

## History

As a young boy and as most boys do, I would visit my grandparents during summer vacations and listen to the stories they would tell. It was my grandmother, Edra Wofford Ray, who stirred interest in my own heritage with her story about Samuel Arthur Brown, "Uncle Sam" to her, and his story of the Brown Family's Patriot, and her great-great grandfather, Arthur Brown of Pitt County, North Carolina. Arthur was a Private in the 3rd Regiment of the North Carolina Militia and was in Captain Anthony Sharp's Company, under the command of Major Redding Blount, and saw action in the Battle of Eutaw Springs. While giving aid to a wounded compatriot, he was bayoneted completely through his chest by a British Soldier, only missing his heart by inches. Left on the field for dead, Arthur survived the ordeal and went on to raise a family of six children and eventually settled in Carroll County, Tennessee. Arthur later told his grandson, Samuel Arthur Brown, that our Nation was made up of States, like a quiver of arrows. Alone each could be easily broken, but held together they contained the power to overcome. When the "War Between the States" began, it was his grandfather's words of wisdom that young Samuel Arthur remembered and was the deciding factor in his choice to fight for the Union.

Years later, as a Sanitarian for the State of Louisiana's Office of Public Health, and living in West Monroe, I became acquainted with Fred Huenefeld, Chapter President of the Benjamin Tennille Chapter of Monroe, Louisiana. Fred invited me to their luncheon meetings and I became interested in joining the Society. Two of my friends, Carter Campbell and Barry Vogt, who also had patriot ancestors, joined me in the quest for SAR membership during the early months of 2008. We all worked together to complete our applications and submit them to our Chapter Genealogist, Pat McHenry for approval. We were all accepted as members by September of 2008.

By the time the ink had dried on my application, Fred appointed me as a Louisiana State Society Board Member to represent the Benjamin Tennille Chapter. Fred asked me to attend the 2009 State Society meeting in New Orleans in April and give a report to the Chapter. It was during that meeting that I witnessed what SAR is all about and what it could offer our communities. I watched as deserving young people throughout the State received recognition and awards for their achievements.

During our LASSAR business meeting, Tom Jacks, then Vice President General of the Southern District, gave a presentation titled "LASSAR 2020" that was written by our then State Society President, Bill Allerton. Tom outlined a 10 year plan to grow our State Society in both membership as well as Chapters. Tom's presentation inspired me to think about what I could do for our Louisiana Society. Compatriot Tony Vets of Alexandria had already been working on establishing a new Chapter in Natchitoches, and he and his son Bo's enthusiasm was contagious. I was caught up in the excitement enough to join them and pledge to join the George Washington Endowment Fund that Compatriot John Wallace of Alabama, Past Vice President and current Chair of the George Washington Endowment Fund, presented to our State Society. It was later that I found out that all of our donations that year would earn our State Society the Walter Buchanan "BUCK" Meek Award for the largest percent of members who were George Washington Endowment Fund donors.

While at the Convention, I realized that Ouachita Parish had a large enough population base to support a new Chapter. I immediately began to think of what a new chapter should be called. I decided the best answer was to name it in honor of a patriot who was buried in the community. While at the Convention, I quizzed several Compatriots about northeast Louisiana and the patriots buried there. To my surprise all stated there were no other patriots buried in northeast Louisiana other than Benjamin Tennille. Undaunted, on my 5 hour drive from New Orleans to West Monroe, I began to formulate a plan to search for patriots that might have been overlooked by previous seekers.

Immediately upon my return home, the first place I checked was [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com). This site allows access to copies of original records, including pension applications of Revolutionary Soldiers, both approved as well as the ones that were rejected. I scoured over the documents and on the first attempt I located a pension filed in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. It was a man named James Huey, who at the time of his pension application was 96 years of age. This document contained information given under oath on April 19th 1838, that stated James Huey was aged "ninety-six years and rising", and that he resided in the Parish about 20 miles from the Court House. Huey went on to describe several tours of duty while serving with the South Carolina Militia, and that he fought in the battles of Cowpens and Eutaw Springs during the American Revolution. Born in Augusta County, Virginia, James and his family moved to Chester County, South Carolina when he was 14. He remained in Chester County until January, 1812, when the Huey family and several other families journeyed four months westward from South Carolina to where they eventually settled in Ouachita Parish in April of that year. Huey's pension application was rejected because it did not have enough supporting documentation, and it was filed in the wrong court, but it is apparent that Huey was a Patriot.

Click [HERE](#) for a pdf file of James Huey's pension application and obituary.

For those who are not familiar with Louisiana; Parishes are the same as Counties as with all of the other 49 States. Ouachita Parish in James Huey's day also spelled in court records as "Washita". Ouachita also was one of the first Parishes in Louisiana and was the parent of eleven other Parishes in northeast Louisiana. With the knowledge that there was only a 20 mile span from the courthouse to his home, I knew that James Huey would have probably lived in present day Ouachita Parish. I checked the [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) site, a company that has copies of records of United States Land Grants, to see if I could locate anything for James Huey. To my surprise, James received a land grant on November 13, 1826, for 80 acres signed by President John Quincy Adams. Huey's property is located in the present day community of Indian Village that is located on the Jackson Parish side of the Jackson/Ouachita Parish line. It was at that moment I knew who I wanted to name the new Chapter after.

I shared these facts with Carter Campbell and also Jim Miller, who at the time was an inactive SAR member of the Tennille Chapter. Both Jim and Carter were excited about the prospect of forming a new Chapter as they were unable to attend the noon meeting time of our Tennille Chapter. Jim, Carter and I all worked at locating as much information about James Huey as we could gather.

A great source of assistance came from Larry Forman and Lora Pepper of the Genealogy Department of Ouachita Parish Public Library System. Together, they found that Huey's obituary appeared in the "Ouachita Standard" on Friday March 29th 1839. Jim Miller's wife, Alice Faye, also contributed to the effort and located James Huey's will at the Ouachita Parish Courthouse. In his will, James states that his wish was to be buried next to his daughter in law. Laura Pepper provided me with the locations of the cemeteries in the vicinity of James's Land

Grant. Carter and I inspected all of the sites and realized that the Bryan Cemetery was within a quarter mile of James Huey's original land grant and it also contained the oldest marked burials. Pricilla Huey, who was a daughter in law of James Huey, is buried there and with that information, Jim Miller presented the information to the VA and was able to get a marker for Huey's gravesite.

At the same time, I had been telling our Louisiana State Society President, Bill Allerton, about my dream of forming a new Chapter in northeast Louisiana. I explained that it would be a compliment to the Benjamin Tennille Chapter, since we would not be competing with them as the members interested in forming the new Chapter were unable to attend luncheon meetings. Bill loved the idea and appointed me Forming Chapter President. After hearing that Jim Miller, an inactive member, was interested in becoming active again, Bill gave me the State list of inactive members. Bill told me that the bylaws stated we would need a minimum of 15 active members to form a new Chapter. I had told Bill that I would like to form a new Chapter by our Society Convention in 2010, which was also the 120th Anniversary of LASSAR. Bill said that would be great, two new Chapters forming in Louisiana would be amazing and that we had not had a new Chapter in Louisiana in over 10 years!

It was the last week in July that James Huey's headstone arrived at Jim Miller's home. On Saturday, August 1st 2009, Jim Miller, Ted Brode and I met Fred Huenefeld at the Bryan Cemetery to set the stone. I had contacted the local paper to document the moment. The three of us wrestled with the over 200 pound stone and set it into place over the grave of James Huey. The story went viral and spread all over the state. Since the setting of James Huey's head stone, there have been 10 newspaper articles that appeared in the 4 local papers of Ouachita Parish.

The list of Louisiana Inactive Member that Bill provided was very productive, and I was able to find four other men, Clark Parrott, John Parrott, Robert Parrott and Fred Hamilton, who all felt the same way about the meeting time and were supportive of our efforts to form a new Chapter. I had informed all of the inactive members about what to do to become reinstated. All of the inactive members had now paid their dues and I now had 9 people and only needed 6 more to meet the required 15. Carter Campbell and I made SAR sales pitches every chance we got.

A very fertile site for prospective new members was my local Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp where Carter Campbell and Jim Miller were also members. We were able to locate five interested men, Ted Brode and his son Ted Jr., Eddie Emory Jr., Chuck Rand, and Gerald Graves. Pat McHenry, the Genealogist of the Tennille Chapter, suggested that we work with Wamul Owen and his two sons Dr. Chris Owens and Dr. Greg Owens. We picked up another Tennille Chapter member, Ted Gibson who lives in Jackson Parish and he also said the noon meeting time was not an option for him either.

Richard Grant was brought to our attention by Compatriot Jim Mitchell, a Past President of the Piney Woods Chapter in Texas. Jim Mitchell, a native son of West Monroe, heard of our efforts to form a Chapter and wanted to join as a dual member, and wanted to be

there to pin his cousin Richard Grant at the Chapter forming meeting.

I received a call from Bill Allerton and he told me about a man who lived in Rocky Branch named Harry Neese who had written a book "From Worlds Apart... The Story of Jesse Neese and Carrie Falcon" about a his patriot ancestors Gaspar Falcon a militiaman from the Valenzuela Settlement, present day Donaldsonville, Louisiana and Martin Neese of Henry County, Tennessee. After speaking with Harry, he was very enthusiastic about joining our Chapter and said that his son Joe wanted to join as well.

I used the opportunity of the marking of James Huey's grave to promote our upcoming Chapter meeting on August 25th as a present to myself as it was also my birthday. It was during that meeting, we voted to hold all of our meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The turnout was great. There were 24 in attendance, 20 of whom were prospective members. Most of these men had some knowledge of their patriot ancestors and all expressed interest in joining SAR. From that point on we met on the same day each month until we were able to get everyone's applications turned in to our State Registrar, Clifford Normand. Carter Campbell and I went on a marathon of application writing. God had truly granted us a miracle and we now had enough people interested to form the Chapter once all of the applications cleared National. By our January 2010 LASSAR Board Meeting in Alexandria we had more than the necessary number of applications sent to National to become a Chapter, so we waited until enough had cleared to achieve the magic number of 15. Our State Society voted to grant Charters to both Tony Vets's Natchitoches Chapter and our James Huey Chapter in Ouachita Parish.

In early March we received the word at national that all of our applications had been approved and we had exceeded the 15 member requirement to form our Chapter. We would be able to Charter with 16 members and we held our final forming meeting on March 23rd 2010, which was also my son Alex's birthday. We elected our new officers and officially adopted our Chapter namesake and bylaws with all motions passing unanimously. Jim Miller was elected Registrar, Carter Campbell was elected Vice President and I was elected President. The Chapter even saw fit to elect my son Alex as honorary Treasurer. On April 27th we signed our new Chapter Charter and our State Society President Bill Allerton came and inducted our new members and installed our new officers.

It was during our Chapter Charter signing that we awarded our first NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award to one of our Ouachita Parish Police Jurors, Dr. Ollibeth Reddix. In December of 2009 a co-worker of mine, Buddy Smith, was contacted by Dr. Reddix, a local dentist and pastor of her Church, was a newly elected Police Juror for Ward D. Dr. Reddix told him of the J. S. Clark Cemetery that was in her Ward and the terrible plight that had befallen it. Ten years earlier, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury had become the owner of this property as it had become insolvent. The lack of drainage in the area was such that she was concerned that the caskets might literally float from the graves. When Buddy and I toured the site, the grass was uncut, and there was trash everywhere. I was shocked to find veterans graves with their stones fallen on the ground or leaning. The most horrifying site of all was located in the back corner of the property where veteran's markers were stacked up in a pile. To add insult to injury, a neighboring property owner was grazing his two horses inside the Cemetery! Our Agency chose not to be involved, however, I personally contacted Dr. Reddix and told her that I was the Forming Chapter President of the James Huey Chapter and I wanted to help. I met with Dr. Reddix at the cemetery and told her that as a whole it would be difficult to convince anyone to work on a cemetery anywhere unless it involved the family members of the people buried there. She was aware of the veterans buried at the site and I informed her that the one thing that would transcend all would be the veterans who were buried there. To prove my point, I invited her to our Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp meeting and told her to tell this story to them and see what would happen. Dr. Reddix's parents, who were active in the Civil Rights Movement, told me "you are crazy", but said that God sends people to help and she agreed to my request. Dr. Reddix and another Juror Pat Moore attended our SCV meeting. She made her presentation and at the end I made a motion that we support Dr. Reddix's efforts to clean up the cemetery. It passed unanimously. Dr. Reddix and I would go on to enlist help from several of the American Legion Posts and received their support as well. With assistance from the Ouachita Parish Police Jury to locate the grave sites of the veterans whose markers were stacked in a pile in the back of the cemetery, members of both the LASSAR and LASCV worked with American Legion Members to set as many of the stones as could be matched to the located graves.

Our SAR and SCV group would return again on another trip to check, square and level every one of the known 94 veteran stones that we could locate. While I was talking to Dr. Reddix on the phone during my son Alex's baseball practice, a friend Rodney Ward who worked at Swanson Center for Youth overheard what I was talking about and asked to involve his young men at their facility. Dr. Reddix, excited about the whole thing, asked if I would come to the Police Jury meeting and support her efforts to clean up the J. S. Clark Cemetery and wanted me as the Forming President of the James Huey Chapter and citizen of Ouachita Parish to make a statement about the appalling conditions at the site. It was there that I made the suggestion to the Police Jury that they could work in conjunction with Swanson Center for Youth to keep the site picked up of trash and maintain the grounds. The whole Jury loved the idea and agreed that they would financially support the work and buy the needed equipment for the Swanson Youth to maintain the site. Bill Allerton had previously told me that I should invite our Police Jury to our Chapter's Chartering Ceremony and it was at that time I did just that, but

added that we would be presenting Dr. Reddix a NSSAR Good Citizenship Medal for the work she had done for the J. S. Clark Cemetery. Three of the jurors attended our Chapter Chartering Ceremony.

Well, both Tony Vets and I did it! We had formed the first new Chapters in Louisiana in over 10 Years! The next stop was the LASSAR's 120th Anniversary to be held in the old Capitol Building Senate Chambers in Baton Rouge. Both Tony and I received our Chapter Charters for the Natchitoches Chapter and our James Huey Chapter from our Louisiana State Society President, Bill Allerton. I must say that Bill and all of the Officers of the LASSAR must be commended for the work they did to help both Tony and I achieve our goals. During our September Society Board Members Meeting, our President, Leonard Rohrbach announced the Louisiana State Society had received the Syracuse Award for the most new Chapters formed in a year by a Society.

Since the presentation of our Charter in May of 2010 our Chapter has strived to live up to the goals of what SAR is about. We continue to meet every 4th Tuesday and have provided a program about a historical topic. During our June meeting we presented two NSSAR Bronze Law Enforcement Commendation Medals to Monroe City Police Corporals Brandon Waggoner and Jeff Winborne for their off duty water rescue of a Farmerville mother and son who's car had run off into Lake Darbonne.

During our August meeting we presented two NSSAR Bronze Medals for Heroism to Josh McDowell and Chris Smith for their water rescue of a Calhoun father and son, who's car had run off into Cheniere Lake. Compatriot Wamul Owens presented the medals to the two teens. It was during that meeting, Compatriot Owens recanted events that took place in the same area of Cheniere Lake on Mother's Day in 1948, when he was 16 and had single handedly saved 8 people from drowning in almost the same location 62 years earlier.

During our October meeting we revisited the progress of the J. S. Clark Cemetery and presented NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medals to Marcel Higgins, Jerome Dixon and Rodney Ward of the Swanson Center for Youth for their work to restore the J. S. Clark Cemetery in Monroe. It was during that meeting that Ouachita Parish Police Jurors, Dr. Reddix and Pat Moore presented me with an Ouachita Parish Proclamation for the work I had done for the J. S. Clark Cemetery.

On November 6th our Chapter held a memorial ceremony and dedicated a memorial stone to our Chapter's namesake, James Huey. Members of our Chapter chipped in and we bought a granite stone and SAR bronze marker to commemorate the occasion. We showed off our new James Huey Chapter Color Guard, which could not have happened without the help of Compatriot Ted Brode III and his son Compatriot Ted Brode IV, who was our piper. Bill Allerton, now Vice President General, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Leonard Rohrbach, President of the LASSAR, DAR was represented by members from the Chief Tusquahoma Chapter, Long Leaf Pine Chapter and Fort Miro Chapter. SAR was represented with members from the Natchitoches Chapter, Pierre George Rousseau Chapter, George Washington Chapter, Enemund Muellion Chapter and the Benjamin Tennille Chapter. There were at least 16 descendants of James Huey present at the event and with a father and son, Jack and Ron Huey interested in joining our Chapter!

During our Chapter meeting this month we will be presenting NSSAR Bronze Law Enforcement Commendation Medals in memory of Corporal J. R. Searcy of the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office and Rayville Police K-9 Sergeant Thomas "Tommy" Alexander. Who had both lost their lives in the line of duty. Corporal Marchale Canty of the Ruston Police Department will also be presented for his heroism under fire.

Our Chapter has formed committees for the ROTC Award, Eagle Scout Award, and the Poster Contest to allow our young people to represent our area of the State in these contests. I must admit that I have enjoyed this entire time I served as the Chapter President and can only think that the others who have participated feel the same way. I'm proud to say that Compatriot Fred Hamilton followed me as the Chapter President in 2012 and Compatriot Hamilton Winters followed him in 2013

Compatriots! SAR is not just about meetings, it's about the meaning of what we do that needs to be the message that we send to our communities and our Nation as a whole.