

MISSOURI COMPATRIOT



Volume 27, No. 2

Newsletter of the Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Summer 2013

Missouri hosts a Congress to remember

A Congress inside perspective

It's the 4th of July, and the volunteers to staff the upcoming NSSAR Congress are at the KC Downtown Marriott. They are unpacking the materials that they have spent weeks preparing, stuffing nametags into holders, and sorting them into alphabetical order. The Ladies Auxiliary has prepared beautiful table decorations and fun sale items for the Hospitality Room. The team familiarizes themselves with the meeting rooms and the features of the hotel. Kansas City fireworks lit the sky as Missouri "show me" compatriots gathered at William Jewell College to view the historic Gano Sword.

The Downtown Marriott has a broadly sweeping entry with generous lobby seating and corridors designed to handle large crowds of people. It's Friday morning and SARs from across the country arrive to settle in. At the Hotel Reception banks of elevators carry people upstairs to their rooms. To left from the main entry, escalators rise up to the Count Basie Ballroom on the second floor. After a year of careful planning, Missouri and Kansas compatriots under the direction of Missouri Society Planning Committee Chairman Richard T. Bryant and Vice Chairman Russell DeVenney set up Registration and Credentials ready to welcome SAR compatriots from across the USA. Here volunteers are waiting for Congress attendees to register, pick up their nametags, schedules and bag of information. Delegates pause briefly at the Credentials table to present the 2-part form that their State Secretary prepared for them, and in return they receive a blue "voter" ribbon for their nametag and ticket to vote. The Executive Committee met before the opening of the Congress, the NSSAR Office and SAR merchandise spread a tempting array of shirts, ties, medals and supplies ready to open doors to shoppers Friday through Wednesday. Missouri's Ladies Auxiliary decorated the Hospitality room, and offered refreshment to those dropping by for a coffee break. A Wreath Laying Ceremony before the Statue of George Washington and a genealogy seminar culminate with the Steamboat Arabia Reception and Tour. The historic story of pioneer times in Kansas City is powerfully portrayed in this unique museum.

Saturday, July 6th, brings even more Congress attendees. Bus tours take folks around sightseeing in Kansas City. It is a day to relax, settle in, and play. As evening approaches, SAR and their guests gather in the lobby. Several shuttle buses line up in front of the hotel. To the surprise and awe of everyone, a cavalcade of motorcycle police officers give the buses a VIP escort from the hotel to the World War I Museum at Kansas City's Liberty Memorial high on the hill overlooking the city skyline.

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Christopher Casey Chapter hosts Annual Membership Meeting at Truman Hotel

Under the leadership of Stephen G. Newman, Chapter President, the Christopher Casey Chapter was host to the 2013 MOSSAR Convention at the Truman Hotel in Jefferson City.

Starting with afternoon registration on Friday, April 26th, compatriots from across the state were welcomed with a hospitality room as they checked in for the weekend. The Opening Session that evening included music provided by the Jefferson City High School String Ensemble and a buffet dinner that had everyone smiling. Welcoming remarks by Keith Bohacik, State President, led to an interesting program on Missouri in the Era of the American Revolution presented by Gary Kremer, Executive Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

A solemn Memorial Breakfast was held on Saturday morning with a Service by State Chaplain, J. Wayne Merrill, honoring the departed Missouri Compatriots. The MOSSAR Business Meeting opened and the State Board members gathered to review the reports of the various officers and committee chairmen. Among the important items discussed was the passage of an adoption of NSSAR's new business policies to assure prohibition of conflicts of interest on the part of members in positions of fiduciary responsibility, a whistleblower policy, and reporting responsibilities. Each chapter should also review and adopt the NSSAR policies. At the same time, the Ladies Auxiliary held their meeting and enjoyed a presentation, "Mother of the Presidents – The life of Mattie Young Truman" by Janett Miller of the NSDAR President General's Speakers Staff.

The Awards Luncheon honored Youth, Community, and Missouri Society Award winners. The Business Meetings continued after lunch and most notably elections of new state officers were held.

The Missouri Society was honored to have NSSAR Secretary General Joseph W. Dooley attend the Installation Banquet, present his remarks on behalf to the National Society and install the new officers. Mrs. Sandra Comer, State Curator gave greetings on behalf of the Missouri State Society, DAR.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS....

<u>New Member</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Cleo Fred Aebel Jr.	Spirit of St Louis	John Dugger
Dale Albert Brake	Ozark Mountain	Samuel Weaver
Nicholas Earl Brake	Ozark Mountain	Samuel Weaver
Stephen Scott Brake	Ozark Mountain	Samuel Weaver
Jeffrey Dean Carder	Wm. C. Corum	John Easrey
John Charles Geisinger	Wm. C. Corum	Andrew Kerr
Scott Davis Geisinger	Wm. C. Corum	Andrew Kerr
Stephen Charles Geisinger	Wm. C. Corum	Andrew Kerr
Thomas Andrew Geisinger	Wm. C. Corum	Andrew Kerr
Darrel Clark Gordon	C. Casey	Stephen Hempstead
Christopher Paul Herbst	Allen L. Oliver	Thomas English
Gerald Donald Kelsay	H. S. Truman	John Sidebottom
Carroll Duane Laramore	Ozark Mountain	Zachariah Prather
Floyd Eugene Riggle	C. Casey	Alam Blain
Keith Brian Riggle	C. Casey	Alam Blain
Mark Stephen Robertson	Wm. C. Corum	John Kirkland
Michael Robert Schmidt	Wm. C. Corum	Richard Simms
Adam Norman Schnelting	F. de Leyba	Gabriel Jones
David Roy Shaul	C. Casey	George Shaul
Richard Edward Snelson	Ozark Mountain	Thomas Snelson
Thomas Lloyd Barden	H. S. Truman	Ebenezar S. Barden
Stanley Eugene Bell	Ozark Mountain	Phillip Crume
Jason Clifford Hatch	Wm. C. Corum	Jeremiah Hatch
Donald Jay Wilson	Spirit of St Louis	William Pettengill

IN MEMORIAM....

The following Compatriots have recently passed away:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Date</u>
Henry Ford Weaver	Wm. C. Corum	14 January 2013
Harvey Monroe Thomas	Wm. C. Corum	16 April 2013
Francis Reginald Roberson	Sgt Ariel Nims	16 July 2013
Denis Ray Craft	Ozark Mountain	04 August 2013
Ivan Clair Risley	Alexander Majors	06 August 2013

New MOSSAR Officers

President	Richard T. Bryant
Executive Vice-president	Charles E. Lilly
1st Vice-president	W. James Jackson
2nd Vice-president	Earnest L. Mowry
Treasurer	Courtney Y. Sloan
Secretary	James E. Osbourn
Registrar/Executive Secretary	Roger W. Vaughn
Genealogist	W. Christian Sizemore
Chaplain	J. Wayne Merrill
Surgeon	Stephen M. Baldwin
Historian	Milan A. Paddock
National Trustee	Clifford C. Olsen
Alt. National Trustee	Richard T. Bryant

Missouri Society President Richard T. Bryant



Perspective ... continued from page 1

With the sounds of cool Jazz providing a pleasant atmosphere attendees enjoy famous KC barbeque and tour the museum. Truly the Host Society Welcome Reception is a huge success, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

Sunday there's a Color Guard Breakfast, JS Rumbaugh Orations Contest Eliminations, Trustees Meeting and an orientation for first-time attendees. A truly impressive Color Guard Assembly leads a walking procession through the streets of downtown to the Memorial Service at the Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral. Our Robert J. Corum, drummer, and Wayne Davis, bag piper, led the way. The rest of the day is given over to committee meetings, the First Lady's Tea, time to explore KC on one's own and JS Rumbaugh Orations Finals in the evening.

By Monday the house is full. Compatriots old and young, tall and short, milita and full regulars have reported for duty. The Opening Session gets under way and the beginning of a long series of national committee reports begins. Youth Awards Presentation Luncheon brings some outstanding young people to the front. We are proud of these talented people. After a long day of business, Recognition Night brings ceremonies honoring compatriots, chapters, and state societies for having rendered outstanding service to the National Society during the year. Six new Minute Men: Lanny R. Patten, G. Steven Pittard, Richard W. Sage, J. Michael Tomme Sr., Robert F Towns, and Michael C. Wells are honored. The American Legion National Commander, Jim Kountz, and the NSDAR President General, Lynn Young, accompanied by the DAR Regents from Missouri and Kansas, bring greetings to the assembly.

Tuesday each District holds a breakfast before the Second Session begins. First Lady's Luncheon at Webster House offers an outing. Balloting begins and runs throughout the afternoon. The President General's Banquet is a formal affair. It is very impressive to see all the compatriots dressed in their finery and their ladies in beautiful long gowns. President General Stephen Leishman offers his personal recognition to compatriots who have achieved with above and beyond effort. He also give to each and every compatriot a beautiful pewter key chain in the shape of a revolutionary militia man, and the First Lady presents a gift to each lady attending.

Wednesday morning the NSSAR 1000 Breakfast celebrates and recognizes the contributions to the SAR Foundation and the PG Initiatives. The Final Session begins and the elections of Vice Presidents General and Trustees are held. The new General Officers are declared. In the afternoon, New Trustees hold their meeting, and New Vice Presidents General hold theirs. A KC Art Museum tour and a tour of historic Independence are available. In the evening the Installation Banquet is again a formal affair. The Missouri Society presents exquisite gifts of pressed glassware to President General and Mrs. Leishman and to new President General Dooley. The George Washington ring was escorted into the banquet hall by Robert L. Grover, Russel F. DeVenney, Gerald R. McCoy behind Mrs. Cilla L. Tomme carrying the ring and our National Color Guard Commander J. Michael Tomme, Sr. The scene is very touching to all of us. At the end of the evening, President General Dooley invites everyone to cocktails.

Congress concludes with a tour of historic Fort Leavenworth on Thursday. Congratulations to MOSSAR on a job well done.

Battle of Fort San Carlos

May 26, 1780



Photograph of a mural entitled "Indian Attack on the Village of Saint Louis, 1780," depicting the Battle of Fort San Carlos. Mural is found in Missouri State Capitol.

The Battle of Fort San Carlos was an unsuccessful British-led attack on St. Louis (a French settlement in Spanish Louisiana that had been ceded by France to Spain in 1763) on May 26, 1780, during the American Revolutionary War. A force composed primarily of Indians and led by a British militia commander attacked the settlement. The settlement's defenders, mostly local militia under the command of Lieutenant Governor of Spanish Louisiana Fernando de Leyba, had fortified the town as best they could, and successfully withstood the attack. The British failure effectively ended their attempts to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war.

Following the entry of Spain into the American Revolutionary War in 1779, British military planners in London wanted to secure the corridor of the Mississippi River against both Spanish and Patriot activity. Their plans included expeditions from West Florida to take New Orleans and other Spanish targets, and several expeditions to gain control of targets in the upper Mississippi, including the small town of St. Louis. The expedition from West Florida never got off the ground, since Bernardo de Gálvez, the Governor of Spanish Louisiana, had moved rapidly to gain control of British outposts on the lower Mississippi, and was threatening action against West Florida's principal outposts of Mobile and Pensacola.

The British expeditions from the north were organized by Patrick Sinclair, the military governor at Fort Michilimackinac in present-day Michigan. Beginning in February 1780 he instructed fur traders to circulate through their territories, recruiting interested tribes for an expedition against St. Louis. The fur traders were offered the opportunity to control the fur trade in the upper parts of Spanish Louisiana as an incentive to participate.

Most of the force gathered at Prairie du Chien, where they were placed under the command of Emanuel Hesse, a former militia captain turned fur trader. The force numbered about two dozen fur traders and an estimated 750 to 1,000 Indians when it left Prairie du Chien on May 2. The largest contingent of the force was about 200 Sioux warriors led by Wapasha, with additional sizable companies from the Chippewa, Menominee, and Winnebago nations, and smaller numbers of warriors from other nations. The Chippewa chief Matchekewis was given overall command of the native forces.

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PICTURES FROM CONGRESS

MISSOURI SOCIETY
SONS OF THE
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PICTURES FROM CONGRESS



Battle ... continued

When the force reached Rock Island, they were joined by about 250 men from the Sac and Fox nations. These warriors were somewhat reluctant to attack St. Louis, but Hesse gave them large gifts to secure their participation in the venture. The diversity within the expedition included some animosity among the tribes, for the Chippewa and Sioux in particular had a history of conflict with each other. However, Wapasha and Matchekewis promoted unity during the expedition.

The village of St. Louis was primarily a trading hub on the Mississippi River, but it was also the administrative capital of upper Spanish Louisiana, and it was governed by Lieutenant Governor Fernando de Leyba, who was also a captain in the Spanish Army. Leyba was warned in late March 1780 by a fur trader that the British were planning an attack on St. Louis and the nearby American-held post at Cahokia. He began developing plans for the village's defense. He had only 29 regular army soldiers of the Fijo de Luisiana Colonial Regiment and an inexperienced militia force of 168, most of whom were dispersed in the surrounding countryside.

Leyba developed a grand plan of defense that included the construction of four stone towers. Without funds, or the time to get them from New Orleans, Leyba asked the villagers to contribute funds and labor to the construction of these fortifications, and paid for some of the work from his private funds. By mid-May a single round tower had been built that was about 30 feet (9.1 m) in diameter and thirty to forty feet tall. The tower, dubbed Fort San Carlos, provided a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. As there did not appear to be sufficient time to build more towers, trenches were dug between the tower and the river to the north and south of the village. Five cannon were placed on top of the tower, and additional cannon were placed along the trenches.

When Leyba learned that Hesse's force had reached Rock Island, he called in the outlying militia and summoned reinforcements from Ste. Genevieve. By May 13 he recorded that he been reinforced by "about 150 men, all good shots". On May 15, Leyba was visited by John Montgomery, the American commander at Cahokia, who proposed a joint Spanish-American force to counter Hesse's expedition, an idea that did not reach fruition. On May 23, Leyba's scouts reported that Hesse's force was only 14 miles (23 km) away, had landed their canoes, and were coming overland.

On May 25, Hesse sent out scouting parties to determine the situation at St. Louis. These parties were unable to get close to the village due to the presence of workers, including women and children, in the fields outside the village. The next day Hesse sent Jean-Marie Ducharme and 300 Indians across the river to attack Cahokia, while the remainder headed toward St. Louis, arriving about 1:00 pm. A warning shot was fired from the tower when they came in view, with the Sioux and Winnebagoes leading the way, followed by the Sac and Fox, and the fur traders, including Hesse, bringing up the rear. Leyba directed the defense from the tower, and opened a withering fire from there and the trenches when the enemy force came in range. On the first volley, most of the Sac and Fox fell back, apparently unwilling to fight, leaving many of the other participants suspicious of their motives in joining the expedition and complaining of their "treachery".

Wapasha and the Sioux persisted for several hours in attempts to draw the Spanish defenders out, going so far as brutally killing some captives they had taken in the fields. Although this angered some of the townspeople to the point where the militia requested permission to make a sortie, Leyba refused,

and the attackers eventually withdrew and headed north, destroying crops, livestock, and buildings as they went.

On the other side of the river, Ducharme's attack on Cahokia was easily repulsed. The timely arrival of George Rogers Clark to lead its defense played a role; Clark's reputation as a frontier fighter made the Indian force reluctant to pursue the attack.

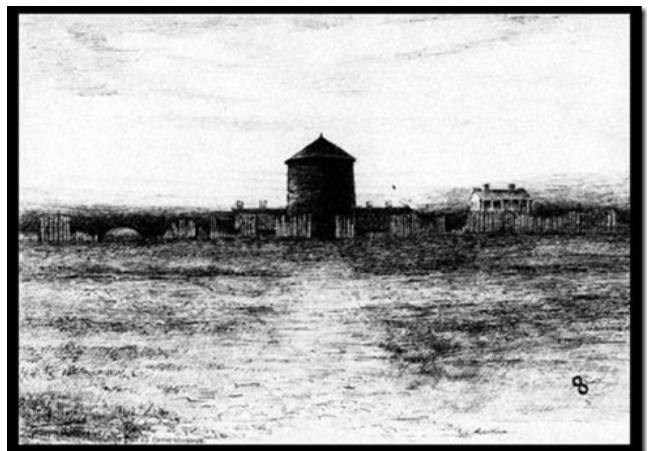
The village of 700 lost between 50 and 100 killed, wounded, and captured, virtually all civilians. A year later the Spaniards from St. Louis raided Fort St. Joseph, bringing the captured British flag back to St. Louis.

Fernando de Leyba died the following month, the subject of local criticism because he never formally recognized the efforts made by the citizenry in the town's defense. His valor earned him a promotion to lieutenant colonel from King Charles, who did not know that he had died.

The leadership of the Missouri Society believes it is appropriate that the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Fort San Carlos be approved as an Annual Tier 1 NSSAR National Event.

Spain declared war on Britain in June of 1779. In retaliation Canada's British Governor, General Frederick Haldimand, was instructed to take the tiny town of Saint Louis. It served another purpose, which was to take control of the west bank of the Mississippi River and prevent the Americans from advancing to the western part of the continent. If successful, it would run the Canadian (British controlled) border south down the Mississippi River.

Had the British been successful in taking control of Saint Louis and the Mississippi River, the Louisiana Purchase and the American expansion to the western part of the continent would not have been possible. The Battle of Fort San Carlos was very important to the American cause. Many books and articles have been written that identify this battle as the most western battle of the American Revolutionary War.



Commemoration Ceremony

On May 26, 2013, The Commemoration Committee for the battle of Fort San Carlos held a commemoration ceremony at the Lee Auditorium in the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, St. Louis. The event was packed with support from the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution, the National Society of New England Women, Daughters of Colonial Wars, Daughters of the American Colonists and the Landmarks Association. Several people were active or retired teachers of history, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Societe Francaise.

The ceremony entailed a wonderful flag presentation by a large combined color guard contingency representing the SAR and the St. Genevieve French Colonial Militia, an informative presentation by Dr. Paul Nygard of St. Louis Community college, and a presentation of roses memorializing the twenty-five early St. Louis patriot soldiers who gave their lives in defense of the city and in support of the American Revolution. The commemoration ceremony continues to build momentum and educate broadly about the importance of this battle. It should be a point of pride for every Missourian.



Eighteen MOSSAR Color Guard Members plus 2 additional SAR Members participated in the Commemoration of the Battle of Fort San Carlos event.

Front Row (L to R): Wayne S. Davis - Spirit of St. Louis Chapter; William J. Jackson - Spirit of St. Louis Chapter; Stephen M. Baldwin - Fernando de Leyba Chapter, Alexander Majors Chapter, Allen Laws Oliver Chapter; William L. Groth - Spirit of St. Louis Chapter; Robert L. Grover, MOSSAR Color Guard Commander - Harry S Truman Chapter, Independence Patriots Chapter, Ozark Mountain Chapter, & KSSAR Delaware Crossing Chapter; Roy Hutchinson - Harry S Truman Chapter; John E. Rush - Fernando de Leyba Chapter; Charles L. Lilly, MOSSAR Executive Vice President - Fernando de Leyba Chapter, Spirit of St. Louis Chapter; James L. Scott - Independence Patriots Chapter

Back Row: J. Wayne Merrill, MOSSAR Chaplin - M. Graham Clark Chapter; Fred P. Kaffenberger- Alexander Majors Chapter; Robert J. Brindell - Spirit of St. Louis Chapter; Russell F. DeVenney - M. Graham Clark Chapter; Jack K. Quint - Harry S Truman Chapter, Independence Patriots Chapter; Earnest L. Mowry - Christopher Casey Chapter; Milan A. Paddock, Spirit of St. Louis Chapter, Fernando de Leyba Chapter, Ozark Patriots Chapter; Bryan P. Bradford - M. Graham Clark Chapter; William A.G. Grote - Fernando de Leyba Chapter; Alvin L. Paris - Independence Patriots Chapter

Missing from the photo: Douglas E. Neff - Spirit of St. Louis Chapter.

Change to Missouri Compatriot Newsletter

The position of Editor of the Missouri Compatriot has changed hands. After many years of stewardship by H. Lee Capps, he has earned a well-deserved rest with the thanks of the Missouri Society. We say to him, "Huzzah, a job well done!"

All future submissions for articles in the Missouri Compatriot and suggestions should be submitted to the State Secretary, James E. Osbourn, by email to:

jeo@subon.lib.mo.us

Further, you will find that the Missouri Compatriot will be from this time forward published in color on the mossar.org website. Naturally, the paper version will continue to be printed in gray-scale as in the past, so we recommend visiting the website to enjoy the color photographs.

It is proposed that compatriots who want to reduce the costs of printing and mailing the printed version of the Missouri Compatriot, can opt-in to a new program to have the newsletter emailed to them as a mossar.org web link, instead of the paper version. This option gets you the color version as soon as it is ready and is more financially and ecologically responsible.

A reminder to each chapter that your news and activity reports are used to provide information for the Missouri Compatriot. Since the newsletter is published in April, August and December, please remember to send your chapter updates to the email above by March 15, July 15, and November 15, respectively. Ad hoc news stories are welcome at any time, of course. Pictures of events should be emailed as attachments and the preferred format is a JPG file.

About MOSSAR.org

The responsibilities of webmaster for mossar.org have been also assigned to State Secretary, James E. Osbourn. A change in the hosting equipment is being planned to a new location. This will not affect website availability, but after the move you can expect several improvements.

If you have ideas for improving our MOSSAR website, or concerns that need to be addressed, please direct all inquiries directly by email to: jeo@subon.lib.mo.us

Thank you for your patience during these transitions.

MISSOURI COMPATRIOT
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Statement of Purpose – In accordance with United States Postal Service regulations, it is necessary to state the purpose of the MISSOURI COMPATRIOT. The objectives of the Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution, in accordance with its constitution and by-laws, are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational.



We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

**Preamble to the United States Constitution
(Our Government's "Mission Statement")**