

**Bay Area Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 27, 2013**

President Bill Mayo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Lewis Jarman, led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America" and the "Pledge to the Texas Flag".

SWEARING IN OF BAGS OFFICERS

President Bill Mayo introduced the new slate of officers including the following:

- PRESIDENT ---Shirley Lindquist
- 1st VICE-PRESIDENT --- Melodey Hauch
- 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT --- Barbara Moore
- RECORDING SECRETARY - Deborah Gammon
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY --- Annette Bowen
- TREASURER --- Loren Martin
- REGISTRAR --- Marie Krnavek

Mr. Mayo read the oath of office and asked the new officers to pledge to the oath which they did. Kim Zrubek took a picture of the new board for the newsletter.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT:

The new president Shirley Lindquist recognized the outgoing President Bill Mayo for the BAGS efforts in the 2012-2013 term including 1940 census indexing, 10 anniversary, 4 awards for quarterly, nationally known speaker for all day seminar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shirley Lindquist

1. BAGS Membership Renewals are in progress and were being taken by the Registrar at the meeting.
2. The new September BAGS Quarterly is available for pickup at this meeting.
3. The next bus trip to the Clayton Library will be 20 November 2013.
4. BAGS will be sponsoring a seminar featuring John Colletta on Saturday October 12.
5. BAGS Holiday Party will be at Hope Village on Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
6. Clayton Library has surplus three ring binders available at the table next to the reference librarian.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Lewis Jarman encouraged the meeting attendees to pick up a cookbook and a padfolio for themselves or as a gift.

PROGRAM:

2nd Vice President Barbara Moore introduced the speaker, Ron Lucas. Mr. Lucas presented a program entitled "Civil War Fire Arms". Mr. Lucas brought a variety of weapons for display including both Union and Confederate. The Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts was a center of weapon manufacturing for the Union. The Remington Company was one of the few exceptions located in the state of New York. The period of the industrial revolution lead to much advancement in the design of firearms. The percussion cap used mercury and other chemicals to set off the gunpowder in a musket. Mr. Lucas demonstrated the operation of a percussion musket. The rifling makes the minie ball spin and increases the accuracy to 300-400 yards. When a ball hits the human body, it shatters the bone which is why there were so many amputations in the Civil War.

The other weapon used was the revolver. Mr. Lucas displayed a Colt revolver. The day the Alamo fell, Samuel Colt was walking to the patent office to get a patent on the revolver. Next he demonstrated how to load a Sharp's rifle. The loading of the Sharp was much more rapid. A musket was four shots per minute. The bayonet on a musket was triangular which caused a devastating wound. The famous bayonet charge of the 20th Maine Regiment into two Alabama regiments has been credited with turning the tide of the battle of Gettysburg into a victory for the Union.

Smith and Wesson produced a .22 caliber cartridge firearm. The Spencer rifle was demonstrated to Abraham Lincoln in Washington by Christopher Miner Spencer. Mr. Lucas showed how to load the Spencer. A tube with seven shells is inserted. Rim fire. Mr. Spencer also built automobiles, motor boats and flew an airplane.

Benjamin Tyler Henry came up with a weapon that held 15 shots called the .44 caliber Henry rifle. If the rifle was dropped it would damage the tube that held the cartridge. It was said that the Spencer rifle could be loaded on Sunday and fire all week long! B. Tyler Henry later went to work for Winchester.

Mr. Lucas displayed an 1860 cavalry saber. In the Navy you wore a belt with for the 1860 naval cutlass which was a shorter sword. The 1851 Navy Colt Pistol was a muzzle loader.

Q&A:

Several Union generals were killed by rifles with telescopic sights.

The South purchased the British Enfield rifle muskets. Black powder was made from sulfur, saltpeter and charcoal. The south made powder from outhouse material. Dupont was the supplier since 1800 for powder. The quality of the southern powder was very good. Union generals captured southern powder due to its quality. Hundreds of thousands of muskets were made. Very few Henry rifles were made. Spencer rifles were more numerous than Henry rifles. Black powder puts out a white smoke. The smoke would obscure the field of battle. There were many improvements to the original percussion cap. A test would be to fire the gun with an increased powder charge. The Springfield Armory is now a National Park. Harper's Ferry was captured by Stonewall Jackson. He shipped the armaments to Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Lucas showed an M-16 M-4 version with a telescopic sight. Enemy casualties are predominately shot in the head due to the accuracy of the telescopic sight. The M-16 holds 30 rounds in the magazine. This was quite an increase in firepower. The gun got a bad rap in Vietnam because it jammed a lot. The gun is very easy to clean.

The Texas rangers used a Walker pistol.

CLOSING: VP Moore presented a padfolio to Mr. Lucas in appreciation of his presentation.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:

Shirley Lindquist introduced the visitors that had signed the roster and welcomed them and encouraged them to join BAGS if they had not already done so.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Cimino

Recording Secretary