

Minutes for Chapter Meeting
August 16, 2014
Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR

9:00 a.m.

President Russell Leavens called the meeting to order. Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Roger Tate. Secretary Ralph Smith led the pledges to the flag of the United States of America, the pledge to the flag of the State of Texas and the pledge to the SAR flag.

President Leavens called for introduction of guests. Guests: Dave Davidson, JaAnn Alderman, Janet McMurray, Dave Whalen, and Dana and Chloe Gresham. Then Pres. Leavens called for the Patriot Ancestors Roll Call. Sixteen members and six guests were present.

Genealogist Gerry Gieger announced the induction of a new member. Compatriot John Anderson introduced new member US Army Retired Brigadier General Nathan (Nate) C. Vail. Compatriot Vail made gracious remarks describing his family's service in the armed forces and how meaningful it was to be inducted into the SAR. He spoke of ship Captain Jeremiah Vail from Salem, MA, in 1639, GB Ed Vail during the French and Indian War, and Revolutionary Patriot ancestor Thomas Vail. Compatriot Vail served in the US Army 31 years including two tours in Viet Nam and also as Commander, US Army, Alaska.

Program Chairman Roger Tate introduced Mr. Rene Gomez of the Ft. Worth Central Library. Mr. Gomez is Librarian over genealogy and the historical archives. A native of Fort Worth, Mr. Gomez is a graduate of UTA with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and from UNT with a Masters in Library Science. His program was entitled, "The Victorian Era in Ft. Worth and the Misfortunes of the River Bottoms." His program identified and paid tribute to many prominent citizens of Ft. Worth including General William J. Worth, John Peter Smith, Ephraim Merrill Daggett, Major K. M. Van Zandt (for whom our SAR chapter is named) and Dr. Carroll Merion Peck.

Following the program, Pres. Leavens led in the business of the chapter. He called for and Compatriot Gieger moved, Don Goodman seconded, and the Minutes of the July 19th meeting were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's report was prepared by Treas. Vaughn Oliver and presented by Pres. Russell Leavens. It was approved by unanimous vote.

Regional VP Compatriot James Alderman reported on the first chapter new members' orientation mentor meeting conducted by VP Mike Connelley on July 29th.

Compatriot Alderman reported regarding the tombstone grave maker for deceased Compatriot Ed Maddox. Greenwood Cemetery does not allow any grave markers to be affixed to a grave stone. He encouraged that SAR members take this into account when selecting their place of burial if they want their grave stone to have an SAR grave marker medallion affixed.

Compatriot Alderman reported that SAR is producing a national directory using the services of the Harris Directory Company. It will contain information on all members. Compatriots are encouraged to comply and provide personal information, including a photo if desired, to be accurately listed in the membership directory.

Compatriot Don Goodman reported regarding the elementary poster contest that 99 letters have been mailed to public school districts and private schools, inviting participation in the poster contest. He also received the report that new member Chris Blair has volunteered to serve on the law enforcement committee.

Our guest DAR Regent JaAnn Alderman reported that the United States Department of Defense has designated the years 2015-2017 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Viet Nam conflict. Commemorative events will take place over a two year period. Save the date November 8th for the DAR anniversary commemorative luncheon at Ridglea Country Club.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Roger Tate and the SAR recessional was led by Secretary Ralph Smith. The meeting was adjourned by Pres. Russell Leavens at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph E. Smith
Secretary
MAJ K.M. VanZandt Chapter