



# THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot Larry Loop, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Jul-Aug 2017



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: On Monday morning July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we held our “**Independence Day Celebration**” at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort. This was our 6th year to make this presentation to over 100 Hotel Guests. Again, our Program was very well-received. We had 10 members (6 in revolutionary uniforms or period clothing) participate in the various activities to include: Battle Flags Presentation, Show and Tell Table Demonstrations, Remarks on “What is SAR” and “Why Do We Celebrate Independence Day”, the Firing of Muskets, and a Bell Ringing Salute to the Original Colonies. For our presentation, the Hyatt Staff made a \$500 donation which funds our Knight Essay Contest — a very welcomed gift. The Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort has agreed to be our Sponsor of the Essay Contest for 2018. For more details and photos, go to **Pages 2-3**.

On July 4th, we participated in the “**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony**” at the San Antonio National Cemetery. This program is conducted each year by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez and included many of the local Patriotic, Historical, and Military organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. I participated in the Program by presenting our Chapter Wreath along with other organizational wreaths and providing the Benediction.

I attended the **Battle of Medina Memorial Event** on August 19th. Past Chapter President Bob Hancock and Compatriot Peter Baron took the lead in organizing this event. They invited eight Historians and Archeologists to speak at the afternoon Symposium. All of the presentations were well received addressing the settling of Texas that created the First Texas Republic and its demise at the disastrous 1813 Battle of Medina in Atascosa County.

A special tribute was given to Compatriot Al Metts at the April 2017 Chapter Meeting recognizing a special mission in which he served at the end of World War II. For more details go to **Pages 5 and 6**.

A **Membership Survey** has been sent to all our members to solicit information about your interest in participating in our activities and chapter meetings. Please take the time to complete the survey so we know how we can better serve you and get you involved. For more details go to **Page 4**.

Remember, **we will resume our monthly chapter meetings in the Fall beginning September 20th at the Petroleum Club**. The speaker for this meeting will be Brigadier General John Jernigan (Ret) "My Dad's journey to the Great Escape" on his father's World War II prisoner of war story.

We will be looking for candidates to serve as Chapter Officers for 2018. If you are interested and we hope you are, please contact me and let me know how you would like to serve. Remember to make your reservations by Noon Monday the 18th, if you are not on the Standing Reservations List, with our Treasurer Dustin Whittenburg at [reservations@sarsat.org](mailto:reservations@sarsat.org).

I hope you had an enjoyable summer that included some travel and family gatherings.

I look forward to seeing you in September at our next Chapter Meeting.

Respectfully, *Larry Loop*

## CHAPTER'S GALA BANQUET

The Chapter's Gala Banquet will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. Our Keynote Speaker will be Lt. General Tom Jaco, Former Commander 3rd Army at Ft. Sam Houston.

Our primary purpose is to have fun and share in fellowship with many of our members who usually cannot attend our monthly Chapter Meetings during the work week.

**A Chapter News Release will be sent calling for Reservations!**

## Save the Date!

San Antonio SAR  
Chapter GALA

**Saturday  
January 20, 2018  
6:00 PM**

## CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT



This year we celebrated the 241st anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence from England. At the invitation of Ms. Nicole Gravelle, Marketing Manager for the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio, our chapter conducted our **7th Educational and Historical Independence Day Event** for hotel guests visiting the resort on July 3rd. Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Past Chapter President (2007-2008) served as the Master of Ceremonies.

**(Photo at Left)** Chapter President Larry Loop opened the Program welcoming approximately 100 hotel guests and spoke on what "SAR" is and does. Ten other chapter members participated in the morning event. They included Stephen Rohrbough (Immediate Past Vice-President-General for NSSAR's South Central District), Compatriots Paul Reynolds, Henry Garcia, James Taylor (Past National Chaplain General), Fred Soupiset, Peter Baron and his young son Campbell, Bud Davenport, Roy Leonard and Jay Lewallen.

The National Colors and SAR Flags were presented by Acting Color Commander Peter Baron, Compatriots Stephen Rohrbough, Fred Soupiset and Jay Lewallen.

Compatriot Stephen Rohrbough gave a wonderful overview on "Why We Celebrate Independence Day". He noted that as British subjects, the British Parliament had placed heavy taxes of them and increasingly denied them the freedoms they expected and self-rule they wanted.



**(Photo at Left)** Compatriot Peter Baron explained the evolution of the Patriot Uniforms during the Revolution starting with the Minutemen of Massachusetts and Mountain Men of Virginia and the Carolinas to the Regimental Uniforms that were approved by the Continentals Congress in 1778. Seen from left to right are Compatriots Frank Rohrbough (Officers First Virginia Regimental Continental Line Uniform), James Taylor (period Civilian Dress), Peter Baron (Militia Uniform) and President Larry Loop (Virginia Continental

Line Uniform). **(Shown at Right)** Compatriot Baron provides remarks describing the Campaign Flags of the Revolution. Compatriot Baron shows the Continental Colors (or Grand Union Flag) that was flown at General Washington's Headquarter during the Siege of Boston in September 1775 to April 1776. Other Campaign Flags were on display for our visitors to see and seek more information.

**(Shown at Bottom Right)** Compatriot Baron provided an overview of the guns used by Foot Soldiers in the Militia and the Continental Line Army during the Revolution, notably the 75 caliber flintlock musket and a 50 caliber flintlock rifle. He noted that a well-seasoned soldier could load and fire a musket three times in one minute and that the musket was not very accurate beyond 50 yards. In battle, muskets were fired in volleys in succession at the enemy standing in formation over 50 yards away. Comparatively, a rifleman could load and fire only once every 90 seconds. However, Compatriot Baron conceded that the rifle is a more accurate weapon used for targets up to 250 yards away. Baron described the firing positions of soldiers — shoulder to shoulder of soldiers and standing 3 rows deep — when engaging the enemy on the field of battle. Following several volleys, the command was given to fix bayonets and advance against the enemy. **(Photo at Far Right)** Compatriot Baron gives instructions on firing the musket to a young recruit from the hotel. **(For More go to Page 3.)**





## HYATT REGENCY RESORT (CONT'D)



**(Photo at Left)** The Ringing of the Bell Ceremony was the highlight of the Event. As Compatriot Frank Rohrbough announced each of the 13 original Colonies in the order in which each Colony was established, Compatriot Fred Soupiset (Militia Uniform) rang the Bell to call attention to the founding of the Colony.

Virginia was the first Colony to be founded in 1607 with the settlement of Jamestown on the banks of the James River just west of the Chesapeake Bay. Other Colonies were founded over the next 125 years along the eastern seaboard of North America. Georgia was the last of the Colonies to be

founded in 1732 which was located along the southern end of the Atlantic Coast bordering on the Spanish Territory of Florida.

### DEMONSTRATION TABLES

**(Photo at Right)** Compatriot Campbell (Son of Compatriot Peter Baron) and friends manned the “Coloring Book” Demonstration Table. This Table provided a learning station where children among the hotel guests could color various pictures of Patriots, Campaign Flags, artifacts and activities of the American Revolution.



**(Photo Below)** Compatriot Jay Lewallen explains his Frontiersman clothing that was worn by his Patriot Ancestor from Tennessee. He spoke of his Patriot’s Rifle that is an exact replica of the rifle his father would have owned and how effective it was when used during the Battle at King’s Mountain in August 1781. That Battle as won by the Patriot Militia and became a turning point in the Southern Campaign.



**(Photo at Right)** Compatriot Fred Soupiset explains the process for making a Black Powder Horns. Cow horns were the primary horns used for storing gunpowder used for making cartridges and priming black powder weapons. The horns usually included the name of the owner and often etched showing an event, location of



home or battle where a soldier fought.

**(Photo Below)** Compatriot Henry Johnston discusses the various Flags of the American Revolution beginning with the Grand Union Flag or Continental Colors (1775) that was flown at General Washington’s HQ in Cambridge, MA during the Siege of Boston July 1775 to April 1776.

**(Photo at Right)** This Table Display includes the items a soldier would have as his camp gear and be expected to bring them when reporting for duty in his unit of assignment. The gear would include a musket, blanket, haversack, axes, canteen, knives, food



bowls and any personal articles. If a spouse or other family members accompanied the soldier as Camp Followers, they would bring clothing and personal articles for themselves. They would perform duties in support of the sponsor or other soldiers in the unit to sustain their livelihood.



## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

At the direction of President Loop, Compatriot Henry Garcia, Chairman of the Membership Committee, has prepared a Membership Survey seeking member feedback on their meeting preferences. Specifically, the purpose of this survey is to get a comprehensive understanding of our members' interest in our SAR activities and meetings.

We are experiencing lower than desired attendance at our monthly meetings and it is very important to the health of the Chapter to determine the cause of this drop in attendance and what actions can be taken to improve our members' interest and attendance. We are asking that each of you take the time to respond so that we have your personal input on which to base future changes in our Chapter meetings, activities and programs.

If you reside in the greater San Antonio Area and have not received the Membership Survey by email or regular mail, you may complete the Survey by going to: <http://www.sarsat.org>.

## BATTLE OF MEDINA REVISITED

The 17th Symposium Commemorating the Battle of Medina, "the bloodiest battle in Texas history", held at 1:00 P.M. at the ATASCOSA COUNTY LEMING ANNEX (Old Leming School) in Pleasanton, TX. The Battle of Medina occurred on August 18, 1813 between the Royal Spanish Army and the Republican Army of the North. Between 800 and 1,300 Americans, Tejanos, Native Americans and Spanish soldiers died in this battle.

Our Chapter took the lead in hosting the Commemoration of Battle of Medina Memorial Event on August 19th. Past Chapter President Bob Hancock and Compatriot Peter Baron organized this event inviting eight Historians and Archeologists to speak at the afternoon Symposium. All of the presentations were well received addressing the settling of Texas that created the First Texas Republic and its demise at the disastrous 1813 Battle of Medina in Atascosa County.

"When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty." ~ Thomas Jefferson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Next Executive Committee:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 11:00 A.M., Rose and Lion Pub (at Loop 410 and Blanco) Texas SAR  
**Board of Managers Meeting:** October 13-15, 2017, Galveston, TX, Hilton Resort Hotel (Register On-Line at [http://texassar.org/reg\\_oct17.htm](http://texassar.org/reg_oct17.htm)).

**October General Membership Meeting:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 11:30 A.M., The Petroleum Club (7th Floor), San Antonio, TX

**Operation Ancestry Research:** Training Sessions will be announced as they are scheduled. Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; (All Members are invited to participate.) (Peter Baron)

**September General Membership Meeting:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 11:30 A.M., The Petroleum Club (7th Floor), San Antonio, TX.

**Naturalization Ceremony:** Tues-

day, October 25, 2017, 2:00 PM, Family Readiness Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX (Frank Rohrbough)  
**Annual Chapter Gala:** Saturday, January 20, 2018, Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 6:00 PM.

For more information about SAR and our activities, go to **SASAR Chapter Website:**

<http://www.sarsat.org>

***Four Score and Ten Years - A Story Of Colonel Albert Caswell Metts, Jr.***  
By Stephen Rohrbough

On April 19, 2017, the San Antonio Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Texas Society SAR held its' General Membership meeting at the Petroleum Club, San Antonio, Texas. This was a special day as it was the Chapters' 87th Anniversary since it was chartered on April 19, 1930. Also, it was a special day because the Chapter honored one of our SAR Veterans Corps Members and his wife for distinguished service to SAR.

Colonel Albert C. Metts, Jr., was recognized for National War Service and Mrs Betty Metts for faithful service to the National Society Sons of the American respectively. Colonel Metts was presented the SAR War Service Medal and Certificate for campaign service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Mrs. Metts was presented the National SAR Lydia Darragh Medal and Certificate for her many years of dedicated service to multiple SAR Presidents at the Chapter, State and National level.

In recognizing Colonel Metts, I reviewed his Memoirs "Four Score and Ten Years - A Story", published in 2012. Colonel Metts wrote his life's story at age 90, and he wanted his children and grandchildren to know his life's story. And, what a story it is!

Colonel Albert C. Metts, Jr. was born on April 24, 1921 in Clarksdale, MS to Gladys Marie Oliver Metts and Albert C. Metts. He received an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point in the Spring of 1940. He arrived on a Greyhound Bus where he was met and greeted by upper classmen with "joy and being extra nice". That lasted less than a week and then reality took over and upperclassmen turned "tough, mean, and nasty". Al said they were "awful people". He had to adapt and make adjustments to survive as a 1st year cadet. Academics were no problem - studies at Mississippi State were harder. The lesson Al quickly learned was to "stay out of trouble and never fail a class - remedial classes were a waste of time and why go there". He said "Life at West Point was not pleasant. "I had freedom in my childhood - at age 10, I had my own shotgun, at 12 I had a rifle and drove the tractor and car. At West Point "I was not free".

Al graduated from West Point in three years in June 1943. While at West Point he was introduced to Elizabeth "Betty" Lee Gray. On January 2, 1944 they were married. Al and Betty left for Fort Benning, GA for 3 months where Al received introductory Army training; and then on the Camp Shelby, MS where Al received further training for Infantry and Anti-tank combat operations and exercises.

In July 1944 Al was sent to Europe. He was assigned to various duties and assignment through Italy, France and Germany. Early on, he was selected to be an Air Liaison Officer (ALO) controlling fighter coverage and support to forward combat units giving fire support to Infantry, Artillery, and Cavalry forces. He had served in four Army Service Campaigns in Europe by the time the war ended.

On May 8, 1945 Captain Al Metts was sent to Seventh Army Headquarters commanded by General Sandy Patch. That day General Patch announced that the war was over and the Germans had surrendered unconditionally. He told Captain Metts that a young officer like him ought to go to Paris and celebrate the end of the war. Within 2 hours, Al was in the back end of a B-25 heading for Paris. He found himself in the U.S. Armed Services Hotel on the Champs de Alyssee having a beer when the announcements came over the public address speakers that the war was over - from that time on he, along with other serviceman, all food and drink was complimentary to U.S. soldiers to celebrate this good news - the party was on.

Once back in Stuttgart, Germany, at Seventh Army Headquarters, General Patch called for Captain Metts to report to his office. The General had received a call from Charlotte Arch- Duchess of Luxembourg asking for the whereabouts of her nieces, the five princesses who were granddaughters of King Ludwig III of Bavaria. He asked Captain Metts to find them and send them to their Aunt in Luxembourg. "I saluted, did not even change my uniform and like a duck on a June Bug, told my driver to start the engine in that very large "Panzer Auto - a black Mercedes used by Herman Goering".

Without delay, the search began. Captain Metts said it was easy. "I knew the country and knew that Hitler sorted prisoners by race, politics, and royal blood. I found them in Ammerwald, Austria in a old building that may have been a small hotel. Although Austria was off limits, I disregarded protocol and cross the border because I had an order to find the princesses and complete my mission.

### ***Four Score and Ten Years - A Story Of Colonel Albert Caswell Metts, Jr. (Cont'd)***

As we drove up to the hotel, German SS Guards, frightened at seeing the black Mercedes fled out of sight - never to be seen again. He went opened the door and called for all the princesses to come out. Out came five lovely ladies. They were happy to be free and it was hard to get them stop talking enough to find out whether I had the right ones. I confirmed that I had the right ones. The youngest was Sophie about 10 years old the others were Editha, Hilda, Gabrielle, and Irmingard. Countess Bellegarde had been caring for Sophie. They had all been educated in England and spoke perfect English. That helped”.

Finally, I had a chance to tell them that I was to send them to Luxembourg to their aunt. Well, they had been locked up for a long time and knew nothing about what happened to their parents or kin. They asked whether I could take them to several place to ask questions. Of course, he said “Yes”, and the trip began.

He let Irmingard sit in the front with the driver and himself. She was the co-pilot. Just as it was getting dark, they arrived at a very old castle like place at the bottom of a mountain. He went to the massive old doors and pounded upon them with his pistol. Finally, a man came to the door. He had him come to the Mercedes to confirm who he was. Well, it was a great homecoming. The ladies were so happy to see the man and Captain Metts did not know what they were saying, because English turned to German. It was Prince Ludwig (who would later marry Princess Irmingard). When he pounded on the doors, Prince Ludwig and his brother Rasso thought Captain Metts was a robber. They came to the door armed with an ax and a pitch fork.

Captain Metts said they had to go to Augsburg, Germany where there was a C-47 waiting to take the Princesses to Luxembourg to be reunited with their Aunt Charlotte - Grand-Duchess of Luxembourg.

After the Princesses were on the plane to Luxembourg, He reported back to General Patch - and he wanted to know where he had been for 2 days. He told him mission was accomplished and the General was glad. Captain Metts thought that General Patch was a great man.

The story does not end there. He received a letter from the princesses inviting him to Luxembourg. Two months later Captain Metts was in Paris on leave and decided to take the train to Luxembourg. He went to the palace. He was greeted warmly and actually met the Duchess. She thanked him for sending the ladies to her and out of no where the five princesses came in to greet him. They were in nurse dresses because they were helping in a hospital.

Captain Metts recalled in his Memoirs “This is a happy story and it is a sad story. Those ladies had suffered at the hands of Hitler. I was glad I could be nice to them. Often, I wondered where they were. If still alive, they would be old. Did they have children and grandchildren? I hope so!”

In 2002, Colonel Metts contacted the Ambassador of Luxembourg in Washington D.C. by the Internet soliciting information about the five Princes. He received a prompt reply from Ambassador Arlette Conzemius saying “I have the honor to inform you that in fact they are the nieces of the then reigning monarch H.R.M Grand Duchess Charlotte.”

Colonel and Mrs. Metts made contact and began to receive letters and pictures from the Princesses and their husbands. On July 2, 2003, they received a formal invitation to a royal birthday celebration at Nymphenburg Castle in Munich, Germany on July 14,2003. It was a celebration of the 80th birthday of Princess Irmingard and the 90th birthday of her husband Prince Ludwig. He wrote in his Memoir “For four days they had a great experience that will be remembered for the rest of our life”.

Colonel Metts is a highly decorated officer retiring from the U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston, TX on July 1, 1973. He received 27 medal and awards including the Silver Star (V), 2 Bronze Star Medals (V), 2 Purple Hearts Medals, French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) and many others, along with 12 Campaign Ribbons.- 4 in the European Theater, 5 Campaign Stars in Korea, and 3 Campaign Stars in Vietnam.

On April 24, 2017 Colonel Metts celebrated his 96th birthday.