



The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter



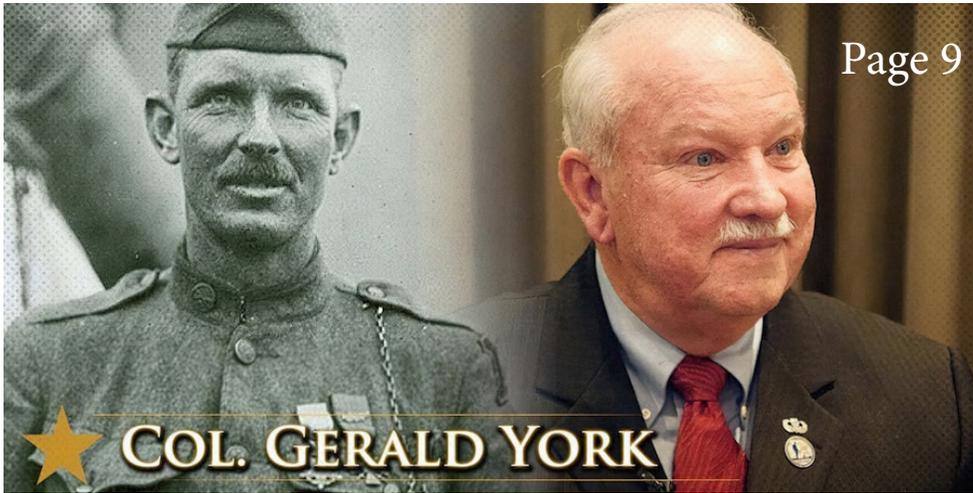
January 2026

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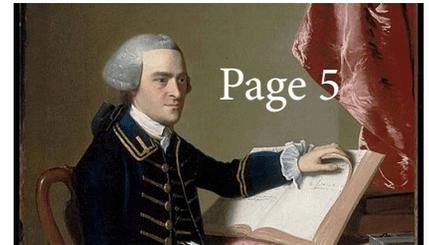


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MEMBERS

Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail



The Ozark Mountain Chapter Challenge Coin is available for purchase from Ben Edmondson for \$10.00

On the Cover

The swearing in of Compatriot Steve Perkins as President of the Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR.



Photographs provided by: Daniel Piedlow, Margaret Swales, Editor: Daniel Piedlow



The President's Message

By President Steven Perkins

To the general membership of the chapter: 2026 will be the pinnacle of the 250th celebrations across the country, not so much by the SAR, but by the communities and states that have established 250th commissions. YOU joined the SAR out of a sense of pride for what your patriot ancestor sacrificed. Some patriots sacrificed everything to stand for liberty. I'm not referring to just those who lost their life on the battlefield or in a prison ship or rancid tent in camp, but those who lost their homes, land, their ability to raise crops, create income, and survive on a daily basis. Put yourself back in time: 80% or so were farmers. Some were merchants. Some were signers of the Declaration of Independence. If you want to know of such a great patriot, read about an overlooked hero John Glover: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/07/overlooked-hero-general-john-glover/>.

April 24 & 25 OMC is hosting the state conference. Most of you have not attended one of these conferences. Break away from routine and consider attending. At least come for the Saturday business meeting and the evening banquet.

Four specific state color guard events are planned for the 24th, beginning with a Naturalization Ceremony, a visit to the National Cemetery, a dedication at the old court house, and a ceremonial musket volley (Concord bridge) at the Phelps Grove Park to wrap up the afternoon.

On July 8, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence will occur in all 50 states in a time zone that corresponds with 6:00 p.m. eastern. OMC is organizing plans to do so. Every member should put this on their calendar, attend and support this big and important event.

In short, engagement by members is highly encouraged. Far too many don't join their compatriots at events and meetings. We want you! Find and devote your passion toward celebrating and memorializing what your patriot helped do – gave us the United States of America.

At the annual January awards and election meeting, I humbly accepted Gerald McCoy's nomination as

chapter President. My charge is to steer the chapter for the next year. Those present at the meeting heard my big concern is member engagement. Too many new members come and go within a few years. Instead, come to meetings. Get to know fellow members. Make friends. In the final analysis though, it boils down to members having or developing a passion about why they are a Son of the American Revolution.

I have passion about history, and I marvel at the chance outcome of the colonies gaining independence from the British empire. Our newsletter editor wonderfully adds interesting historical content each month. I want to infuse history into meetings and newsletters. Will you absorb it?

December Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Ozark Mountain Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

December 20, 2025 9:34 A.M. to 11:10 A.M.

Brentwood Branch Library

Minutes recorded by Don King, Secretary

The Meeting was called to order by President Fisk at 9:34 A.M.

There were 21 Members and 9 Visitors in attendance.

Chaplain Dan Philbrick gave the Invocation.

The Colors were advanced in place.

Honored Guest Steve Biggs, President of the Missouri Society Sons of the American Revolution, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Lawrence led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Fisk noted that Dolly the Dachshund had signed the attendance sheet and asked that all in attendance please do so if they have not already done so.

President Fisk formally recognized State President Biggs, who gave the following remarks:

Greetings, my name is Steve Biggs. Howard Actually has his signature on my membership certificate. I think he was the Secretary back then, and was a fine President after that.

So, it's Christmas time, and at this time of year, during the holidays, especially Christmas, is meant to be filled with happiness and hope for us all. My message today is filled with this, not just for Ken and Howard and Teddy, but for all of us who are thankful to get to come

SAR University

<https://www.sar.org/sar-university/>

Compatriots, there is an exciting opportunity for you to take an online course(s) that are free and tells you about the SAR, like General Training, Officer Training, and more.

The link above will allow you to click on the yellow rectangle that says SAR UNIVERSITY

From there, you can choose your area of interest.

Every Chapter Officer should take the course... they include President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Registrar, Historian, etc.

Under the General Training drop-down box, you can do your Youth Protection Training course.

You have the option of printing a course completion certificate when you pass each section.

I repeated the test when I didn't score 100%... Going over the test answers is a teaching/learning tool as well.

When you start the subject, it gives you the opportunity to register... this is very important and needs to be done for each subject. This will ensure that you get the credit for the training.

- From Page 1, December Minutes -

home to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Happiness and hope go hand in hand with home at Christmas time. This may mean traveling to be with Family and friends, like we are doing this weekend. Generally, most of us think of home as a place where family memories are made and where we remember days past, but also a place of hope for the future. Home is a place past, present, and future with great promise gained through great sacrifice. America, your home and my home, is like this, too. Be hopeful for America during our nation's 250th year celebration. We honor the American patriots holding firm to our Constitution and giving us hope. God, family, and country all three should give us hope and happiness. At Christmas time, we celebrate together at being part of the lineage stretching forever forward as one nation under God Indivisible and with liberty and justice for all, may God bless the Ozark Mountain Chapter, our families, and the United States of America.

Thank You.

President Fisk made State President Biggs an Honorary member of the Ozark Mountain Chapter and presented him with the Chapter's Challenge coin.

Birthday's

Donald Higerson	1-2
Joe Stokes	1-2
Dale Crandell	1-3
Andrew Walker	1-5
Edward Choate	1-8
James Appleby	1-10
Roy Blunt	1-10
Gerald McCoy	1-12
Harold Finch	1-18
Pletcher Rogers	1-19
Gary Yadon	1-25
Peter Rea	1-28
Richard Snelson	1-31

President Fisk asked each member to introduce themselves.

President Fisk mentioned that our Surgeon, Norm Knowlton, sent along information regarding Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD. Which is the manner the body deals with the change in season. President Fisk stated that if anyone would like the information, which is about 1 ½ pages, he would be happy to share it.

Ben Edmondson gave the Treasurer's report as follows:

Period 10/18/2025 to 12/19/2025

Beginning Balance	\$7,401.83
REVENUE FOR THE MONTH	
4100 Dues	\$482.44
4200 Chapter Events	\$1,501.00
4300 New Applications	\$0.00
4400 General Fund Donations	\$21.00
4500 CFO Transfer Income	\$0.00
4600 Merchandise	\$20.00
4700 Designated Donations	\$1,355.00
Restricted	
EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH	
\$2663.43	
5110 Administration	\$0.00
5112 Miscellaneous	\$0.00
5141 CAR Dinner	\$0.00
5142 Veterans Luncheon	\$739.20
5171 CAR Chapter Reconstitution	\$50.00

			\$200.00
5172 2026 Greene County Plaque		\$0.00	
5173 Legends of Conservation Funds		\$0.00	
			\$700.00
5174 W Carr Veterans Fund		\$0.00	
			\$965.00
5205 Medals and Awards		\$250.00	
5110 Flag Awards		\$0.00	
EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH (Continued) restricted			
5220 Public Safety Awards		\$0.00	
			\$203.12
5225 Eagle Scout		\$128.00	
5230 JROTC/ROTC		\$0.00	
			\$50.00
5235 EdComm CAR Award		\$0.00	
5240 EdComm Teacher of the Year		\$0.00	
5245 EdComm Brochure Contest		\$0.00	
			\$15.81
5255 EdComm Knight Essay		\$0.00	
			\$310.00
5260 EdComm Rumbaugh Oration		\$0.00	
			\$219.50
5330 Color Guard		\$0.00	
5341 Genealogist Supplies		\$0.00	
5351 Treasurer Supplies & Postage		\$0.00	
5352 Annual Dues State/National		\$859.00	
5353 Bank Charges		\$12.44	
5360-Historian		\$0.00	
Net Income (loss)	<hr/>		
\$3,379.44	\$2,038.64	\$1,340.80	
Total Income	Total Expenses	Net Income (loss)	
Ending Balance(Available General Funds: \$6,079.20)			\$8,742.63
3rd Qtr.			
9/30/2025	CFO Balance	\$10,656.50	
	CFO Income	\$0.00	
	CFO Withdrawals/fees	\$0.00	
	CFO Balance	\$10,656.50	
	Total Funds	\$19,399.13	

34 members have not paid dues for the upcoming year 2026, standing percentage of 73.02.

Our total Revenue for the year is \$12,396.00, with total expenses of \$8,676.00. (See Chart at end of Minutes)

A Motion was made and seconded to refer the report to the Audit Committee.

The Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer Edmondson read a statement from John McAlear regarding the Audit of OMCSAR Financial Records, July 1 to September 30, 2025, as follows:

“As requested, I have examined the July 1 to September 30, 2025, OMCSAR financial records provided to me by Treasurer Ben Edmondson. The records consisted of the check register, Central Bank of Missouri, and CFO Statements, photocopies of support for deposits, and the OMCSAR Treasurer’s Reports.

In my opinion, based on the documents provided to me, the Treasurer’s Reports from July 1 to September 30, 2025, fairly reflect the financial position of OMCSAR.”

John McAlear

OMCSAR

A motion was made and seconded to accept the auditors' report.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Vickie Biggs, First Lady and President of the Ladies Auxiliary, was recognized

President Biggs brought greetings and Merry Christmas from over 100 members of the ladies' Auxiliaries statewide and discussed the Ladies Auxiliary’s focus on supporting the SAR’s goals and raising funds for a museum exhibit. She explained the significance of a payroll document to be placed in the archives and a knee-held tape loom for the museum. She then introduced a fundraiser for the museum items, including a handmade flag piece.

Rodney Brewe presented a video on the Battle of Trenton, highlighting the historical significance and impact of the event.

Compatriot McAlear informed the group that Glen Gore was awarded the Hanna White Arnett Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts, and assistance to the DAR.

Ken Lawrence introduced 12-year-old Teddy Moll, President of the CAR, who made a presentation on the

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conservation of Missouri Turtles.

Teddy explained the endangered status of four turtles: Western chicken turtle, blanching turtle, yellow mud turtle, and alligator snapping turtle.

Teddy discussed the importance of conserving these turtles and the methods to support their conservation.

Teddy sells state project pins, key chains, earrings, and water bottle stickers to raise funds for the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.

Upon completion of his remarks, State President Biggs presented Teddy with the Battle of San Carlos medal, and President Fisk presented Teddy with the Ozark Mountain Chapter pin.

There was no secretary's report.

Ken Lawrence gave the Chapter Color Guard Report:

February:

George Washington's Birthday

Color Guard seeking permission to advance Colors for a Lady Bears Game

Compatriot Perkins advised the group of the following function:

George Washington's Birthday Celebration is a Joint Kansas and Missouri society event

If anyone is interested in going, a form will be provided on the Chapter Website.

Compatriot Perkins formally presented the amendment to the By-Laws regarding the reinstatement fee for lapsed members for final approval.

A motion to approve the amendment was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by a voice vote of the members.

Compatriot Perkins proposes an amendment to the By-Laws to provide clarity to the duties and responsibilities of the Sergeant-At-Arms' role within the chapter.

The amendment is discussed, and a motion was made and seconded to present the change at next month's meeting for final approval. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote of the members.

Compatriot Perkins presented the slate of officers for the next year, 2026, as follows:

2025	2026
President	

J Howard Fisk Gerald McCoy

1st Vice President

Gerald McCoy Keith Jones

2nd Vice President

Keith Jones Don King

Secretary

Don King Don King

Treasurer

Ben Edmondson Ben Edmondson

Chancellor

Gary Bishop Gary Bishop

Chapter Registrar/ Genealogist

Steven Perkins Steven Perkins

Historian

Jeff Settle Joe Walker

Chaplin

Dan Philbrick Dan Philbrick

Editor

Daniel F. Piedlow Daniel Piedlow

Sergeant at Arms

Daniel F. Piedlow Jeff Hicks

Chairmanships

Flag Chairman Jerry Gerheart

JROTC

Chris Brayman

COMING IN 2026: Formation of a Genealogy Committee

The slate was approved for presentation at the next meeting.

Compatriot Perkins gave the Genealogy report as follows:

Total Active Membership	144
New Members	YTD: 27
Pending	10

Currently, 33 members have not renewed their 2026 membership. Predictions are that at least 25 current members will not renew in 2026.

Forecast chapter membership will be between 115 and 120. This is a net gain from membership on 01/04/2025.

President Fisk discussed the involvement with PBS and the Scouts of America, highlighting the success of a recent rally

President Fisk mentioned the upcoming American Patriot Merit Badge Workshop and the Concord and

Lexington Camporee.

Gary Gift provided details on the Camporee and the involvement of Public Television

President Fisk emphasized the importance of community involvement and the potential impact of the projects.

President Fisk reminds members to check the chapter website for the latest information on meetings and events.

President Fisk introduces new business, including the swearing in of new member Gary Laverne Walden, who was sworn in and inducted into the society.

Pastor Philbrick led the Benediction.

President Fisk led the Recessional

The Meeting Was Adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Important Dates in History

Jan 1, 1776: Daniel Morgan is taken prisoner during his attempt to take Quebec City

Jan 3, 1777: Washington victorious at The Battle of Princeton

Jan 11, 1755: Alexander Hamilton's Birthday

Jan 15, 1776: Paine's "Common Sense" published

Jan 17, 1781: General Daniel Morgan overwhelmingly defeats British Colonel Tarleton at The Battle of Cowpens

Jan 17, 1706: Ben Franklin's Birthday

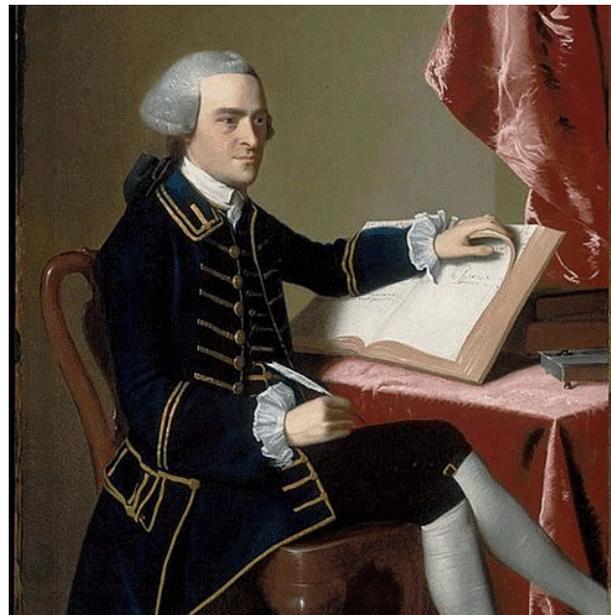
Jan 23, 1737: John Hancock's Birthday



New Medal now available! A medal for the Battle of Fort San Carlos is now available from Compatriot J Howard Fisk. They cost \$35.00 and you must participate in the events in Ste. Genevieve.

People Who Made America Great

John Hancock



John Hancock (1737–1793) – Known for his flamboyant signature on the Declaration of Independence, Hancock was president of the Second Continental Congress and a strong advocate for liberty. He used his considerable wealth to finance the colonial resistance and became a powerful symbol of American defiance. Hancock was one of the first to call for complete independence from Great Britain, and his bold signature remains iconic. After the Revolution, he served as the first elected governor of Massachusetts, where he supported policies to strengthen state sovereignty and economic recovery. Hancock's leadership, charisma, and willingness to sacrifice for freedom secured him a lasting place in the story of American independence.

As the first to sign the Declaration of Independence, Hancock didn't just write his name—he wrote it massively, with elegant flourishes, right in the center beneath the text. Legend has it that he declared, "There, I guess King George will be able to read that without his spectacles!" Though the quote's authenticity is debated, it perfectly captured Hancock's flair and defiance. At the time, signing the Declaration was a treasonous act punishable by death, but Hancock wanted no doubt about his commitment to the cause. His wealth and influence made him a prime target, yet he embraced the risk with style. His oversized signature became a symbol of American courage and is still used today as a synonym for one's name—your "John Hancock."

January Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Ozark Mountain Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

January 17, 2026

9:32 A.M. to 10:58 A.M.

Concourse, Information Commons West

Ozark Technical Community College

Minutes recorded by Don King, Secretary

Meeting Chair J. Howard Fisk President

The Meeting was called to order at 9:32 A.M. by President Fisk

There were 28 members and 7 guests present.

President Fisk led the group in reciting the Society's mission statement.

President Fisk gave the Invocation.

The Color Guard advanced the Colors.

President Fisk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Color Guard Commander Perkins led the group in reciting the Pledge to the SAR.

The following Applicants were sworn as Members by former President General Appleby:

Ben Clemmons

Rodney Grews

Dwain Gold

John Gerzon

The following members were presented with awards:

Don King: Roger Sherman Bronze Medal

Ben Edmondson: Bronze Henry Knox Medal

Keith Jones: Bronze Henry Knox Medal

Charles McMillan: Bronze Henry Knox Medal

Gerald McCoy: Bronze Henry Knox Medal

George Swales: Henry Knox Oak Leaf Cluster

Norman Knowlton: Henry Knox Oak Leaf Cluster

Gary Gift: Henry Knox Oak Leaf Cluster

Keith Jones: 250th Anniversary Gold Medal

Steve Perkins: Plaque in recognition of Distinguished Service to the Chapter, America's 250th Anniversary, and for Outstanding support of the Ozark Mountain Chapter and America's 250th Anniversary

Dan Piedlow: Plaque in recognition of Distinguished

Service to the Chapter, America's 250th Anniversary, and for Outstanding support of the Ozark Mountain Chapter and America's 250th Anniversary

J Howard Fisk: From President General SAR Dr. Daryl Addington for significant effort at the National level, the Gold Roger Sherman Medal

Officer Reports:

Secretary's Report/Comments: The Minutes for the December Meeting will be in the January Newsletter for review, as the minutes for that meeting missed the newsletter deadline.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance Checking Account was \$8,191.10

Revenues of \$1,190.63

Expenses of \$1,155.60

Ending Balance Checking Account of \$8,226.13

Of that, \$5,041.70 is available in General Funds

Ending 3rd Quarter CFO Account \$10,656.50

CFO Expenditures \$115.87

CFO Withdrawals/ fees \$(26.72)

CFO Balance \$10,745.65

Total Funds Balance \$18,971.78

YTD Revenue \$13,676.00

YTD Expenses \$10462.00

84.5% of members have paid their dues

A motion was made to approve submitting for audit by John Hathcock, and seconded. The motion carried unanimously

Vice President Report: The Chapter has received an award from the President General, SAR Dr. Daryl Addington, for supporting Partners in Patriotism as part of their Patriotic Outreach in 2024.

Color Guard Report: February 19, 2026. Color Guard will advance the Colors at the opening of the Lady Bears vs. Liberty College.

Following the Chapter Meeting on February 21st, the Color Guard will proceed to Washington Park

For the Annual Ceremony, which Honors General Washington.

Lynn Creek is organizing a big 250th pioneer and founding history event the weekend before July 4th, so I will be attending a planning meeting for this event.

March 8th, the DAR will be presenting a traveling

Revolutionary War display at the Greene County Courthouse in the Rotunda. We have been invited to advance the Colors and be participants at that event.

June 14th, the Dar is unveiling a 250th bench at Nathaniel Green Park, and we have been asked to help support that event.

Compatriot Perkins proposed a change to the by-laws regarding the Sergeant-at-Arms with language as follows:

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall have custody and oversight of tangible personal property owned by the Chapter. Property includes, but is not

limited to such items as flags, flag stands, outdoor flag stakes, banners, and table covers. He shall deliver to and make available for use

the set property as the nature of the meeting ceremony or color guard event calls for. He shall maintain a list of personal property owned

by the chapter, record the date and name of whoever the property is transferred to. When the Sergeant-at-Arms cannot attend a

meeting or event, he must arrange for someone to act on his behalf, including the transfer of property to the designated person for that

event. The Sergeant-at-Arms is charged with bringing order, preparing for the start of the meeting, ensuring security, and ensuring that

decorum and behavior are fitting for the business of the SAR.

A motion was made by John Hathcock and seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Genealogy/Registrar: 5 Supplements approved and 4 applications at National

January 1, 2026, membership:
119 (24 members lapsed)

January 1, 2025, membership:
110

Net Increase:
9

Late payment reinstatement anticipated:
2 or 3

President Fisk presented the slate of Nominees for officers for the 2026 year as follows:

President: Gerald McCoy

1st Vice President: Keith Jones
2nd Vice President: Don King
Secretary: Don King
Treasurer: Ben Edmondson
Chancellor: Gary Bishop
Registrar: Steve Perkins
Chaplain: Dan Philbrick
Editor: Dan Piedlow
Sergeant-At-Arms: Jeff Hicks
Color Guard Commander: Joe Walker
Flag Committee Chairman: Gerry Gerhart
JROTC: Chris Raymond

President Fisk called for the question

1st Call: Are there any further Nominations to the Slate?

2nd Call: Are there any further Nominations to the Slate?

Chair Recognizes Compatriot McCoy

Compatriot McCoy places in nomination for Chapter President, Compatriot Steve Perkins

3rd Call: Are there any further Nominations to the Slate?

Hearing none, the Slate for 2026 will stand except for Steve Perkins being nominated for the post of President

Regarding the Nomination of Compatriot Perkins, a choice was given to have a secret ballot or to confirm the nomination by acclamation.

The nomination was carried by acclamation.

Motion made by John Hathcock and seconded to approve the slate of officers, including Steve Perkins as President.

The motion carried unanimously

The vote to adopt the slate of officers carried by Unanimous Consent.

President General Appleby administered the Oath of Office to Officers-Elect present.

President General Appleby administered the Oath of Office to President-Elect Perkins

Past President Fisk offered the benediction.

Compatriot Jeff Hicks led the SAR Recessional

President Perkins adjourned the meeting at 10:58 A.M.

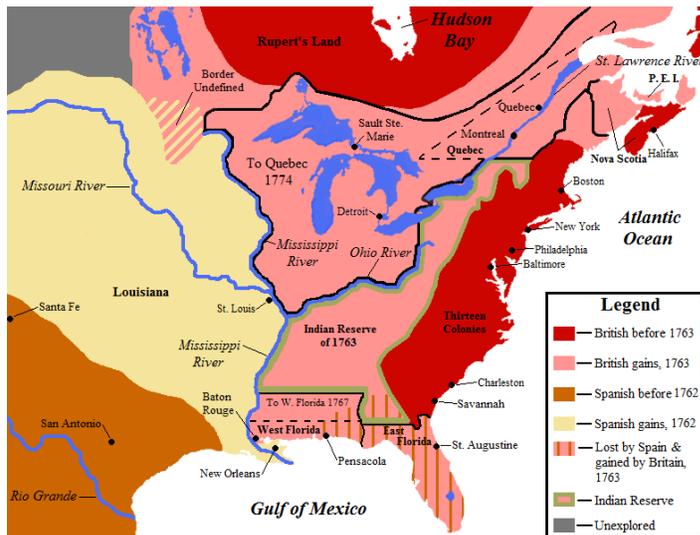
Texas Longhorns in the American Revolution

By Heather Sheen

If you're a history buff, you probably know that the American Revolution didn't just happen in New England and Virginia. The Southern states played a big role as well.

The first "tea party," for instance, happened in South Carolina, not Boston. And the losses of the British and victories of the armies in the Southern states are what led to Cornwallis surrendering at Yorktown. So yeah – South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia – those Southern states played a big part in winning the war.

But did you know that TEXAS played a part too? Along with Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida!



Great Britain's Navy Is Busy

When America declared her independence from Great Britain in 1776, the territory covering Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and West Florida belonged to Spain – the area was called "New Spain." Spain had originally owned all of Florida, but traded part of it to Great Britain in the 1763 Treaty of Paris. And that's where the American Revolution comes in.

As Americans and British fought over whether we would remain independent, Britain also became embroiled in war with France, Spain and Holland. Since all of these countries had colonies around the world, Britain's navy became stretched exceedingly thin. And British ships that could have been fighting Americans on the east coast were instead defending Pensacola, Florida against a siege.

If you've only ever read basic American history textbooks, you may be confusedly thinking, "Who in tarnation was besieging the British at Pensacola?" And therein lies a totally amazing and fascinating tale.



Bernardo de Galvez by José Germán de Alfaro

Galvez on the Warpath

A young Spanish 31-year-old named Bernardo de Galvez had been appointed Governor of "Luisiana" (Louisiana) in 1777. He already had an illustrious military career under his belt, starting at age 16, which included not



An 18th century cowboy

But wait, you say. Most of those states (which weren't even states then) weren't part of the British empire, nor were they claimed by the newly minted United States. How could they influence the war?

The answer includes Texas longhorns and the British navy.

only famous battles in Europe but also some Apache fighting in Mexico and Texas!

Galvez, under instructions from his government, proceeded to provide covert help and assistance to American troops fighting the British.

When Spain officially declared war on Britain in 1779, Galvez was given the chance to fight openly with the British at their outposts along the Gulf coast. He fought a masterful campaign through 1779-1781, with victories at Fort Bute, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Baton Rouge again, and Mobile... and finally wound up with a major victory at Pensacola!



By the time Galvez defeated the British at Pensacola, he had 7000 troops (by comparison, Cornwallis surrendered 8000 men at Yorktown). How did those victorious troops survive during that long campaign, stretching from Louisiana to Florida?

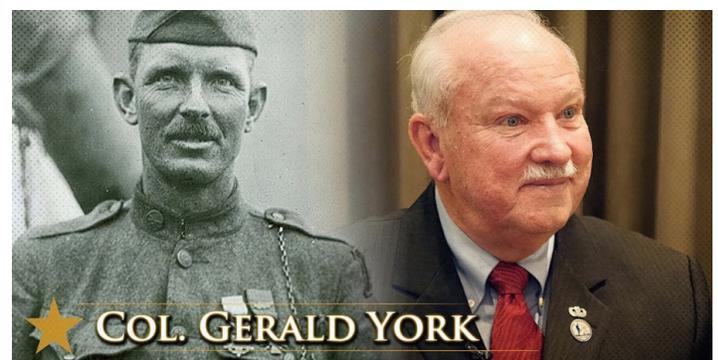
They lived on Texas longhorns!

Yes, the first cattle drives from Texas began, not in the Wild West of the mid-1800s, but in 1779! Though records are still being discovered, it's estimated that from 1779 to 1782, somewhere between 9,000 and 15,000 head of cattle were sent to Galvez's army from ranchers in Texas. And that's the army that kept the British tied up – and defeated - all along the Gulf coast. So that's how the Texas longhorn helped save American independence!



https://creativecockades.substack.com/p/texas-longhorns-in-the-american-revolution-f26?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=2860085&post_id=185026386&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&token=eyJ1c2VyX2lkljo3OTQwNjYxOSwicG9zdF9pZCI6MTg1MDI2Mzg2LCJpYXQiOiE3Njg4MzE3MjksImV4cCI6MTc3MTQyMzcyOSwiaXNzIjoicHViLTl4NjAwODUiLCJzdWliOiJwb3N0LXJlYWN0aW9uIn0.Zir5qrumV0v_ugPytK-IL6ogLVYlqnJGiHDxkuvVn-JA&r=1b9yjf&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Profiles of Valor: The York Family Legacy



“Grandpa, you’re in the encyclopedia! You’re famous!”

by Mark Alexander

At a recent celebration of the 75th anniversary of Armed Forces Day, I had the opportunity to spend time with some exceptional Patriots. Among them were fellow Tennesseans who are the descendants of the most famous World War I Medal of Honor recipient, SGT Alvin C. York, whose life story was immortalized in the film “Sergeant York.”

York embodied the tough and resilient Scots-Irish ancestry of many early settlers in East Tennessee, as do his descendants. As you may recall from the amazing accounts of his actions in October 1918 with the 328th Infantry, during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in the Argonne Forest, Alvin demonstrated his backwoodsman marksmanship skills by taking out German machine gunners. Realizing they were no match for his sniping capabilities, the German commander and his men surrendered to York and his seven-man unit.

How many men surrendered? York's brigade commander, BG Julian Lindsey, later greeted him by saying, “Well, York, I hear you have captured the whole German army.” York replied: “No, sir. I got only

- From Page 9, The York Family Legacy -

132.” Yeah, an eight-man unit marched 132 German prisoners off that hillside.

Recently, SGT York’s grandson COL Gerald E. York (USA, Ret), Debbie York (Executive Director of the Sgt York Patriotic Foundation), and Angela York joined us for a reception at the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center. They and many other York family members still live in SGT York’s rural community of Pall Mall, now the home of the York State Historic Park.

I asked Gerald about his grandfather’s children and grandchildren who were inspired to serve our country, and the list is considerable.

Among SGT York’s Veteran sons was Gerald’s father, George Edward Buxton York (USA), named after Alvin York’s 82nd Division Major, Woodrow Wilson York (USA), and Thomas Jefferson York (USAF).

SGT York’s Veteran grandchildren include Alvin C. York Jr.’s sons, Kenny and Ronnie, both U.S. Army. Woodrow Wilson York’s daughter Mary served in the Air Force, his son William was a Marine, and his son Woody served in the Tennessee National Guard. And SGT York’s great-grandchildren are continuing that legacy, including Gerald’s son, Gerald E. York II, an Operation Iraqi Freedom Army combat Veteran.

As for Gerald, he joined the Army through the ROTC program at Vanderbilt University and volunteered for service in Vietnam, reporting for duty in November 1969. Once deployed, he recalls: “A major said, ‘We have a special program in MACV [Military Assistance Command, Vietnam], and we want to make you an adviser.’ I said, ‘Sir, I appreciate it, but I really didn’t volunteer to come over here to observe. I want to be here with an American unit. I don’t want to be an adviser.’” But then-LT York became an intelligence officer advising Phoenix Loc Ninh District units on where to capture or kill top Viet Cong leaders. After a month in a compound near the Cambodian border, his unit came under a fierce attack lasting five days. “I’m like, ‘Well, welcome to Vietnam.’”

Soon thereafter, Gerald received orders to report to his Colonel in Bien Hoa (near Saigon). Wondering what he had done wrong, Gerald told his commanding officer, “Sir, I thought I was doing a decent job.” The response was, “You’re doing an excellent job,” but the Colonel had recently learned that Gerald was the grandson of Alvin York. The Colonel’s concern: “I had a guy in my command whose father won a Silver Star in World War II. He was determined to get a Silver Star. And he

did — posthumously. So I need to know, what’s your objective here? You volunteered to come. Why are you here?”

Gerald replied, “Sir, I volunteered to come with an American unit because I figured I was going to go to Vietnam sometime. I’m here to serve my country.” His Colonel responded, “You’re not trying to outdo your grandfather?” Gerald said: “Sir, what my grandfather did, he didn’t set out to do. It was something he did to save lives, not to take lives. It was just the time and the place, and he had the skill sets to accomplish what he did. I could never equal my grandfather. My objective in Vietnam is to do the best job I can do, keep my people safe, and go home safe. I’m not planning on doing anything crazy.” He said, “OK,” and sent Gerald back to Loc Ninh. (He offers more insights on his grandfather and Vietnam in an interview with HistoryNet and the American Veterans Center interview.)

After returning stateside, he served as the 18th Airborne Corps intel officer at Fort Bragg and then as Defense Intelligence Agency base commander at Fort MacArthur, California, and in Yongsan, South Korea. The last of his 31 years of active service were as Chief of Operations, Defense HUMINT Service, Defense Intelligence Agency offices in Washington. His awards include the Parachute Badge, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Meritorious Service Medal (3).

On how he was inspired by his grandfather, Gerald says he first became aware of his heroic service when he was in fifth grade: “The teacher called on me one day and said, ‘I would like for you to come up and get the encyclopedia and look up your grandfather.’ I’m thinking, ‘Why would my grandfather be in the encyclopedia?’ I opened the encyclopedia, and she said, ‘I want you to read what it says.’ So I read it to the class and thought, ‘Wow, my grandfather’s in the encyclopedia.’ Even though I’d seen visitors coming in and I knew there was a movie [Sergeant York, 1941, starring Gary Cooper] because we had a copy of it, that’s the first time I really realized that he was known outside of our family.”

Seeing his grandfather soon thereafter, Gerald said, “Grandpa, you’re in the encyclopedia! You’re famous!” Alvin York laughed and responded, “No, no, not really,” and would change the subject, choosing not to speak much about his experience in warfare.

Humility was the order of the day: “To me, he was just a grandfather and was always jovial. One time, I got in

trouble and hid behind him, and he wouldn't let my father spank me. He said, "No, no, it's OK." He was just a very nice, very good grandfather. The values he gave me had more of an impact than him being famous. You always told the truth. You always respected others."

Asked how his grandfather recalled World War I, Gerald says: "His thinking was we had gone and won peace [in World War I], won freedom forever. Later in life, as World War II was coming, his thinking changed. We learned that freedom is not something that you win once and have forever. You only get a lease on freedom. We made a payment on it in World War I." Regarding the challenges to freedom which followed, Alvin said: "Now that the world's involved again in conflict, it's time for us to make another payment. Freedom is not something you are guaranteed. Freedom is something that you have to constantly defend."

Since 2005, in addition to his professional security consulting business, Gerald has been the Chairman of the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation.

To the York family Veterans: We are grateful for your example of valor — humble American Patriots defending Liberty for all. "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13) Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis

Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776

https://patriotpost.us/alexander/107808?mailing_id=8450&subscription_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm_medium=email&utm_source=pp_email.8450&utm_campaign=weekend_snapshot&utm_content=body



Remember, you can order your Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR shirts from Missouri Embroidery. Their phone number is: (417) 889-2221 and their address is: 1307 S. Glenstone Ave.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the simple but awful Reasons, that impel them to the Separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers on such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. (Preamble omitted)



Sharing the Spirit of America

Americans across the country - from the Caribbean, across North America, to the western edge of the Pacific - will read the Declaration of Independence, together.

Start time is based on 6 pm (EDT), July 8, 2026 - Please Join Us!

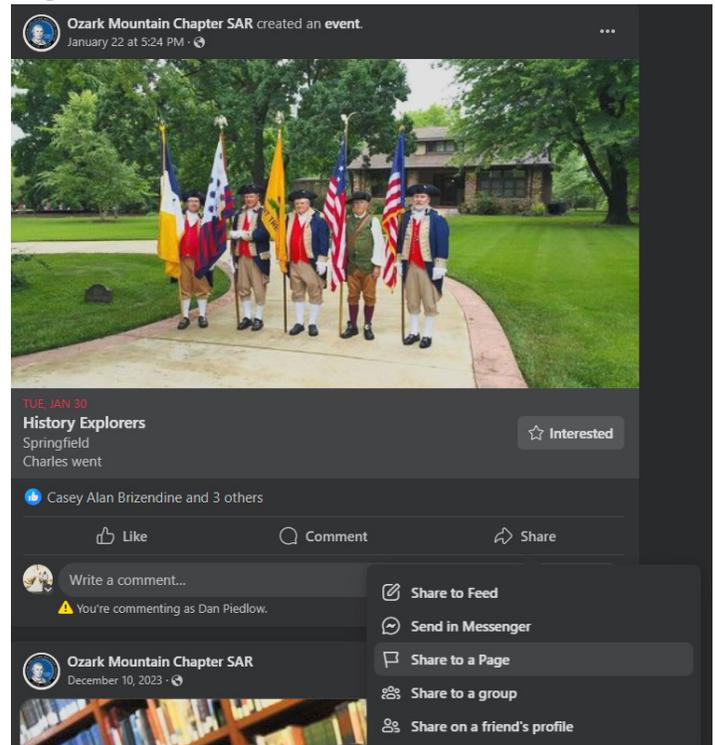
www.hawaiiamerica250.org/sharing-the-spirit-of-america



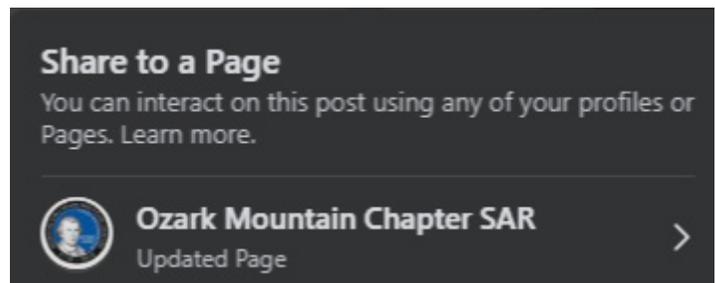
Instructions for Sharing a Post from your Personal Facebook Page to the Ozark Mountain Chapter Page

From Facebook, select the post you would like to share on our page.

Click on the share button, and select "Share to a Page."



Select Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR



Awards and Events



Left Picture: New compatriots being sworn in at the January meeting. Right Picture: (L-R) Past- President General OMC Compatriot David Appleby, Sponsor Compatriot John Hathcock, new member John Gerzen, new compatriot Rodney Grewe, spouse Linda Grewe, new member Dwain Gold, sponsor Compatriot Steve Perkins, new member Ben Clemmons, and sponsor/ father compatriot James Clemmons.



First Vice President Gerald McCoy (R) presenting Compatriot/OMC Secretary Don King with the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate.



Compatriots Ben Edmondson, Keith Jones, Gerald McCoy, and Charles McMillan with their Bronze Henry Knox Medal and Certificates.



Compatriots George Swales, Gary Gift, and Norm Knowlton with their Bronze Henry Knox Medal and Certificates. Note: George Swales got the Oak Leaf.



Compatriot Keith Jones with his Gold 250th Medal and Certificate.

Awards and Events



Compatrio/OMC President J. Howard Fisk being presented with the Gold Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate from Past- President General OMC Compatriot David Appleby.



OMC President J. Howard Fisk, and 1st Vice President Gerald McCoy with a Chapter Certificate for being a Partner in Patriotism.



Compatriots Dan Piedlow, and Steve Perkins being presented with a plaque for recognition for distinguished service to the chapter and America's 250th Anniversary. The awards were presented by Past- President General OMC Compatriot David Appleby (L), and OMC President J. Howard Fisk.



Past- President General OMC Compatriot David Appleby (L), swearing in the new officers. Steve Perkins (Genealogist), Keith Jones (1st Vice President), Ben Edmondson (Treasurer), Jeff Hicks (Sergeant-at-Arms), and Don King (Secretary).

Past- President General OMC Compatriot David Appleby (L) swearing in Steve Perkins as the President of the chapter, with outgoing President J. Howard Fisk (R).



This Day in History

January 3, 1959

Alaska was officially admitted into the United States as the 49th state. Purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million, the territory was initially deemed a "frozen wasteland" before its abundant natural resources were discovered.

January 6, 1838

On January 6, 1838, Samuel Morse successfully demonstrated the telegraph, an invention that revolutionized long-distance communication. Using electrical signals sent through wires, Morse's device transmitted messages in Morse code, significantly reducing communication time across vast distances.

January 7, 1927

The first official transatlantic telephone call was made between New York City and London on January 7, 1927. The call marked a significant leap in global communication, though the service was expensive and limited to a small number of connections.

January 8, 1815

American forces led by General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. Ironically, the battle took place after the Treaty of Ghent had been signed, officially ending the war, but news of the treaty had not yet reached the U.S.

January 11, 1922

On January 11, 1922, insulin was first used successfully to treat a diabetic patient. Canadian doctors Frederick Banting and Charles Best developed the insulin treatment, transforming diabetes from a fatal disease into a manageable condition.

January 13, 1906

The Wright brothers were granted a patent for their flying machine on January 13, 1906, solidifying their status as pioneers of aviation. Their patent for a controllable, powered aircraft helped lay the groundwork for modern aviation technology.

January 18, 1778

British explorer Captain James Cook became the first European to discover the Hawaiian Islands on January 18, 1778. He named the islands the "Sandwich Islands" in honor of the Earl of Sandwich. Cook's discovery led to increased European contact with

Hawaii, which had long-term impacts on the islands' native culture and politics.

January 19, 1809

Edgar Allan Poe, the famous American writer, poet, and literary critic, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Known for his macabre and Gothic tales, Poe authored classics such as "The Raven" and "The Tell-Tale Heart."

January 21, 1954

The USS Nautilus launched from Groton, Connecticut. It was the first nuclear-powered submarine in the U.S. Navy.

January 24, 1848

James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California, sparking the California Gold Rush. Word of the discovery spread quickly, leading to a massive influx of people, known as "Forty-Niners," seeking their fortune. The Gold Rush accelerated California's admission to the Union and transformed the region's economy and population.

January 25, 1924

The first Winter Olympics opened in Chamonix, France. The event featured sports like skiing, ice hockey, and bobsledding, drawing athletes from 16 countries. This marked the beginning of the Winter Olympics, which has since become one of the world's premier sporting events.

January 29, 1861

Kansas was admitted to the United States as the 34th state. Kansas had been the site of violent conflicts known as "Bleeding Kansas," as pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions fought for control of the territory.

Upcoming Events



Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 PM, the the Chapter Development Committee is meeting at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you need directions, contact Steve.



Wednesday, February 11 at 9:00 AM, the OMC Color Guard will be at the Strafford High School for the winners of the DAR Essay Contest. The High School is located at 211 W. McCabe, Strafford, MO 65757.



Saturday, February 14 at 11AM, the Kansas Society SAR is having a luncheon with the Missouri Society SAR at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 19677 E. Jackson Dr., Independence, MO 64057. Information for getting a ticket to attend is on the page 16.



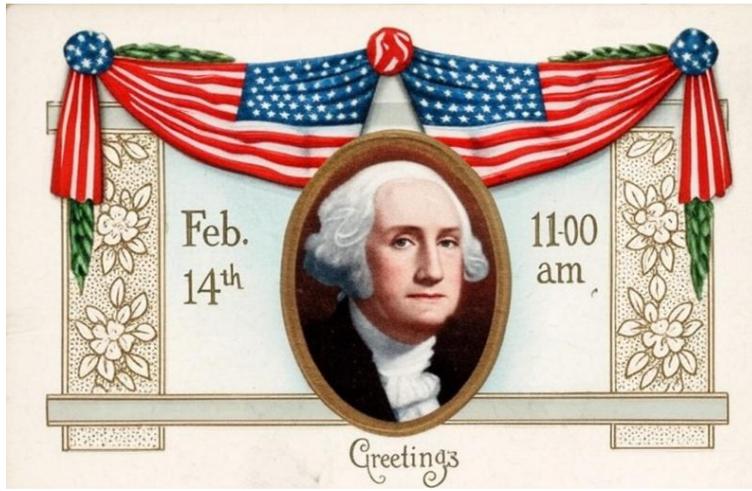
Saturday, February 21 at 9:30 AM, the monthly meeting of the Ozark Mountain Chapter will be held at Ozark Technical College in room 108 off Atrium in the Commons, located at 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.



Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 PM, the the Chapter Development Committee is meeting at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you need directions, contact Steve.



Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 PM, the DAR has invited our chapter to attend their Traveling Revolutionary War Display at the Greene County Courthouse, located at 940 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield.



***The Sons of the American Revolution
Kansas City Area Chapters***

Cordially invite you and your guests to attend special events honoring our country's first President

George Washington

The George Washington Birthday Celebration
 Saturday Luncheon, February 14, 11:00 a.m.
 Featured Speaker, SAR TG Brooks Lyles; Color Guard; Award Presentations; Fund Raisers including Gift Baskets, Silent Auction, George Washington Books, Tidal Wave Coupons and Wine Pull
 Cost: \$30 per person
 Table Reservations for 8 guests on Saturday \$230

Hilton Garden Inn

19677 E. Jackson Dr., Independence, MO 64057

Menu Selection, RSVP and Corks online.

In addition, if you or your organization wish to recognize your chapter or honor an individual with a donation, we will recognize them in our program. This will help defray costs to our event.

Please make check payable to: GWBC

<p>Mail donations to:</p> <p>George Washington Birthday Committee Attn: Robert Lofthouse P.O. Box 9017 Kansas City, KS 66112</p>	<p>Suggested Donation Levels →</p>	<p>Platinum \$250 and up</p> <p>Gold \$100 - \$249</p> <p>Silver \$75 - \$ 99</p> <p>Bronze \$50 - \$ 74</p>
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More Information can be found on

GWBCkansascity.org



SAVE THE DATE!



Exploring the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution

Date: March 28, 2026

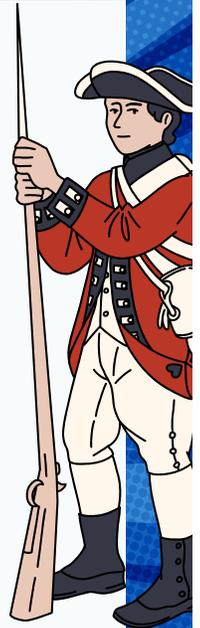
Time: 1 pm-4 pm

Location: Clark Family Branch Library
1640 S Lindbergh Blvd St. Louis, MO 63131

Speakers:

DAR MO State Regent: Lisa Parks	SAR National Librarian General: James Osbourn
O'Fallon Chapter: Katherine Huffman	MO 1st Vice-President: Doug Anderson

**One on One Discussions with Genealogists Following Talks
Register at slcl.org/events-classes starting February 1st**





Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival and Grave Marking

**EXPANDED TWO DAY EVENT:
MAY 30-31, 2026
STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI**

In partnership with the city of Ste. Genevieve, this year there will be added events to commemorate this pivotal battle and enjoy the historic town.

SAR Event Schedule Preview for Sunday, May 31

****rain or shine event****

11 a.m.

**Militia and Color Guard muster at
Guibord-Valle House**

1 p.m.

Memorial Cemetery Ceremony

**Bring your own wreath and receive
a commemorative flag streamer.**

**SAR members must
register to receive credit.
Scan below to visit the
event website:**

**[www.mossar.org/battle-
of-fort-san-carlos/](http://www.mossar.org/battle-of-fort-san-carlos/)**

SCAN ME



**Extra weekend events: Market Vendors,
Colonial Reenactors, Encampments, etc!**

National Color Guard Event - Sons of the American Revolution

**Participating Color Guard members must contact State Commander Steve Perkins
to review safety requirements and eligibility for medal qualification: patriotmarcher@fastmail.com**