.org/honorariums.htm) (<http://sarsat.org/honorariums.htm>), you will find several photos of Past and Present Presidents of the San Antonio Chapter.

I invite you to send me an e-mail and tell me what you think about the photo display and how you feel it might be improved. My e-mail address is: jkcsatx@satx.rr.com.

If the good Lord is willing, and the creeks don't rise, I'll see you again next month.

John Knobelsdorf, [Webmaster](#)

L U N C H E O N R E S E R V A T I O N S

All compatriots who plan to attend Chapter Meetings on a regular basis are invited to add their names to the Standing Reservation List. To do so, contact Compatriot Jay Higginson by calling (210) 666-3321 and Cell (210) 884-6900 or e-mail him at jhigginson@aol.com

RESERVATIONS FOR THE APRIL MEETING NEED TO BE MADE BY FRIDAY THE 20TH OF APRIL.

The Standing Reservation List shown below shows those members who have agreed to routinely attend our regular Chapter Meetings and have a meal reserved for them. Members on the Standing Reservation List who will not attend an upcoming meeting must notify Compatriot Jay Higginson in advance of the meeting so they will not be charged for the meal.

Clarence Bell, David Bowles, Judge Ed Butler, Hermann Edwards, Jerry Fulenwider, Robert Gallatin, George Harcourt, Ed Heath, Jay Higginson, John Hollje, Philips C Huck, John Knobelsdorf, Harry Long, Jim Massingill, John Orr, Dogan Perese, Tommy Richardson, Frank Rohrbough, Stephen Rohrbough, John Rothermel, Ed Snyder, Courtland Snyder, Brad Stephenson, Max Strozier, Chaplain James Taylor, Joe Ware

G E N E A L O G Y S E M I N A R A T S T A T E C O N V E N T I O N

Plan now to attend the Texas Sons of the American Revolution Genealogy Seminar in San Antonio that is part of the annual TXSSAR convention in March 2007. The seminar will be held on Thursday, March 22nd. The speakers are Harry and Mary Alice Dell who have dedicated the past 14 years to genealogical pursuits from their home in Boerne. They have researched their ancestors and those of others in over 150 libraries, scores of court houses, and more graveyards than they can remember. The seminar will be in the Doubletree Hotel, the convention hotel, and the special convention room rates will apply. Cost of the seminar is only \$35.00. A syllabus will be provided for all registrants. For further information contact Judge Ed Butler, NSSAR Chancellor General, acting chairman for this event, at judge58@aol.com or at 210-698-8964.

PREVIOUS ISSUES HAVE FEATURED ALL OF THE TOPICS GO ONLINE TO SARSAT.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

CUSTOM FLINTLOCK



KENTUCKY RIFLE

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

112TH CONVENTION RAFFLE

NET PROCEEDS TO THE TXSSAR PATRIOT FUND

TICKETS **\$10** EACH - **\$50** FOR SIX

DRAWING AT **8:00** P M

SATURDAY MARCH **24**

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

THIS CUSTOM RIFLE FEATURES A FULL LENGTH MAPLE STOCK STAINED QUITE DARK. A LARGE SILVER FLINTLOCK IS USED ALONG WITH DOUBLE SET TRIGGERS. THE OCTAGONAL BARREL IS **.50** CALIBER AND **36"** IN LENGTH WITH SILVER BLADE FRONT SIGHT AND KENTUCKY STYLE REAR SIGHT.

THIS IS A WORKING BLACK POWDER FLINTLOCK RIFLE

TO BUY TICKETS CALL STEPHEN ROHRBOUGH AT **210 496-4929**

OR CONTACT ANY OFFICER OF THE SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER **#4** TXSSAR

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS EDITED AND PRODUCED BY GEORGE HARCOURT. CONTACT HIM WITH ANY SUBMISSIONS, SUGGESTIONS, ADDRESS CHANGES OR COMMENTS. **AN EDITOR AND PUBLISHER IS SOUGHT** - CONTACT G. HARCOURT.

CHAPTER CALENDAR

CHAPTER MEETINGS



MARCH 24TH • SATURDAY

**LUNCH • DOUBLETREE HOTEL
11:30 A.M. • \$25**

STATE MEETING LUNCH

ORATION CONTEST

ROTC AWARDS

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

& MUCH MORE



APRIL 25TH • WEDNESDAY

**LUNCH • BARN DOOR
11:30 A.M. • \$17**

SPEAKER TBA

MAY 23RD • WEDNESDAY

**LUNCH • BARN DOOR
11:30 A.M. • \$17**

SPEAKER TBA



EC MEETINGS

ALL MEETINGS AT 11:30 AM

APRIL 19TH - THURSDAY

MAY 17TH - THURSDAY

JUNE 21ST - THURSDAY

**GOLDEN CORRAL IH10 WEST
ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE**

MEETINGS ON THE HORIZON

DATES/MEETING TYPE	CHAPTER	LOCATION
2007 STATE CONFERENCE 23-25 MARCH 2007	SAN ANTONIO	DOUBLETREE HOTEL SAN ANTONIO
2007 August BOM	Boerne	Tapatio Springs Resort
2007 October BOM	Plano- McKinney	Southfork Hotel, Plano
2008 State Conference	K. M. VanZandt	Fort Worth

WEB SITES

**SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4
WWW.SARSAT.ORG**

**TEXAS SOCIETY
WWW.TXSSAR.ORG**

**NATIONAL SOCIETY
WWW.SAR.ORG**



P R E S I D E N T ' S R E M A R K S C O N T I N U E D

there is a special genealogy seminar at the host hotel – registration form is in this newsletter. Many members have responded to the calls to serve on one of our many committees. Compatriot George Harcourt has provided sterling leadership as our Planning Committee Chairman, if you like to assist in the conduct of the TXSSAR Meeting, please call Compatriot George Harcourt at (210) 822-1960.

Most importantly, we still need donations for the Silent Auction. **If you have items to donate or would like to make a cash contribution, contact me at (830) 537-5452.** Additionally, **we are conducting a Rifle Raffle selling tickets (\$10 each or 6 for \$50) for an Antique Custom Made Flintlock Kentucky Long Rifle.** Contact Compatriot Stephen Rohrbough at (210) 262-7026 to purchase a ticket or at the Registration Desk at the DoubleTree Hotel during the TXSSAR Meeting. All proceeds of the Silent Auction and Raffle will go to the TXSSAR Patriot Fund.

As a reminder, **we will have our Chapter Meeting in March in conjunction with the convention's Awards Luncheon** at 11:30 AM on Saturday March 24th at the DoubleTree Hotel. The highlight of this event is the Oration Contest that will follow lunch. All members and their spouses are welcomed but you sign up in advance using our Lunch and Banquet Reservation Form (enclosed with the newsletter) and pay for the meals in advance as described in the form.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations regarding Chapter activities, please let me hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you at the TXSSAR convention luncheon on March 24th and at our next regular scheduled meeting on April 25th at the Barn Door Restaurant.

Compatriotly Yours,

Frank Rohrbough

C O M P A T R I O T O B I T U A R Y

BENJAMIN RICE ASTON left this life as he lived it, full of strength and surrounded by family. Rice, as he preferred to be called, was born and raised in Houston, Texas as a thirteenth generation American and fifth generation Texan. He was a graduate of St. John's School, Rice University and the University of Texas law school. In addition to his active oil and gas law practice, Rice Aston was a patriot, orator and historian. Curious and proud of his heritage, he became a serious student of genealogy, American and World History. He became a prolific writer of historical books and articles and an orator on many important historical topics. He is the proud great grandnephew of William Marsh Rice, the founder of Rice University. He also discovered that he was the descendant of several American settlers who first arrived on American shores at Salem, Massachusetts in 1620 and at Jamestown, Virginia in 1640. Ancestors included the maternal great-grandfather and grandfather of George Washington, five members of the VA House of Burgess, one member of Massachusetts and South Carolina First Provincial Congress, Second Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony and a founder of Harvard University. Further back to the Old World, he discovered ancestors who ruled England and were signatories of the Magna Carter. Rice Aston was also deeply committed to his community and devoted countless hours to philanthropic activities. He was a member founder and member of the St. John's School Alumni Association, Director of the River Oaks Rotary Club, Director of the Rice Historical Society and editor of its periodical The Cornerstone, member of the Houston Philosophical Association and the James A. Baker III, Institute for Political Policy, member of Saint Martin's Episcopal Church. He was a member of several Patriotic/Lineage societies where he was often an officer and leader. He culminated his patriotic career by serving as the President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was honored with the highest award the National Society gives, the Gold Good Citizenship. On his journey to this high office, he also devoted countless hours and support as a member to the Paul Carrington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, where he served as Editor and President and received the 60th Annual George Washington Distinguished Service Award, the highest award that the chapter can give. He was also very active in the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Texas, San Jacinto Descendants, Jamestown Society and the Magna Carter Barons. He was the founder of the annual award to the outstanding enlisted man aboard the Aegis cruiser, the USS San Jacinto. Rice is succeeded by the love of his life, his wife, Ursula Goedecke Aston; his children, Sonya Aston, Rick Aston and his wife Lara and their children Andrew and Caleb, Alan Aston and his wife Fiona and their children Miles, Rice and Phoebe; his cousin George Rice Flint and his wife Cindy and their children George and Hannah; his cousin Louann Briscoe and her husband Frank and her children Christie, Calder and Kaylee; sister-in-law Waltraut Duckworth and husband Ed; brother-in-law Curtis H. Goedecke and his wife Tina; Otto Ernst Goedecke and his wife Barbara, and many wonderful cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and co-patriots. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from five o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening on Friday, the 23rd of February, in the Gold Room of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston. A memorial service will be conducted at St. Martin's Episcopal Church at eleven o'clock in the morning on Saturday the 24th of February, with the Rev. John K. Graham and Rev. Robert T. Browne officiating. The family wishes to thank Joyce Hill and Imogene Randall for the support and care they provided to the Aston family. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made in Rice's name to Rice University, P.O. Box 200175, Houston, Texas 77216; or to St. Martin's Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston, Texas 77056.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE KENTUCKY LONG RIFLE

By Dallas Bogan

The great Kentucky flintlock-hunting rifle was more accurate than any known previous firearm and soon became famous. The history of Tennessee, Kentucky, and certainly the history of the United States, are each very much connected with the history of the Kentucky Long Rifle. This rifle is also known as the Kentucky, the hog rifle, or the long rifle. It was designed to be light, slender and graceful, and was the first truly American firearm. Created in the 1730s in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, by skillful immigrant craftsmen from Germany and Switzerland, the Kentucky rifle was the supreme implement created as a state of the art, ultimately for over a century, until the coming of the "cap and ball" percussion rifle in 1840.

The guns of the first American colonists were not rifles at all. They were smoothbore flintlock muskets imported from Europe. For a number of reasons, these old muskets were not suitable for the American frontier. First of all, they were so heavy that to go hunting with one became a significant chore.

The Brown Bessies, as they were called, fired spherical balls of lead and required large balls in order to get weight and striking force. Their diameter was gauged from 0.60 to 0.70 inches in caliber, with corresponding robust recoil when fired. They were therefore wasteful of powder and lead, both being in short supply on the American frontier.

The large balls of the Bessies created other problems. They had high air-resistance, which slowed them greatly, giving them shorter range. Since the balls had no spin to balance the turbulence caused by slight surface imperfections, they curved viciously in flight, much like a pitched spitball does in the game of baseball. This unpredictable motion rendered these muskets ineffective beyond a range of about 60 yards.

These assorted imperfections were prevailed over by the Lancaster gunsmiths. First they reduced the bores of the Kentucky to 0.45 to 0.50 caliber, so that one pound of lead, poured into iron molds, would produce from 70 to 120 round balls to be used for bullets, therefore conserving valuable lead.

Next the barrel length was increased to 40 inches, in essence, so as to get extra thrust from the expanding gunpowder. The Kentucky Rifle had a greatly improved range compared to the Brown Bessie, which was fitted with a 30-inch barrel.

In its finality, the Kentucky was "rifled," with helical grooving in the barrel. This conveys rotary motion to the fired bullet on an alignment that coincided with the line of its flight trajectory. This spin gives rifles greater range and accuracy, compared to smoothbores.

The Kentucky Long Rifle was more accurate than any known previous firearm, and it soon became famous with a flight being deadly at over 200 yards, which was an astonishing range at that time.

This rifle became the primary weapon of the frontiersmen, especially in the isolated and hazardous wilds of Tennessee and Kentucky. The extensive use in Kentucky led to the adoption of the name "Kentucky" for this rifle. Daniel Boone carried a Kentucky Rifle through Cumberland Gap.

During the Revolutionary War the British soldiers trained for volley shooting, and were fitted wholly with Brown Bessies; surprisingly, the volume of the American Armed Forces also carried muskets. George Washington made a special effort to recruit frontiersmen who owned Kentucky Rifles.

Advantages of the Brown Bessie muskets over the Kentucky Rifles were that they could be loaded easily and more rapidly than rifles, and did not require custom-made bullets. They would fire anything dropped down the barrel of the gun and would even function as a shotgun. Moreover, some of Washington's raw recruits were not good enough shots to require the extra accuracy of the Kentucky Rifle.

General Washington was able to assemble about 1,400 riflemen or backwoodsmen carrying Kentucky Rifles. In training camps their feats of marksmanship astonished onlookers, some of whom were British spies. Word of these buckskin-wearing riflemen quickly spread to the British Army. Washington soon observed that the British gave his backwoodsmen wide latitude. As a hoax, he dressed up some of his musket-bearing soldiers in buckskins, knowing that the British assumed that anyone wearing frontier garb was carrying a Kentucky.

Riflemen, when available, were used by the American Army as pickets and snipers. These skilled soldiers operated from the flanks of the regular Army. At the Battle of Saratoga in 1777, riflemen were used to pick off British officers. This feat greatly contributed to the American victory there, which was a decisive battle of the war.

The Battle of King's Mountain in 1780, another decisive victory, was won by rifle-toting backwoodsmen. These heroes were quickly gathered together from the neighboring southern Appalachians. At the close of the war, a British captain wrote in effect that the Americans had riflemen who could hit a man anywhere they liked at 200 paces. He suggested that at King's Mountain the mountain men whipped the British troops.

Another British officer remarked on General Andrew Jackson's great victory at New Orleans in 1815, a battle largely fought by Tennesseans and Kentuckians. He described how a lone Kentucky sharpshooter dressed in buckskins and firing a Kentucky Rifle picked off British soldiers buried in the mud flats, creating total confusion in the British ranks.

The Kentucky Rifle was considered to be a necessity by frontiersmen, and practically every frontier family owned one. Rifle shooting was a way of life on the great American frontier, and nearly every settlement had a shooting match on weekends and holidays. The rifle was thus used for recreation, as well as for protection and hunting.