

SAR Sentinel

Oklahoma City Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



October 2010

Heading by Megan Sanford

October Speaker, by Martin Reynolds



Dr. Gray Ed.D, doctor of Education, is a historian, actor and writer renowned for his brilliant and historically accurate portrayals of seven of America's greatest citizens. His performances have received acclaimed reviews and standing ovations. Dr. Gray holds graduate degrees from Phillips University, Southern Methodist and Notre Dame, along with a doctorate from Oklahoma State University. He has performed/lectured in every state and worldwide, and taught at Phillips University and Northwestern

Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gray is the author of eleven books and the former publisher and editor of two national magazines.

He is the author of **MR. PRESIDENTS: Voices of Freedom, Equality, and Dignity** (Presidential Press, ISBN: 0-9774194-0-1), now available at bookstores everywhere. The book features nine historical "moments in time" featuring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

Community Service Awards by Wm Melton



Kevin Johnson

Oklahoma City Police Department. He is recognized for his effort in combating Graffiti in the community.



Casey Rooney

Midwest City Fire Department. She is recognized for her efforts in educating the public in fire safety, especially young children.



Brian Murrar

Firefighter Bethany OK Fire Dept. He is recognized for his professionalism, dedication to improvements and past military service.

Chapter President's Report

"I was setting watching the TV one night a couple of weeks ago and thought I'd drop in on the History Channel. The feature was "Edge of the Sword", a documentary of Fort Gibson in the early days even prior to the Trail of Tears. Pretty interesting, actually for us history buffs.



Anyway, periodically there would be a person from the Oklahoma Historical Society and the like who would speak of circumstances or innuendoes thru the early to mid-1800's of the fort and the occupants.

Lo and behold there was our own Pen Woods! But then, why should I have been surprised. The man knows almost everything there is to know about the history of this state.

For those of you new to the Chapter, spend a few moments at the next meeting and get acquainted with Pen. He has quite a history to tell of himself, and we are fortunate to have him in our OKC Chapter.

I hope you all are enjoying the newsletter and be sure to visit facebook.com/okcsar."

In patriotism

Glenn Fast

New Members

New Members: by Wayne Nash

Albert Langford



Is retired and lives in Edmond with wife Kathy. His Patriot ancestor is Aaron Deveny, Jr.

Lloyd Parham

Lives in Oklahoma City with wife Ruby. His Patriot ancestor is John Jewel Sr.



James Greenawalt Jr



A retired member who lives in Oklahoma City with wife Naudine. His Patriot ancestor is Phillip Lorenzo Greenawalt.

Scott Greenawalt

He is the son of James above. He lives in Edmond with his wife Patrice. His Patriot ancestor is Phillip Lorenzo Greenswalt.



Robert Peterson Jr.



Robert lives in Edmond with his wife Darla His Patriot ancestor is John Lothrop.

THE MAN IN THE MIRROR BY: CLARE BRANDT

Pulitzer Prize winning author John Toland characterizes Benedict Arnold as, "hero and traitor, brave but lacking in moral courage, intelligent without understanding and completely self-deluded and self-oriented". He is a man of many contradictions author Clare Brandt in her biography of Benedict Arnold "The Man In the Mirror" attempts to bring some insights for consideration.

Benedict Arnold was born into a prominent American family. His great-great-grandfather had been one of Rhode Island's founders and owned huge tracts of land. His great-grandfather had been elected Governor of Rhode Island ten times. Due to business reversals Arnold's father lost the family business and consoled himself with alcohol. The family assets and reputation were lost, how much of Arnold's actions could be explained by a desire to regain the status and wealth his father had lost is a matter one might debate.

Benedict Arnold's contributions to the early years of the American Revolution are undeniable. He was instrumental in the taking and holding of Fort Ticonderoga with its cannons which made the successful siege of Boston possible. This engagement caught the attention of George Washington and led him to decide that Arnold was the man to lead one wing of the assault on Quebec. Arnold left Cambridge on September 11, 1775 with about 1100 men and arrived outside Quebec November 15 with 650 men and no artillery. The assault was unsuccessful but the trip makes for gripping reading, it was during this engagement that Arnold's leg was wounded for the first time. Arnold spent the summer of 1776 building a fleet which engaged the British on Lake Champlain in mid October in Valcour Bay. The outcome was a British victory but the British decided to delay their campaign thus giving the patriots much needed time to prepare for the engagement called "The Battles of Saratoga". This battle was perhaps the high point of Arnold's career it was largely due to his actions that a stunning victory against the British was gained, he however received no credit for it. Arnold also received a second wound in his left leg that led to a long recovery and left that leg two inches shorter and pained him for the remainder of his life, leaving him an embittered man. In hindsight it would have been well if the rifle ball that wounded his leg at Saratoga had instead went through his heart and taken his life, we would today see his name on buildings and in public places and he would be revered as a hero of the revolution.

Washington, out of consideration for Arnold's wounds, offered him the assignment as military governor of Philadelphia. It was here that the seeds of treason were planted. Clare Brandt discusses the events especially the possible contribution of Arnold's new 18 year old wife Margaret "Peggy" Shippen who came from a prominent family with British leanings. The remainder of Arnold's life does not make for happy reading but a study of the American Revolution must include Benedict Arnold and Clare Brandt's book might be a good place to start.

There is a monument on the spot on the Saratoga battlefield where Benedict Arnold was wounded it reads "In memory of the most brilliant soldier in the Continental Army whom was desperately wounded on this spot 7th October, 1777, winning for his countrymen the decisive battle of the American Revolution" the monument bears no name. After Arnold's treason a group of patriots were asked what they would do with him should he be captured they replied, "we would take the leg that had been wounded at Saratoga and bury it with full honors, then hang the rest of him". *Reviewed by Al Lankford*

Our Color Guard by Henry Baer

On Saturday, October 2nd members of the Chapter Color Guard participated in the 4th Annual FREE ANCESTOR FAIR at the Oklahoma History Center off NW 23rd Street across from the state capitol and governor's mansion. The event was presented by the Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Representing This Chapter was Color Guardsmen Glenn Fast, Ron Schrouf and Bob R. Thomas along with George Thompson and Wayne Nash. The Color Guard will also be participating in the Veterans day event on November 11th at the 45th Infantry Museum.