

The source for this Las Cruces Chapter History comes from chapter minutes maintained by the Chapter Secretary: Colonel John A. Smith, USA-Retired until June, 2006. After that date, chapter minutes were provided mainly by Secretary Perkins Patton

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## 2000

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held its annual George Washington's Birthday meeting at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn at noon on 19 February 2000. Members present were President Jim Wheatley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lloyd Bates, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bob Lee, Secretary John Smith, and Compatriots J. Paul Kemp, Paul Cantrell, Lee Herrick, McDougale, and Holden. Guests were Dr. Jeffrey Brown, our guest speaker; Agent Stephanie S. Monk, winner of our annual Law Enforcement Award, and her mother; Bob Lee's son, Billy; and Mesdames Bates, Cantrell, Kemp, Herrick, Smith, and Wheatley. President Wheatley then recognized the guests. Secretary Smith then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences of the New Mexico State University. A history professor, Dr. Brown discussed the Greco-Roman heritage of our first President, General George Washington, and other early leaders. He emphasized that our early government was based on the lack of a strong central government, except for defense and taxation. He noted that the trend today is away from the early structure, with a trend toward an ever-stronger central government. Dr. Brown received a hearty round of applause for his presentation, with President Wheatley thanking Dr. Brown for his presentation.

Compatriot Holden then introduced the winner of our annual Law Enforcement Award, Agent Stephanie S. Monk of the U. S. Border Patrol station in Las Cruces. Agent Monk was cited for her successful record of Federal prosecutions. President Wheatley then presented the medal, ribbon, and certificate to Agent Monk. Compatriot Kemp then escorted the officers for the 2000-2001 Chapter year to their proper places and Compatriot Cantrell then installed the following:

President	Lloyd O. Bates
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Robert F. Lee
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Nelson M. Holden
Secretary	John A. Smith
Treasurer	William C. Wheeler (in absentia)
Chaplain	Charles G. de Vries (in absentia)

Past President Wheatley thanked those who had contributed to the 1999-2000 chapter year and emphasized the need to recruit younger members. President Bates thanked the Chapter for his selection as President and indicated he would gratefully received advice and criticism during his term of office.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 12 o'clock noon at the Good Samaritan Village on 17 June 2000. SAR members and guests present were President and Mrs. Lloyd Bates and granddaughter Lauren (DAR), Treasurer William Wheeler, Secretary, John Smith, and Compatriots Walter and Mrs. Baker and their son William; Paul and Mrs. Cantrell; Lee and Mrs. Herrick; J. Paul and Mrs. Kemp (DAR);

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Joseph and Mrs. Miller; and James and Mrs. Wheatley. DAR members and guests were: Regent Georgianna McDougle, Past Regents Blanche Goldsmith and Anita Worthington, and members Marjorie Day, Sarah Emerick, Jane Madrid and her husband, Dollie Gummeringer and her husband, and Dorothy Sprinkle. Other guests were the guest speaker, Dr. Gordon Owen and his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Art Block. The President introduced the guests, as indicated above, with Regent McDougle introducing the DAR members and guests. The President then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Gordon Owen, retired Professor of Communications at the New Mexico State University, and author of "The Two Alberts" and a history of the city of Las Cruces. Dr. Owen discussed the background history of the Las Cruces area, to include the Mexican land grants and the development of the area called Dona Ana. It eventually became desirable to move the principal town site to what is now Las Cruces. The name Las Cruces can be interpreted as the crossing, since the area had historically been noted as a good place to cross the Rio Grande and was also the crossing of the East-West and North-South trade routes. Dr. Owen then went on to mention the two Alberts - Fountain and Fall, to include the parallels in their lives and in their tragic endings. The speaker received a hearty round of applause and the thanks of the President. President Bates then presented a Past President's ribbon and pin to our immediate Past President, Jim Wheatley. Mrs. McDougle remarked about a special event to be held by the Silver City chapter of the DAR to celebrate the millennium. Compatriot Wheatley led the Recessional, Compatriot Cantrell gave the Benediction, and the President declared the meeting adjourned, asking the SAR members to remain for a brief business meeting. The Secretary reported that Compatriot de Vries had recently had back surgery; Compatriot Holden was in Albuquerque on Diocesan business; Compatriot McDougle was on an internship at Disney World in Orlando; Compatriot Lee was at a memorial service for a close friend; and that Compatriot Kepler's children were arriving that day. The Secretary passed out copies of the minutes of the meetings for November and February and solicited any corrections or additions; if none are received, the minutes will stand approved as written. The Treasurer presented an up-to-date financial report, indicating net worth of \$1,364.00. The Secretary passed out new rosters, asking those who have E-mail capability to give him their E-mail addresses. Some correspondence can be sent in this manner. The Secretary noted that the State Society of Pennsylvania was sponsoring a bell ringing campaign on the Fourth of July, asking Chapters nationwide to locally sponsor such an event. It was the sense of the Chapter that we should not attempt to participate in the year 2000, but should consider sponsoring the event in 2001. Compatriot Baker mentioned the 28 April ROTC event at the Pan American Center, involving ROTC units from throughout the area. The Chapter sponsors one of the trophies given during the event. Compatriot Baker regretted that he was the only Chapter member present and hoped that we could have additional representation next year. Compatriot Baker expressed the hope that one or more members of the Chapter could become involved at the State and perhaps even National level. NOTE: Compatriot Wheatley is the First Vice President of the State Society this year. Compatriot Baker then discussed the condition of the Odd Fellows Cemetery, where the Chapter places flags on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The cemetery is badly in need of attention, to include landscaping, delineation of paths, etc. Compatriot Baker volunteered to

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discuss the matter with the city, which owns the property, the staff of the Masonic Cemetery across the street, and others as appropriate, provided the Chapter approved. It was moved by Compatriot Smith, seconded by Compatriot Wheeler, and unanimously approved asking that Compatriot Baker proceed with this effort.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met for a buffet dinner at the home of Past President and Mrs. Paul B. Cantrell. Members and guests present were President and Mrs. Lloyd O. Bates; and Past Presidents J. Paul Kemp and Mrs. Kemp, Rev. Canon Dr. Charles G. de Vries and Mrs. De Vries; and Past President Paul B. Cantrell and Mrs. Cantrell. No business was conducted.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon on 11 November 2000 in the Kiva Room of the Good Samaritan Dining Room. Members present were President Lloyd O. Bates, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Robert F. Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nelson M. Holden, Chaplain Reverend Canon Dr. Charles G. de Vries; Secretary John A. Smith, Past Presidents Walter F. Baker, Paul B. Cantrell, and J. Paul Kemp; and Compatriot Norman Kepler. Guests present were Vice President General for the Rocky Mountain District and Mrs. Jim Hesse, and Mesdames Baker and de Vries. Compatriot Baker proposed a minute of silence for Compatriot Lee Herrick and another for Veterans, this being Veteran's Day. President Bates introduced Vice President General and Mrs. Hesse. The Vice President General discussed briefly several developments at the last National meeting, to wit the replacement of the Treasurer General and problems in the Merchandise Department at National Headquarters. He then discussed in some detail the investiture of the Prince of Spain which occurred at Albuquerque on the 20th of October, with the President General presiding. Compatriot Hesse passed around some interesting pictures of the ceremony and of the Prince. President Bates thanked the Vice President General for his presence at our meeting and for his illuminating, and often humorous, remarks. The Secretary read the minutes of the June and September 2000 meetings. It was moved by Compatriot Holden, seconded by Compatriot Cantrell, and approved that the minutes be accepted as read. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Compatriot Cantrell, then presented the slate of officers for the 2001-2002 Chapter year, as follows:

President	Lloyd O. Bates
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Robert F. Lee
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Nelson M. Holden
Chaplain	Reverend Canon Dr. Charles G. de Vries
Secretary/Treasurer	John A. Smith

After the ballot, Compatriot Cantrell announced that the slate as proposed had been unanimously approved. Committee Reports: Membership. Compatriot Holden reported that Jim Libbin's application was in good order and would be submitted as soon as his fees had been received. There was some discussion concerning the status of Christopher Gemoet's application. The Secretary reported that, of our 30 active members, 16 lived in Las Cruces, 2 in Mesilla Park, 1 in Alamogordo, 1 in Truth or Consequences, 2

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in Albuquerque, and 8 out-of-state, including one each in California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia. Compatriot Baker referred to the census count of eligible persons proposed by National Headquarters. The Secretary informed the Vice President General that our roster carried a list of prospects. ROTC The Vice President General noted that we should get our request for medals and certificates into State as soon as possible. Eagle Scouts. The Vice President General noted that the certificate for Eagle Scouts had been restored. Patriots The President referred to the Knight Essay Contest and reported that he had not yet received any entries. Miscellaneous Business: The President thanked Compatriot Cantrell for hosting the buffet dinner at our September meeting and also for chairing the Nominating Committee. Compatriot Baker commented on his desire that our speakers be more closely attuned to subjects concerning the Revolutionary War and George Washington. Compatriot Baker noted that the next annual ROTC competition will be held at the Pan American Center 01128 April 2001 and urged all compatriots to attend. The Vice President General noted that the next District meeting will be held at Mesa, Arizona, on 5 May 2001. Due to lack of time, it was not possible to show one of the videotapes purchased from the Oregon Society.

## 2001

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held its annual George Washington's Birthday luncheon at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn at noon on 17 February 2001. Members and spouses present were President and Mrs. Lloyd Bates, 1st Vice President and Mrs. Bob Lee, 2nd Vice President Nelson Holden, Secretary and Mrs. John Smith; Compatriot Walt Baker, Compatriot and Mrs. Paul Cantrell, Compatriot and Mrs. Martin Cretin, Compatriot and Mrs. J. Paul Kemp, Compatriot and Mrs. Norman Kepler, and Compatriot and Mrs. Jim Wheatley. Guests present were Officer Wallace Downs and Sgt Tom England of the Las Cruces Police Department and Mrs. Downs and Sgt England's fiancée; Ms. Marjorie Day of the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Dr. Ray Sadler, Professor of History at the New Mexico State University; and Compatriot Maurice Shier from Silver City. After lunch, President Bates then introduced the guests and spouses. Compatriot Smith introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Ray Sadler of the Department of History of the New Mexico State University, who spoke about the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution. He discussed the reasons for the Spanish hostility toward the English and the consequent assistance to the American cause. He emphasized the role of General Bernardo de Galvez, who with an initial force of about 300, attacked in 1779 Mobile, Alabama, and Pensacola, Florida, thus gaining control over much of the Southeast. After the war, Galvez succeeded his uncle as Spanish Viceroy in the New World, but he died not long after in 1786. President Bates thanked Doctor Sadler for his very informative talk and presented him with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation. Sgt England then introduced Office Downs, to whom President Bates presented the Chapter Law Enforcement Award for 2001. In his remarks, Officer Downs emphasized the importance and value of neighborhood police. Compatriot Cantrell then introduced the new officers for the Chapter year 2001-2002, including President Lloyd Bates, 1st Vice President Bob Lee,

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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nelson Holden, Secretary/Treasurer John Smith and, in absentia, Chaplain Charlie de Vries. Compatriot Baker installed the new officers, with Compatriot Cantrell representing Chaplain de Vries. Outgoing and incoming President Bates made brief remarks about his term as President. Compatriot Smith indicated that copies of an updated roster, minutes of the last meeting, and a current financial report were available for members to pick up. He noted that Compatriot Wheatley was going to M. D. Anderson Cancer Clinic in Houston, Texas, toward the end of the month for examination and possible treatment. He reported the death of Compatriot Jim Calhoun, a charter member of the Chapter and former President General, as well as the serious illness of Compatriot Don Perkins, who resides in Virginia. He regretted to report that Compatriots Rem Alley and Ted Morris had requested to be transferred to inactive status, Rem because of the infirmities of old age and Ted because of lack of time. He also mentioned that Martin Cretin was a new member of the Chapter, having transferred from Arizona. Compatriot Wheatley led the Recessional and Compatriot Cantrell gave the Benediction; the President then declared the meeting closed.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at 8:00 AM, Saturday, 15 September 2001, in the Kiva Room of the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were: Baker, Bates, de Vries, Holden, Kemp, and Wheatley. Guests were Mrs. Baker and William, Mrs. Kemp, and Mrs. Wheatley. Compatriot Holden acted as the Secretary/Treasurer. The President introduced the guests, Mrs. Baker and William, Mrs. Kemp, and Mrs. Wheatley. Committee reports: Patriotic. The flags were placed at the Odd Fellows cemetery for Memorial Day. ROTC Compatriot Baker reported that the State Society is to buy medals for the ROTC and Law Enforcement Awards. The Chapter medals are here for the next year - Two silver and six bronze ROTC medals and one Law Enforcement medal. Membership Compatriot Baker reported on several applications in process. The President reminded the Nominating Committee, consisting of Compatriots Cantrell, de Vries, and Lee, that nominees for the Chapter offices for the 2002-2003 year must be presented at the November meeting. Compatriot Baker reported on the patriotic parade for children at Young Park on 4 July 2001. A Constitution Day ceremony will be held on 17 September in the auditorium at Good Samaritan Village. The President General will be in Albuquerque from 7 to 8 November, with a banquet scheduled for 8 November. The President General will then go on to Phoenix for a regional meeting.

A discussion then ensued on the low turnout at meetings. Suggestions included each member recruiting one new member. It was also suggested that each member be asked to talk about his ancestor and the letter announcing the meeting also indicate what the program would be. As a last resort, it was suggested that it might be necessary to inactivate the chapter.

President Bates discussed the essay contest mentioned in a letter he had received from National Headquarters. Submissions are due in March. Compatriot de Vries volunteered to sponsor the program. A videotape on the Constitution was then shown. This is one of the five tapes obtained from the Oregon State Society. The tape received good reviews.

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After the Recessional, led by Compatriot Wheatley, the President declared the meeting closed.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their annual Flag Day luncheon, which was held at the Las Cruces Country Club at 11:30 AM on 16 June 2001. The Dona Ana Chapter was host for the meeting. Chapter members present were Compatriot Walt Baker, State President; Lloyd Bates, Chapter President; Past Chapter Presidents Paul Cantrell, Nelson Holden, J. Paul Kemp, and Jim Wheatley; John Smith, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer; and George Sells, former Vice President General, Rocky Mountain District. Visitors from Albuquerque and Santa Fe included Jim Hesse, Vice President General, Rocky Mountain District, and President of the Albuquerque Chapter; Ashley Loftin, State Registrar/Genealogist; Charles Martinez, State Historian; and George Randle, State Secretary. Spouses present were Mesdames Baker, Bates, Cantrell, Holden, and Wheatley. The DAR Chapter was represented by Mrs. O'Malley, State Regent; Mrs. Sprinkle, Chapter Regent; and Mesdames Briggs, Darr, Goldsmith, Holden, Johnson, Kemp, Meerscheidt, Steelmarc, White, and Worthington. Mrs. Holden's husband was also present. The guest speaker, Mr. James Smith, instructor in history at Mayfield High School, was accompanied by his wife. The Regent opened the meeting, using the DAR ritual. She and CAPT Baker introduced all those present. After a prayer, the meal was served. The Regent then introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Smith, who spoke on George Washington, indicating that knowledge of Washington was essential to an understanding of the Revolution and the nation. Although Washington had the stature of a hero, he was also a human being. He was a good speaker, was somewhat pessimistic in temperament, was slow in making decisions, and promoted the public good over private good. The Regent presented an award to Mr. Smith and closed the meeting with a prayer. After this meeting, the New Mexico State Society met with the local chapter, followed by a meeting of the Board of Managers of the State Society.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon on 17 November 2001 in the Kiva Room of the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were: Baker, Bates, Cantrell, de Vries, Holden, Kemp, Smith, and Wheeler. A guest present was Compatriot Maurice S. Shier of Silver City. After lunch, President Bates called the meeting to order. President Bates introduced our guest, Compatriot Shier. Committee Reports: Patriotic. Compatriot Holden drew attention to the patriotic letter from Larry Stockton in a recent Las Cruces Sun-News. ROTC The Secretary reported that the medals and certificates for the coming year were on hand. Compatriot de Vries volunteered to assist in presentation of the awards. Membership Compatriot Shier announced his intention of transferring from his chapter in New Jersey to our Chapter. The Secretary reported he was working on an application for Dennis Lee Gard, the owner of Hart's Furniture. Essay Contest. The President reported that he was working on the project. Law Enforcement Award The Secretary noted that letters to the various agencies would be sent out shortly. The Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of candidates for Chapter offices for the Chapter year 2002-2003: President, Paul Cantrell; 1st Vice President, Bob Lee; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Lloyd Bates; Chaplain, Charles de

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Vries; and Secretary/Treasurer, John Smith. The Secretary noted that a quorum of members was not present and that he would, as a result, mail out ballots to all active members, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Secretary presented a fact sheet, showing the status of our membership and prospects. The calendar for the calendar year 2002 was then discussed and the following agreed to:

George Washington's Birthday Dinner, Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn, noon, 23 February 2002.

Joint meeting in celebration of Flag Day with Dona Ana Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Good Samaritan Village, noon, 15 June 2002

Regular business meetings, Good Samaritan Village, noon, 21 September 2002 and 16 November 2002.

The second of the videotapes purchased from the Oregon State Society, this one dealing with "George Washington, Man or Monument," was then shown.

## 2002

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held its annual George Washington's Birthday meeting at 12:00 noon, 23 February 2002, at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn. Members present were Compatriots Baker, Bates, Cantrell, Cretin, de Vries, Kemp, Lee, and Wheatley. Guests present were Compatriot Maurice Shier from Silver City; our Law Enforcement Award winner, Investigator Dennis Serna of the New Mexico State University Police Department, his parents, and brother, and his fiancée, Deanna Smith of the District Attorney's Office; our guest speaker, Udell Vigil, Public Information Officer for the City of Las Cruces, and his spouse, Judge Grace Duran of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court; and Mesdames Kemp, Lee, and Wheatley; and a prospective member, Dennis Gard, owner of Hart's Furniture.

After the introduction of our guests by the President, the Secretary introduced the guest speaker, Udell Vigil, who discussed some of the problems presently facing the city government. He assured the audience that the reconstruction of the Lohman Avenue Bridge over Interstate 25 should not hinder traffic to any real degree, since a bypass bridge will be finished before the old bridge is torn down. He also noted that Triviz will now run straight under Lohman, eliminating the detour now required. He also discussed the cell phone and boom box areas, as well as the solicitation problem, noting that no legislation would be legal if it applied only to homeless solicitors. He reminded the audience of the dedication of the new Bataan memorial at Veterans' Park on 13 April 2002. In response to a question, Mr. Vigil stated that, despite initial resistance, the reorganization of the city government last year by the City Manager is now looked on favorably.

The President then presented the Law Enforcement Award for 2002 to Investigator Dennis Serna. Investigator Serna made a number of pertinent comments, emphasizing that, despite public opinion to the contrary, the University Police are highly trained in all aspects of police work.

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President Bates remarked that he was happy to conclude his second consecutive year as President and thanked the members of the Chapter for their support. Compatriot Wheatley then escorted the incoming officers to positions in front of the United States and SAR flags. Compatriot Baker then installed the following:

President	Paul Cantrell
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Robert Lee
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Lloyd Bates
Chaplain	Charles de Vries
Secretary/Treasurer	John Smith

Compatriot Baker congratulated the new officers. In turn, it was noted that congratulations were in order for Compatriot Baker, who has just been elected as State President for a second year. Compatriot Cantrell, in his remarks, made reference to the tragic events of September 11 and noted that the patriotic efforts of such organizations as the SAR were even more important in the coming year. After the formal meeting, there was a short business meeting of the members only. The Secretary passed out minutes of the last meeting and a Treasurer's report. He inquired if any of the members present were acquainted with Compatriots Leavitt and Gallivan, who had not paid their dues. The Secretary suggested that the Chapter donate \$100.00 to the SAR Benefit Fund as requested in the most recent edition of the Headquarters Dispatch. Compatriot de Vries so moved, Compatriot Kemp seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at noon, 15 June 2002, in the Creative Arts Room of the Good Samaritan Village. Chapter members present were: Baker, Bates, Cantrell, Kemp, Lee, and Wheatley. Compatriot Baker introduced former Vice President General for the Rocky Mountain District, Jim Hesse and Mrs. Hesse; former Vice President General for the Rocky Mountain District and a charter member of Las Cruces Chapter, George N. Sells; and State Registrar Ashley Loftin. Regent Dorothy Sprinkle of Dona Ana Chapter, DAR, introduced DAR members Susanne O'Malley, New Mexico State President; Patience Carpenter; Caroline Darr; Marjorie Day; Blanche Goldsmith; Elisabeth Johnson; Freddie Olhausen and guest; Georgia McDougale and guest; Jane and Mike Madrid; Mildred Milligan; and Anita Worthington. Mrs. Sprinkle also introduced her husband, Bob. President Cantrell then introduced Compatriot Cecil Smyth and Mrs. Smyth from the El Paso Chapter and prospective member Gib Sawtelle and Mrs. Sawtelle from High Rolls; Compatriot and Mrs. James Day, also from the El Paso Chapter; and Compatriot Maurice Shier from Silver City. And last he introduced our spouses, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Bates, Mrs. Cantrell, Mrs. Kemp (also a DAR member), and Mrs. Wheatley. President Cantrell then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Clarence Fielder of the Department of History of the New Mexico State University, who spoke on the role of Black Americans in the Revolutionary War. President Cantrell then reported the death of Compatriot Norman Kepler; Compatriots Alley, Baker, Cantrell, and Smith attended the memorial service.



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The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon, 21 September 2002, in the Oasis Room of the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were: Baker, Cantrell, Kemp, Libbin, Smith, Wheatley, and Wheeler. Guests present were Compatriot Maurice Shier of Silver City, and Mrs. Doris Wheatley. President Cantrell then presented a membership rosette to Compatriot Jim Libbin. The Secretary reported that Compatriot Bates was in Las Vegas, Nevada, to see his eye doctor there, and Compatriot de Vries was participating in a church activity. The Secretary noted that the National Society had raised the National dues to \$25.00 per year and suggested that it might be desirable to lower the Chapter dues by \$5.00, the Chapter absorbing the \$5.00 difference from the current dues. After discussion, it was the consensus of those present that such a move would not be in the best interests of the Chapter over the long run. The Secretary commented on the National Society's census project and passed out copies of the census form, which only Compatriot Baker had received a copy. He urged that the forms be completed where possible, despite the possible pitfalls in the contact process. The Treasurer raised the possibility of returning to a previous practice of adding \$0.25 to each meal price to partially absorb the costs of guests and guest speakers. Compatriot Baker moved the adoption of this practice, seconded by Compatriot Wheatley, and approved. The question then arose of no-shows; the Chapter is currently picked up the costs when we must pay for a set number of people. It was moved by Compatriot Baker that those we do not cancel before the suspense date will be required to pay the meal fee, seconded by Compatriot Cantrell, and approved. This stipulation will appear in meeting notices. The Chapter then adopted locations for meetings in the 2003-2004 Chapter year. It was decided to keep our June, September, and November meetings at Good Samaritan Village, but that change of venue be considered for the February meeting, possibly the Best Western Mission Inn. Compatriot Smith moved the adoption of this plan, Compatriot Wheatley seconded, and it was approved. Compatriot Baker will explore that latter possibility. The Secretary reported the matter of Compatriot Shier's transfer from New Jersey seemed to be near solution, with Compatriot Baker carrying the proper form to National. Compatriot Cecil Smyth of El Paso has forwarded his request for transfer to the Texas Society. A new prospect is Sergeant Inman, formerly of the Las Cruces Police Department, who was referred by the Texas Society. Compatriot Kemp asked to be placed on the inactive list due to his age and physical condition. Compatriot Libbin has agreed to take over the Eagle Scout program. Mail addressed to prospect Trevor Enoch has been returned with no forwarding address. The Secretary reported the death of Compatriot Clyde Leavitt, who though a long-time National member, had not been active in the Las Cruces Chapter. Compatriot Baker provided a list of videos available for showing and dealing with patriotic matters. He also reported on the visit of the President General to Albuquerque from the 13th through the 15 of November, with the State Society banquet scheduled for the evening of the 14th. He urged members of the Las Cruces Chapter to attend if possible. President Cantrell drew attention to the book "We were soldiers once and young," indicating its relevance to the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution.

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The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Good Samaritan Village at noon on 16 November 2002. Members present were: State President Baker, Chapter President Cantrell, 1st Vice President Lee, Chaplain de Vries, Secretary Smith, and visitors Bob Lee's mother, and Cecil Smyth and Gib Sawtelle. The President then introduced the guests, Mrs. Lee, Gib Sawtelle, and Cecil Smyth. The Secretary passed out a list of the charter members of the Chapter, with their present status; it was noted that the only charter member still living in Las Cruces was Compatriot de Vries. Committee reports: ROTC. It was reported that LTC Stone, the ROTC instructor at Mayfield, was in cardiac rehabilitation after surgery. Letters to our ROTC units will be mailed before the next meeting. Scouts No report. Membership Transfer applications for Compatriots Shier and Smyth, and membership application for Crib Sawtelle are in process. Patriotic The Secretary admitted that the Chapter had not posted flags in the Odd Fellows' cemetery as customary. The following officers were reelected for the Chapter 2003-2004 year:

President,	Paul Cantrell
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President,	Robert Lee;
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President,	Lloyd Bates;
Chaplain,	Reverend Doctor Charles de Vries
Secretary/Treasurer,	John Smith.

A video on homes of George Washington and other members of the Washington family was then shown.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at the Best Western Mission Inn at noon, 15 February 2003. Members in attendance were: Baker, Bates, Cantrell, de Vries, Shier, Smith, Wheatley, and Wheeler. Spouses in attendance were: Mesdames Bates, Cantrell, Kemp, Patton, and Wheatley. Other guests were Compatriots Kemp, Patton, and Smyth; prospective member Sawtelle; Deputy Sheriff David Testa, our Law Enforcement Award recipient; Undersheriff and Mrs. Frank Ruiz; Captain John Caranta, our guest speaker, and Cadet Andrew Overton from the Air Force ROTC unit at NMSU. President Cantrell introduced the guest speaker, Captain Caranta, who discussed the changes in the 56 years of the Air Force, the multiple missions of the Air Force and its increased capabilities, as well as the increased educational level of the Service. He paid tribute to the contributions of the Air Force Reserve and National Guard. Cadet Overton noted that the ROTC contributes about 41 percent of the officers of the Air Force. About 90 percent of the juniors and seniors are on scholarship. The local unit has about 65 students. President Cantrell then presented our 2003 Law Enforcement Award to Deputy Sheriff David Testa. Deputy Testa during 2002 saved two lives by use of CPR. In the first case, Deputy Testa was able to revive a 58-year old man suffering from cardiac arrest; the doctors and ambulance crew credited Deputy Testa with having saved the man's life. In the second case, a male suspect was fleeing from the police when he had a cardiac arrest probably triggered by use of illegal drugs; Deputy Testa administered CPR until an ambulance crew arrived. Deputy Testa has had an unusual law enforcement career. His father is a retired police officer, while Dep-

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uty Testa served 13 years in the Army's Military Police Corps. He then worked for law enforcement in Hager Heights, Texas. Since joining the Dona Ma County Sheriff's department, Deputy Testa has consistently shown the qualities of a fine law enforcement officer. Deputy Testa made brief remarks about his service and thanked the Chapter for the award.

Compatriot Wheatley then introduced the Chapter officers for the 2003-2004 Chapter year:

President Paul Cantrell; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bob Lee (in absentia); 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lloyd Bates; Chaplain Reverend Doctor Charles de Vries; and Secretary/Treasurer, John Smith. Captain Baker, State President, then installed the officers. The outgoing and incoming President, Compatriot Cantrell, then made appropriate remarks. Captain Baker then surprised those in attendance by presenting one of the newest National Society's awards, the Distinguished Service Medal, to Compatriot Smith in recognition of his years of service as Chapter Secretary and Treasurer. Accompanying the medal and certificate was an SAR license plate holder, which now adorns Compatriot Smith's ancient Honda hatchback.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 11:30 on 14 June 2003 at the Las Cruces Country Club, with the Dona Ana Chapter as host. Las Cruces Chapter did not transact any business at this luncheon meeting. Las Cruces Chapter members in attendance were: Baker, Cantrell, McDougle, Patton, and Shier. Inactive members Holden and Kemp were also in attendance, as well as prospective member Sawtelle. Spouses attending were: Cantrell, Holden, Kemp, Patton, and Sawtelle. The guest speaker was Ms. Marilyn Humphrey, who specializes in presentations on patriotism. Respectfully submitted,

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon on 20 September 2003 in the Kiva Room of the Main Dining Room of the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were Compatriots Baker, de Vries, Patton, Sawtelle, Shier, Smith, and Wheatley. Guests present were Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Wheatley. Committee Reports: ROTC. The Secretary reported that a sufficient supply of ROTC and Law Enforcement medals had been obtained from National. It is possible that an Army JROTC unit may be established at Las Cruces High School in the next year or so, as a result of a change in principals at the school. Scouts Compatriot Baker reported that the New Mexico Scout Essay winner had been declared the National winner. Membership The Secretary reported that approval of membership for Gib Sawtelle, David Galt, and Cecil Smyth had been received, as had reinstatement of Steve Wamel. Patriotic The Secretary confessed that the flags had not been placed on the graves in the Odd Fellows Cemetery for Memorial Day. Compatriot Baker reported on the visit to the Rocky Mountain District of the President General. This included stops at Denver, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Tucson/Phoenix. Compatriot Baker will be escorting the President General.

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The Oregon State Society video entitled "Story of the U.S. Constitution" was then shown to general approval.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met in the Kiva Room of the Main Dining Room of the Good Samaritan Village at noon, 15 November 2003. Members present were President Paul Cantrell, Chaplain Charles de Vries, Secretary John Smith, and Compatriots Baker, Patton, and Sawtelle. Guests were Jim Baker and Mrs. Cantrell. Committee Reports: ROTC. The Secretary reported that LTC Mike Stone, the ROTC instructor at Mayfield, had had heart surgery but was recuperating without incident. Scouts. No report. Membership .An application has been received from. Lloyd Bates' grandson, Darin Lee Rouse, who resides in California. The Chapter had received notice of the acceptance of David F. Galt of Alamogordo as a member of the Society. Compatriot Baker reported that he had four applications in process. Patriotic The Secretary reported that the flags had not been placed for Veterans' Day at the Odd Fellows' cemetery. Nominating Compatriot de Vries read the list of proposed candidates for the next Chapter year; President, Compatriot Lee; 1st Vice President, Compatriot Patton; 2nd Vice President, Compatriot Bates; Chaplain, Compatriot de Vries; and Secretary/Treasurer, Compatriot Smith. Compatriot Baker gave an after-action report on the visit of the President General to the Rocky Mountain District, which, except for some transportation problems, went well. The Secretary reported that the ballots mailed in, as well as those of the members present, were unanimous in approving the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for officers for the next chapter year, as listed above. Compatriot Baker discussed the Memorial Wall which was in the planning stage and that hand-held flags had been placed in other cemeteries. Due to the length of the business meeting, it was decided to save the historical video for another meeting.

## 2004

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met in San Rafael Salon A of the Las Cruces Hilton at noon on Saturday, 21 February 2004 for its annual George Washington's Birthday luncheon. Members present were President Cantrell, 1st Vice President Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bates, Chaplain de Vries, Secretary/Treasurer Smith, and Compatriots Cretin, Patton, Sawtelle, Shier, Smyth, and Wheatley. The President then introduced the following guests, Judge Melissa Miler-Byrnes, Chief Judge of the Las Cruces Municipal Court, and her husband Mr. Bart Byrnes, The Honorable William Mattiace, Mayor of the City of Las Cruces, Officer Felipe Gonzalez of the New Mexico State Police, later joined by his wife and baby, Sergeant Montez of the New Mexico State Police. Members guests: Mrs. Bates and granddaughter Lauren, Mrs. Cantrell, Mrs. Cretin, Mrs. de Vries, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Sawtelle, Mrs. Smyth, and Mrs. Wheatley. The Secretary then read the citations accompanying the Law Enforcement Awards and President Cantrell presented the certificates and medals to Judge Miller-Byrnes and Officer Gonzalez, both of whom made appropriate remarks.

Compatriot Wheatley then introduced the new officers for the Chapter Year 2004-2005,

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President,	Robert F. Lee
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President,	Rev. Perkins Patton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President,	Lloyd O. Bates
Chaplain,	Rev. Canon Dr. Charles G. de Vries
Secretary/Treasurer,	John A. Smith.

The officers were sworn in by President Cantrell. The Secretary presented Past Presidents' certificates to Compatriots Bates and Cantrell. New member rosettes were presented to Compatriots Sawtelle, Cantrell, Lee, Smyth, and several others. The outgoing President gave brief remarks concerning the accomplishments of his terms in office and the incoming President discussed his hopes for the next year.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met in the Craft Center at the Good Samaritan Village at noon, 19 June 2004. Members present were: President, Robert Lee; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Lloyd Bates; Secretary/Treasurer John Smith; and Compatriots Shier and Wheatley. Guests were the speaker, Mr. Benjamin E. Woods, Vice President of New Mexico State University for Human and Physical Resources and Mrs. Woods; Mrs. Lee, Bob Lee's mother; Mrs. Bates and granddaughter Lauren; Mrs. Smith and grandson Jonathan Laferriere; Mrs. Wheatley; and DAR members Blanche Goldsmith, past State and Chapter Regent, Mrs. Milligan, and Mrs. Carpenter. President Lee introduced the visitors. Compatriot Smith introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Woods, who began his presentation with a tribute to the SAR, and then discussed the early history of the University, which was founded in 1888 by Hiram Hadley as Las Cruces College. The Morrill act, passed in 1862, provided for at least one land-grant school in each state, whose charter required it to support agriculture in the state. The new Las Cruces College became one of the land-grant schools and continues in that role today. In the question period, Mr. Woods emphasized the relationships between the pre-professional programs at the University and medical and veterinary schools in Albuquerque and Colorado Springs. The Secretary noted that no business would be conducted at this meeting and that the next business meeting would be on 18 September 2004 at Good Sam. He also reported the death of one of our charter members, COL Donald Perkins, who, although he resided in Virginia, died in Las Cruces where he had lived for many years. The Secretary reported that Compatriot Baker was at a meeting in Socorro, Compatriot Libbin was in Yemen, Compatriot Patton in Iowa, Compatriot Ross at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, and Compatriot de Vries at a church meeting in El Paso. The Secretary noted that he had received regrets from Compatriots Harvey, Kemp, Francis, Sawtelle, and Cantrell

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon on 18 September 2004 in the Kiva Room of the Good Samaritan Village, with the following members in attendance: President Lee, Secretary Smith, and Compatriots Francis, Patton, Shier, and Wheatley. Guests present were Bob Lee's mother, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Wheatley. President Lee introduced the guests. Membership. The Secretary reported that he had new addresses for Compatriots Beer, de Vries, and McDougale; that the application for Lloyd Bates' grandson, Darin Lee Rouse, hopefully is

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being expedited; that Charles Baker is shortly moving to Las Cruces; and that Nicholas Seifert is now living in Las Cruces. Mr. Art Block has been removed from the list of prospects. Patriotic The flags were placed on the graves at the Odd Fellow's cemetery for Memorial Day and removed the day after. Nominating The Nominating Committee was reminded that a slate was needed for the November meeting so that officers could be approved for the 2004-5 Chapter year. Scouts Compatriot Patton agreed to review the files on our previous Scout activities and to determine if it is viable to reinstate our Scout program. It was reported that Compatriot Walt Baker had presented an SAR flag certificate to one of the local radio stations. A discussion ensued as to whether any measures could be taken to improve attendance at our meetings and also to improve responses to meeting notices. It was noted that it was growing increasingly difficult to obtain guest speakers when so few members appeared at a meeting. It was decided to submit a questionnaire to members asking for their views on possible changes in meeting times, places, speakers, etc. The Secretary suggested that it was an appropriate time to determine if people carried on our prospect list were still interested in joining SAR and to remove them from the mailing list if the answer was definitely no. The video originally scheduled for the program was scratched because a VCR was unavailable.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon on 20 November 2004 in the Kiva Room of the Main Dining Room of the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Perkins Patton, Secretary/Treasurer John Smith, and Compatriots Bates and Shier. Mrs. Patton was also present. Committee Reports Membership: Compatriot Dr. Gregory Johnson has been reinstated; Compatriot Cecil Smyth has transferred back to the El Paso Chapter. Nominating: The Secretary reported that the Nominating Committee had recommended that the current slate of officers be reelected for the coming Chapter year. Patriotic: Mention was made of the Veteran's Day parade. It was moved by Compatriot Smith and seconded by Compatriot Bates that the recommendation of the Nominating Committee be approved, and it was so approved. There followed a discussion of the potential survey of members concerning meetings and other matters related to correspondence to prospects. Compatriot Shier moved and Compatriot Bates seconded that the February George Washington's Birthday Luncheon be held at Good Sam. Motion approved. A video from the Oregon State Society concerning Independence Hall in Philadelphia was then shown.

## **2005**

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon, Saturday, 19 February 2005, in the Crafts Center at the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were Compatriots Baker, de Vries, Lee, Shier, Smith, and Wheeler. Visitors were prospective member Dennis Gard, Detective Gabriel Graham and friend, Officer Michael Brookreson and wife, Officer Roy Askin and wife, and Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Smith. After lunch, President Lee called the meeting to order, Chaplain de Vries gave the Invocation, President Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Compatriot Smith led the SAR Pledge. President Lee introduced the visitors. Compatriot Smith summarized the nominations for the Chapter Law Enforcement Award for this year. Detective Gra-

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ham has been with the Las Cruces Police Department since 1991 and currently works with the Criminal Investigations Division and is the SWATS Logistics Officer. She is also involved with DARE, Ident-a-Child, Crime Prevention Programs, and Crime Stoppers. She was named Officer of the Year in 2004. Officer Brookreson has been with the Las Cruces Police Department since 1996. He recently became as a member of the Targeting Neighborhood Threats unit. His tenacity makes him the caliber of officer that is a credit to his department. President Lee then presented the awards to the two officers. Both officers made brief remarks about their duties. It is noted that Officer Askin was our contact point with the Las Cruces Police Department for these awards.

Compatriot Shier then introduced the officers for the next Chapter year, President Robert Lee, 1st Vice President Perkins Patton (in absentia), 2nd Vice President Lloyd Bates (in absentia), Chaplain Charles de Vries, and Secretary Treasurer John Smith. Mr. Gard and Compatriot Wheeler represented the absent officers. Compatriot Baker installed the officers and reminded both them and the Chapter of their obligations.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 11:30 on 11 June 2005 at the Best Western Mission Inn, with the DAR hosting. SAR members present were: President Bob Lee, 1st Vice President Perkins Patton, Chaplain Charles de Vries, Secretary/Treasurer John Smith, and Charles Baker and Gib Sawtelle. Wives present were Mrs. de Vries, Mrs. Patton (a DAR member), and Mrs. Sawtelle. The DAR Regent opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Patton gave the Invocation. SAR and DAR members introduced themselves, along with their spouses. After the buffet lunch, Blanche Goldsmith introduced the guest speaker, who spoke about Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met in the Kiva Room of the Main Dining Room of Good Samaritan Village at noon, 17 September 2005, with the following members present: Robert Lee, President; Perkins Patton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Lloyd Bates, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Charles de Vries, Chaplain; John Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Charles Baker; and Walt Baker. Visitors included Compatriot Jay Kanitz, a member of the San Francisco Chapter; William Baker and Mrs. Charles Baker, Mrs. Watt Baker, and Mrs. Smith. After President Lee introduced the visitors, the Secretary read the minutes of November 2004, February 2005, and June 2005. Compatriot Patton moved the adoption of the minutes, as amended, and Compatriot de Vries seconded; the motion was approved. Compatriot Smith then introduced the guest speaker, the Rev. Perkins Patton, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, who described the origins and current status of the Partners with Patriotism Program with the American Legion, to include the Blue Star program for families with personnel serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Secretary reported that election of officers will occur at our 19 November meeting. He regretted to inform the Chapter that Compatriot Shier has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and will probably not be attending any meetings in the future. The annual tax return to National has been submitted. With regard to membership, Jamie Smith,

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whose grandmother is a DAR, has the necessary papers; Walter Baker is working with Dennis Gard on his application; the John Campbell's nephew has decided not apply to our Chapter, but to apply to a chapter nearer his home in Ohio. Compatriot Walt Baker discussed the status of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage to be located adjacent to National Headquarters in Louisville. He also mentioned the annual visit to the Rocky Mountain District of the President General. Compatriot de Vries volunteered to head up a Blue Star drive for the Chapter.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met in the Kiva Room of the Main Dining Room of the Good Samaritan Village at noon, 19 November 2005, with the following members present:: President, Robert Lee; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Reverend Perkins Patton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Lloyd Bates; Secretary, John Smith; and Compatriots Walter Baker and Gilbert Sawtelle. Guests present were Mrs. Baker, William Baker; Mrs. Bates, and Mrs. Smith. President Lee then introduced the visitors. The Secretary then read the minutes of the meeting of 17 September 2005. The Secretary then reported the results of the ballot for election of officers for the Chapter year 2006-2007. There were no negative votes cast and no alternate nominations. Compatriot Smith moved the adoption of the slate, seconded by Compatriot Baker, and so approved. The slate consists of President, Reverend Perkins Patton; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Lloyd Bates; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Robert Lee; Chaplain, The Reverend Canon Doctor Charles de Vries; Treasurer, James Libbin; and Secretary, John Smith. There followed a discussion of the location and date of the February 2006 meeting. It was moved by Compatriot Baker and seconded by Compatriot Patton that the meeting be held at Good Sam on 11 February 2006 in conjunction with a meeting of the State Board of Managers. The motion was approved. The Secretary then summarized a series of messages from National Headquarters, none of which seemed to require any action on the part of the Chapter. Compatriot Baker then made several suggestions to improve the attendance and the visibility of the Chapter, to include items in the organizational section of the Las Cruces Sun-News; resuming publication of the meeting information in the SAR Magazine; and participation by the Chapter in events at Veteran's Park. There was a general discussion on these and other related items.

## 2006

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at noon on 11 February 2006 in the Craft Center of the Good Samaritan Village. Members present were President Bob Lee, 1st Vice President Perkins Patton. Chaplain the Rev. Canon Dr. Charles G. de Vries, Secretary/Treasurer John Smith, and Compatriots Charles Baker, Walt Baker, Jim Libbin, Gib Sawtelle, and Maurice Shier. Guests present were Past State President Jim Hesse, New Mexico Society Treasurer John Farris, Mr. Dean Burk, a prospective member, and Mrs. Charles Baker, Mrs. de Vries, Mrs. Patton. Mrs. Shier, and Mrs. Smith. President Lee introduced the guests. The Secretary then read the citation accompanying the recommendation from the Dona Ana County Sheriffs Department to award the SAR Law Enforcement Award to Lt. Arvis Rhodes. Lt. Rhodes was unable to present, presenting a class at Angel Fire. Compatriot Walt Baker, as-



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sisted by Compatriot Sawtelle, then installed the Chapter officers for the 2006-2007 Chapter year, to wit:

President, the Rev. Perkins Patton  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Lloyd Bates (in absentia)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Bob Lee  
Chaplain, Charles de Vries  
Treasurer, Jim Libbin  
Secretary, John Smith

Presidents Lee and Patton both made appropriate remarks. Compatriot Farris discussed the changes in officeholders at the State Society and mentioned current activities at the State level. Compatriot Walt Baker made some additional comments. It should be noted that the State Society Board of Managers met after our Chapter meeting; the officers of the State Society had been sworn in by National Trustee Walt Baker prior to our meeting. Compatriot Patton recommended that a meeting be held on the Saturday nearest Patriot's Day, which would be 22 April 2006. Compatriot de Vries so moved, seconded by Compatriot Charles Baker, and approved. It was agreed to meet at Good Sam.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met in the Kiva Room of the Good Samaritan Village at noon, Saturday, 22 April 2006, with the following members in attendance: President Perkins Patton; Chaplain, Charles de Vries; Treasurer, James Libbin; Secretary, John Smith, and Charles Baker, Walter Baker, Maurice Shier, and William Wheeler. President Patton introduced the guests: Dr. George Biles, Past President of the Pittsburgh Chapter; prospective members Dean Burk and David Dewitt; Deputy Sheriff Lt. Arlis Rhodes, recipient of our Law Enforcement Award, and Mrs. Rhodes, and their two children; our guest speakers, Mr. Mike Beckett and Ms. Susan Lowell; and wives, Mrs. Charles Baker, Mrs. Shier, and Mrs. Smith. President Patton made brief remarks concerning Patriots Day, which is not a recognized holiday in New Mexico. It was announced that our joint meeting with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 at the Good Samaritan Village. Compatriot Walt Baker noted that the State Society would be meeting in Socorro on 13 May 2006; and that it was planned to award \$1000 from the State Society to contribute to the Heritage Fund at National Headquarters, to be paid over a period of 5 years. Compatriot Smith reported that Compatriot Sawtelle had passed away shortly after our February meeting. Compatriot Smith read extracts from the citation from the Dona Ana County Sheriffs Department concerning the achievements of our Law Enforcement Award recipient, Deputy Sheriff Lt. Arlis Rhodes. President Patton then presented a certificate and medal to Lt. Rhodes, who responded with brief remarks concerning the force. Compatriot Smith then presented our guest speaker, Mr. Mike Beckett, President of Las Cruces Downtown, and manager of the COAS bookstore, who, in turn, presented Ms. Susan Lowell from Las Cruces Downtown. Using visual aids, they then discussed the future (and past) of Main Street and the surrounding area, to include reopening of Main Street to traffic and the relocation of city hall to the old So-

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to grocery site. Mike and Susan answered a number of questions concerning the entire project.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly on 17 June 2006 with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the Crafts Center of the Good Samaritan Village. SAR members present were: President Patton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lee, Chaplain de Vries, Secretary Smith, Robert Francis, and Bill Wheeler. Guests were prospective member Dean Burk; guest speaker Dr. Ray Sadler, Emeritus Professor of History at the New Mexico State University; Mrs. Freddie Olhausen-Finkner, Regent of the Dona Ana Chapter of the DAR, and her husband; DAR members and guests Mrs. Sprinkle and her husband, Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Milligan. SAR spouses were Mrs. de Vries, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Patton, and Mrs. Smith. President Patton introduced the SAR guests and Mrs. Olhausen-Finkner introduced the DAR members and guests. President Patton made remarks on Flag Day and the proposed amendment to the Constitution concerning desecration of the Flag. Secretary Smith introduced Dr. Sadler, who spoke on the role of El Paso and its citizens during the Mexican Revolution. It appears that almost all of the citizens of El Paso were involved on one side or the other in the Revolution, sometimes violently. The research that he and Dr. Charles Harris are doing in preparation for publication of a book is supported by voluminous FBI reports. The Secretary presented the minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2006; Compatriot Wheeler moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Compatriot de Vries, and approved. Compatriot Smith presented the treasurer's report as of 16 June 2006; Compatriot Wheeler moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Compatriot de Vries, and approved. President Patton presented a Past President's pin and certificate to Compatriot Lee.

## 2007

The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met after lunch at 12:55PM on February 17, 2007 at the Good Samaritan in Las Cruces, NM. Eight members and guests were in attendance. Old Business: The Secretary was absent because of health reasons. No minutes were read for the previous meeting that had been held on November 18, 2006. President Perkins Patton moved and Compatriot Walt Baker seconded that these minutes be dispensed with since no copy was available. The motion was carried. The Treasurer, Compatriot Jim Libbin, gave the Treasurer's Report. The chapter balance as of November 18, 2006 was \$232.75. The current balance is \$1,095.75, an increase of \$863 primarily due to donations. President Perkins Patton moved and Compatriot Walt Baker seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. The motion was carried. There was no Registrar's Report. A discussion about 4 chapter members who are currently in arrears with their dues ensued. The President and Treasurer intend to contact these members in order to initiate reinstatement petitions. President Perkins Patton discussed the Chapter's Eagle Scout Coordinator's efforts for 2007. He reported that certificates to Eagle Scouts had been prepared and properly signed and would be distributed in the future. Since Compatriot Walt Baker chairs the National (NSSAR) Eagle Scout committee, he will provide advice and assistance. New Business:

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President Perkins Patton lead a discussion about starting a new NMSSAR chapter in Farmington, NM as well as the possibility of creating a dual chapter for residents of south western Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Compatriot Chuck Baker commented about using an ad in the Sun-Times and also the Bulletin to announce the chapter's up-coming meetings. President Perkins Patton stated he would take the lead in getting this done. He pointed out that an ad he had put in had resulted in an SAR member becoming a dual member in NMSSAR and joining the Las Cruces Chapter. Under Good of the Order, President Perkins Patton stated that the Society meeting may be held on March 17, 2007. He would get information out on this date. Also the next meeting will be held on April 21, 2007. General Program: President Perkins Patton read an interesting historical article about the first president of the Continental Convention, Mr. John Hanson. This resulted in a lively discussion about Revolutionary and Continental Congress issues. There being no further business, motions were made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 PM. These officers were then installed.

President	Rev. Perkins Patton
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lloyd Bates (in absentia)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bob Lee
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	George Biles
Chaplain	Charles de Vries
Treasurer	Jim Libbin
Secretary	Vacant

The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met on April 14, 2007 at the Good Samaritan in Las Cruces, NM. 7 members and guests were in attendance. Guests, Elsa Baker, Sue Shier, and Jim Proctor were recognized. Mr. Proctor of Silver City is a prospective member. Compatriot Walt Baker will be sending him the necessary applications. Old Business: The JRROTC awards were discussed. Walt Baker will be taking charge of these. New Business: The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Dona Ana Chapter, DAR, to be held on June 2, 2007 at Picacho CC. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the recitation of the SAR Closing led by President Patton.

The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met jointly with the Dona Ana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for the Annual Flag Day observance on June 2, 2007 at the Picacho Country Club in Las Cruces, NM. 8 SAR members and guests were in attendance. Marilyn Humphrey and husband presented an entertaining program on the U.S. Flag.

The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met after lunch on September 8, 2007 at the Good Samaritan in Las Cruces, NM. 8 members and guests were in attendance. The SAR Pledge and Invocation were offered by President Patton. Guests, Elsa Baker, Sue Shier and William Baker were recognized. Correspondence was presented from Louisville concerning Outreach Education Resolution. Also presented was an invitation to participate in Veteran's Day Parade, November 10, 2007.

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Perkins Patton will participate. Old Business: Minutes were read for the previous meetings that had been held on April 14 and June 2. Perkins Patton and Jim Libbin were presented with Medals by Capt. Baker for their participation in the Eagle Scout Scholarship Fund. The JRROTC awards were discussed. Perkins Patton reported concerning flags placed on veteran's graves in the Odd Fellows Cemetery for Memorial Day. New Business: A Nominating Committee of Perkins Patton and George Biles was chosen to work with Col. Smith. Announcements were made of the NMSSAR State Meeting September 22, 2007 in Albuquerque and the Annual State Banquet October 26, 2007, also in Albuquerque. Next Meeting will be November 17, 2007 at the Good Sam.

Only 2 people showed for the meeting on November 17, 2007 – Compatriots Patton and Biles. No meeting was held for lack of a quorum.

## 2008

The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met after lunch on February 9, 2008 at the Best Western Mission Inn in Las Cruces, NM. Six members and guests were in attendance. President Patton installed the following Chapter Officers for 2008:

President	George Biles;
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Robert Lee (installed in absentia);
Secretary	Perkins Patton;
Treasurer	Jim Libbin;
Chaplain	Perkins Patton.

Due to a mix-up in communication, Mayor William Mattiace was not present to receive the Good Citizenship Medal for his service to the community. We will attempt to reschedule this for the May meeting. President Biles presented a brief program on "The Story Behind Revolutionary War Cockades" and then led the Chapter in a discussion of ways to improve interest in our Society. Old Business Minutes were read for the previous meeting that had been held on September 8, 2007. [There were no minutes from November as only two members had attended.] Secretary Perkins Patton reported that letters had been sent to ROTC units at NMSU and JROTC units at area high schools. Chaplain Patton reported briefly on the health of a couple of members who were unable to attend our meeting. We gained 4 new members in 2007 (through no fault of our own). Lt. Colonel Orton, Michael and Victor Gaba, David DeWitt. Letters requesting nominees for awards have been sent to: Army & Air Force ROTC units - NMSU JRROTC units - LC High School, Mayfield High School, Onate High School, Alamogordo High School, Deming High School, Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School. CHAPLAIN'S REPORT Geraldine Smith is recovering from her broken leg and has progressed from wheelchair to walker. Col. Smith is reluctant to leave her alone and hence is unable to attend today. Dr. DeVries is recovering from a stroke (last December) and is uncertain of his attendance today. I [Perkins Patton] had a heart attack in the previous week, had an angiography, spent the weekend in the hospital and was discharged Monday.

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The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met after lunch on May 17, 2008 at the Best Western Mission Inn in Las Cruces, NM. Minutes of the Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held on May 17, 2008 are sketchy since I [Perkins Patton] have misplaced my meeting notes. Six members and guests were in attendance. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Secretary Patton the SAR Pledge was led by President Biles and Invocation was offered by Chaplain Patton. President Biles introduced the guests which included Mark Santiago, the Speaker for the afternoon and special guests Bill and Wanda Mattiace plus SAR members from Albuquerque and Santa Fe who were here for a State Board of Managers Meeting which took place following the Chapter meeting. We finally got our signals straight and William "Bill" Mattiace was present to receive the Good Citizenship Award for his public service as Mayor of the city of Las Cruces. Mark Santiago, Director of the Farm & Ranch Museum, presented our program. Old Business Minutes were approved as sent out for the meeting that had been held on February 9, 2008. Reports: Secretary Patton reported on awards at ROTC units at NMSU and to JROTC units at area high schools. New Business: Next Meeting will be in September at the Best Western. This will be a joint meeting with Dona Ana Chapter of the D.A.R. honoring Constitution week. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and turned over to State President Jim Thornton for the Board of Managers Meeting



The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met after lunch on September 8, 2007 at the Good Samaritan in Las Cruces, NM. 8 members and guests were in attendance. Guests, Elsa Baker, Sue Shier, and William Baker were recognized. Correspondence was presented from Louisville concerning Outreach Education Resolution. Also presented was an invitation to participate in Veteran's Day Parade, November 10, 2007. Perkins will participate. Old Business: Perkins Patton and Jim Libbin were presented with Medals by Capt. Baker for their participation in the Eagle Scout Scholarship Fund. The JRROTC awards were discussed. Perkins reported concerning flag placed on veteran's graves in the Odd Fellows Cemetery for Memorial Day. New Business: A Nominating Committee of Perkins Patton and George Biles was chosen to work with Col. Smith. Announcements were made of the NMSSAR State Meeting September 22 In Albuquerque and the Annual State Banquet October 26 also in Albuquerque. Next Meeting will be November 17 at the Good Sam.



The Las Cruces, NM Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met on October 19, 2008 at the Las Cruces Country Club for lunch and a business meeting. Eight members were in attendance. Compatriot Shier and President Biles installed James Richard Proctor of Silver City, as the newest member of the Las Cruces Chapter. President Biles called the members present as a Nominating Committee. The following individuals were named for the 2009 officers:

President	George Biles
1st Vice-President	James Proctor
2nd Vice-President	William Baker

The source for this Las Cruces Chapter History comes from chapter minutes maintained by the Chapter Secretary: Colonel John A. Smith, USA-Retired until June, 2006. After that date, chapter minutes were provided mainly by Secretary Perkins Patton

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Secretary	Perkins Patton
Treasurer	James Libbin
Genealogist	George Biles

There was a general discussion of goals. President Biles pointed out that our by-laws require a minimum of 5 meetings a year. We need to be more active in submitting Law Enforcement/Fire Safety/EMS medals. We will continue our Grave Marking goals and member input goals.

### 2009

Minutes of the Las Cruces Chapter Meeting, Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 12:00 PM at the Las Cruces Country Club, Las Cruces, NM (Prepared by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President William Baker due to the Secretary's absence) Compatriot Attendees: Charles Baker, Walter Baker, William Baker, George Biles, Charles DeVries, Jim Libbin, Zachary Libbin, Jim Proctor, Maurice Shier, and Bill Wheeler. Guest Attendees: Elsa Baker, Laura DeVries. After opening ceremonies, the meeting was called to order. Introductions of guests were made.

Our new compatriot Zachary Libbin was installed by his Father and Sponsor, Compatriot Jim Libbin. We welcomed Compatriot Zachary Libbin to our organization. George Biles told about the ceremony awarding the Patriot Medal to Former Secretary Compatriot John Smith. After lunch, our speaker Compatriot Jim Proctor presented his idea for a historic preservation and renovation project at Fort Bayard, Silver City, NM. Jim Proctor provided information on the history of Fort Bayard, and spoke on what challenges the preservation and renovation are facing, and how NMSSAR can help. George Biles charged Jim Proctor with leading a committee to pursue this project.

Compatriot Walter Baker installed the 2009 officers: George Biles as President and Genealogist, Jim Proctor as 1st Vice President, William Baker as 2nd Vice President, and Jim Libbin as Treasurer. Perkins Patton will be our 2009 Secretary.

Upcoming local and state meetings were announced:

Saturday, noon, March 21, 2009; NMSSAR State Meeting, Albuquerque

Saturday, noon, May 9, 2009; Las Cruces Chapter Law Enforcement Day meeting

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### 2000's Presidents

	<u>President</u>	<u>National #</u>	<u>State #</u>
2000	Mr. Lloyd O. Bates	147217	874
2001	Mr. Lloyd O. Bates	147217	874
2002	Mr. Paul B. Cantrell	138611	807
2003	Mr. Paul B. Cantrell	138611	807
2004	Mr. Robert F. Lee	149652	894
2005	Mr. Robert F. Lee	149652	894
2006	Rev. Perkins L. Patton	145344	938
2007	Rev. Perkins L. Patton	145344	938
2008	Mr. George E. Biles	079267	971
2009	Mr. George E. Biles	079267	971