



ARIZONA SOCIETY SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
BARRY M. GOLDWATER CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

June 2012

# THE SPIRIT OF '76.

No. 11. [Published Monthly by The Spirit of '76 Publishing Co., 14 Lafayette Place, New York.] JULY, 1895. [\$1.00 per Year.] Per copy, 10 cents.

## AMONG THE SOCIETIES.

**MAJOR H. F. ROBINSON, of Phoenix, Arizona, writes THE SPIRIT OF '76, that an enthusiastic Society, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, is in process of formation there, twenty-five gentlemen having formed themselves into a "provisional society" while waiting to have their application papers passed upon.**

### History of the Arizona Society Sons of the American Revolution

By David A. Swanson, Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Historian & Newsletter Editor

**T**his special June newsletter edition contains information of historical significance not only to our Chapter but to all of the chapters that compose the Arizona Society Sons of the American Revolution since 116 years ago, this month (June 13, 1896), our Arizona Society was organized in the territory of Arizona.

Quite a while ago I started digging through various old books and magazines looking for AZSSAR history. The July 1895 and 1896 articles, reprinted here, were found in the *Spirit of '76* magazines and probably contain some of the earliest information available, with the exception of an 1891 article printed in the *Phoenix Daily Herald* newspaper (presumably written by Charles D. Poston—member of the District of Columbia Society SAR and the “Father of Arizona”), where an attempt was being made to start an Arizona Society. That information was previously published in the January 2011 issue of our Chapter newsletter and is reprinted here on page 3.

What was *The Spirit of '76* magazine? The following information was taken from the September 1896 edition: “Nowhere else can a reader obtain, each month, such a complete, entertaining, and valuable collection of the news of various public hereditary Societies as the *Spirit of '76*.” Additionally, the current *National Society Sons of the American Revolution Official Handbook* (Vol II, page 21) states in part: “Prior to 1906 the SAR joined with five other patriotic societies in the monthly magazine ‘The Spirit of '76.’”

On the following page is a copy of the July 1896 article that chronicles the very first meeting of our Arizona Society Sons of the American Revolution and the election of its officers, foremost of which was our founder and first president, Major (later General) Herbert Fulwiler Robinson. Enjoy!

# THE SPIRIT OF '76.

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No. 23. [Published Monthly by The Spirit of '76  
Publishing Co., 14 Lafayette Place, New York.] JULY, 1896. (\$1.00 per Year.) Per copy, 10 cents.

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**ON Saturday evening, June 13th, the Arizona Society, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, was formally organized at Phoenix. Over a year ago, Major H. F. Robinson was delegated by the National Society to organize in Arizona. A meeting called by him March 18, 1895, at the Court House in Phoenix was attended by a few interested gentlemen, and a provisional Society was organized. By hard work, and after many delays (being so far distant from all records of Revolutionary times, both public and private), seventeen gentlemen at last had their papers prepared and approved, and met for organization at the residence of Mr. W. H. Robinson. A Constitution and By-laws were adopted, and the following officers elected: President, Major H. F. Robinson; Vice-President, Harry R. Barden; Secretary, W. H. Robinson; Treasurer, Capt. Lewis W. Coggins; Registrar, Omar Asa Turney; Historian, J. Ernest Walker. The officers and the following constitute the Board of Managers: J. Frank Elwell, Lloyd B. Christy and James W. Benham. The meeting then adjourned to the broad, cool porches, and refreshments suited to the summer temperature were served by the hosts, the Messrs. Robinson, and at a late hour, after informal discussion on historical topics and others pertaining to the good of the Society, "America" was sung, and the meeting adjourned.**

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## **AZSSAR state numbers:**

Herbert Fulwiler Robinson No. 1; William Henry Robinson, No. 2 (H. F. Robinson's brother); Omar Asa Turney, No. 3; Lewis W. Coggins, No. 4; J. Ernest Walker, No. 5; J. Frank Elwell, No. 6; Harry R. Barden, No. 8; Lloyd B. Christy, No. 12; and James W. Benham, No. 15.



VOL. XVI—NO. 18

PHOENIX, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA TUESDAY EVENING MARCH 31, 1891.

WHOLE NO. 2890.

**[Phoenix Daily Herald March 31, 1891]**

**Arizona's Sons of the Revolution.**

There are a number of descendants of Revolutionary heroes in this Territory. Col. C. D. Poston, of the capital city, would like to get into communication with them, in order to organize a branch of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

In twenty-seven States such organizations have been effected, extending from California, which led the movement by a society formed in the Centennial year, to Massachusetts; from Vermont to Louisiana.

The object of these unions is to gather and perpetuate records of every man who aided during the Revolution in achieving Independence; to foster true patriotism and love of country and secure for mankind all the blessings of liberty. As the Rev. Dr. Leavitt, in an address upon the subject, said:

"On our continent we have fifty republics. Let us form with them leagues of fellowship. Our hearts should embrace self government throughout the world."

The peculiar feature of such bodies is that they admit men of all sections, political, religious and social beliefs, upon a common platform where all can meet in fellowship, without cause for jealousy, envy or any of the feelings of rivalry that beset organized effort in so many other directions.

The badge of the order is very handsome, and was designed by Major G. B. West, of Alabama. It was modeled after the cross of the ancient chivalric order of St. Louis of France that numbers among its Grand Masters Louis XVI, whose aid enabled the Colonies to prevail at length against England's immensely superior armies.

Ordinarily a rosette of blue and white silk ribbon is worn in the upper left button hole of the coat, after the manner of various other modern societies.

Arizona should fall into the ranks of this rapidly extending Revolutionary Army. If those who are eligible will send their names to Col. Poston, at Phoenix, our Territory may take its place with America's most illustrious





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2007-2008

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Carlton V. Phillips 2009

John R. Conrad 2010

Earl E. Atwood Sr. 2011

