

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

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Special Celebrations

by Kelly McBride, President (2006-2007)

I am always amazed at how active our chapter is, given our size. The Robert Rankin Chapter planned participation in four separate patriotic celebrations. These started with a special flag show presentation on Saturday, May 27th to commemorate Memorial Day with Ed Raines and his wife Gail, assisted by Jennie Evans at the Katy Mills Mall from 10:00 am until 3:00. Tom Jackson and I were there to distribute SAR literature and assist with the set up and tear down. Although Ed and his entourage were the highlight, he was preceded by the Katy Mayor and presentation of the colors by the Katy Sea Cadets. This was followed by a 10:30 am ceremony at the State Cemetery in Austin at the gravesite of Robert Rankin on Monday, May 29. Sam McColloch represented the Rankin Chapter in Austin. Also on the 29th was the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Houston, which unfortunately was canceled due to the heavy rain that day. Compatriot Raines was back at it on June 14th with a Flag Day celebration at Katy Mills Mall. On this occasion our state President Tom Green assisted with the show while Compatriot Jackson assisted with the set up and distribution of materials. Thanks to our Compatriots for their participation!



Ed Raines, Jennie Evans, & Tom Green

Robert Rankin Gravesite

Ceremony by Sam McColloch

This was quite an elaborate service to commemorate the two known Continental Army veterans (Robert Rankin and Stephen Williams) with bagpipers, color guards, speeches, a rifle salute, and Taps. The service lasted for just over an hour and perhaps 80-100 people were in attendance; all of the Austin TV channels were represented by camera crews. There were a number of speakers in addition to Navy Captain Inbody, the main speaker. Numerous Rankin and Williams descendants were in attendance and one spoke for each family. The Marine Sergeant on crutches (dressed in fatigue T-shirt and slouch hat) who received an SAR award was described as the Sgt. York of Viet Nam. He has been recommended for a Congressional Medal of Honor. He received a standing ovation and everyone jumped to their feet in tribute - the most moving part of the ceremony. A true hero. The program is a joint project of the SAR, DAR, and CAR. The Patrick Henry chapter of the SAR welcomed the participation of the Robert Rankin Chapter and suggested that we add a speaker next year in addition to our flowers.



Vietnam Veteran receives SAR recognition

Member Spotlight



Sam McColloch,
Member,
Robert Rankin
Chapter

Personal: Sam was born in 1931 in New Martinsville, WV. He married Carolyn Hatcher from Charleston, WV in 1953, and they have two children, Craig McColloch and Anne Ramsey. There are three granddaughters and three grandsons.

Educational: Sam graduated from Magnolia High School in New Martinsville in 1949, and then graduated from West Virginia University with a B.S. degree in geology in 1953. After military service, he returned to WVU for a M.S. degree in geology in 1957. He has been honored as an Outstanding Alumnus of Magnolia H.S..

Military: He served 21 months active duty at the end of the Korean War in the U.S. Army Signal Corps at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, and Camp Gordon, Augusta, GA. He was 1st Lt., Company Executive Officer, and various other assignments in 122nd Radio Relay Company at Camp Gordon (now Ft. Gordon).

Professional: After graduate school, Sam was employed as a geologist by Shell Oil Company for the next 28 years. He began work in Billings, MT and over the years worked in Shell offices in Oklahoma City; Ft. Smith, AR; Midland, TX; and Houston, where he retired in 1985 while living in Katy, TX. His principal work assignments included exploration for gas in Arkoma Basin, AR & OK; Michigan Basin where a large complex of oil & gas fields was discovered in the 1970s; Anadarko Basin, OK; North Slope, AK; Black Warrior Basin, MS; and various other projects.

Post Retirement: Since retirement from Shell, Sam has compiled family histories of each of his grand parent's families and worked with his wife on family histories of her family. In addition, a career in fine art photography has developed from a lifelong interest in that art form. His photographs are currently exhibited in three Houston galleries, and are part of the permanent collections at the Bethany College library, WV; WVU library; and one is included among the art exhibited in the president's home at WVU. Other exhibits have been held in West Virginia and Texas. He has recently become involved in the administration of his high school alumni website which includes writing historical stories about local area and school topics.

Genealogical: Sam's NSSAR ancestor is John McColloch, who served as a civilian patriot on the frontier, being the first sheriff of Ohio County, VA (now WV), at Wheeling, in 1777.

Other eligible patriots not yet submitted are Abraham McColloch, son of John – militia private & scout, VA; Ensign Gabriel Jacob, MD; and Lt. John Beck, VA.

Sam served as Secretary/Treasurer of Robert Rankin Chapter before moving to Austin, TX in 2005. He has compiled a book and CD of Texas SAR President Tom Green's flag programs. The flag programs are presented to a great number of school children and civic groups around the state.



Sam McColloch at the Robert Rankin Gravesite