

TJ Sentinel

November 2007 .. Issue 063



President's Note

The second edition of the Revolutionary War Grave Register (RWGR) CD was published in April 2000 by the Sons of the American Revolution. It was distributed and sold by Progeny Software of Buffalo, NY and Canada, a worldwide marketing company for genealogy-based products. The RWGR consolidated grave records from all known sources for soldiers, sailors and civilians who served the cause of the American Revolution. This combined data provided an unprecedented source of information about these individuals. In an article written by Compatriot Arthur F. Loux, a member of the Alexander Majors Chapter in Kansas City, Missouri, in *The SAR Magazine*, Spring 2000, Volume XCIV, No. 4, pages 18-21, Mr. Loux made the following observations.

"The greatest number of American patriots, 3,627, was born in the year 1760, followed by 3,081 in 1755. Thirty-six were quite young, being born after 1770. These people served as messengers, soldiers, drummer boys and wagoners. Anna Webb, born in 1772, was a messenger. Solomon Caleb Litton was born in 1783 as a prisoner at Fort Detroit.

Eighty-seven patriots were born before 1700. The two oldest were born in 1678. Surprisingly, perhaps, the large majority of these senior patriots held a military rank.

The average age at death was seventy-four years. The average life span in this era was considerably lower. As late as 1900 the average life span was only forty-seven years. The average life span would be expected to be considerably less than seventy-four years during the period in question.

**Next Meeting: Nov. 10
Breakfast @ 8am
West Dining Hall
Aldersgate Village
~ 8:45 am <Ken Coover>
Vice-President, TJC SAR,
"The Boy Scouts"**

"Please note this new address for Brian - zebrasrs@sbcglobal.net . For attendance at the meeting, please respond to sarbmvs@sbcglobal.net ."

Grand Union Flag



The American patriots began to die in large numbers in the 1830s, with the greatest number, 2,180, passing away in 1835. As late as 1863 there were 37 deaths followed by 21, 19, 16, 9, 7, and 8 in the remaining years of the 1860s. The final deaths occurred in 1879. Eight hundred eighty- one patriots became centenarians. Two of these were female patriots. Those who served the cause of the American Revolution were a healthy and long-lived group.

How old were the combatants on the American side of the War of Independence? The average age was determined from records having both a birth and death date and having a military rank. The age of these combatants in 1776 was slightly more than twenty-seven years, considerably older than the average age of those who served in World War II.

TJC webpage:

http://members.cox.net/tjchptrtopekaks/TJC_SAR.htm

Deaths from disease and combat are reflected by the large number of deaths during the war years.

Year Deaths

1776	460
1777	626
1778	1,701
1779	582
1780	423
1781	1,121
1782	394
1783	388
1784	398

The year 1778 had the most deaths but 1781 seems to have the most battle deaths. Many patriots died at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777 to 1778. The southern campaign in Carolina and Georgia was probably responsible for the high 1781 casualty figure. After 1781, little fighting took place.

Smith is the most common patriot surname, followed by Brown and Clark. The top ten surnames are:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
1,299	SMITH
692	BROWN
582	CLARK
511	DAVIS
479	JOHNSON
460	JONES
444	MILLER
403	HALL
391	WILLIAMS
371	WHITE

The most common given name is John; almost twelve percent of patriots were named John. The top ten given names are :
(continued next page)

Number	Name
11,576	John
6,045	William
4,355	James
4,038	Samuel
3,665	Joseph
3,505	Thomas
2,425	David
2,368	Benjamin
2,263	Daniel
1,797	Jacob

Some of the given names have declined in usage over the years; some are more popular today. Here are a few examples with the number of times each occurs on the file: Josiah (768), Joshua (702), Elijah (637), Jeremiah [sic] (558), Ephraim (487), Reuben (475), Jabez (219), Eleazer (201), Abijah (180), Eliphalet (133), Abiather (22), Medad (26), Gad (23), Bezaleel (21), Noadiah (15), and, my favorite, Barzillai (13).”

Guests: Theresa Klotzbach, Wayne Wasson

Minutes: Members and guests of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met for breakfast in the west-dining hall at Aldersgate on October 13, 2007. There were 14 members and 2 guests present. Following the breakfast, members and guests met in the Wesley Auditorium. President Brian Vasquez opened the meeting and called upon Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall to give the invocation.

President Vasquez then led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to SAR. President Vasquez asked Compatriot Martin Klotzbach to update the Chapter on state and national SAR activities.

Compatriot Klotzbach discussed a V.A. program on benefits for veterans to be held on November 3rd, the upcoming BOG meeting on November 3rd, Internal Revenue Service filing requirement for Chapters with less than \$25,000 in yearly cash receipts, the Fall national SAR leadership meeting in Louisville and announced that President Vasquez is the new state SAR chaplain. President Vasquez then asked Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall to discuss his recent trip to Salt Lake City, Utah for research at the Mormon Church Library.

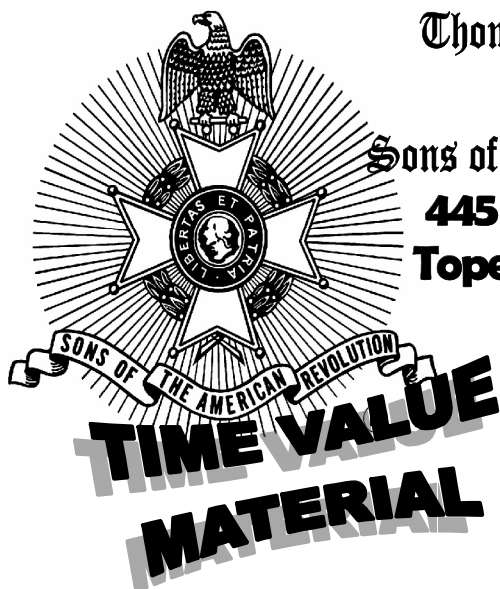
President Vasquez then inducted Compatriot Jim McHenry into SAR. Compatriot McHenry thanked Compatriot Freeman Vicory for his help in the membership application process.

Compatriot Roger Johnson then presented copies of the Chapter minutes from the September 8, 2007, meeting and introduced guests. Compatriot Richard Kleinschmidt reported that the Chapter had \$89.99 in expenses for the period September 8, 2007, to October 13., 2007, and an

ending checking account balance of \$1,510.80 at October 13, 2007. In addition the Chapter had certificates of deposit of \$3,725.59 at October 13, 2007. Compatriot Kleinschmidt then discussed the benefits of life memberships.

Under new business, President Vasquez mentioned that Compatriot Ken Coover will make a presentation on Boy Scouts at the November Chapter meeting. He then discussed adding each members Patriot to the Chapter membership directory.

With the conclusion of business, President Vasquez gave the SAR recessional and the meeting was adjourned.



**Thomas Jefferson Chapter
Kansas Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
445 N.W. Valencia Rd
Topeka, KS 66615-9635**