I want to personally thank everyone who attended the last meeting – it went very well. Our speaker Dr. Kent Gregory was ill and unable to attend; we will pray for a quick recovery. I want to extend my congratulations to Don Gurley being honored for his selfless and dedicated service to the SAR for over 35 years, and his service as chapter president and chapter registrar. What a great example of picking up the Flag when fallen. I will have some large shoes to fill to follow in his footsteps. Also I would like to recognize Chaplain Charles Doolin, and Secretary Stephen Renouf for their 20 years of dedicated service. Our hats are off to them.

We welcomed new member Bob Steuben and transfer member Gary Bohannon, and presented a special award to our Eagle Scout winner Austin Roark. I want to thank the chapter members for voting and welcoming Stan Hazlak as chapter vice president and myself as chapter president. I promise to represent the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (the Members) with honor and respect and dedication. I am here to serve, so please contact me when there are needs. There was a suggestion to have a few members take a few minutes each meeting to talk about their Patriot and tell a brief story about themselves so we can get to know each other better. Let me know if you would like to participate. I want to send out a special thank you to our Board, and
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The Thomas Jefferson Chapter Minuteman is the official newsletter of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter, California Society Sons of the American Revolution. The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Chapter or the SAR, unless specifically stated.

CIVIS AMERICANUS SUM

The Thomas Jefferson Chapter had 37 members and guests at its January 30, 2016, annual officer installation meeting at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord, California. President Don Gurley called the meeting to order, and introduced Past NSSAR Vice Presidents General Stephen Renouf and Bob Ebert; CASSAR Vice President North Derek Brown; chapter winner of the SAR Eagle Scout Award Austin Roark, his parents Mike and Debbie Roark, and his girlfriend Maddie; and new transfer member Gary Bohannon (Past Chapter President of the Sons of Liberty Chapter) and his mother Vernie. The DAR ladies introduced themselves.

Following lunch, President Gurley conducted elections for the two vacant offices for 2016 – Stephen A. Tucker was elected president, and Stanley M. Hazlak, Sr. was elected vice president unanimously. President Don Gurley inducted new member Bob Steuben into the SAR. Bob Steuben joined on the service of his ancestor, Sergeant Jonathan Arnold Steuben (1757-1839) of the Continental Army. He enlisted in the Connecticut line in 1777, and was discharged in 1783 as an orderly sergeant. In 1783, Jonathan Arnold changed his name from the infamous “Arnold” to “Steuben,” with the approval of Baron de Steuben.

President Gurley presented supplemental application certificates to Jeff Brown for his ancestors, Colonel Samuel McDowell (1735-1817) of Virginia, and Ensign James McDowell (1760-1843) of Virginia. He also presented a certificate to Dr. James Russell for his ancestor Amos Wells (1735-1801) of Connecticut.

Chapter Awards Chairman Derek Brown presented the Eagle Scout Award to chapter winner Austin Roark, which consisted of a medal and $100 cash prize. Chairman Brown also presented the awards to chapter members: Don Gurley received the 35 Year Pin for his years of service to the SAR, Stephen Renouf and Charles Doolin received the 20 Year Pin for their years of service to the SAR, Stephen A. Tucker received the SAR Military Service Medal for his service in the
Air Force in Germany in the 1970’s, Don Gurley received a silver oak leaf cluster for his Liberty Medal (representing 110 new members he sponsored!), and Stan Hazlak, Sr. and Derek Brown received the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal for their service to the chapter. President Gurley presented the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service to Charles Doolin.

CASSAR Vice President North Derek Brown installed the following chapter officers for 2016: Stephen Tucker (President), Stanley Hazlak, Sr. (Vice President), Stephen Renouf (Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster), William Rood (Treasurer), Don Gurley (Registrar), Charles Doolin (Chaplain), Ryan Prindiville (Historian), Alan Mode (Sergeant-at-Arms), and Terry Stover (CAR Liaison). He then presented the gavel to incoming President Stephen Tucker. Don Gurley received the Past Chapter President Certificate.

Scheduled speaker, CASSAR President Dr. Kent Gregory, was unable to attend the meeting, so Chapter Secretary Stephen Renouf presented a program on Corsican Revolutionary Leader Pasquale di Paoli. The French government has posted church vital records, old censuses, and other records from regions, including Sarthe (the ancient province of Maine), and Corse (formerly the Genovese territory of Corsica). Secretary Renouf said he has recently been researching his ancestors in Le Mans (Sarthe), and Bonifacio (Corse), and has become interested in the history of Corsica. The church records go back to 1592, and he was able to locate the baptism record of his uncle, Stefano Oliveri, in Bonifacio, Corsica, in 1597.

The island of Corsica has been under foreign domination for most of its recorded history. The Republic of Genova conquered Bonifacio from the Republic of Pisa in the 1100’s, and controlled the entire island by the 1200’s. Wars, disease, and Moslem piracy reduced the native Corsican population, who were semi-independent in the interior of the island. The Genovese controlled the coastal areas in fortified cities and towers resembling British Martello towers, which warned them of foreign warships, and Moslem pirates and slavers.

Pasquale di Paoli was born in Morosaglia, Corsica, in 1725. In 1735, there was a large revolt of the Corsicans against the Genovese, and his father, Giacinto di Paoli, was one of the rebel leaders. The rebels were crushed, and in 1739, Pasquale di Paoli went into exile with his father to the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily. His father sent him to the military academy there, so he could one day return home to lead the fight for freedom.

In 1755, the Corsicans again rose in revolt against the Republic of Genova. Pasquale di Paoli returned to Corsica, and was elected President of the Corsican Republic. He wrote a constitution for Corsica (written in Italian), and led the Diet of Corsican Representatives as the chief executive. He was influenced by ideas of the Enlightenment, and he attempted to reform Corsica – he attempted to replace the traditional vendetta system with law and order; he encouraged mining, built a naval...
fleet, and founded a Corsican University (with classes taught in the Italian language).

During the uprising, the Genovese were confined to their fortified coastal cities and watch towers. Paoli continued the war against the Republic of Genova, and after 1764, against Genova’s ally, France. In 1768, France purchased the island from Genova, and brought occupation troops to island to fight Paoli’s Corsicans. Paoli appealed to the Corsicans to resist the French occupation:

“We are Corsicans by birth and sentiment, but first of all we feel Italian by language, origins, customs, traditions; and Italians are all brothers and united in the face of history and in the face of God ... As Corsicans we wish to be neither slaves nor “rebels” and as Italians we have the right to deal as equals with the other Italian brothers ... Either we shall be free or we shall be nothing... Either we shall win or we shall die (against the French), weapons in hand ... The war against France is right and holy as the name of God is holy and right, and here on our mountains will appear for Italy the sun of liberty...”

Despite Paoli’s eloquence and stubborn determination, the French were a more powerful enemy than the Genovese. In 1769, the French ended the uprising of the Corsicans in the Battle Ponte Novu, and Paoli went into exile in Great Britain, where he received a pension from King George III.

After twenty years in exile, in 1789 the French Revolution broke out. Paoli went to Paris to support the revolution. Paoli was somewhat of a celebrity with his past revolutionary activity, and he was made a lieutenant general of the French Republic and sent to Corsica. Paoli was elected President of the French Département of Corsica.

In 1793, the French murdered King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette, and began the Reign of Terror. At this point, Paoli rejected the French Revolutionaries, and declared Corsican independence. He made an agreement with the British offering the throne of Corsica to King George III as a constitutional monarch. In 1794, the British fleet helped him drive the French from the Anglo-Corsican Kingdom.

The agreement with Britain was a necessary evil to expel the French, but the separation of powers between the British king and the Corsican Diet was not clearly defined. King George III dispatched Sir Gilbert Elliot to Corsica to serve as viceroy. Paoli and the Corsicans resisted the imposition of British rule under the viceroy, which led to conflict between Elliot and Paoli. The British forced Paoli to resign, and Elliot chose Carlo, Count Pozzo di Burgo to replace him as a more compliant local leader. Paoli returned to Britain in 1795, and was granted a pension by King George III.

In 1796, the Spanish were compelled to sign the Treaty of San Ildefonso, which made them an ally of France. The British were forced to withdraw their troops from Corsica, and the French were able to reconquer the island, ending the Anglo-Corsican Republic and reimposing French rule. Pasquale di Paoli died in exile in London in 1807.

Ebenezer Mackintosh, a member of the Sons of Liberty in Boston, was inspired by Pasquale di Paoli, and named his son in honor of the Corsican revolutionary leader. In 1768, the New York Journal referred to Paoli as “the greatest man on earth,” and “interesting to every friend of liberty and the just rights of mankind.” There are towns in the United States named Paoli in his honor in Colorado, Indiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Outgoing President Gurley announced that the next meeting would be on February 20, 2016, at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord. He said he is still looking for speakers for 2016. If you can give a presentation, or if you know a great speaker, please let him know. He also announced that there is still an opportunity to write a patriot bio for your patriot ancestor. If you are able, please submit to Secretary Renouf as soon as possible. The 2016 CASSAR Annual Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Sacramento Riverfront Promenade in old town Sacramento on April 14-16, 2016. All members are invited to attend. The National SAR Congress will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, from July 9 to 13, 2016. This will be a great opportunity to meet compatriots from across the country, and tour the many Colonial and Revolutionary War sites in Boston. Outgoing President Gurley adjourned the meeting.

— Stephen Renouf, Secretary
January Chapter Meeting
Concord, California

ROBERT STEUBEN INDUCTED INTO THE SAR BY PRESIDENT DON GURLEY

PRESIDENT DON GURLEY PRESENTS SUPPLEMENTALS TO JEFF BROWN & DR. JAMES RUSSELL
PRESIDENT GURLEY PRESENTS BRONZE ROGER SHERMAN MEDALS TO STAN HAZLAK & DEREK BROWN

AWARDS CHAIRMAN DEREK BROWN PRESENTS WAR SERVICE MEDAL TO STEPHEN TUCKER
PRESIDENT DON GURLEY RECEIVES 35 YEAR PIN

CHAPLAIN CHARLES DOOLIN & SECRETARY STEPHEN RENOUF RECEIVE 20 YEAR PIN
PRESIDENT GURLEY PRESENTS THE CHAPTER MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHAPLAIN CHARLES DOOLIN

SECRETARY RENOUF PRESENTS A PROGRAM ON PASQUALE DI PAOLI OF CORSICA
FEBRUARY 2016

REGULAR MEETING
Saturday, 20 February 2016

the old spaghetti factory
1955 Mount Diablo Street, Concord, CA

Programme:

SAR Knight Essay Contest. Chapter Essay Contest Winner Tarun Sreedhar will read his winning essay, “The Biggest Risk Our Founding Fathers Took.” Come join us for a great meeting!

Deadline: 16 February 2016

Questions? Contact Stephen Renouf at Usina@aol.com

Please make check payable to THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAPTER, enclose this reservation slip, and mail to: Secretary Stephen Renouf, 16123 Paseo del Campo, San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Name: ____________________ Entrée choice: Spaghetti   Fettuccini   Chicken   Lasagna

Guest: ____________________ Entrée choice: Spaghetti   Fettuccini   Chicken   Lasagna

Guest2: ____________________ Entrée choice: Spaghetti   Fettuccini   Chicken   Lasagna

Spaghetti with Mushroom Sauce,
Fettuccini Alfredo, Chicken Parmigiana, or Baked Lasagna

$20 per person
Quote of the Month

“More and more we work not for ourselves but for the state. In time, if permitted to continue, this trend cannot fail to be destructive. For no nation may survive in freedom once its people become the servants of the state, a condition to which we are now pointed with dreadful certainty.”

— General Douglas MacArthur

You can download the full version of the Minuteman at http://www.tjsar.org/minman.htm