

MEXICO SOCIETY



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NEWSLETTER

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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Mexico Society Sponsors A Hit Genealogy Seminar During BOM A float -A Major Success...

On November 1, 2004, some 48 SAR members and their families embarked on the Carnival Cruise Line ship MS Ecstasy in Galveston, Texas for a five day cruise. Each of the SAR members was either a member or dual member of the Mexico Society, SAR, and 100% of the wives were members of the MXSSAR Auxiliary. During the cruise MXSSAR conducted a board of managers meeting, a candidates' forum and a history and genealogy seminar. Meetings and seminar classes were held during the day and after dinner while the ship was at sea.

The speakers and topics for the history portion of the program were as follows: **Dr. Ralph Nelson**, who spoke on "Rochambeau's Army"; **Bruce Wilcox**, whose topic was "America's First Submarine"; **Col. Joe Ware**, who informed the group about "Christmas in Old Virginia"; and **Dr. Will McCarty**, who delivered a paper on "James Monroe -The Forgotten Patriot".

The genealogy seminar covered the following topics: **Mary Alice Dell**, delivered two papers. The first was entitled "Early Military Records", and a second lecture on "The Paper chase -Proving your Line". How to prove birth, marriage and death when vital records don't exist. Her husband, **Harry Dell**, also gave two talks. The first was "Making Sense of the Census. History and Content of the US Census", while the second dealt with "Land Records - Evolution of US land descriptions and survey methods, factors influencing the Westward Movement". **Dr. Ralph Nelson** spoke again on "Helping Prospects Via Email". **Marston Watson** gave a talk on "Keeping Genealogy Alive", followed by wife, **Kathy Watson**, who gave the highlights of "The Master Genealogist" software package. The final speaker was Past President General **Larry D. McClanahan**, who regaled the group with an interesting talk about "The Irish in the Northern Neck of Virginia", which included some insight about the families in the Culpepper, Virginia Minutemen.

Each participant received a program with an outline of all the presentations. Also included was a three page article entitled "Nautical Terms For Landlubbers" by seminar chairman, **Ed Butler**. All the talks were well attended, an indication that the speakers were excellent. Every participant was required to sign a roster for each meeting. At the conclusion of the program, certificates of completion were awarded to all who took part.

All the male speakers were awarded the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. The two ladies received the SAR Martha Washington Medal. Meeting chairman, Judge **Ed Butler** was awarded a Silver Good Citizenship Medal.

During the cruise there was also a meeting of the MXSSAR Ladies Auxiliary, a meeting of the International Society of the SAR, a MXSSAR Executive Committee meeting and NSSAR planning sessions with the General Officers and Executive Committee members on board. Several committees of MXSSAR also conducted meetings during the cruise. Both MXSSAR and ITSSAR endorsed a slate of candidates, which included all the unopposed candidates, plus dual member **Dr. Ralph Nelson** for the office of Historian General.

When the ship docked in Cozumel, a Caribbean island just east of the Yucatan Peninsula, our SAR members and their families enjoyed diverse activities. Cozumel is the capital of the Mexican State of Quintanaroo, one of three states in the Yucatan Peninsula. VPG **Douglas Stansberry** and his wife **Carol** rented a red jeep convertible and drove around the island, finding the ruins of a Mayan temple beside which was build a new church. They also found a lighthouse and the Sea Turtle Farm, and stopped at several beaches to swim in the azure Caribbean.

Genealogist General, Judge **Ed Butler** and his wife **Robin**, took their two grandchildren snorkeling in the crystal clear water, and basked in the sun on the palm-lined beaches. Secretary General **Roland Downing** and his wife **Norma** chose to sightsee and shop in Cozumel. Executive Committee member **Ralph Nelson** and his wife **Kay** elected to take an escorted walk through the tropical jungle. **Ed Heath** and his wife, **Lorraine**, of Boerne, Texas, went bar hopping to listen to the dozens of varieties of local music offered. Others chose to sail on catamarans or party boats. **Ed** and **Robin's** daughters, **Missy Crum** and **Melanie Little** rented a four wheel bike and pedaled around town. President General **Larry McClanahan** and wife, **Betty**, did some sightseeing.

The following morning the ship docked at Calica, port city of Playa del Carmen, on the Yucatan Peninsula. Although shopping was still enjoyed by some, **Marston** and **Kathy Watson** of California joined the **Downings**, the **Nelsons**, the **Butlers**, VPG **Douglas Stansberry**, and wife **Carole**, and Registrar General, **Bruce Wilcox** and wife, **Theresa**, for a very interesting half-day tour of the Mayan Indian pyramids at Tulum, where there was ample time for purchase of souvenirs.

Col. Joe Ware and wife, **Nita**, also relaxed the first day and shopped the second day. MXSSAR president, **Pete Kendrick**, enjoyed some one-on-one time with his son **Clayton**, who several of the members solicited to join SAR.

The Board of Managers nominated new officers for the following year. They are:

Pete Kendrick - President
Mike Merryman - Vice President
Frank H. Gill - Secretary/Treasurer
Judge Ed Butler - Chancellor
Bruce Wilcox - Historian
Douglas Stansberry - Nat. Trustee, Sgt. At Arms & Webmaster
Marston Watson - Alternate Trustee
Dr. Ernest Cashion - Surgeon
Col. Joe Ware - Chaplain

A good time was had by all, and the project was profitable for the Mexico Society.

Fifteen cruise participants also attended the Texas Society Board of Managers meeting in Galveston, Texas on November 6-7, contributing to the success of that meeting.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE MXSSAR CONVENTION IN AJIJIC, MEXICO APRIL 1-4,2005

The 2005 MXSSAR Convention will be held in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico at the Nuevo Pasada Inn. A no host welcome reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the lovely Inn, site of several prior meetings in Ajijic. The hotel is a short walk from the town square and quaint art galleries and shops. Ajijic is home to about 3,000 Americans and Canadians.

Society business will be conducted Saturday morning followed by a short ride to Guadalajara for a special open air train ride to the nearby town of Tequila, Mexico, namesake of that famous alcoholic beverage. That evening the group will conduct its annual banquet, where awards will be presented to several officers and some of the ladies who have been supportive of MXSSAR events.

Those planning on attending should make their airline reservations through Guadalajara, immediately. Safe and clean taxi service is available from the airport at a charge of approximately 400 pesos. The current exchange rate is 11.26 pesos to the dollars. Pesos can be obtained at the airport, Chase Bank or American Express. There will be shopping for the ladies during business sessions. Participants should complete and mail the registration form with their check as soon as possible.

MXSSAR TO MEET IN LOUISVILLE

MXSSAR will conduct a short meeting in Louisville during the Spring Trustees meeting. The meeting will be conducted on March 12th following the Trustees meeting at the Brown Hotel in room Broadway C about 4:00 p.m.. On the agenda will be final plans for the 2005 Convention in Ajijic, Mexico from April 1st through 4th: Medals will be presented to awardees

MXSSAR FINANCIAL REPORT

1-1-04 Opening Balance	\$2,481.07
Income for year	\$3,534.49
Expenses for year	\$1,456.61
12-31-04 Closing Balance	\$ 4,558.92

Details are available from the Treasurer **Frank Gill** who may be contacted via email at fgill@martinvrana.com or by mail at 9005 Livenshire Drive, Dallas, Texas 75238.

THANK YOU

Those of us that are members of MXSSAR want to extend our most sincere Thank You to our dual members. Without your generous support our small society would have an even harder time than we have now. I hope that our events in Mexico have been enjoyed by you and that you will consider, especially if you have not attended in the past, joining us in April for the MXSSAR convention in Ajijic, Mexico. It should be a fun time and the weather is just beautiful in Ajijic in early April. A registration form for this event is enclosed with this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A WEBSITE?....

Yes we do and you will find our newsletter posted here with other interesting information. Just go to

www.sar.org/mxssar/mxssar-e.htm .

