



THE GOLDWATER JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Barry M. Goldwater Chapter
Arizona Society Sons of the American Revolution



September 2012

Congratulations to Barry M. Goldwater Compatriot and National 2012 Congress Chairman J. Michael Jones for spearheading an outstanding Phoenix summertime event: The 122nd Annual Sons of the American Revolution National Congress!

See page 3 for more information

Minutes of the May 17, 2012, Chapter meeting:

Location:
Coco's Restaurant
4514 E. Cactus, Phx, Ariz.

The May meeting was opened at 6:30 by Chapter President Earl Atwood, Sr. There were 15 compatriots and guests in attendance.

World War II Certificate of Patriotism

Compatriot Neal Jennings who served meritoriously in the United States Armed Forces during WWII was presented with the SAR World War II Certificate of Patriotism by Chapter President Earl Atwood Sr., and AZSSAR WWII State Adjutant Ed Karr.

Neal, congratulations and thanks for your service to our country!



Left to right: Compatriots Mike Jones, Ed Karr, Neal Jennings and Earl Atwood Sr.

50/50 raffle

The lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle was none other than our recipient of the WWII Certificate of Patriotism, Compatriot Neal Jennings.

Congratulations once again Neal!

Guest speaker

Our guest speaker was Frank Kardasz, PhD, and retired police sergeant from the Phoenix Police Department who gave a most comprehensive and enlightening presentation regarding crimes against children. Some of the adjectives used to describe his program were, "captivating," "interesting," and "an outstanding guest speaker." If you missed his presentation you missed a good one!



Left to right: BMG Chapter Vice President, Dennis Weiland, guest speaker Frank Kardasz, and BMG President Earl Atwood Sr.

New Barry M. Goldwater Compatriots

The following new Compatriots had their membership in the National Society Sons of the American Revolution approved:

Michael H. Manson and Michael H. Manson Jr. were approved on May 23, 2012. Their patriot ancestor is Ebenezer Mead, “Private, CT, guarding borders of Westchester County, NY where regiment was ordered 1776-77. Served in Capt. Hobby’s Company.”

Robert D. Young (McNeese) was approved on June 7, 2012. His patriot ancestor is Mary Boone, “PS KY (VA): carrying the necessary water from the spring to Bryan’s Station and defending it while under attack.”

Jacob A. Hewitt was approved on July 7, 2012. His patriot ancestor is John Bliss was a “private and sergeant in the Connecticut and Rhode Island Regiments in 1777 and 1778” (see page 5).

Gordon H. Smith was approved on July 24, 2012. His patriot ancestor is John Hathorn/Hawthorne, “Colonel 4th Regiment Orange Co., NY Militia.

Welcome to our Chapter and the NSSAR!

Compatriot Supplemental application approved

Compatriot John Culver Donaldson had the following Patriot Ancestor Supplemental Application approved on May 25, 2012: Robert Moore, Generation #7, Private soldier in Maryland in multiple units of service.

As a side note I wrote to Compatriot Donaldson to see how many Supplementals this makes and he responded: “I think it is 9 or 10—didn’t realize that I came from such war like ancestors, but that may explain why my cousins are the way they are.” What a great response!

Congratulations Compatriot Donaldson!

From the June “special edition” newsletter

You may have noticed that the very first meeting of our AZSSAR was concluded by the singing of “America” while our Society now concludes its annual meeting with “God Bless America.” Why? Irving Berlin wrote “God Bless America” in 1918, revised it years later and on Armistice Day 1938 it was sung (and launched upon the American spirit) by Kate Smith.

And finally, how did I obtain a copy of the *Spirit of ’76* magazine? Well, in a word, “Google”. And here is what Google has to say: “This is a digital copy of a book . . . scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world’s books discoverable on line. It has

survived long enough for the copyright to expire . . . Public domain books are our gateway to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that’s often difficult to discover.” So let’s give credit where credit is due! You will be seeing a lot more AZSSAR information in the future thanks to Google.

BMG Chapter newsletter masthead change

By David A. Swanson—Editor

Well, if I learned one thing at the 122nd Congress, all newsletters need a title. I have read about Senator Barry M. Goldwater—for whom the Chapter is named and his “journals,” so guess what? The BMG newsletter will continue to be a journal of and for the Barry M. Goldwater Chapter—just with a different name. “Newsletter” was just so tacky!

Photos of Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Compatriots—2012 year book

During the past few months photos of compatriots who attended meetings have been taken for the 2012 Barry M. Goldwater year book. Photos will continue to be taken during our meetings after the summer break; however, if you don’t plan on attending the remaining 2012 Chapter meetings please mail or e-mail a photo of yourself to David Swanson, Chapter Historian. All 2012 BMG Compatriots will be listed in the book—if you would like your occupation listed (people reading the year book 75 years from now might think it was pretty neat)—send that info to Swanson as well.

Sea Cadet honored

On May 12, 2012, Compatriot Major H. Robert Young—(USAF Retired) presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal (from the BMG Chapter) to Sea Cadet CPO Shane Kravetz. Cadet Kravetz has obtained an appointment to Annapolis.



Compatriot Major H. Robert Young and CPO Shane Kravetz

2012 National Congress, Phoenix, Arizona

The 122nd National Congress, held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort from July 7-11, 2012, could not have been a nicer Congress. The event was hosted by the Arizona and New Mexico Societies and all of the volunteers from both are to be congratulated for a job well done!

Barry M. Goldwater Chapter and Ladies Auxiliary volunteers include:

- ~
- Earl and Betty Atwood
 - Rob Bohannon
 - John Conrad
 - Bill Hearter
 - J. Michael and Martha Jones
 - Ed Karr
 - David and Jan Swanson
 - Dennis and Jeanne Weiland
 - Bob and Shirley Young
- ~

An observation of the Congress: The patriotism expressed by the individual attendees and the organization as a whole was most impressive. Also impressive was the level of involvement in the activities and various programs of the SAR both in personal time and treasure by the various attendees. This truly is an exceptional organization—be proud of your membership and the actions of your Patriot Ancestor whose service got you here!

We had a total registration of 419 Compatriots, ladies, and guests.

The following are pictures of our Chapter volunteers—who all went out of their way to ensure that our Chapter and our state were well represented.



Mike and Martha Jones (AZSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Vice-President)—Martha also did an outstanding job in planning and coordinating the 122nd NSSAR Congress!



Left to right—David Swanson, Mike Jones and Jan Swanson



NSSAR President General Larry Magerkurth presenting the Silver Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Certificate and Medal to J. Michael Jones. Job well done Mike!



Shirley and Bob Young

Continued on page 4

2012 Congress volunteers from the Barry M. Goldwater Chapter—continued



Ed Karr



Jeanne and Dennis Weiland



Shirley Young, Betty Atwood & Jan Swanson



John Conrad



Jeanne Weiland and Jan Swanson (Jan sure is in a lot of pictures—she must be the newsletter editor's wife)



Setting up for the final banquet—great job AZSSAR Ladies Auxiliary!

Not pictured—through no fault of their own—are Chapter President Earl Atwood Sr., and Compatriots Bill Hearter, and Rob Bohannan

(Continued on page 7)

225th Anniversary of the United States Constitution

On September 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. So far so good, but was it now the law of the land? Not even close. It would not become the law of the land until June 21, 1778, when New Hampshire became the 9th state to ratify it. Nine states? Why not all 13? Article VII states: “The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.” With New Hampshire on board it was agreed that the government under the Constitution would start on March 4, 1789.

This left the states of Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island out in the cold. After the Bill of Rights was adopted on September 25, 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to adopt the Constitution in November of that year. Good old Rhode Island, the “Hope” state finally came under the Constitution kicking and screaming on May 29, 1790 (after voting by two votes to do so). Apparently it was hoping to stay clear of the Constitution.

It is interesting to note that when the Congress sent the Constitution to the states for ratification it specifically instructed them that the process should be undertaken by state conventions and not by state legislatures to ensure that it was the will of the people and not just a political gesture.



Patriot John Bliss—Patriot Ancestor of Compatriot Scott Hewitt

Patriot John Bliss of Newport, Rhode Island and his brother William enlisted in 1776 in the Rhode Island militia under the command of Colonel Archibald Crary, just in time to serve in some of the most critical early battles of the Revolutionary War. Colonel James Mitchell Varnum (later promoted to general) commanded Crary’s men along with the other Rhode Island units serving their nation. The Bliss family was deeply patriotic and fully supported the cause of the Revolution. John’s great grandfather Major John Bliss came to Rhode Island in the early days of the colonies to escape the religious intolerance of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and practice his religious beliefs in the manner in which his conscience demanded. There he met the first governor of Rhode Island, Benedict Arnold, and married his daughter Damaris Arnold. The Bliss family remained in Rhode Island for four more generations until the Bliss sons would be called upon in their new nation’s hour of need.

Private John Bliss and his brother William first served in the battle of Long Island on August 27th, 1776 and participated in the battle which nearly destroyed Washington’s army, and ending the dreams of independence. General George Washington and his army of 10,000 American patriots prepared to defend the high ground on Brooklyn Heights and the Heights of Guan on Long Island from 20,000 British troops, but when they awoke on the morning of the 27th, they found the British had under the cover of darkness moved through an undefended pass in the Guan Heights. Here they had placed a large British force between the two hills, and John Bliss woke with the other surprised patriots to a barrage of cannon fire.

Immediately soldiers under John Sullivan of New Hampshire broke and ran. The remaining soldiers faced a dire circumstance of retreating down the hill and across the swamp land back to the Brooklyn Heights, but this option would expose them to deadly British fire. In a desperate attempt to guard the American retreat, Commander William Alexander (known as Lord Stirling) and Major Mordecai Gist lead 250 Marylanders on a head on assault against a vastly superior British army. This last stand of the Maryland “Old Line” was one of the most valiant and heroic moments of the war, and most likely saved John and many American soldiers from capture or certain death. The helpless Washington watched from his high ground as these men made their last stand and said “Oh what brave men must I lose on this day.”

The fight for independence would mean nothing if Washington and his army were destroyed in these early days of the war, but in the waning hours of August 27th this grim fate appeared imminent. In front of him were 20,000 battle hardened English and Hessian soldiers commanded by an experienced General Howe. At his back was a mile of water that was guarded by 30 English warships, 10,000 sailors, and 1200 cannons, separating Washington and 9,000 of his men from the rest of his forces in Manhattan. General Howe may have ended the revolution on this day, when the war had just begun, but he had suffered high casualties in his costly victory at Bunker Hill and did not wish to repeat the same in taking New York. Going against the advice of his officers, he decided to wait to finish off the rebellious Americans the following morning.

General Washington had been outsmarted and was facing a far superior army. His men’s morale was devastated and many had thrown down their guns in their hasty retreat. Talk of surrender pervaded his soldiers’ conversations. Taking the advice of his officers he made the decision to evacuate John Bliss and the other 9,000 men, ammunition, and cannon in the cover of darkness. Every available boat was ordered to gather in New York to assist in the

evacuation. Washington ordered each unit to take a separate boat under the orders that they were being relieved by troops coming over from New York, so if there were any disloyal soldiers, the British would not be tipped off.

By dawn nearly 4,000 men still remained on Long Island awaiting certain death. In a twist of fate that many attribute to divine providence, the winds calmed and shifted just as the sky lightened, and a dense heavy fog moved across the water, allowing Washington several more valuable hours to finish his retreat. When the fog lifted the last of the boats were approaching the shores of the mainland. Private John Bliss and Washington's army would live to fight another day, but the morale of the men could not have been lower. Washington had yet to win a battle against the greatest army on earth and his men desperately needed a victory.

After the battle of Long Island John Bliss's regiment was reformed under the name Kwoilton's Rangers and Colonel Archibald Crary lead a detachment to guard the Harlem Heights. Commanded by General Washington and General Nathaniel Greene, they were to hold this high ground in Manhattan, when on September 16th they were attacked by 5,000 British soldiers. The British had beaten Washington and his army at Bunker Hill and again at Long Island, and the British officers and veteran soldiers held the patriots and Washington in contempt. When the outnumbered patriots were commanded to do an orderly retreat, the British mocked the Americans by having the buglers play a fox hunting call called "gone away", believing them to be cowards.

This insult infuriated John Bliss and the other American soldiers holding the plateau above the British. The British chased up the hill only to find an angry and resolute army of New England rangers in their path, and a Virginia militia looking for revenge flanking them on both sides. After five hours of fighting the British were driven down the hill to what is now Central Park, giving Washington and his army their first victory of the war. This minor battle where both northern and southern troops fought side by side was a small victory, but it gave the Americans and their general the confidence that they could beat the greatest army on earth in battle; confidence that would later lead Washington and his emboldened army to the crossing of the Delaware in 1776 on Christmas night.

John's father Reverend William Bliss also experienced difficulty during the war when his home in Newport taken over by the British shortly after Newport was captured by the British. Under the British law of the Quartering Act of 1774, the officers set up quarter in his home, but 'allowed' Rev. Bliss and his wife to stay in their home, due to his being a man of

God. Reverend Bliss's loyalty to the Patriot's cause was resolute. He had at least two sons serving the patriots' cause, so having the British quarter in his home much have been difficult. His displeasure with this experience is expressed in this story told in the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Magazine.

During the [Revolutionary] war Newport was occupied by the British troops, who built their entrenchments on the farm of Mr. Bliss, cut down his trees, and destroyed his fences. He was, however, permitted to remain with his family, on account of his sacred calling. Yet his house was made the quarters of the British officers, and all he had was at their mercy. . .

"When the British were expecting Gen. Sullivan with the American troops to land upon the Island, the officers who quartered in his house frequently expressed in his presence their desire to meet the rebels. Not many days afterward, several of the officers accompanied him to the seaside to see him shoot wild fowl — an exercise in which he was frequently engaged, and in which he was very skillful. After observing him for a while, they expressed their astonishment at his skill in killing birds flying. He replied, 'You seem to be very anxious for the Americans to land upon the Island; now, when they come they will take you down as easy as I do these birds.' They seemed to be much agitated with this reply, and expressed no more desire to meet the rebels."

John Bliss and his family continued to support the fight for independence from Britain throughout the war. The sacrifices and burdens they experienced in the war, along with many other brave patriots throughout the conflict help secure the rights of free expression of religion, guaranteed in the 1st amendment in the Bill of Rights, as well as the rights of the owner of a property against soldiers quartering in their home, guaranteed in the 3rd amendment of the Bill of Rights. His descendants would continue to fight for their nation by serving in the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

John Bliss is the Patriot ancestor of compatriots Scott Hewitt and Jacob Hewitt.

Editor's note: Thank you Compatriot Scott Hewitt for your excellent article!

A little bit of AZSSAR, SAR, and Arizona history—continued

By David A. Swanson

This column will continue in the October newsletter; however, I have some early history posted on the 2012 Congress website: just click on "Early History of the AZSSAR" once there.

<http://www.sar2012congress.com/>

122nd Annual Congress—continued from page 4

Compatriot **William C. Orr** received the Liberty Medal for being the first line signer on 10 applications!

Congratulations Compatriot Orr

This newsletter contains only information from the Congress that relates to the BMG Chapter. There was a *whole lot* of involvement by the different Arizona and New Mexico Chapters; however, space and your reporter's brain cells are limited so be sure to read the July issue of the *SAR-IZONA NEWS* and of course in the *SAR MAGAZINE* once it is published.




Chapter meeting information for September 20, 2012

Our next meeting will be on September 20th at 6:30 p.m. at our same meeting location, Coco's Restaurant, 4514 E. Cactus, Phoenix.

Our guest speaker will be Jonathan Butcher, from the Goldwater Institute, who will talk about the various educational programs available to Arizona children.

Please see the attached meeting notice and agenda

 **Fly the Arizona state flag throughout 2012 and encourage others to do the same. It's a beautiful flag that represents a beautiful state! Celebrate our state's centennial**

Ancestor biographies wanted for your newsletter.

If you would like to see your patriot ancestor's information in our newsletter please send it to the newsletter editor (try to limit the size to a double sided paper.)

Help! If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and you have an e-mail address that would work just as well, please e-mail that address to David Swanson at: Swanson1854@Yahoo.com
In addition to saving postage, you will get the crisp full color version that is much easier on your eyes.

Past Chapter Presidents

- Robert H. Bohannan 2002-2004
2007-2008
- H. Robert Young 2005-2006
- Carlton V. Phillips 2009
- John R. Conrad 2010
- Earl E. Atwood Sr. 2011



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Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Arizona Society Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the BMG Chapter will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Coco's Restaurant
4514 E Cactus Road
Phoenix, AZ (602) 953-9155

Compatriots, wives, prospective members, and guests are cordially invited to attend this and all meetings.

Dinner will be ordered from a menu specially prepared for us. There will be a choice of several different entrees, so there will be something for everyone. The cost is \$15.50 per person, which includes: dinner, soft drinks, tea, coffee, tax and gratuity.

(Please bring your check made out to BMG Chapter AZSSAR or have correct change and please give it to me before the beginning of the meeting or at the latest, the dinner portion of it.)

The meeting agenda is contained on the following page. (Please copy and bring it).

If you plan on attending, please notify me at swanson1854@yahoo.com or telephone (480) 515-2798 on or before September 17, 2012.

Just a reminder, we have chapter meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars. (No meetings during June—August and December)

Thanks. See you at the meeting!

David A. Swanson, Secretary/Treasurer
Barry M. Goldwater Chapter AZSSAR



Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Arizona Society, SAR

Agenda September 20, 2012

Call to Order 6:30 p.m.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

SAR Pledge

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

Business Session

Treasurer's Report
Other officer reports or remarks
New member inductions

Dinner

50/50 Raffle

Program

Our guest speaker will be Jonathan Butcher, from the Goldwater Institute who will talk about the various educational programs available to Arizona children.

Benediction

God Bless America

SAR Recessional

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.

Adjournment