

Discover Life in the Past Lane

By Lydia O ' Connor

The first meeting of 2017 for the SaddleBrooke Genealogy Club opened with scenes of the Revolutionary War being reenacted on screen.

Our guest speaker, Dave Troxel from Sun City West appeared attired in an authentic Revolutionary War uniform worn by a Colonel Thompson in 1775. Dave Troxel has



participated in many reenactments in his home state of Pennsylvania and has been active in Revolutionary War activities for more than 16 years. He and his wife Connie both participate in these activities. He has served as the Adjutant General of the Brigade of the American Revolution, an international Revolutionary War reenacting organization and currently serves as Adjutant of the Cumberland County Militia, 5th Battalion. He and Connie participated in the 225th Anniversary of Washington's Crossing of the Delaware (2001) and the list goes on.

On tables were displayed many items used during that period such as pistols, knives, rifles and a musket as well as a rack with many different uniforms and items of clothing worn by men during that war. We learned about colors worn on uniforms to designate areas from which the soldiers came. One question that seemed to get everyone's

attention was 'how did you know whom to shoot?' Dave is a fountain of information on the subject and very interesting as he interjected real life experiences and details of many of the key events that occurred during that war. For example, the Revolutionary War started with the First Pennsylvania Regiment, which was the first organization that signed up with the Continental Congress. We learned that phrases like 'going off halfcocked' and 'lock stock and barrel' originated during that timeframe. Also that the British feared our 'Riflemen' who were called 'widow makers.' We found Dave Troxel's presentation most informative and it helped us gain a greater understanding of our Revolutionary War ancestors' lifestyles.

Additionally we were surprised when one of our members, Dave Williams, shared several woodcarvings of Revolutionary War Soldiers he had created with the SaddleBrooke Wood Carving Club. He asked Dave Troxel if he thought they were authentic looking who responded with a resounding 'yes.' President Kerry Wolfe gave us her 'hot tips' which are always humorous and appropriate for avid genealogy researchers. Guests and new members were introduced and gave brief introductions of themselves and why and how they became interested in genealogy. Sharon



Scanlon reported on the very successful genealogy library display at the DesertView Library. We will have representatives at the Activity Fair Jan. 28 so come by and see us.

The Irish SIG (Special Interest Groups) will meet at Bonnie Lucas' home Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. Gloria Quigg and her DNA group will meet the third Monday of every month at 12 at the Bob Cat Room in the HOA#1 Clubhouse. Dave Tiefenbach shared

information on obtaining the new Family Tree Maker program. He will be giving classes on the Roots Magic program the first Thursday in March at 11 a.m. You must be a member of the Computer Club to participate.

Our next meeting is Feb. 2 from 1-3 p.m. in the Coyote Room at the HOA#1 Clubhouse. All are welcome. Our featured guest will be Katie Gertz discussing the Transportation Act of 1718 in England. This act was responsible for bringing many of our descendants from England to America. Learn how England started out transporting 51 people convicted of minor crimes and expanded it to more than 50,000. You may learn how and why some of you are here today.