



GADSDEN GAZETTE

A quarterly newsletter of the Gadsden Chapter
New Mexico Sons of the American Revolution



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Steven Graves - 01/03
Bennett Dials - 01/12
Harry Murray - 01/15

Russ Wilson - 01/08
Wayne Mitchell - 01/14
Bob Sherman - 01/21

Robert Middleton - 02/04

Eric Randler - 02/27

William Rice - 03/11
Jacob Rigsby - 03/15

Carl Connor - 03/12

2nd Quarter Calendar

(Full year in Vol.1, Issue 3)

APRIL

8th, 11AM-3PM - COSSAR BOM - Colorado Springs, CO
11th-14th TXSSAR Annual Meeting San Antonio, TX
26th, 1300 Reinternment PVT Homer J. Mitchell - Portales, NM
26th, TBD Reinternment PFC Richard G. Pitsor - Fort Bayard, NM
27th, 1000 - Medal of Honor Parade - Gainesville, TX
20th, 1200-1400 Chapter Meeting Hacienda

MAY

TBD - NMSSAR Quarterly Meeting (Zoom)
18th, 1200-1400 Chapter Meeting Hacienda

JUNE

10th, 1000 - 1300 - COSSAR BOM - Greenwood Village, CO
15th, 1200-1400 Chapter Meeting Hacienda

**MARCH 2024
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1**

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

ROBERT E. VANCE
revance58@gmail.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

TJ VALLEJOS
shoutingtoast@gmail.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

TANNER GUSKEY
tkguske@gmail.com

SECRETARY

BILL KINSELLA
kinsella1992@yahoo.com

TREASURER

DON BERGER
berger.don@gmail.com

GENEALOGIST

ROGER DOMBROWSKI
radombrowski47@aol.com

CHAPLAIN

STEVEN R. GRAVES
steven.graves0003@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ROBERT E. VANCE
revance58@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

TJ VALLEJOS
shoutingtoast@gmail.com



Meetings:

3rd Saturday of the month
Noon - 2:00 PM
(Subject to change)
No meetings July, August
Hacienda De Mesilla
1891 Avenida De Mesilla
Mesilla, NM

CURRENT OFFICER TEAM



ROBERT E. VANCE
PRESIDENT



TJ VALLEJOS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT



TANNER GUSKEY
2ND VICE PRESIDENT



BILL KINSELLA
SECRETARY



DON BERGER
TREASURER



STEVE GRAVES
CHAPLAIN



ROGER DOMBROWSKI
GENEALOGIST

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Revolution

Gadsden Chapter

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President's Soapbox



We ring in 2024 with the election of officers at our January meeting. I decided before the election, that I would stand for another term as your chapter president if no other member wanted the position, but have made it known I will step down in 2025, and I

have no concerns in doing so, as I think there will not be a problem in finding a capable compatriot to step in and take over.

Stepping into their first terms in office are:

1st Vice President - TJ Vallejos and 2nd Vice President - Tanner Guskey. They are both energetic and bring a lot to the table.

The rest of the officers on the team were appointed to their positions last year due to vacancies and were duly elected for the 2024 term. Your officer team, pictured below (L-R) are: Genealogist - Roger Dombrowski; Chaplain - Steven Graves; Secretary - Bill Kinsella; Treasurer - Don Berger; 2nd Vice President - Tanner Guskey; 1st Vice President - TJ Vallejos; President - Robert E. Vance.



This team and I look forward to serving you during the upcoming year. If you have any questions for any of us, our contact information is on the cover page.

We did not have a meeting in February. Instead, on the 10th, we hosted a bar-b-que for residents of the Veterans Transitional Living Center on Oak St. in Las Cruces.



Special thanks to Erin Baker for coordinating the event, to TJ Vallejos for cooking and to all those who brought side dishes or donated to make it happen, especially compatriot Robert Francis for his generous donation that covered all costs.



A little cold and rainy for a cookout, but TJ is a pro!

Although I had hoped we would be able to sit and visit with the residents during lunch, most came into the kitchen and grabbed a "to-go" plate and went back to their apartments. I am sure they appreciated the meal that day and the leftovers for days to come.

Also in February, we made the first presentation of our newly established chapter “Speakers Bureau”. On the 20th, we visited the Mesilla Valley Christian School and gave a presentation for George Washington’s birthday.



Compatriot Guskey spoke of George Washington and his patriot ancestor, Thomas Posey, who grew up on a plantation next to Mount Vernon. Compatriot Murray spoke of his patriot ancestor, William Washington, who was a cousin to George. To conclude, Compatriot Vallejos talked a bit about the Declaration of Independence, after which a copy was given to each teacher to take back to their classrooms and have the students sign it. After each talk, questions were asked of the students, who were quite attentive and engaged.



This “Speakers Bureau” started out as a concept to qualify for a grant. In December, on behalf of the chapter, I applied for a grant from Americana Corner , to develop a speakers bureau, to purchase period clothing for the speakers and to purchase items to fill a traveling “Patriot Chest” to make our presentations interactive for the students or audience. <https://www.americnacorner.com/>

Americana Corner.

Home Blog Videos Book Preserving America Grant Meet Tom Hand Contact



Annually, Americana Corner, Tom Hand, awards millions in “Preserving America“ grants, focused mainly on preserving historic sites or artifacts, so I had my doubts that a speakers bureau would be deemed a suitable project.

In February, I was notified that our chapter was selected to receive the grant in the amount of \$5000. Our chapter is the only 2024 recipient between Dallas and California and I was told that being in New Mexico helped, as Mr Hand stated “I would like to get more Americans who live out west to better understand our founding era“.

We will begin purchasing items to fill the Patriot Chest with a wide variety of items related to what a Revolutionary War soldier might have had and other items related to life during colonial times.

Compatriot Murray is in contact with the Las Cruces Public Schools, trying to schedule us for presentations next fall when the students should be studying this time period in history.

On March 29th, we gave our 2nd presentation to the Roadrunner Homeschoolers, grades PreK - 10th, at Veterans Memorial Park, 20 students and 14 adults were in attendance.



(Speakers L-R: TJ Vallejos, Bill Kinsella, Harry Murray, Robert E. Vance)

Roadrunner Homeschoolers



1st Vice President

Compatriots,

What a journey to this point! I never thought I would be 1st VP for the Gadsden Chapter in such a short time and have such amazing compatriots standing behind me and leading from the front! Thank you for your support and belief in the people you voted for. It's great to be part of an elite organization again!

As you know, recruitment is low statewide. This is one of the State President's many focuses and is one that has troubled me for some time, given our small chapter. We are in an elite club, which should not be taken lightly. Our Patriot Ancestors fought for something greater than us, and we can honor them by finding others who shared their vision. I am extremely proud to know I share a common theme with you in our great nation. I implore you to reach out to anyone who could benefit from this elite membership, encourage them to join, and invite them to our meetings.

In the coming months, Coty Wheeler, Tanner Guskey, and I will be soliciting your feedback regarding improvements for members and asking you to assist us in this quest. We will need volunteers and your esprit de corps to improve the member outreach within our state and local chapters. Without you, none of this is possible.

Thank you for your participation in the various community events that we host. The BBQ in February was a great start to this year, and we have many more events planned. Please continue to volunteer and be engaged in our community activities.

I look forward to our continued commitment to the community and your participation in all of our statewide and chapter events.

TJ Vallejos, 1st Vice President

NMSSAR AFFAIRS

Annual meeting of the New Mexico Society

Our meeting was held on February 3, 2024 at the Black Angus Steakhouse in Albuquerque. Officers that were sworn in by Kevin Carr, former VPG - Rocky Mountain District included (L-R): President - Robert E. Vance; Secretary - Don Williams; Treasurer - Roger Newall; Genealogist - Ray Alexander; and Chaplain - Steven Graves.

(Not present: 1st VP John Glynn Jr)



Outgoing President Newall also presented awards to the following:

- Robert E. Vance - Silver Roger Sherman Medal
- Don Williams - Silver Roger Sherman Medal
- Ray Alexander - Liberty Medal

Not present:

- William Baker - Silver Roger Sherman
- Wesley Shumaker - Silver Roger Sherman





PVT Jacob Alter - Warren Alter
PVT John Anderson - William Rice
PVT Philip Peter Baker - Chris Lauderman
PVT Henry Baugh - Tom Rigsby
CAPT Thomas Beale - Warren Alter
SOL Herber Berger - Don Berger
PVT William Blakely - Wayne Mitchell
PS Ratliff Boone - Darin Rouse
PS John Cantrell - Dale Cantrell
PVT Samuel Covey - Bill, Bennett Dials
PS John Curtiss - Dave Curtiss
PVT William Daniel - TJ Vallejos
CORP Daniel Driggs - Roger Dombrowski
PVT Charles English - Tom Rigsby
PVT Elijah Fenton - Dave Curtiss
PVT Stephen Francis - Robert Francis
PS Christopher Gwinn - Don, James Williams
PS Thomas Hamilton - Steven Graves
SURG David Holmes - Bob Clark
PVT Daniel Hough - Dave Curtiss
PVT Abraham Huntsberger - Paul Huntsberger
PVT Thomas C. Jones - John Hill
Thomas Kelly - Tom Rigsby
SGT Ebenezer Landers - Russ Wilson
SOL Samuel Leidy - George Richards

PS Nathan Lewis - Dave Curtiss
PS John LLOYD - Tom Rigsby
LT Alexander McClellan - Jim Libbin
PS William McClure - Tom Rigsby
PVT William McFerrin - William Baker
CS Colin McKenney - Tom Rigsby
MAJ John T.W. Medearis - Coty Wheeler
PS Anacleto Bernardo Miera Y Pacheco - Bill Kinsella
PS Bernardo Pascual Joachim Miera Y Pacheco - Bill Kinsella
MAJ John Moore - Bob Thum
PVT Isaac Newell - Dave Curtiss
PS James Northrup - Bob, James Northrup
PVT Stephen Northrup - Bob, James Northrup
PVT William Patterson - Eric Randler
PVT Gad Pomeroy - Bob Sherman

LT COL Thomas Posey - Tanner Guskey
CAPT Adrain Proveaux - Harry Murray
CAPT Samuel Ransom- Daniel Samples-Thieman
PS John Reese - Tom Rigsby
CAPT Henry Rhoads - Shannon Franks
PVT Jesse Richardson - Tom Rigsby
PS John Robinson - Bob Northrup
SGT John Rockett - Robert E. Vance
PVT Phillip Stickleman - Carl, Don Connor
CAPT John C. Stoever - Wesley Shumaker
PVT John B. Stovall Sr - Tom Rigsby
PS John Stryker - Greg Whited
PS John Swearingen - Tom Rigsby
PVT William H. Taulbe - Tom Rigsby
SOL John Tyree - David Minton
PVT Isaac Van Bibber - Daniel Samples-Thieman
PVT John Van Gieson - Robert Middleton
PVT David Vance - Robert, Paul Vance James Lee
PS Aaron Warner Sr - Bob Northrup
PVT Jonathan Warner - Bob Northrup
LT COL William Washington - Harry Murray
PVT Jesse White - Tom, Jacob, Mathew Rigsby
PS Samuel Whitehead - Tom Rigsby
PVT Michael Young - Tom Rigsby

Chaplain's Corner

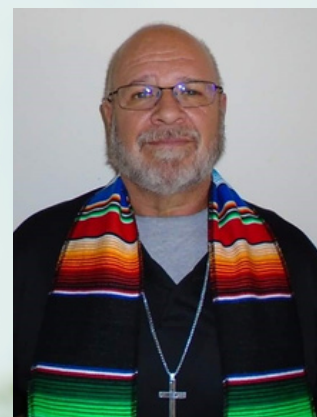
Chaplains of the Revolutionary War

While the Continental Army was engaged in winning America's freedom from England during the Revolutionary War, its army chaplains labored to win the souls of the colonial soldiers for Jesus Christ. The chaplains held services, distributed Bibles, visited the sick, and helped sustain troop morale. They were often exposed to the dangers of the battlefield and the deprivations of the army encampments.

Here is the story of just one of these little-known Christian heroes.

Surgeons and Ministers

On May 27, 1777, Congress appointed one chaplain to each brigade, with the same pay and rations as an army colonel. They often bore arms, and several chaplains who had professional medical training also served as surgeons. One such chaplain was David Avery, who owed his conversion to the ministry of George Whitefield. After his conversion, Avery was determined to further his education and become a minister. He entered Yale as a freshman in 1765 in the same class as Timothy Dwight, a brilliant thirteen-year-old who would also later serve as an army chaplain. Trained as a surgeon as well as a minister, Avery brought his own medicine and instruments to supplement what was lacking in the Army's supplies. He was reported to be "intrepid and fearless in battle, unwearied in his attentions to the sick and wounded." David suffered the hardships and deprivations of army life with a cheerful attitude, no doubt bolstered by his patriotism and love for his country. It was said that he was "everything Washington wanted in a chaplain." Avery often rode with General George Washington and had meals with him.



Steven Graves
Gadsden Chapter
Chaplain

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS!

CHAPTER MEETING 16 MAR 2024

**New Member
Induction
Coty D. Wheeler**



**War Service
Medal
Coty D. Wheeler**



**Americana Corner
Preserving America Grant
Check Presentation**



**Bob Sherman
with his 257 year old
Jager flintlock.**



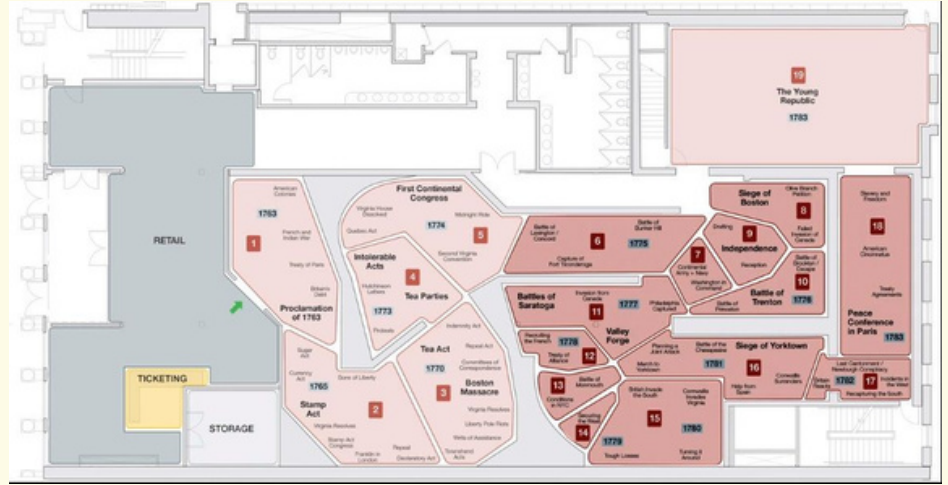
During our monthly meeting, we inducted our newest member, Coty D. Wheeler, who made the drive from his home in Portales to join us. He was also awarded the “War Service Medal” for his service in Afghanistan.

Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the “Preserving America” grant check to our Treasurer. (This was discussed at length on page 3). We can now begin purchasing items to outfit our speakers and fill our Patriot Chest.

We finished off our meeting with a presentation by compatriot Bob Sherman, talking about and displaying a 257 year old German musket from his private collection. This was a “Jager” flintlock, which “may” have seen service during the war, but probably not, because of its good condition.

NSSAR NEWS

Things are happening at headquarters! The remodel of the genealogy area has been completed, giving the staff a much needed improvement to their work environment.



On January 13th, there was a special meeting of the trustees, via Zoom, to discuss funding for the museum build-out with a proposed budget, to be funded by the SAR Foundation, of \$3,600,000. The trustees overwhelmingly approved the funding request and the project is scheduled for completion in October 2024. The museum will house a theater and several exhibits.



Spring Leadership was held in the Brown Hotel for the last time, as attendance has outgrown capacity at the Brown, registration had been capped at 600. We will be moving to the Galt House, a few blocks north and the registration cap will be increased to 1000. While the increase in attendance is welcomed, I will miss the elegance and ambiance that the early 1900's Brown offered.

I was glad to have been joined at this last Brown meeting by 3 "Green Dots" (first time attendees), Don and Becca Williams and Cheryl Vance. A good time was had by all. Chapter Mugs were presented to Veteran committee chairs Pat Neimann and Scott Giltner.



The genealogy committee approved a couple of significant changes requested by GG Gary O. Green. First, the number of times an applicant can replace their application with a different patriot without submitting additional fees has been reduced from 2 to 1. Secondly, pended applications will be withdrawn after 2 years, down from 3.

There is going to be an increase in SAR merchandise soon, limited to a 10% increase. In 2023, we gained 3917 new members, however we had over 4000 drops.

Registration for the 134th Congress in Lancaster will open mid-May, the host hotel is full. If you want to attend, contact Paul Callanan for accommodations. New this year, the Memorial service will be live-streamed to include the color guard procession to the church.



COMPATRIOT ESCAPADES

This is your newsletter, let fellow compatriots know that there is life outside the SAR!



Wiamea Falls

**William & Erin
Baker
Honeymooning in
Hawaii
March 2024**



U.S.S. Missouri



**The Jersey Lilly
Judge Roy Bean - Law West of the Pecos
R & C Vance
Bucket list tour of Churchill Downs before
going on to Spring Leadership.**



**Tanner & Phoebe
Gila Cliff Dwellings - Feb 18,
Carlsbad Caverns - Feb 24,
Salinas Pueblos - Mar 09**

Color Guard

This quarter, the Color Guard participated in two “National” recognized events and one “State” event.



With members of the Texas Color Guard at the George Washington Day Parade. It was not very fun this year, as it was cold and rainy, and we were not invited to participate in the International Bridge Ceremony.

Posting the colors at the annual meeting of the New Mexico Society
February 3, 2024



TJ Vallejos, Bill Kinsella, Robert Vance, Kris Jones, and Kevin Carr



TJ Vallejos, Bill Kinsella, Roger Newall, Robert Vance and Kris Jones

Robert E. Vance and Kevin Carr (not pictured) represented New Mexico during the posting and retrieval of the colors at the Spring Leadership meeting banquet.



FUNDRAISING MERCHANDISE



Front

Back

Chapter Challenge Coins
Companion coin to the Gadsden Medal
(Members Only)
\$10

All prices are for pick up at a meeting.
If you want it shipped, additional
shipping charges will be added.

Contact:

Robert E. Vance
revance58@gmail.com

or

Don Berger
berger.don@gmail.com

15 oz. Coffee Mug
Chapter Logo on both sides.
\$10



White Polo Shirt
Embroidered Chapter Logo
\$30
(Price subject to change)

20 oz. Stainless Steel
Insulated Tumbler
(Customizable)
\$25