



Sons of The American Revolution

P.O. Box 10683, 86301

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www.sarprescott.com

www.azsar.org

smonezl@outlook.com



July 1, Color Guard is first. Parade starts at 9am. Ice Cream Social at Las Fuentes starts at 2pm

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



President's Message

Fellow Compatriots & Friends – thank you for all your support of the SAR and our Prescott Chapter! The first half of this year has been busy and most productive. We've accomplished much in our mission, and now turn our attention to Independence Day.

As you know, we think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes. So, July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the handwritten copy that was signed in August and now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

As we celebrate the 4th of July this year, let us keep in our hearts the statement attributed to Thomas Jefferson that rings true today – *My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!*

Again, your steadfast support is critical and very much appreciated!

Wayne Hood

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Watch the Arizona State Newsletter for further news.

Also visit our websites.

This is my last Newsletter for now. Hope you have enjoyed, Steve Monez

John Throne's Patriot Ancestor John Davidson, my Revolutionary War Ancestor

John Davidson, Jr. was born 16 Mar 1750 at Tewksbury, Middlesex Co., MA; died 25 Oct 1835 at Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA, age 85 years old, at the home of his son William. He married on 10 Nov 1774 at Tewksbury, Middlesex Co., MA, **Mary Lancaster**, the daughter of **Henry Lancaster** and his (1st) wife **Dorothy Harvey**. John Davidson and Mary Lancaster had 8 children.

Although born in Tewksbury, Middlesex Co., MA, John Davidson, Jr., removed with his parents and siblings to Windham, Rockingham Co., NH in May, 1752 when 2 years old. There he grew up. In 1770, when 19 years old, he was directed by his father to go to Belfast, Maine where the father had drawn lots as an original proprietor of that town, and to settle there. He ventured into the wilderness as a true frontiersman, and brought his wife to his log camp in Dec 1774. His many difficulties of life in the frontier are vividly recounted in his memoirs which he wrote in 1832 at age 82. Of special interest are his detailed recollections and experiences of the Revolutionary War. As he writes, in the summer of 1776 "...my neighbor Durham came to my house in a great hurry and could scarcely speak by seeing the red coats glistering guns and running he said they were in his field a coming toward the road from the shore and seeing us about the house... Durham said to my wife run run she said where shall I run, Down the cellar? Continued on page 2 see Davidson

Davidson from Page 1

He said no they will burn it over your head run to the wood, so she went to the woods...." Eventually, with 2 other patriots, John Davidson conveyed 12 British prisoners from Belfast to Camden in a small boat, from where the prisoners were eventually transported by others to Boston. "... we three John Durham Junior., Samuel Mitchel, and myself took them into a boat and carried them in thirty miles to Camden. Some of them were cross and ill natured. We three set in the stern of the boat with our guns in good order and loaded. I think twelve could have taken us though we had guns and sword they had jackknives. I think each one had a knife but they did not appear to wish to go from or harm us in any way although it was in their pour...." And shortly thereafter John Davidson helped the inhabitants of Belfast to get much needed ammunition by pressuring the British to give it to him. "...about this time the inhabitants were short of provision, on account of being short of ammunition partly, as in those days many were dependent on wild meat which could not be procured without ammunition...." He with several other inhabitants made a surprise visit to Col. Thomas Gouldthroit, who was in charge of the nearby British fort. "... Mr. James Nichols and myself were chosen to go to introduce the subject to Col. Gouldthroit.. once more we are come to ask for some amision you were intrusted with that were in your possession and defence of the inhabitance of Belfast... we told him we were de(ter)rmi(i)ned to have it if it should be by force of arms...he gave each man a pound of powder ball and flint... and we returned that same night to Belfast in good spirits. The next we heard of him... he went on board a British vessel and left the country and we have not heard from him afterward...".

In June 1779, as John Davidson recalls, General McLean of the British fleet arrived at Belfast harbor and required all the males of Belfast to come aboard his ship at an appointed time to swear an oath to King George:

Oath imposed by General McLean on the Inhabitants of the Eastern Parts of Penobscot Bay.

Calling the most great and sacred God to the truth of my intentions, I do most solemnly promise and swear that I will bear true allegiance and be a dutiful subject of his most sacred Majesty King George 3d, King of Great Britain, France, Ireland, and of the Colonies of North America now falsely calling themselves the United States of America; that, as a good and faithful subject, I will at all times demean myself to the best of my knowledge; that, as such, I will not give any countenance or assistance, either by intelligence, provisions, or arms, or in any way whatever either by word or deed, to the rebellion now carrying on in his Majesty's colonies; that I will give the most early intelligence in my power to the King's officers of any movement which a good and faithful subject ought not to conceal; that I will never consent to the acknowledgment of the present illegal authority set up by persons styling themselves the Congress of the United States of North America, or of any other authority which may be set up, or may be attempted to be set up, other than that of his most sacred Majesty, King George the Third aforesaid.

All this I SWEAR in the presence of Almighty God, from whose justice the perjurer must expect the most severe vengeance, and from whom I expect to find help and strength only as I keep this oath.

"... I received a proclamation that all male members must come on Board our Ship and take the oath of allegiance to king gorge or abide the consequence. What that would be I know not. What could I do. I took the proclamation... I resolved that every man in town should see or hear this paper before I slept... I spoke and said I had a log canoe and before I would go and take the oath of allegiance I would take my wife and 3 little children into it and try to come away..." Thus began a harrowing flight in a small boat from the British, in which his family left all belongings in Belfast and his crops to die in the field. He recounts being fired upon by small arms fire and cannon, fearing drowning, starvation, and enduring the most difficult hardships until he eventually arrived at his father's home in Windham, NH on July 9, 1779. One of his little children in this exodus was Dorothy, age 2, the third great grandmother of John Thorne, SAR Prescott Chapter member. (John is forever thankful that little Dorothy successfully escaped the British in a log canoe.)

After the Revolutionary War, John Davidson, Jr., returned only briefly to Belfast to recover his cattle and belongings and sell his property. But, he and his family

continued to live in Windham, NH. He was a very religious man and was known as Deacon John, as he was an elder at the church in Windham. After his wife died, he removed to Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA to live with his son William Davidson, where he died. Only one of his children, Henry, elected to live in Maine.

John Davidson, Jr. is recognized by the SAR for patriotic service.

Submitted by John K. Thorne, SAR Prescott, AZ Chapter member

Compatriot Tim Prater Observes Memorial Day in Ohio!

Prescott Chapter Compatriot Tim Prater traveled to Marietta, Ohio to honor his Civil War and American Revolutionary War Ancestors. Citizens of Marietta and Washington County, Ohio held their annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29th to pay tribute to all Veterans who participated in war and/or paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Tim is a member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War & Sons of the American Revolution. His trip was a unique opportunity to pay tribute to his ancestors of the 1700 & 1800s, who participated in two significant homeland wars that defined the very essence of our country.

Following the parade, Tim accompanied by Brothers of the General Benjamin D. Fearing Camp #2, traveled to Smith Cemetery, Washington County, to pay tribute to his Great Uncle Cyrenius B. Faires, 2nd West Virginia Cavalry. Cyrenius died at age 19 on Apr 6, 1863 during the Civil War. Tim and his cousin, Compatriot and Brother John Spencer, Great Falls, Montana purchased a new headstone for their Great Uncle’s grave. During grave side service, the new headstone was dedicated in the name of Cyrenius B. Faires, native Ohioan. The General Fearing Camp Honor Guard provided a Rifle Salute honoring Cyrenius and all Veterans of our Great Land. We then paid tribute to Tim’s Great Uncles Peter and Harvey Goddard. Both died during the Civil War. Tim is indebted to the General Fearing Camp Honor Guard for unselfish service in paying tribute to his “Ancestors of Days Gone By”.

Tim then traveled 20 miles to the Old Methodist Church Cemetery (Washington County) to pay tribute to his Great, Great, Great, Great Grandparents John and Jane Goddard Faires. Grandfather John was born in Philadelphia, PA. He was a 15 year old Private with the Chester County, Pennsylvania militia under Captain Vernon’s 6th Company and LTC Davis’ 6M Battalion. Tim found their grave stones and held his own solemn memorial service honoring the service of John D. Faires. As a Chaplain of the Prescott Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, At both services, Tim recited a prayer of thanksgiving for the contributions of his family members during peacetime and war. Please note that it was at the conclusion of the American Revolutionary War that John and Jane Faires moved west from Pennsylvania to Ohio.



Grave site of Cyrenius B. Faires with Brothers of the General B. D. Fearing



Grave site of John & Jane Faires

Color Guard Report by Color Guard Captain Bill Smith We will be the first entrant in

Prescott on July 1st for the Independence Day. Many CG members are joining us from around the state.

Memorial Day at the Prescott National Cemetery



Color Guard Members left to right, Ed Lipphardt, Captain Bill Smith, Steve Monez, Wayne Hood, Present Colors



Gold Star Mothers place Wreaths at Tomb of the Unknown.



Motor Cycle Veterans hold Flags

Flag Certificates



David Moore presented a flag certificate to Alexis Miller of Stepping Stones on June 21. David's Goal is 15.

Thanks Tim Prater for scheduling our speakers

Michael Smith the first navy Seal described his time in the U. S. Navy. He shared his experiences in the Vietnam War and how he was treated on his return to the U.S. Through it all he is a huge supporter of our country and our Flag. This was a real heart wrenching time and he is so proud to have served. We can never thank him enough for his service.

On June 17, Deanna Merriman, U.S. Army Retired spoke about her career and the places she worked in French Embassy & Normandy Cemetery, to name just a few.



Yuma Sea Cadets The Naval Sea Cadet program is a congressionally-chartered, U.S. Navy-based organization that serves to teach individuals about the sea-going military services, U.S. naval operations and training, community service, citizenship, and an understanding of discipline and teamwork.



Carson Blake a Yuma Sea Cadet is recognized for his special achievements. He is presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and certificate by Steve Monez and Yuma SAR member Mark Lee Hutsell

Calendar Chapter Meeting Schedule and Speakers.

July 1, Arizona Society Color Guard in the Parade first entrant. Ice Cream Social 2pm Las Fuentes 1035 Scott , Prescott across from the High School fields

July 7-13 National Congress in Knoxville TN

August Dark

September 16 - Jack Messersmith, History of Sound in the Ocean

October 28, - Joint Lunch with the DAR David Swanson Tentative

November 11-13 Save the Date, PG Larry Guzzy will be joining us at the Resort

December 9, Business Meeting Election and Installation Officers