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The Prescottonian Prescott Chapter Newsletter Winter 2026 Edition

Whiskey Row

<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottChapterSAR>
<http://www.sarprescottaz.com/>

2026 Prescott Chapter Board Members:

President Rob Berryman

Secretary/Treasure Ron Castle

Historian Bill Walters

Registrar Alan Fitch Jr.

Chaplain Steve Bigelow

Vice President Dennis DeAtley

Color Guard Capt. Alan White

Information Off. Paul Kerper

Genealogist Wayne Hallford

Sgt of Arms - open

Chancellor/Eagle Scout Hal Reniger

Lunch Meetings Calendar
and Guess Speakers



All Lunch Meetings held at
Hassayampa Inn at noon
122 E Gurley St, Prescott

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, January 10th - open

Saturday, February 14th - Darkene Wilson - "Haunting of Prescott"

Saturday, March 13th - open

President's Corner by Rob Berryman



My Fellow compatriots:

I first want to thank each of you for trusting me to lead the Prescott Chapter SAR. This is both a humbling and frightening honor. A common trait that each of us share is our passion for history. When you couple that shared passion with the fact that we live in a place that is so rich with western American history, you understand the responsibility that comes with leading our Chapter. I am humbled to be trusted with that responsibility and will do everything I can to live up to the challenge.

And now the moment you've been waiting for, why did he say "frightening"? Unlike George Washington, I do not enter on a white horse. There is nothing to be saved. I will simply be the caretaker of an already healthy and respected group of men. I cannot heap enough praise on our former President, Jack Berry. For five years, Jack poured his heart and soul into our Chapter. On his watch, our Chapter saw significant increases in both revenue and membership. It is frightening to understand that I have very large boots to fill.

Jack brought his unique and personal touch as President, and I will do the same. The most important effort in the coming year is to continue to retain our membership and grow our Chapter. This is critical to our survival. While we have over 80 members in our chapter, only a fraction attend our meetings. Even fewer participate on our board and in our color guard and committees. Our Patriot ancestors did not look to someone else to bear the responsibility of building our nation and we cannot do it either. I will be reaching out to many of you to ask what you are willing to do to support our chapter.

In my life in the military, as a business leader, as a father, and a Freemason, I have come to learn that one of the most powerful and unifying things in this world is "purpose". We all need purpose, or the journey is for not. In 2026, more than anything, I want us as a group of men to reignite and commit to our purpose. Our purpose is to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and educate future generations about the founding principles of the United States. Everything we do should in some way support that purpose. My challenge to each of you is: How will you pursue that purpose?

Happy holidays my Compatriots, I look forward to seeing you soon,

Rob Berryman

Revolutionary Trivia

In which **US city** did the Constitutional Convention take place?

Answer pg. 15

Prescott Chapter Color Guard presented a ceremonial wreath for veterans of suicides at the Prescott National Cemetery December 13th



Left to right, Jack Berry, Ron Castle, Alan White and Rob Berryman.

November

Veteran's Day Parade November 11th Downtown Prescott



Left to right: Jack Berry, Alan White, Bill Oden, Rob Berryman and Ron Castle.



Left to right: Rob Berryman, Jack Berry and Ron Castle with Hal Reiger's Lincoln.

Flag Certificate to Hassayampa Inn November 8th



Right photo is Prescott Chapter President Rob Berryman presenting a Flag Certificate to Amore Cianciola of the Hassayampa Inn. Left to right front row is Mary Ellen Chrispell DAR Yavapai Chapter; AZDAR Regent Sarah Ziker; Prescott Chapter President Rob Berryman; Amore Cianciola; Mayor Phil Goode; AZSAR Vice President Jack Berry; Back row is Prescott Chapter member Paul Kerper; Palo Verde Chapter member Brad Hopkins; Past Rocky Mountain Vice President General Stephen Miller; George White Barry Goldwater Chapter and Prescott Chapter member Wayne Hallford.

SAR and DAR Annual Luncheon November 8th Installation of board of Directors



. New Board Members are left to right: Steve Bigelow, Chaplain; Wayne Hallford, Genealogist; Alan White, Color Guard Captain; Hal Reniger, Chancellor; Ron Castle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dennis DeAtley, Vice President and Rob Berryman, President. Alan Fitch Registrar not shown.

New Members



George Meek and father David Meek with Prescott Chapter President Jack Berry. Brothers James and Olivar not present.



Lucas Ruddell, Joshua Ruddell and their father Ben Ruddell with President Jack Berry. Brothers Mathew and Nathan not present



Stuart Rosebrook with President Jack Berry. Son Jeb Allen not present.

November

SAR and DAR Annual Luncheon November 8th



unknown DAR member, Past Rocky Mountain Vice President General/Past AZSAR President Stephen Miller, DAR member Jacque Miller, and DAR Oak Creek Chapter Regent Valerie Maxie.



Darlen Trapp DAR Vice Regent Piestewa Peak Chapter; Jeff Raynor Barry Goldwater Chapter; Christopher Francis Tucson Chapter; Shawn Crosier and Mark Seifert of Barry Goldwater Chapter.

November

SAR and DAR Annual Luncheon November 8th Entertainment



Cast of the Lexington - Concord play



Dennis DeAtley as
Patrick Henry
giving the 'Give
me liberty or Give
me Death speech'



Christopher Francis instructing the minuet
to DAR volunteer

November

SAR and DAR Annual Luncheon November 8th Installation of board of Directors



New Board Members are left to right: Steve Bigelow, Chaplain; Wayne Hallford, Genealogist; Alan White, Color Guard Captain; Hal Reniger, Chancellor; Ron Castle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dennis DeAtley, Vice President and Rob Berryman, President.

Awards



Rob Berryman presenting a medal/certificate to Bill Baran



Wayne Hood receiving the Liberty certificate and cluster.



Ron Castle receiving the Bronze Meritorious Service Medal/Certificate and Bronze Henry Knox Medal/Certificate



Rob Berryman presenting Jack Berry with the Bronze Roger Sherman, Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service medals/certificates.

SAR and DAR Annual Luncheon November 8th Awards



Robyn White, Joanne Haubrick, Mimi Berryman, and Karon Larson receiving a Certificate of Appreciation.



Tim Prater Certificate of Appreciation.



Ron Castle Bronze Meritorious Service Medal/Certificate and Bronze Henry Knox Medal/Certificate.



Phil Goode War Service Medal/Certificate.



Jack Berry Certificate of Appreciation



Rob Berryman Bronze Roger Sherman Medal/Certificate.



Right photo are members of the play receiving a Certificate of Appreciation. Front row is Jack Berry who presented the certificates, Darlena Trapp Piestewa Peak DAR Chapter; Christopher Francis Tucson Chapter; Jo Ann Miller Piestewa Peak DAR Chapter; Shawn Crosier Barry Goldwater Chapter; Brad Hopkins Palo Verde Chapter and Mark Seifert Barry Goldwater Chapter. Second Row is George White, Rob Welch, Rick Spargo, Jeff Raynor, Tom Pederson, Stu Morse of the Barry Goldwater Chapter and Bill Baran of the Phoenix Chapter.

October 11th Speaker Tom McColloch: History of the railroad in Prescott, AZ

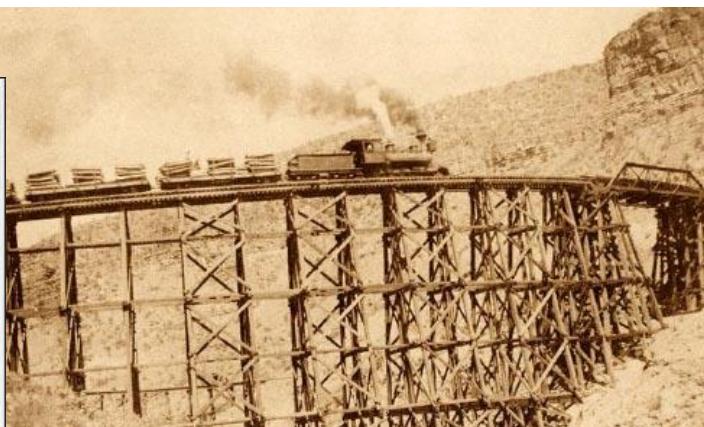
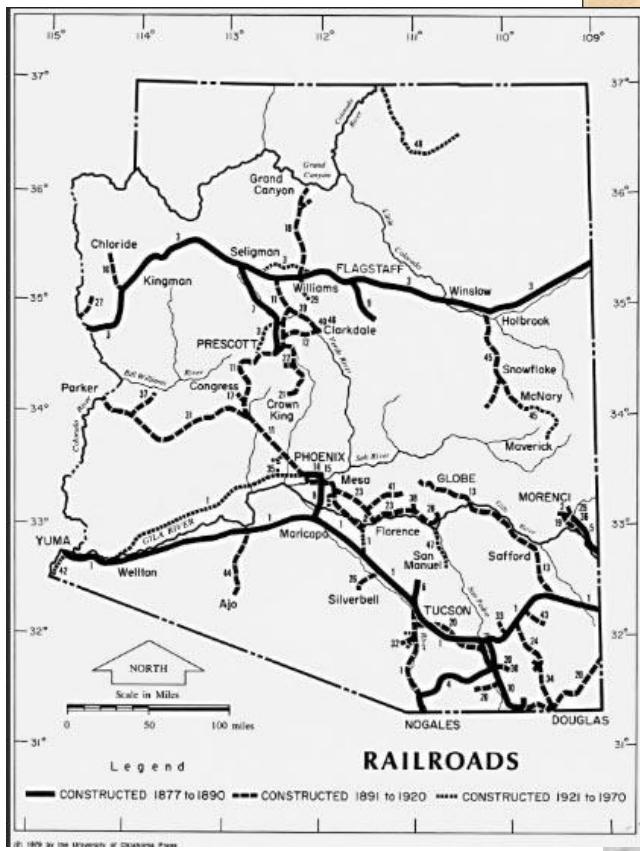
Tom is a lifelong railroad enthusiast. He is a retired mechanical engineer who enjoys hiking and bicycling. An interest in the former Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railway led to a yearlong search of the route of the railroad through Prescott.

Tom has hiked the entire former railroad right of way from Skull Valley to Paulden, except for those segments that are now private property. There are many remaining wooden trestle bridges and concrete culverts to help mark the path of the abandoned railroad route.

Tom teaches two OLLIE classes at Yavapai College: Tracing the Railroad through Prescott, which reviews the history of the railroad and describes the long-abandoned right of way. The second is Electric Energy Production, which reviews how our electricity is produced, with an emphasis on renewable energy technology.



Jack Berry with Tom McColloch



October

Awards and New Member October 11th & 24th

Ron Castle presents
John 'Scratch' Thompson with his
Jonathan Hastings supplemental
October 24th

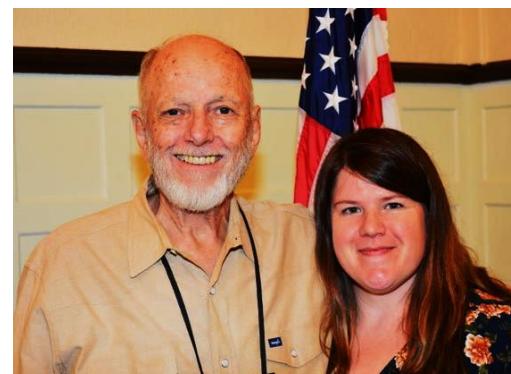


Jack Berry presenting Law Enforcement
Medal to chapter member Greg Valenti,
a retired LAPD



Jack Berry presenting membership
certificate to John Perrine

Tim Prater with his grand niece
Natasha Marie Schafer
at the October 11th meeting.



September

Awards September 22nd

Ron Castle presenting
Flag Certificate to
Stan Powchuk.



The battle of Harlem Heights

The **Battle of Harlem Heights** was fought during the [New York and New Jersey campaign](#) of the [American Revolutionary War](#). The action took place on September 16, 1776, in what is now the [Morningside Heights](#) area and east into the future [Harlem](#) neighborhoods of northwestern [Manhattan Island](#) in what is now part of [New York City](#).

The [Continental Army](#), under [Commander-in-chief General George Washington](#), [Major General Nathanael Greene](#), and [Major General Israel Putnam](#), totaling around 9,000 men, held a series of [high ground](#) positions in upper Manhattan. Immediately opposite was the vanguard of the [British Army](#) totaling around 5,000 men under the command of Major General [Henry Clinton](#).

An early morning skirmish between a patrol of [Knowlton's Rangers](#) and British light infantry pickets developed into a running fight as the British pursued the Americans back through woods towards Washington's position on Harlem Heights. The overconfident British light troops, having advanced too far from their lines without support, had exposed themselves to counter-attack. Seeing this, Washington ordered a flanking maneuver which failed to cut off the British force but, in the face of this attack and pressure from troops arriving from the Harlem Heights position, the outnumbered British retreated.



Meeting reinforcements coming from the south and with the added support of a pair of field pieces, the British light infantry turned and made a stand in open fields on Morningside Heights. The Americans, also reinforced, came on in strength and there

The battle of Harlem Heights

followed a lengthy exchange of fire. After two hours, with ammunition running short, the British force began to pull back to their lines. Washington cut short the pursuit, unwilling to risk a general engagement with the British main force, and withdrew to his own lines. The battle helped restore the confidence of the Continental Army after suffering several defeats. It was Washington's first battlefield success of the war.

After a month without any major fighting between the armies, Washington was forced to withdraw his army north to the town of [White Plains](#) in southeastern [New York](#) when the British moved west into [Westchester County](#) and threatened to flank Washington further south on Manhattan. After two defeats Washington retreated west across the [Hudson River](#).

Background

On August 27, 1776, British troops under the command of General [William Howe](#) flanked and defeated the American army at the [Battle of Long Island](#).^[5] Howe moved his forces and pinned the Americans down at [Brooklyn Heights](#), with the [East River](#) to the American [rear](#). On the night of August 29, General [George Washington](#), Commander-in-Chief of the [Continental Army](#), evacuated his entire army of 9,000 men and their equipment across the water to Manhattan.^[6]

On September 15, Howe landed his army in an [amphibious operation at Kip's Bay](#), on the eastern shore of [Manhattan](#), along the [East River](#).^[7] After a bombardment of the American positions on the shore, 4,000 British and [Hessian](#) troops began to disembark. The American troops began to flee at the sight of the enemy, and even after Washington arrived on the scene and took immediate command, demanding that his soldiers stand and fight, they refused to obey orders and continued to flee.^[8]

After scattering the Americans at Kip's Bay, Howe landed 9,000 more troops, but did not immediately cut off the American retreat from [New York Town](#) in the south of the island.^[9] Washington had all of his troops in the city on their way to north along the west side of [Manhattan](#) to [Harlem Heights](#) by 4:00 pm and they all reached the fortifications on the Heights by nightfall.^[10]

Battle Early on September 16, Washington received reports, which proved to be unfounded, that the British were advancing.^[11] Washington, who had been expecting an attack, had ordered a party of 150 men under the command of [Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton](#) to [reconnoiter](#) the British lines.^[12] At daybreak, Knowlton's troops were spotted by British [pickets](#) from Brigadier Alexander Leslie's [Light Infantry](#) brigade.^[13] Two or three companies of the 2nd Light Infantry Battalion advanced to attack the enemy to their front. For more than half an hour the skirmish continued, in the woods spanning two farm properties, Jones' and Hoaglandt's.^[13] When Knowlton realized that the numerically superior British forces were about to turn his flank, he ordered a retreat, which was conducted "without confusion or loss", although perhaps ten men had been lost in the initial skirmish.^[14]

The British followed in rapid pursuit.^[15] Knowlton's party emerged into the open on the edge of the woods overlooking a wide [re-entrant](#) known as the *Hollow Way*, which marked the forward edge of Washington's position. The rangers crossed into the American lines while the pursuing light infantry, on reaching the tree line, paused to reorganize. The sound of their [bugle calls](#), whether calling the skirmishers to regroup or calling for reinforcements,^[16] to Washington's Adjutant General [Colonel Joseph Reed](#) were reminiscent of a fox hunt, and seemed to him to be intended as an insult.^[12] Probably about this time, elements of the 2nd and 3rd Light Infantry Battalions, along with the [42nd Highlanders](#) were ordered up as reinforcements.^[15] Reed, who had gone forward to confer with Knowlton, rode back to brief Washington and encouraged him to reinforce the rangers.^[17] Washington, seeing an opportunity to revive the spirits of his men, devised a plan to entrap the unwary enemy patrol.^[12] He ordered troops forward to make a diversionary attack, in order to draw the British down into the Hollow Way, while another detachment moved around the British right flank to cut them off.^[18] the colonists'

The Battle of Harlem Heights

The diversionary party, composed of 150 volunteers, ran into the Hollow Way and began to engage the British, who responded by advancing down into the valley to occupy a wooded fence line and returned fire.^[18] The volunteers were then reinforced by a further 900 men and a prolonged exchange of fire ensued, although the two sides were too far apart to do much damage.^[18] The flanking party consisted of [Knowlton's Rangers](#), reinforced by three companies of Virginia riflemen commanded by Major Andrew Leitch, in total about 200 men.^[19] As they moved forward, it seems an unidentified officer accidentally misdirected the group, and the maneuver caught the British in the flank, not their rear. During the attack, both Knowlton and Leitch were shot and fatally injured. Despite this, the American troops pushed on.^[citation needed]

The British troops, realizing that their flank was in danger, retreated uphill to occupy a fence-line. Washington reinforced his troops in the Hollow Way and together with the flanking party mounted a frontal attack. The British light infantry retired across open farmland to a buckwheat field in the area where [Barnard College](#) now stands. Here they received reinforcements; including a pair of 3-pdr guns.^[citation needed] Washington was originally reluctant to pursue the British troops, but after seeing that his men were slowly pushing the British back, he sent in reinforcements and permitted the troops to engage in a direct attack.^[20] By the time that all of the reinforcements arrived, nearly 1,800 Americans were engaged in the buckwheat field. To direct the battle, members of Washington's [staff](#), including [Nathanael Greene](#), were sent in. By this time, the British troops had also been reinforced; bringing their strength up to a number slightly less than the attacking Americans.^[20]

For an hour and a half, the battle continued in the field and in the surrounding woods until, with some units, including the 3-pdrs, having fired away their ammunition,^[21] the British began to withdraw. The Americans pressed forward in pursuit until Washington, concerned about the approach of British reserves, ordered a halt. Upon receiving Washington's orders to return to their lines, the troops gave a loud "[huzzah](#)" and left the field in good order.^[22]

Aftermath

The British casualties were officially reported by Howe at 14 killed and 78 wounded,^[23] but a member of Howe's staff wrote in his diary that the loss was 14 killed and 154 wounded.^[24] The author [David McCullough](#) suggests much higher figures of "probably...90 killed and about 300 wounded" but cites no source for this.^[25] Henry Johnston, whose 1897 study remains the only detailed investigation of the battle, assessed British losses at 14 killed and 157 wounded and those of the Americans at about 30 killed and 100 wounded,^[4] including Colonel Knowlton among the dead.

Major Andrew Leitch, commander of the Virginia riflemen, died some days later. Both sides claimed victory. The repulse of British troops in this "pretty sharp skirmish" boosted morale in the American ranks "prodigiously", as George Washington observed,^[26] even among those who had not been engaged.^[11] It also marked the first success of the war for the army directly under Washington's command.^[11]

The battle of Harlem Heights

There was little fighting for the next month of the campaign, but Washington moved his army to [White Plains](#) in October after hearing that the British were attempting to trap him on Manhattan.^[27] After being defeated at the [Battle of White Plains](#) and later at [Fort Washington](#), Washington and his army retreated across [New Jersey](#), pursued by the British, into [Pennsylvania](#).^[28]

The loss of Knowlton was a blow to the fledgling American [intelligence](#) operations, as he had created and led [the first such unit](#) of the Continental Army, at the direction of Washington.^[citation needed]

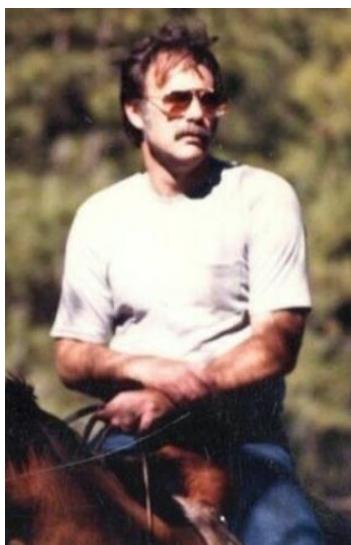
Source Wikipedia



Trivia answer: **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Memorial to Paul Sangster 1939 - 2025

Prescott Chapter SAR Member



Paul Edward Sangster went Home into the presence of his Savior September 30, 2025. Paul lived his life committed to Jesus Christ and his Family. He has preceded us to everlasting life in Heaven, waiting for all who put their faith in the Savior as the only way to our Heavenly Father. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Paul had the privilege to obtain a job in Flagstaff with Northern Arizona Radiology, which turned out to be a wonderful experience, meeting many interesting people. While working there, Paul met the love of my life, Sandie Shaum McKenzie, who had three wonderful children. We combined his precious son, Jonathan, with Dena, Jarrod and Todd and had as fine a family as God ever saw on this earth.

Paul is survived by his wife, Sandie; and the four children, Dena (Kraig), Jarrod (Liz), Todd (Jessica), Jonathan; ten grandchildren; and one great-grandson, being given his middle name after him; and two sisters, Jakky Sangster and Dinah (John) Sutherland.

Paul also had another patriot approved, Thomas Sangster.

Paul was so proud to be a member of the Prescott Chapter. We always enjoyed driving from Flagstaff to Prescott to attend meeting until his health was compromised.

Sincerely, Sandie Sangster

AT: sandiesangster@icloud.com

Or by Phone: 928-853-1605

Last Chat with Tim Prater



It was my honor to serve as the 2024-2025 Prescott Chapter Chaplain. As part of my duties, I was privileged to present the Invocation at the SAR/DAR Luncheon held on November 8, 2025 and to actively participate in the Prescott Chapter's celebration of our country's 250th Anniversary.

For those who did not attend the luncheon, I wish to present my comments and the prayer I recited for those in attendance.

“We gather today in gratitude and humility. We thank our Compatriots and Daughters of the American Revolution for their leadership and dedication to our organizations and our country as we continue to preserve our heritage and values. We ask for your guidance and wisdom as we move forward and celebrate our storied and historic beginning as a nation. We pray for unity, peace and strength for all.

Let us pray ~ Heavenly Father, Blessed are you, Lord, our God, ruler of the universe. We have shared of our bounty and through our goodness we live. Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. In Christ's name ~ Amen.”

Tim Prater

Prescott Chapter SAR

Chaplain Chat with Steve Bigelow

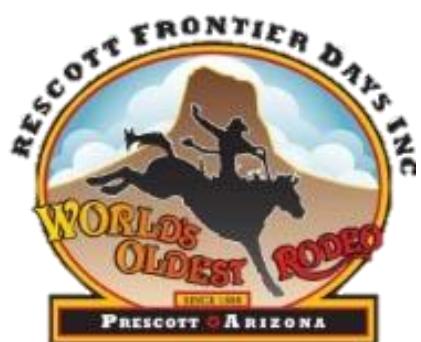


The Christmas holiday encourages all to reflect upon our religious beliefs and serves as a reminder as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday. Our lives are filled with joy and thankfulness at this holiday season. We thank our creator for the many gifts bestowed upon each of us and especially the joy of love. We also give thanks to God and his son for protecting our members of the armed services who serve as peacekeepers throughout many parts the world. May you, God, protect those of us who are traveling over the holiday season and bring everyone home safely.

Steve Bigelow
Chaplain

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