

The source for this Las Cruces Chapter History comes from chapter minutes maintained by the then Chapter Secretary: Colonel John A. Smith, USA-Retired

BACKGROUND

The Las Cruces Chapter, New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded on February 15, 1986. LCDR Russell L. Camp, USN (Ret), has provided the following background information relative to the founding of the Las Cruces Chapter:

“I moved from Denver, Colorado, to Las Cruces in August 1984. I was a member of Denver Chapter, COSAR. I had my membership changed to the New Mexico Society of the SAR. Because it was such a distance away, I wrote the NM Society President at that time Weller W. Franklin, concerning organizing a Chapter in Las Cruces. Weller wrote back to me a very enthusiastic letter re establishment of a Las Cruces Chapter. At that time, 15 members were required to form a new Chapter. Per data I received from Franklin, we had three members in the Las Cruces area. I let it languish until the early fall of 1985, I received a telephone call from Thomas Shelden, an SAR member who had moved from Florida to Las Cruces and worked at the Laser Testing Center at White Sands Missile Range. Tom informed me that he was interested in forming an SAR Chapter in Las Cruces and had been in touch with NM State people concerning formation of a Las Cruces Chapter. I told Tom I would be glad to help.

‘We had a first meeting at the Billy the Kid restaurant at the Las Cruces Holiday Inn sometime in the fall of 1895. Blanche Goldsmith and Betty Lawrence (a sister of Charles Ganong) of the Las Cruces DAR were present They were interested in the formation of an SAR Chapter and had several prospects for SAR membership for us. Two more meetings were held with DAR members attending - one at the Holiday Inn and the other at Tom’s home off Roadrunner Parkway. Guy Lynn Nusom of DAR attended. By this time we were approaching the required number for formation of a Chapter. Three Albuquerque Chapter members informed us they would also become members, namely COL James Calhoun, George Sells, and Weller Franklin. Two more SAR members who had grown up in Las Cruces and had relatives here agreed to become dual membership members of Las Cruces Chapter, namely COL Donald R. Perkins and Victor L. Gallivan. COL Perkins’ son also became a member. Another SAR member had moved from Albuquerque to Las Cruces and agreed to transfer to the Las Cruces Chapter, namely Joseph Miller. Betty Lawrence recruited her brother, Charles Ganong into the Las Cruces Chapter. Another DAR member’s son became a member, namely William C. Riley, son of Nancy Riley. Rev. Charles de Vries transferred membership to Las Cruces. Marshall Hester transferred membership.

“The inaugural meeting was held at the Double Eagle restaurant, as were all meetings for some time thereafter, on 15 February 1986. Weller Franklin swore in the first officers. Absentee membership kept Las Cruces Chapter alive in the early years.”

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1986

Prior to the first official meeting of the Chapter, a letter was sent on 24 January 1986 to prospective members announcing that an organizational meeting would be held at the home of Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr., on 2 February 1986, for the purposes of (a) Selecting and electing the initial officers for the new Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution; (b) Selecting a name for the new chapter and deciding annual dues; and (c) Attending to any other matters brought up and pertinent to the meeting. This letter also reported that COL James R. Calhoun, Vice President-General of the Rocky Mountain District had received a charter letter for the new chapter from National Headquarters and that the charter would be presented at a meeting on 15 February 1986. No minutes appear to exist for the 2 February 1986 meeting. The application for charter was dated 1 June 1986 (the reason for the application being dated after the presentation of the charter is unknown) and is worded as follows:

APPLICATION FOR CHARTER

To the Board of Managers of the New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution:

COMPATRIOTS: The undersigned Members of the Las Cruces, NM Society of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, residing in Las Cruces, New Mexico, respectfully apply for the privilege of organizing a Chapter within the said area, in pursuance of and according to By-Law No. 2, Section 8, of the National Society, and in accordance with Article 2.7 of the Constitution of the New Mexico Society of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. The headquarters of the Chapter will be at Las Cruces, in the County of Dona Ana, or at such other place within the said area of Dona Ana County as may hereafter be determined by the said Chapter, and the following are the names and residences of the members thereof

Dated the 1st day of June, 1986.

NAMES RESIDENCES

1. Marshall S. Hester	60633	158	Las Cruces, NM
2. Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr.	100044	894	Las Cruces, NM
3. Charles G. de Vries	106855	704	Las Cruces, NM
4. Joseph S. Miller	109066	566	Las Cruces, NM
5. Col. Donald R. Perkins	111100	700	Alexandria, VA
6. Col. James R. Calhoun	114027	577	Albuquerque, NM
7. Weller W. Franklin	117522	605	Albuquerque, NM
8. J. Craig Erickson	117971	606	Las Cruces, NM
9. LCDR Russell L. Camp	119600	682	Las Cruces, NM
10. George N. Sells	121844	643	Albuquerque, NM
11. Victor L. Gallivan, Jr.	122777	660	Carmel, IN
12. David J. G. Setfert	128625	691	Las Cruces, NM
13. Wm. Casey Riley	126905	697	Las Cruces, NM
14. Steven W. Wamel	126935	698	Las Cruces, NM

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15. Frank S. Perkins, III	127176	699	Las Cruces, NM
16. Charles Lee Ganong	127595	708	Las Cruces, NM
17. Rembert C. Alley, Sr.	129060	717	Las Cruces, NM

The charter was presented at a dinner meeting held at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla, New Mexico, on 15 February 1986. Officers installed were: President; Thomas ~. Sheldon, Jr.; Vice President, LCDR Russell L. Camp (USNI Ret); Secretary: Joel C. Erickson; and Treasurer, Steven W. Wamel. Installing officers and other guests from the New Mexico State Society were: President George N. Sells and wife, COL James R. Calhoun and wife, Charles L. Klingman and wife, LTC Weller W. Franklin (USAF, Ret), and wife, Robert Garvin and wife, and Vice President George W. Miller. President Sells presented the address about the new Chapter. Mr. Franklin gave a short talk about the Eagle Scout program and its importance. Members, prospective members, and guests were: COL Donald R. Perkins (USA, Ret), who came from Washington, D.C., for the meeting and who will be a charter member of the chapter~ Mesdames Nancy Riley and Blanche Goldsmith of the DAR; Mr. Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr.; Mr. Steven W. Wamel and mother; Mr. Robert Lawrence and wife Betty (DAR); Mr. Joseph Miller and wife; Mr. Joel Erickson; Mr. David Seifert; Mr. Charles L. Ganong and wife; CAPT George Miller (USN, Ret) and wife; Mr. Anthony Hams and wife; and LCDR Russell L. Camp (USN, Ret). Following is the wording of the Chapter' charter

**THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Know Ye all men by these Presents that pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the National and New Mexico Societies of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION the aforesaid State Society has certified the LAS CRUCES CHAPTER as a Chapter of the New Mexico Society of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION by resolution of the said State Society passed on this 15th day of February 1986.

Given under the Seal of this Society, this fifteenth day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand and Nine Hundred and Eighty Six (SEAL)

Thomas S. Edrington	Geo. N. Sells
Secretary	President

The next meeting of the chapter was held at the home of LCDR Camp on 15 March 1986, with President Sheldon, the Rev. Charles G. de Vries, Mr. Joseph Miller, Mr. Charles Ganong, and LCDR Camp in attendance. Father de Vries was sworn in as Chaplain.

A meeting was scheduled for 16 April 1986 at Good Samaritan Village, but no minutes appear to exist for this meeting.

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The May meeting was held at Good Samaritan Village on 23 May 1986; only four persons attended. It was reported that all ROTC certificate and medal presentations had been made, as follows: Mr. Charles Ganong, Mayfield High School, Las Cruces; Mr. Joseph Miller, Army and Air Force presentations at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; Father de Vries at Gadsden-Anthony High School, Gadsden, New Mexico; and LCDR Camp at New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico.

The chapter bulletin which reported on the May meeting listed the following members:

Name	National Nr	State Nr.
Hester, Marshall S.	60633	158
Sheldon, Thomas B. Jr.	100044	694
de Vries, Charles C.	106855	704
Miller, Joseph S.	109066	566
Perkins, COL Donald R. (USA, Ret)	111100	700
Calhoun, COL James R. (USA, Ret)	114027	577
Franklin, Weller W.	117522	605
Erickson, J. Craig	117971	608
Camp, LCDR Russell L. (USN, Ret)	119600	682
Sells, George N.	121844	643
Gallivan, Victor L. Jr.	122777	660
Seifert, David Jonathan Gregory	126625	691
Riley, Wm. Casey	126905	697
Wamel, Steven W.	126935	698
Perkins, Frank S. III	127176	699
Ganong, Charles Lee	127595	708

The combined DAR/SAR Flag Day luncheon was held at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla on 14 June 1986. Over 30 persons attended, equally divided between SAR and DAR. One prospective member, Mr. Rembert C. Alley attended, along with his wife. (NOTE: Actually, Mr. Alley was already a member and had signed the Application for Charter. National Number 129060 and State Number 717.1 President George N. Sells of the New Mexico State Society, made an excellent presentation on the American flag. SAR Medals of Appreciation were presented to DAR members Mesdames Nancy Riley, Blanche Goldsmith, and Betty Lawrence for their help in starting the SAR Chapter.

A meeting was scheduled for 17 September 1986 at the Good Samaritan Village, but it is unknown if this meeting was actually held.

Four persons, Mr. Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr.; Mr. Marshall Hester, LCDR Russell Camp; and Mr. Rembert Alley, attended a meeting 15 October 1986, but no further details are known.

The meeting on 19 November 1986 was attended by Mr. Sheldon, LCDR Camp, Mr. Joseph Miller, Mr. Charles Ganong, and Mr. Steven W. Wamel. Mr. Wamel reported that the balance in the chapter's account was \$85.00. Mr. Joel C. Erickson resigned as

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Secretary due to his relocation to Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mr. Miller was appointed Secretary for the remainder of the term. It was reported that Mr. Sheldon and LCDR Camp and his wife had attended the State Society meeting in Albuquerque on 13 November 1986.

Chapter Bulletin, dated 2 December 1988, reported that the nominating committee had presented a slate of officers for 1987, as follows: President LCDR Russell L. Camp; Vice President, Mr. Charles L. Ganong; Secretary, Mr. Joseph S. Miller; Treasurer, Mr. Steven W. Wamel; and Chaplain, the Rev. Charles G. de Vries. This bulletin also noted that an informal luncheon was to be held at Eddie's Bar and Grill on 13 December 1988, but it is unknown if this meeting took place.

1987

A meeting was scheduled for 21 January 1987 at the Good Samaritan Village. Apparently the meeting took place, since Bulletin 8 of 10 February 1987 mentioned that the slate of officers proposed in December had been elected.

A dinner and installation of officers was held on 19 February 1987 at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla, New Mexico. This attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ganong; Rev. and Mrs. Charles de Vries; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perkins; Ms. Blanche Goldsmith and Mrs. Guy Lynn Nusom, Regents of the DAR; President Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr.; Mr. David J. Seifert and LCDR and Mrs. Russell L. Camp. After dinner, Rev. de Vries gave an excellent talk on the life of President George Washington. The new slate of officers for 1987 was sworn in by President Sheldon, namely President LCDR Russell L. Camp; Vice President, Mr. Charles L. Ganong; Secretary Mr. Joseph S. Miller. Mr. Steven W. Wamel was absent, but was to be sworn in as Treasurer at a later date. New U.S. and SAR flags were used for the first time at this meeting.

Six members (names unknown) attended a meeting on 18 March 1987. It was decided that meetings would be held as follows: Washington's Birthday and installation of officers in February; Flag Day in June; Veteran's Day in November, and business and fraternal meetings at noon on the third Saturday of January, March, April, May, September, and October at the Good Samaritan Village. A letter of 24 March 1987 from the State Secretary noted that Mr. David Scott Landoll of Hobbs, New Mexico, had become a member of the Las Cruces Chapter (National Nr. 129026, State Nr. 716). This apparently resulted from the inactivity of the Hobbs chapter. The letter also regretted that LCDR Camp could not serve on the State Board.

The 1987 roster showed Compatriots Alley, Calhoun, Camp, de Vries, Franklin, Gullivan, Ganong, Hester, Landoll, Miller, Perkins (Donald R. and Frank S. III), Riley, Seifert, Sells, Sheldon, and Wamel.

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There was no scheduled April 1987 meeting. LCDR Camp attended the 244th anniversary celebration of the birth of Thomas Jefferson held at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., on 13 April 1987. The celebration was sponsored by the DCSSAR in cooperation with the National Park Service. SAR National President General Clovis Brakebill presented the Gold Citizenship Medal to the Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr., Secretary of the Army.

On 24 April 1987, Mr. Rembert C. Alley presented an ROTC award to Cadet Anthony R. Hernandez of the Air Force ROTC Unit at New Mexico State University. The ceremony was held at the El Paso Marriott, El Paso, Texas. On 13 May 1987, LCDR Camp presented ROTC awards to two cadets at the New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico.

A meeting was scheduled for the third Saturday in May 1987, at the Good Samaritan Village, but it is unknown if the meeting actually took place.

A joint meeting with the DAR was scheduled for noon, 13 June 1987, at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla, New Mexico. The guest speaker was to be LCDR Camp; his topic was to be "A Patriot of the Revolutionary War." No further details on the meeting are available.

The 17 September 1987 meeting was held at the Mesilla Valley Best Western Inn to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. COL James R. Calhoun, Past President General, gave an excellent speech on the Constitutional Convention and the signing of the finished document. Twenty-two people were in attendance, to wit COL and Mrs. Calhoun; former State President George N. Sells and Mrs. Sells; Former Chapter President and Mrs. Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr.; Mrs. Marge Day from the DAR; Mr. Marshall Hester and wife; Mr. and Mrs. Rembert C. Alley; Chapter Vice President and Mrs. Charles Ganong; Chapter Secretary and Mrs. Joseph S. Miller; Chapter Treasurer Mr. Steven W. Wamel and his mother COL and Mrs. Frank Perkins; and Chapter President LCDR and Mrs. Russell L. Camp.

A meeting was scheduled for 17 October 1987 at the Good Samaritan Village, but it is unknown if the meeting took place.

The 21 November 1987 meeting was held at the home of LCDR Camp. Compatriots Alley, Camp, Ganong, Hester, Miller, and Sheldon were present, along with visitor Mr. Richard O. Swenson. The first order of business was consideration of a letter from the Colorado State Society concerning the Douglas G. High Historical Oration Contest. President Camp reported that he had replied to this letter by stating that "the Las Cruces Chapter supports whatever program the New Mexico State Society endorses." This action was approved. President Camp reported that he had been notified of the membership of Dr. Gregory Everett Johnson, a local physician (National Nr. 130060, State Nr. 728). A request came from the National Society's Law Enforcement Committee that each chapter award the Law Enforcement Medal. The request was tabled pending fur-

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ther consideration. The balance in the chapter's bank account was \$165. Officers for the next year were nominated, to wit President, Mr. Charles Ganong; Vice President; Mr. Rembert C. Alley; Treasurer, LCDR Camp; Secretary, Mr. Joseph S. Miller; and Chaplain, the Rev. Charles G. de Vries.

A letter, dated 30 November 1987, was received from the Americanism Chairman for the Rocky Mountain area, concerning an Americanism essay contest (Note: See several comments on study of American history in 1988 meetings. Otherwise, it is unknown what action was taken on this letter.)

Bulletin 14, dated 7 December 1987, noted that Mr. William Duane Leigon of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, had become a member (National Nr. 130232, State Nr. 733).

1988

A 1988 roster showed the following as members of the Las Cruces Chapter Compatriots Alley, Baker, Calhoun, Camp, de Vries, Franklin, Gallivan, Ganong, Herrick, Hester, Johnson, Landoll (David), Landoll (Ronald), Leigon, Miller, Perkins (Donald), Perkins, Frank), Riley, Seifert (David), Sells, Sheldon, Swenson, and Wamel. It was noted that Compatriots Calhoun, Franklin, and Sells were members of the Albuquerque Chapter, both Landolls were members of the Hobbs Chapter; and that COL Donald Perkins was a member of the District of Columbia Chapter.

The year opened with a meeting at the Good Samaritan Village on 16 January 1988. Compatriots present were: Alley, Camp, de Vries, Herrick, Hester, and Miller. Compatriot Hemck, a member of the New Jersey State SAR, was in the process of transferring to the New Mexico State Society (National Nr. 129640, State Nr. 738). The slate of officers proposed at the November 1987 meeting was elected. Plans were made for the February George Washington's birthday dinner. The presentation of the Law Enforcement Award was again discussed. Compatriots de Vries and Camp were appointed a committee to decide on this presentation.

A letter from the State Society of 26 January 1988 notified Eagle Scout Waverly Alexander Dugger of Las Cruces that he won the New Mexico SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. What part the Las Cruces Chapter took in this action is unknown.

The George Washington Birthday Dinner was held at the Mesilla Valley Inn on 15 February 1988 with 27 in attendance. Compatriots and spouses present were: Mr. and Mrs. Alley, LCDR and Mrs. Camp, COL and Mrs. Calhoun, Mr. and Mrs. Hemck, Mr. and Mrs. Hester, Mr. and Mrs. Leigon, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, COL Perkins; Mr. and Mrs. Perkins III, Mr. and Mrs. Sells, and Mr. Sheldon. Guests were Las Cruces Chief of Police R. J. Axtell and wife; two daughters of COL Perkins; and three grandchildren of LCDR Camp. President Camp noted that the chapter had been invited by the Air Force ROTC unit at the New Mexico State University to attend a military ball to celebrate 100 years of

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the University. Chief of Police Axtell gave a brief talk on the Las Cruces Police Department and then was presented the SAR Law Enforcement Medal by President Camp. COL Perkins then gave an interesting talk on the genealogy of George Washington. COL Calhoun swore in the new officers, with Mr. Hester and Mr. Sheldon standing in for the President and Chaplain, who were unable to attend.

The 19 March 1988 meeting was held at the Good Samaritan Village with Compatriots Alley, Camp, Ganong, Herrick, Hester, and Miller in attendance. LCDR Camp gave his annual President's report, noting that membership had increased from 16 to 21 and that he had contacted the ROTC units to which the Chapter gives SAR awards. He suggested for 1988 that emphasis be placed on recruiting new members, having the two top Chapter officers attend at least two of State meetings, having a ceremony on Veterans' Day commemorating General Hugh Milton, and presenting a Good Citizenship Medal. The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$240.00. The Secretary was authorized to have a small petty cash fund. Mr. Hester pointed out that many high school graduates are not familiar with American History and suggested that the Chapter work to have this as a requirement for graduation. It was thought that this should be a state project and it was suggested that the Chapter contact COL Calhoun. It was also suggested that the Chapter explore having El Paso SAR members join the Las Cruces Chapter at one of the Chapter's luncheon meetings. The President said he would refer to matter to Father de Vries. During the meeting, LCDR Camp was presented with an SAR tie in recognition of all he had done to get the chapter organized and on its way. ROTC awards were given on 12 April 1988 by Mr. Miller to Cadet Thomas C. Broom of the New Mexico State University Army ROTC Unit; on 22 April 1988 by Mr. Ganong to C/SGT Gilbert A. Ruiz of Mayfield High School, Las Cruces; on 29 April 1988 by Mr. Alley to Cadet Donald Sharer of the New Mexico State University Air Force ROTC Unit; and on 11 May 1988 by Mr. Ganong to Cadets Jason R. Ball and Andras M. Marton of the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico. On an unknown date, an award was given to the sponsor of the Naval Junior ROTC Detachment at Gadsden High School for presentation to Cadet Uvaldo Aguirre.

The 23 April 1988 meeting was attended by Compatriots Hester, Camp, Ganong, and Alley. A guest was CAPT Walter F. Baker (USN, Ret). It was decided that the Chapter would engrave future ROTC medals with the name of the recipient and the date. A questionnaire was to be prepared to determine member's preferences on meeting times and methods to improve attendance (Mr. Alley requested Mr. Miller, the Secretary, to prepare the questionnaire, but whether it was actually done is unknown.)

The meeting of 21 May 1988 was held at the Good Samaritan Village, with Compatriots Alley, Ganong, Hester, Miller, and Sheldon, and prospective member CAPT Baker in attendance. A past president's pin was presented to Mr. Sheldon. Mr. Alley noted that he was supposed to be a charter member. Mr. Sheldon said that he had the original charter application and would take care of adding Mr. Alley's name. A fall cookout was suggested to attract younger members.

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The matter of emphasis on American history in schools was brought up again and the President indicated he would write to COL Calhoun. A booth at the "Whole Enchilada Fiesta" was discussed. A chapter history was proposed, and LCDR Camp was suggested as the historian.

A Flag Day dinner was held on 14 June 1988 at the Las Cruces Hilton. Compatriots Alley, Camp, Ganong, Herrick, and Miller, and prospective member CAPT Baker were in attendance. Wives, DAR representatives, and the speaker and his wife brought the total to 17. Following the dinner, Dr. Lowell Catlett spoke on President Abraham Lincoln, emphasizing two achievements: one was preserving the union, and the other was encouraging Congress to pass the Land Grant College Act.

A special meeting was held at the Good Samaritan Village on 2 August 1988, with Compatriots Alley, Camp, Ganong, Herrick, Hester, and Miller. CAPT Baker was a guest. The President reported that the Chapter had received a letter from the District of Columbia Society of the SAR urging support of Chapter member Donald R. Perkins for the position of Historian General for the 1989-1990 term. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the District of Columbia Chapter, through the New Mexico State Society, strongly endorsing the candidacy of COL Perkins (the letter was dispatched on 20 September 1988). There was then a discussion about a constitution and by-laws for the Chapter. It was agreed to request the Albuquerque Chapter for copies of their documents to be used as a model.

The Chapter conducted a luncheon meeting at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn on 17 September 1988, with Compatriots Ganong, Hester, Leigon, Baker, Camp, and Alley present. Also attending were Compatriot Ben Logan and wife from the Albuquerque Chapter and Mr. Edgar C. Ashley, a guest of CAPT Baker. Mr. Morgan brought the Chapter up to date on activities of the Albuquerque Chapter and reviewed the latest issue of the SAR catalog. A nominating committee of Compatriots Hester, Sheldon, Miller, Camp, and Alley was appointed by the President. There was a further discussion of the questionnaire mentioned in the April 1988 meeting.

A luncheon meeting was held at the Good Samaritan Village on 15 October 1988, with Compatriots Alley, Ganong, Herrick, and Miller attending. Guests were Dr. David W. Francis and Mr. Paul Smyth. Receipt of letters from National Headquarters concerning patriotic education and the anniversary of the SAR Library was noted. The President reported that a State Society managers' meeting was to be held in Albuquerque on 22 October 1988, but that he would not be able to attend and invited anyone else to represent him. He also reported that the Albuquerque Chapter was having a Veterans' Day meeting on 10 November with the President General as speaker.

The last 1988 meeting was a Veteran's Day dinner meeting held at the Las Cruces Hilton on 19 November 1988. Attendees were: Mr. and Mrs. Ganong, Mr. and Mrs. Alley, Dr. and Mrs. Gregory E. Johnson; LCDR and Mrs. Camp; CAPT and Mrs. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Herrick, Mr. and Mrs. David W. Francis, Mr. and Mrs.

The source for this Las Cruces Chapter History comes from chapter minutes maintained by the then Chapter Secretary: Colonel John A. Smith, USA-Retired

Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence (DAR), the Rev. de Vries, and COL Perkins. Dr. Johnson was presented with his certificate of membership. COL Perkins gave an interesting talk of Washington's crossing of the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton, basing his talk on the familiar picture of Washington standing in a small boat with a flag bearer behind him.

A letter of 4 December 1988 from the Secretary to the President reported that the following had been elected officers for the 1989 year: President, Mr. Rembert C. Alley; Vice President, Mr. William D. Leigon; Secretary, Mr. Joseph S. Miller; Treasurer: Mr. Lee W. Herrick, Jr.; and Chaplain Rev. Charles G. de Vries. The Secretary also reported on the results of the questionnaire on meeting time, with the largest number of votes being cast for retaining the Saturday luncheon option.

1989

A 1989 roster showed the following Compatriots: Alley, Calhoun, Camp, de Vries, Ganong, Hemck, Hester, Leigon, Johnson, Miller, Perkins (Donald), Perkins (Frank), Riley, Seifert (David), Sells, Sheldon, and Wamel. The roster showed that Compatriots Calhoun and Sells were members of the Albuquerque Chapter and COL Perkins a member of the District of Columbia Chapter.

In answer to a letter from Compatriot Alley to COL Donald Perkins, candidate for Historian General, COL Perkins wrote on 20 January 1989 that he was thinking about "pre-packaged presentations on historical subjects dealing with our Revolutionary War." He proposed to implement this program if elected Historian General.

The 21 January 1989 meeting was held at the Good Samaritan Village, with Compatriots Alley, Camp, Ganong, Leigon, Miller, and Sheldon in attendance. Guests were CAPT Baker, Dr. Francis, and Mr. Joseph Kramer. It was noted that applications for all three guests were in process. It was decided to award the annual Law Enforcement Award to Dana Ana County Sheriff Cooney Sarracino. Receipt of a letter from National Headquarters concerning the registering of children and grandchildren to form a pool of prospective members. The Secretary gave the results of the balloting for election and answers to the meeting questionnaire. Other business was routine.

In what appeared to be a first, the Secretary sent letters to the two local newspapers and the local cable TV firm asking them to publicize the Chapters February meeting. This practice has continued until the present time with respect to the two newspapers.

The George Washington Birthday Dinner was held at the Las Cruces Hilton on 17 February 1989. Compatriots attending with their wives were: Alley, Camp, de Vries, Ganong, Herrick, Leigon, and Miller. Guests were CAPT and Mrs. Baker; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dingwall, Jr., of the El Paso Chapter; Mrs. Lawrence of the DAR; and Sheriff and Mrs. Sarracino. Sheriff Sarracino discussed his duties and answered questions. The President presented the SAR Law Enforcement Award to the Sheriff. LCDR Camp inducted

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the new officers: President, Mr. Rembert C. Alley; Vice-President, Mr. William D. Leigon; Secretary, Mr. Joseph S. Miller; Treasurer, Mr. Lee W. Herrick, Jr.; and Chaplain, the Rev. Charles G. de Vries. The State Society was informed by letter of 18 February 1989 of the new officers. Former President Ganong sent a letter dated 27 February 1989 to the National Society as his Presidents report.

Several practices were instituted in 1989 - the publication of an annual calendar and a list-of committees and their members. The committees included Genealogy/Membership, ROTC, Finance, Historical, Program, Publicity, By-Laws, and American History.

On 15 March 1989, CAPT Baker dispatched letters to the ROTC units at New Mexico State University, the New Mexico Military Institute, and Mayfield and Gadsden High Schools with reference to SAR ROTC awards. Awards were subsequently made to Rowan A. Russell of Mayfield High School, Larry L. Trujillo of the Army ROTC unit at New Mexico State University, Juan Ruiz of the Air Force ROTC unit at New Mexico State University, and Joseph A. Ostrowski and Charles A. Butler of New Mexico Military Institute.

On 18 March 1989, the Chapter met at the Good Samaritan Village for luncheon. Compatriots present were: Alley, Camp, Ganong, Herrick, Hester, and Leigon. Guests were: CAPT Baker, Dr. Francis, and Mr. Edgar Ashley. It was decided to procure samples of name tags for wear at Chapter meetings. The problem of 1987 officers remaining on State and National records throughout 1988 was brought up and it was decided to attempt to correct the 1988 records. President Alley then distributed lists of committee assignments, each of the committees being discussed in some detail. Committees and chairmen were: Genealogy/Membership, LCDR Camp; ROTC, CAPT Baker and Mr. Ganong; Finance, Mr. Herrick; Historical, LCDR Camp; Program, CAPT Baker; Publicity, Mr. Hemck By-Laws, LCDR Camp; and American History, Mr. Leigon. The bank balance was reported as \$205.58. it was observed that the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws were not in proper form; LCDR Camp offered to provide the necessary revisions.

On 19 March 1989, President Alley wrote to the State President to inform him that several Chapter members had offered to serve on State committees, as follows: Membership Committee, Mr. Alley, Publicity (or Public Relations), Mr. Ganong; and ROTC, LCDR Camp.

The Chapter held its regular meeting on 15 April 1989 at Good Samaritan Village. Members present were: William Leigon, Russell Camp, Marshall Hester, Charles de Vries, and Joseph Miller. Guests present were: Fred Schneider, CAPT Baker, and Ted Merrill. Reports were given on the ROTC awards program, possible programs and activities for the next several months, and possible prospects. Nametags were approved. Other business was routine.

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The membership application of David Wesson Francis was approved by National on 24 April 1989 and those for Eric Russell Alexander Seifert and Ted Duane Merrill on 10 May 1989. Dr. Francis was featured in the New Mexico Compatriot in May 1989.

The Chapter met for luncheon at Good Samaritan Village on 20 May 1989 with wives and DAR representatives present. Compatriots and wives present were: Mr. and Mrs. Alley, LCDR and Mrs. Camp, Mr. and Mrs. Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, and Rev, and Mrs. de Vries. Others present were: Mr. and Mrs. Bramlett, CAPT and Mrs. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Ganong, Mr. and Mrs. Kramer, Mr. Kanitz, Mr. and Mrs. Nusom (Regent of the Dona Ana Chapter of the DAR), and Mrs. Goldsmith (DAR). Mrs. Goldsmith spoke on the history of the DAR. Mrs. Nusom then presented the Chapter with a book entitled "History of the New Mexico State Organization of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Volume III, 1972-1987." This was a contribution for the SAR shelf in the Good Samaritan Village. LCDR Camp had previously presented a copy of the "Handbook of the National Society of the Sons the American Revolution, June 15, 1982." During the business meeting, CAPT Baker noted that all the ROTC awards had been made and commented on the high quality of the recipients. It was reported that work was being done on 11 prospects. CAPT Baker provided a draft program for the remainder of the year. The program was accepted with minor changes.

The Chapter participated in Memorial Day ceremonies on 29 May 1989 at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, followed by refreshments at one of the local VFW posts. On 14 June 1989, the Chapter assisted in Flag Day ceremonies at the City Hall.

A 7 June 1989 letter from Compatriot Alley to the State President reported that the Chapter was establishing an SAR bookshelf at Good Samaritan Village and asked for suggestions for volumes to be added. The State Historian did subsequently make some suggestions for additional acquisitions.

On 15 June 1989, the Chapter met with the DAR for a Flag Day luncheon at the Picacho Hills Country Club, but no minutes of the meeting are available.

It appears that the Chapter had an exhibit at the Fourth of July celebration sponsored by the city of Las Cruces, to include a membership drive and a Chapter picnic, but no details are available. There was apparently also a Naturalization ceremony that day.

On 31 August 1989, Ralph Grelling Merrill II, Mike Duane Merrill, and Steve Edward Merrill were approved for membership by National Headquarters.

A letter from the National Society of 7 September 1989 announced a National Life Membership plan. Several Chapter members subsequently took advantage of the Plan (CAPT Baker, COL Calhoun, LCDR Camp, Mr. Leigon, Mr. Merrill, Mr. Sells, and Mr. Ralph Smith).

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The Chapter resumed meetings on 16 September 1989 with a luncheon at Good Samaritan Village. Compatriots present were: Alley, Francis, Herrick, Ted Merrill, Hester, and Miller. Visitors were: CAPT Baker, Joseph Kramer, and Harry D. Foltz of the Illinois Chapter. President Alley reported that LCDR Camp was working on by-laws for the Chapter and that the draft would be circulated for comment. He also asked for committee reports in writing to form a permanent record. Lee Hemck reported a balance on hand in the checking account of \$116.04. A report on prospects showed that 22 had been worked on since 22 February 1989; of these 3 had been accepted, 3 had been applied, 1 was in Albuquerque for approval, 9 were in various stages of preparation, 5 were in limbo, and 1 was to be transferred from El Paso. CAPT Baker reported on preparations for Armistice Day (11 November).

The Chapter received a letter from National Headquarters dated 20 October 1989 which announced the initiation of the voluntary George Washington Fund, with a yearly contribution per member of \$3.00.

Mr. Joseph Augustus Kramer's membership application was approved by National Headquarters on 20 October 1989. Unfortunately, Mr. Kramer died on 18 October 1989 at Memorial General Hospital and was interred at the Masonic Cemetery in Las Cruces on 21 October 1989.

The Chapter met at the White Sands Officers' Club on 21 October 1989 for lunch. Members and wives present were: President and Mrs. Alley, LCDR and Mrs. Camp, Mr. and Mrs. Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Herrick, Mr. and Mrs. Ganong, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Merrill and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Merrill. Guests were: CAPT and Mrs. Baker and CAPT David G. Maxwell, Commander of the Naval Facility at White Sands Missile Range. CAPT Maxwell gave a brief outline on the development of White Sands Missile Range and its present work, and then addressed the Navy's current projects there. He noted that restricted air space and possible environmental problems were sources of potential conflicts between White Sands and civilian activities.

National Headquarters approved the membership on 2 November 1989 of CAPT Walter Fay Baker.

The Chapter met on 11 November 1989 at the Mesilla Valley Inn for dinner. Members and wives present were: President and Mrs. Alley, LCDR and Mrs. Camp, Mr. and Mrs. Ganong, Mr. and Mrs. Herrick, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perkins, and COL Donald Perkins. Guests were: CAPT Baker and son William, Dr. and Mrs. Edrington, Misses Karen and Cynthia Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith, and Mr. Gary Willis. Dr. Edrington, President of the New Mexico Society, presented a membership certificate to CAPT Baker. He also presented the Chapter's 1989 Law Enforcement Award to Mr. Nelson, Chief of Police, at the New Mexico State University. Dr. Edrington also gave a status report on activities at the State level, noting that the ROTC, Eagle Scout, and Naturalization programs were going well. He reported

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that six members of the New Mexico Society had attended the national convention and that National Headquarters was working on a proposal for life memberships.

On 11 December 1989, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported that the Nominating Committee had proposed the following as officers in 1990: President, CAPT Walter F. Baker, Vice President, Dr. David W. Francis; Secretary, Mr. Joseph S. Miller; Treasurer, Mr. Ted Merrill; and Chaplain: Rev. Charles G. de Vries with LCDR Russell L. Camp as pro-tem.

1980's Presidents

	<u>President</u>	<u>National #</u>	<u>State #</u>
1986	Mr. Thomas B. Sheldon, Jr.	100004	894
1987	LCDR. Russell L. Camp, USN (Retired)	119600	682
1988	Mr. Charles L. Ganong	127595	708
1989	Mr. Rembert C. Alley	129060	717