

THE LIBERTY BELL

The Newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapters, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 28
Number 8

September
2009

Our Commander-in-Chief's Guards at the American Cemetery at Normandy, France

Presidents of Congress versus the President of the United States

For many years those supporters of revisionism and multiculturalism have been frustrated in their attempts to diminish the reputation of George Washington. Fortunately for him and our country every attempt has been a dismal failure. Today, a new attempt to diminish his position in our history has been raised. Individuals are claiming that he was not the first President, as we have been taught, but the ninth! They base this claim on the historical fact that in November 1781, shortly after his victory at Yorktown, the "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union" were approved. This was the first constitution of the thirteen United States of America. It also proclaimed the name of the newly founded country as the "United States of America". This subject has been raised numerous times before, but as a historical curiosity, rather than today's claim of George Washington fraudulently claiming to be the first president.

The document established that the presiding officer would be titled "President of United States in Congress Assembled." - - retaining the tradition established when the first Continental Congress was convened on September 5th, 1774 to

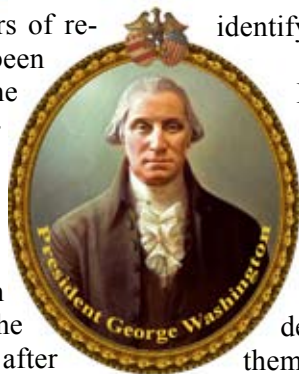
identify the presiding officer as "President".

Seven brave American men served as Presidents of the First and another seven served in the same capacity at the Second Continental Congress. In both Congresses, two of the men served two times. In no way would we diminish the achievements or reputations of these fourteen patriots, who risked everything for the cause of American independence. We have prepared a table identifying them and the dates of their service on page 5.

The President of the Congress and the Presidency of the United States share the same name, but that ends the similarity of the position. By design, the delegates who were fearful of concentrating political power in a single individual gave little authority to the President of Congress.

He was forbidden to set the legislative agenda, make committee appointments, meet privately with foreign officials. The President of Congress was basically a ceremonial position, presiding over the meetings and serving as an impartial moderator during debates. When the Congress met as a Committee of the Whole, he would relinquish his chair to the Chairman of the Committee of

Continued on page 5 -->



**Named Best Chapter
in the SAR 1983,
1989, 1995, 1996
2002 & 2003**



**Named Best Newsletter
in the SAR
1983, 1985, 1989,
1992, 1994, 1999 & 2002**



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Trustees of the Permanent Fund

David W. Eaton - Term: 2007-2010
James C. McHargue - Term 2008-2011
David M. Hayball - Term 2009-2012



Meeting Notice

12:00 P.M. - SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 19th, 2009
JOINT MEETING WITH THE HARBOR CHAPTER

The Harbor Chapter has invited us to join them at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19th, on board the S.S. Lane Victory, a World War II Liberty ship and museum for a joint meeting. Luncheon will be served at the same cost as our regular meeting.

A flyer with directions, etc. was sent with the dues notice on September 1st. Please advise our Secretary if you and your family members are attending.



WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



Our Chapter has seven Compatriots in uniform and we wish to formally thank them for their service.

- Lt. Col. David Smith, USAF - (Edwards AFB, CA)
- Major Mason Dula, USAF - (Middle-East)
- Capt. Eric Fourroux, USA - (Arlington, VA)
- 2nd Lieut. Sean Hayball, USA - (Schofield Barracks, HI)
- Sergeant Major William FitzGerald, USMC - (California)
- LCpl Christopher Pickens USMC - (CO)
- PFC Daniel Pickens USA - (Fort Knox, KY)

The *Liberty Tree* is the official newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not that of the Chapter, State or National Society. Donald N. Moran, Editor, 17651 Arlington Place Tehachapi, CA. 93561 - 1-661-823-9227 - E-mail: dmoransar@att.net. Virginia Emrey Patten, Assistant Editor. Jim Bradley and Linda Moran photographers.

Compatriots in the News



Sergeant Major

William F. FitzGerald, III



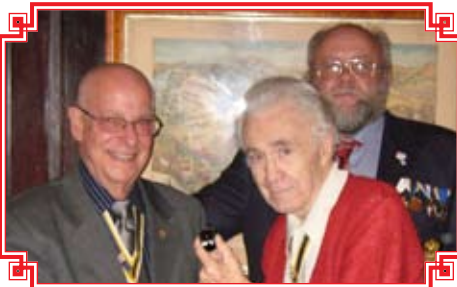
The Chapter is delighted in the safe and sound return of Sergeant Major William F. FitzGerald, III from a one year deployment in Afghanistan. He is now stationed state side!

Depicted below is the Sergeant Major cutting the Marine Corps birthday cake.



CONGRATULATIONS BERNI CAMPBELL

Depicted below is Berni receiving yet another oak leaf cluster for his Liberty Medal, presented by Vice President General Karl Jacobs



The Liberty Medal is presented for being the first line signed on ten (10) SAR membership applications. Berni has received ten such awards!

Happy Birthday

Floyd Parrish 09/14
Christopher Pickens 09/27

Happy Anniversary

Bruce & Suzanne McKenzie
Married: 08/29/1999 - 10 years

Reginald & Phildora Humphreys
Married: 09/02/1938 -- 71 years

Charles & Eleanor Stalh
Married: 09/09/1955 -- 54 years

Charles & Geraldine Branda
Married: 09/10/1960 -- 49 years

Lt. Col. Elmer & Marion Rose Morse
Married: 09/17/1943 -- 66 years

Gregory & Sandra Prang
Married: 09/18/1998 -- 11 years

Thomas & Susan Warden
Married: 09/22/1990 -- 19 years

James & Sally Kishlock
Married: 09/24/1989 -- 20 years

Peter & Susan Landry
Married: 09/29/1961-- 48 years



Registrar's Report

Name	1	2	3	4	5
Nicholas Anduze	✓				
Dino Cardone	✓				
Michael E. Coyle	✓				
Jay Dupre	✓				
Owen G. Dupre	✓				
Wyatt J. Dupre	✓				
Don Gough					
Jonathan Harrell	✓	✓	✓		
Joshua Hayball	✓	✓			
Bill Knoll	✓				
John P. Marshall	✓				
John Mohler	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dana Patten	✓	✓			
James B. Reidy, Jr.	✓	✓			
Sean O'Rourke	✓	✓			
C. Schutzenberger	✓				
Michael Squires	✓	✓			
John Stites	✓				
Eric Tukey	✓				
Richard J. Welsh	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Legend

- (1) Worksheet sent to applicant
- (2) Worksheet received
- (3) Genealogical work in progress
- (4) Application in preparation
- (5) Application at Nat'l for approval

Berni K. Campbell
Registrar

Your 2010 Annual Sons of the American Revolution Dues Notice



Compatriots -- The Chapter mailed your 2010 Annual dues notice via U.S. Mail. You should have it already or shortly. In the notice we explained that the National Society has increased the National portion of the dues by \$5.00 (now \$30.00). When added to the State and Chapter, the total



amount is now \$63.00. This was the first dues increase in eight (8) years! In spite of the National financial problem it was absolutely necessary. If this presents a problem for you, please contact our Secretary. Your continued support of the Society and the protection of our precious heritage is greatly appreciated.





The event will be held on October 3rd & 4th, 2009 at the Prado Dam Recreation Area, Euclid Avenue, Chino, California . This excellent educational two day event presents living history from ancient Romans to contemporary America. One can visit encampments through the ages, watch reenacted battles, ride on tanks and half tracks.

Our Harbor, Redlands, Riverside and Sons of Liberty Chapters will recreate General Washington's Field Headquarter's Encampment. Compatriots Roger Cooper of the Riverside Chapter will portray George Washington on Saturday, and Compatriot Scott Campbell of the Sons of Liberty Chapter will do likewise on Sunday.

In past years the "Guards, supported by Morgan's Rifles and Lamb's Continental Artillery have reenacted battles with the British contingent, the 23rd and 33rd Regiments of Foot.

The Commander-in-Chief's Guards and the 4th Connecticut Continental Regiment will protect the General and recruit young visitors into the Continental Army. We will be joined by Morgan's Rangers, and all the detachments will have our Camp Followers participating.

We encourage our members and families to visit this wonderful event, however, all participants in the encampment MUST be in colonial dress.



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FIELD HEADQUARTERS PROTECTED BY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS



GUARDSMEN MARK & GREG GUDJA, MARK CODA AND KARL JACOBS ENLISTING YOUNGSTERS INTO THE "GUARDS". THE KIDS SIGN UP WITH A QUILL.

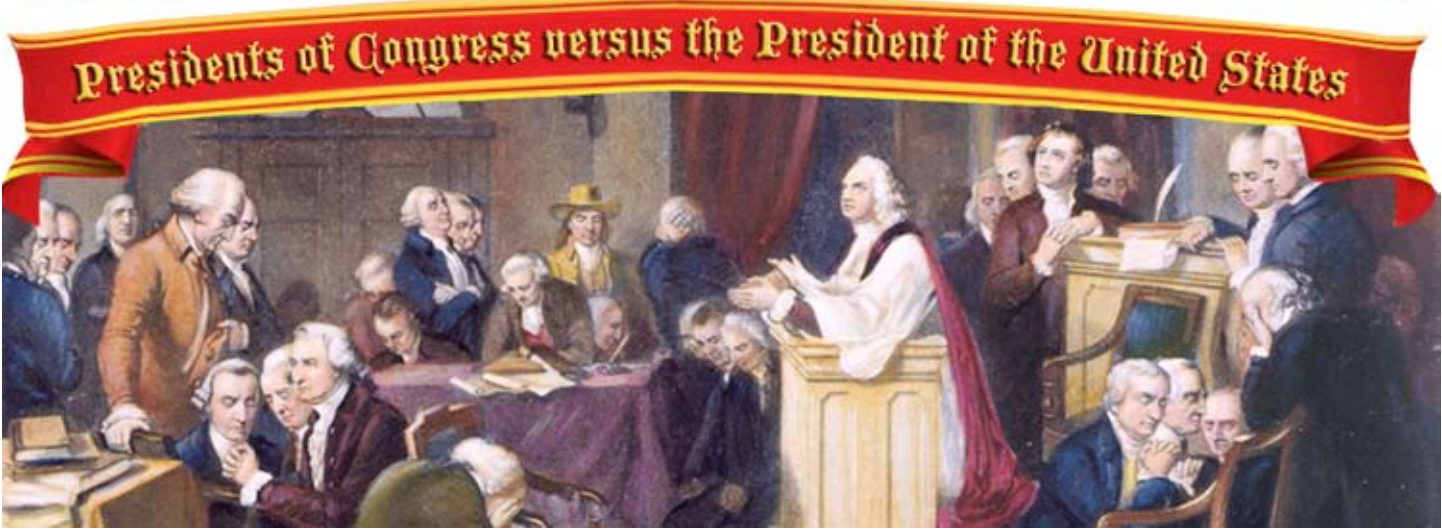


CAPTAIN FERGUSON (GEORGE MACK) OF THE 23RD REGIMENT OF FOOT SURRENDERING TO THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS AFTER A RECREATED BATTLE AT THE 2006 EVENT.



AMONG THE NUMEROUS UNITS PARTICIPATING IN MARCHING THROUGH HISTORY, THE ROMAN LEGION IS ONE OF THE MOST COLORFUL. THE EVENT EVEN HAS KNIGHTS ON HORSEBACK, AND WWII TANKS AND ARTILLERY.





CONGRESSIONAL CHAPLAIN JACOB DUCHE LEADING THE FIRST PRAYER AT THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS HELD IN CARPENTER'S HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, SEPTEMBER 1774, ARTIST UNKNOWN.



the Whole. He signed, but did not write the Congress's official documents. The position was so restrictive that in reality a delegate to Congress lost much of his influence when he was elected "President".



Henry Laurens, who served as President of Congress resigned in order that he could contribute more to the Revolutionary War.

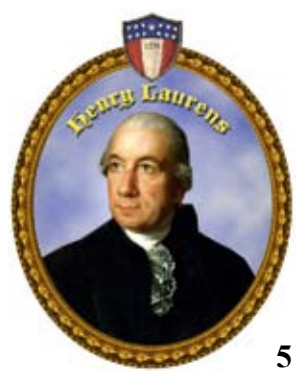
One of the major shortfalls of the Articles of Confederation was the lack of an Executive Branch. When the Constitution was written that problem was resolved and the Presidency of the United States of America was created, but unlike the President of Congress, he was granted many powers which we are all familiar with today.

The choice of titles for the newly created position was limited as were examples of republican forms of government, hence the delegates had little choice but to continue the title of President.



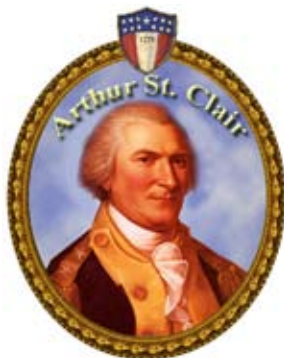
PRESIDENT'S OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

NO.	PRESIDENT'S NAME	FROM & TO	SERVED
1	Peyton Randolph (<i>Va.</i>) b. 09/10/1721 - d. 10/22/1775	09/05/1774 ^(a) 10/22/1774	2 months
2	Henry Middleton (<i>SC.</i>) b. 02/02/1717 - d. 06/13/1784	10/22/1774 10/26/1774	-1 months
3	Peyton Randolph (<i>Va.</i>) b. 09/10/1721 - d. 10/22/1775	05/10/1775 ^(b) 05/24/1775	-1 months
4	John Hancock (<i>Ma.</i>) b. 01/23/1737 - d. 10/08/1793	05/24/1775 10/29/1777	20 months
5	Henry Laurens (<i>SC</i>) b. 03/06/1724 - d. 03/08/1792	11/01/1777 ^(c) 12/09/1778	13 months
6	John Jay (<i>NY</i>) b. 12/12/1745 - d. 05/17/1829	12/10/1778 09/28/1779	10 months





No.	PRESIDENT'S NAME	FROM & TO	SERVED
7	Samuel Huntington (<i>Ct.</i>) b. 07/16/1731- d. 01/05/1796	09/28/1779 07/10/1781 ^(d)	21 months
8	Thomas McKean (<i>De.</i>) b. 03/19/1734 - d. 06/24/1817	07/10/1781 1/05/1781	4 months
9	John Hanson (<i>Md.</i>) b. 03/19/1734 - d. 06/24/1817	11/05/1781 ^(e) 11/04/1781	12 months
10	Elias Boudinot (<i>NJ.</i>) b. 05/02/1740 - d. 10/24/1821	11/04/1782 11/03/1783	12 months
11	Thomas Mifflin (<i>Pa.</i>) b. 01/10/1744 - d. 01/20/1800	11/03/1783 ^(f) 06/03/1784	7 months
12	Richard Henry Lee (<i>Va.</i>) b. 01/10/1744 - d. 06/19/1794	11/30/1784 11/04/1785	11 months
13	John Hancock ^(g) (<i>Ma.</i>) b. 01/23/1727 - d. 10/08/1793	11/23/1785 06/05/1786	6 months
14	Nathaniel Gorham (<i>Ma.</i>) b. 05/27/1738 - d. 06/11/1796	06/06/1786 11/03/1786	5 months
15	Arthur St. Clair (<i>Pa.</i>) b. 03/23/1737 - d. 08/31/1818	02/02/1787 11/04/1787	10 months
16	Cyrus Griffin (<i>Va.</i>) b. 07/16/1749 - d. 12/14/1810	01/22/1788 11/15/1788 ^(h)	10 months



NOTES

- (a) - Start of the First Continental Congress
- (b) - Start of the Second Continental Congress
- (c) - Secretary Charles Thomson fulfilled Presidential duties from 10/29/1777 to 11/01/1777
- (d) - The Articles of Confederation were ratified during the term of Samuel Huntington
- (e) - John Hanson was elected the first President under the Articles of Confederation
- (f) - Daniel Carroll acted as "Chairman" from 11/02/1783 until 12/13/1783
- (g) - John Hancock did not report to Congress for his second term, David Ramsay acted as chairman from 11/23/1785 and Nathaniel Gorham from 05/14/1785 acted as Chairman.
- (h) - After Cyrus Griffin resigned as President, the Presidency became vacant.

Poland's Contributions to American Independence

Fleeing poverty and oppression America's Polish immigrants have brought two precious things to America: One: An ethic for hard work, and two: A love for freedom.

Only a year after it was founded, Jamestown, America's first settlement of English colonists was on the verge of collapse. The great leader of the colony, Captain John Smith had arrived with his fellow Englishmen, but most of these men were no match for the tough jobs that lay ahead. For the most part they were "gentlemen adventurer's" and were not up to the task of taming America's wilderness.

It wasn't long before Captain Smith was asking the colony's sponsor, The Virginia Company, based in London, to "... Send me 30 carpenters, blacksmiths and masons rather than a 1000 men such as we have now".

On September 25th, 1608 the ship Mary and Margaret sailed up the James River carrying six Polish artisans. Axes in hand they followed Captain Smith into the woods and set about marking a clearing - - in three weeks they had a roaring fire going under a glass furnace, the first factory in the colonies in America. Next they tapped the pine trees and distilled tar and pitch. They set up a soap works and built a saw mill. Soon the entire settlement was hard at work.

This handful of men who Captain Smith would give full credit for saving the colony and insuring the survival of the English speaking colony were not Englishmen at all. Their names were: Michal Lowicki, Zbigniew Stefanski, Jur Mata, Jan Bogdan, Karol Zrenica and Stanislaw Sadowski. These Poles landed in America twelve years before the Mayflower!

A few years later these same Polish immigrants set another precedent. On July 30th, 1619, Virginia's new governor Sir Samuel Argall had authorized the election of the first legislative body in America, but only the English were allowed to vote. This outraged the Poles who laid down their tools until they were granted full equality.

This was America's First strike! These craftsmen scored



Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Casimir Pulaski

BY: GLENN J. GUJDA
PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENT

a quick and total victory!

In the American Revolution the Poles, with hardly an exception, joined the fight for independence. At least one thousand names of unmistakably Polish origin can be identified in the muster rolls of the Continental Army. This number does not include the multitude of Polish immigrants that anglicized their names. Some examples: Those names that were simply translated: Mlynarz to Miller, Krol to King, Mysliwiec to Hunter. Other Polish names were changed to vaguely resemble the original name: Moscicki to Marson, or Protopowicz to Prescott.

The accomplishments of these Poles, who were already Americans, have been largely overshadowed by the fame of two young volunteers from abroad. Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski - - both of them had been exiled from Poland for resisting the dismemberment of their country by Russia, Prussia and Austria. With their love of liberty that knew no national borders, they saw America's struggle for independence as their own. Many of you have visited West Point, our U.S. Army's Military Academy, and if so you have probably seen the huge statue of a patriot which stands overlooking the Hudson River - This statue is of Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

Thaddeus was born Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kosciuszko, on February 4th, 1746, the son of Ludwik and Tekla Kosciuszko (pronounced: Kosh-chooshko), in a small village in the Northeastern part of Poland near Lithuania. Although of noble birth, he and his father worked the land. Poland at this time was under a feudal system.

He was educated in Lubieszow and then at the Cadet Academy in Warsaw. He continued his engineering education at the French Military Academy (École Militaire) in Paris, France. Returning to Poland, Thaddeus served in the Polish army until it was defeated by the Russians and Poland was partitioned.



A CARD PRODUCED BY ARTHUR SZYK
COMMEMORATING THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ARRIVAL OF THE SIX POLISH IMMIGRANTS
AT JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA

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After Poland's defeat, numerous leaders of the government and army escaped and went into exile. We have all heard the name Casimir Pulaski, whose father was one of the country's leaders. Thaddeus knew that Pulaski had gone to the colonies to offer his services to their army. Thaddeus decided to do the same and made his way to Paris. From France he sailed for the American colonies. Kosciuszko made his way to the Colonies via Paris. According to a Polish newspaper, the ship Thaddeus was aboard had encountered a severe storm (a hurricane in July is commonplace), and sank. Kosciuszko and his party were rescued and later taken to safety in St. Domingo, and obtained passage to America.

Kosciuszko arrived in Philadelphia in August of 1776. One of the first things he did was to read the Declaration of Independence which had been published after his departure from France. The document confirmed everything he believed in.

In spite of his shared belief in independence, he found he was not greeted with open arms. Foreigners were not entirely trusted at that time. However, the timing of Thaddeus's arrival was very fortunate. Congress was very concerned with fortifying Philadelphia and was in need of military engineers. Kosciuszko presented his credentials to the Continental Congress which was read



before that body on Friday, August 30th. They endorsed him and referred him to the Board of War. The Board, noted for being slow, reported back to Congress on October 18th, 1776 whereupon they Congressional Record reports: "Resolved, that Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Esq. be appointed an engineer in the service of the United States with the pay of sixty dollars a month and the rank of Colonel.

His first assignment was to help fortify Fort Mercer near Philadelphia. Then he was dispatched to the Hudson River Valley. From there he joined the Northern Army at Fort Ticonderoga, New York. His trained eye immediately observed the danger presented by Mount Defiance. He recommended fortifying it, but for reasons never given, Major General Philip Schuyler failed to heed his advice.

When British General John Burgoyne laid siege to Fort Ticonderoga, his engineers observed the same thing that Kosciuszko had seen, and deployed a battery of artillery to the heights. This signal act reduced the fortress to be indefensible. The American commanding officer, Major General Arthur St Clair ordered the fortress abandoned.

The British pursued the Americans on their retreat southward. Thaddeus employed all his engineering skills creating delaying tactics on the one road south. His efforts reduced



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO SUPERVISING THE FORTIFICATION OF THE SARATOGA, NEW YORK BATTLEFIELD WHERE BRITISH GENERAL JOHN BURGUYNE AND HIS ARMY WAS DEFEATED..

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General Burgoyne's army marching ability to a mile a day! This delay provided the American forces time to be heavily reinforced, and Kosciuszko, then the Chief Engineer of the Northern Army to build fortifications north of Albany - at Saratoga, His contributions to the victory at Saratoga, which proved to be the "Turning point of the war for Independence"

His service was mentioned in General George Washington's report to Congress on the victory at Saratoga:

"November 10th, 1777

To the President of Congress:

... While I am on this subject, I would take the liberty to mention, that I have been well informed, that the Engineer in the Northern Army (Cosieki, I think his name is) is a Gentleman of science and merit. From the character I have had of him, he is deserving of notice too. . . ."

A monument commemorating his contribution to this victory has been placed on the Saratoga battlefield.

His next assignment was to enhance the fortifications at West Point, considered to be the "key to the continent". Control of the Hudson River would divide the country, separating New England from the rest of the states. West Point, sat at a point where the Hudson made two sharp turns, making it difficult for sailing ships to negotiate.

Kosciuszko planned and supervised the erection of several overlapping fortifications, wherein to attack one would bring you under fire from some of the others. He also had a great chain placed across the river on rafts. The combination would deny access to the areas north of West Point to the British. West Point became known as the Gibraltar of America.

He was then transferred to the Southern Army, and participated in the actions there including In 1783 Thaddeus was promoted to Brigadier General and joined the Society of the Cincinnati. On the several surviving paintings of him in uniform he is shown wear-



The Thaddeus Kosciuszko monument at Saratoga battlefield.

ing their distinctive medal. It is also generally believed that he was one of the officers that accompanied General Washington to Fraunces Tavern, where the General bid farewell to his officers. The General presented Thaddeus a brace of pistols and a dress sword for his services.

In 1784 Kosciuszko returned to Poland, a national hero. Ten years later he led a rebellion against the Russians who controlled Poland, and on April 4th, 1794 defeated them at the battle of Raclawice. In short order he liberated Warsaw and Wilno. In the last battle he was seriously wounded, stating "I received four bullets, three creased my uniform and the fourth wounded me in an 'inglorious' part of my anatomy". He was taken prisoner by the Russians and upon his release from prison, he returned to America, which he considered his second home, on August 18th, 1797. He was given a hero's welcome upon his arrival.

He took up residence at a house at 3rd and Pine Street, but still recovering from his wounds, rarely left his bedroom. The house is now a museum.



THE WEST POINT MONUMENT TO THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

While in Philadelphia Congress granted him \$15,000 for his services, and back pay, and a land grant of 500 acres in Ohio. Thaddeus, a firm believer in liberty, for everyone, was very much opposed to slavery. He asked that his friend, Thomas Jefferson sell the Ohio land, and use the earnings to establish a school for black which was done in Newark, New Jersey.

Kosciuszko left Philadelphia in less than a year, yearning to assist his native Poland's continued efforts for freedom, but was unable to do so. He spent the rest of his days in Switzerland, where at age seventy-two, he died on October 15th, 1817.

His remains were transported to Krakow, Poland where it was interred at Wawel Castle, among the tombs of the Polish Kings, a her of two countries.

Continued on page 10 -->



Have you ever wondered why there are so many counties throughout the United States named Pulaski County? These States include: Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Virginia, all named for Casimir Pulaski. Who was he? Why should all these States honor him by naming counties after him?

Casimir Pulaski was a Polish nobleman who volunteered to assist the Americans during the Revolutionary War.

He was born on March 6th, 1745, the son of Jozef and Marianna Pulaski. He was born in Warka, not Warsaw as is so often quoted. Not much is known about his early life. As the son of a nobleman, he most likely was privately tutored and given a good education. At the time, all young noblemen were required to to serve in the elite Polish Guards. At this time Poland was at War with Russia. In 1772, the Russians, vastly outnumbering the Polish Army defeated them but it took the Russians four bitter years. Pulaski, being an officer in the Polish army, fled to Turkey. In 1775 he went to Paris, responding to Dr. Benjamin Franklin's plea for assistance in the war for American independence. After a meeting, Dr. Franklin wrote a letter to General Washington telling him that Pulaski was: *"An officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country against great invading powers . . ."* Pulaski boarded the American ship Reprisal and sailed from Nantes, France in May. He



Count Casimir Pulaski

arrived in Philadelphia in August of 1777. He offered his services and sizeable fortune to America. Like Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Congress was slow to accept his offer. He did not wait for official recognition. He raised and equipped a troop of cavalry at his own expense, and in the style of the Polish Cavalry. The horses he had brought to America, having learned that good mounts were hard to secure here. At the time of Washington's defeat at Brandywine (September 11th, 1777) his cavalry is credited with saving much of the American Army by his slashing rear guard actions. Four days after the battle congress hurriedly voted him a commission as a Brigadier General commanding all American cavalry. Promoting him ahead of several American officers, and having staffed his cavalry detachment with Polish Officers, not speaking English, and carrying himself as an aristocrat, did not endear him to his American subordinates.

During the winter of 1777-78, at Valley Forge, he repeatedly led raids through the British lines returning with captured food and supplies. The continuing problems he had with his American subordinates forced him to resign an overall cavalry commander. On March 28th, 1778 he was authorized to raise an independent command of light infantry and dragoons that became known as the Pulaski Legion, spending another \$16,000 of his own funds.

Continued on page 11-->



GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND SOME OF HIS "FOREIGN" OFFICERS

L-R: GEORGE WASHINGTON, JOHAN DE KALB, THE BARON VON STEUBEN, CASIMIR PULASKI, THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO, THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, JOHN MUHLENBERG (AMERICAN) AND OTHER AMERICAN OFFICERS.

He recruited the men for his Legion in and around Baltimore and was ordered to Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey to protect the supplies stored there. He had not had time to properly train his newly formed Legion - hence they were somewhat lax in security. During a surprise amphibious attack by the British led by Captain Patrick Ferguson and 300 men of the 70th Regiment of Foot, the infantry of the Legion was badly mauled having 50 men killed. Pulaski responded to the sound of the gun fire with his dragoons and drove the British back to their boats.

Pulaski and his Legion was then sent to Minisink to guard the settlers along the Delaware River and then to Morristown, New Jersey, where they wintered with the main army.

Casimir Pulaski trained his calvary in Cossack riding skills and tactics. These had proven very successful against the western European cavalry, and would prove so in America. Following his example, additional "legions" were formed and proved there worth.

On February 2nd, 1779, at his request for a more active command, his Legion was ordered to join General Benjamin Lincoln's Southern Army.

The Southern American Army, reinforced by a large French force decided to retake the port of Savannah. On October 9th, 1779 the attacking combined Franco-American infantry was stopped by a British counter attack. At this time, General Pulaski decided to launch his 200 dragoons in a cavalry charge. It was met by a fierce artillery and musket fire. Pulaski was struck by grape shot and mortally wounded. He was taken to the U.S.S. Wasp, moored upstream, where he passed away. His death, leading a gallant, if not a good tactic, overshadowed any negatives of his career in America, hence as the first overall commander of American cavalry, he has gone



down in history as "*The Father of American Cavalry*".

Tradition had held that Pulaski's body was taken out and buried at sea. But, further studies questioned this theory. There were accounts of a Captain Samuel Bulfinch who said that General Pulaski was not buried at sea, but in an area near where the Wasp had been tied up. It was also reported that Major William P. Bowen then dug up Pulaski's remains at Greenwich Plantation where his grandmother had buried them by torch light in order to fool grave robbers and moved them to Monterey Square in Savannah. In Monterey



Square there is a statue of General Pulaski, This statue had to be restored and was removed from the square. While it was removed a group of historians responding to a legend that General Pulaski had been buried under the monument. After a short dig, they discovered a



Brigadier General Kazimierz Pulaski mortally wounded at the battle of Savannah by Stanislaw B/ Kaczor, Polish Museum, Chicago.

rectangular box with a silver name plate attached to it, engraved "*Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski*". Upon opening the box, they found bones. These remains were removed to a forensic laboratory and subjected to all the modern investigative techniques now available to us. An exhaustive search to find DNA evidence failed, owing to the passage of time. It was the conclu-

sion of the investigating scientists, that these are indeed the remains of the General. The General Casimir Pulaski grapeshot is mounted on an engraved silver candlestick and inscribed, "*Grapeshot which*





THE THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO MONUMENT IN LAFAYETTE SQUARE, WASHINGTON, D.C. IT IS LOCATED DIRECTLY BEHIND THE WHITE HOUSE.



THE CASIMIR PULASKI MONUMENT DEDICATED ON MAY 11TH, 1910 ON THE CORNER OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND 13TH ST, NW, WHICH IS NOW THE EASTERN END OF FREEDOM PLAZA

mortally wounded Count Casimir Pulaski, Oct. 9, 1779, extracted from his body by Dr. James Lynah, ancestor of present owner, James Lynah, Esq.” The Lynah family kindly donated this artifact to the Georgia Historical Society, where it is on display to the public.

His remains were placed in a new coffin and re-interred in the same location, Monterery Square, Savannah, Georgia, in a specially prepared vault.

Another early American of Polish stock was Jan Antoni Sadowski, but most people have never heard of him by that name due to the often long and hard to pronounce last name. Jan Sadowski was an Indian Trader. In 1735 he pushed through the Alleghenies, some two hundred miles beyond the nearest English settlement and set up a trading post near the western end of Lake Erie. Today the site is where the city of Sandusky stands!

The Polish have played a very large role in America and not just in the Revolutionary War. When we entered World War I an astounding total of 40,000 Polish names were on the rolls of the first 100,000 to enlist. 300,000 served before that conflict ended. In World War II more than 900,000 served.

Glenn J. Gujda



THE PULASKI MONUMENT IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Betsy Ross -- Did She or Didn't She?



Elizabeth Griscom Ross Ashburn Claypoole, better known to every American as “Betsy Ross” is an American icon. Whether deserved or not she has been the subject of debate for generations. Good historians

always demand primary documentation to substantiate their positions on a given fact. In the case of whether or not Betsy Ross did create the first American flag, there is no supporting documentation, just a lot of circumstantial evidence.

This article will present overwhelming circumstantial evidence in support of Betsy.

WHO WAS BETSY ROSS ?

Betsy’s great-grandfather, Andrew Griscom, migrated to New Jersey and then Philadelphia in 1680. He was a Quaker. His grandson, Samuel Griscom married Rebecca James, also a Quaker. They had seventeen children, the eighth being Betsy. She was born on January 1st, 1752.

After completing her schooling her father apprenticed Betsy to an upholsterer where she fell in love with another apprentice, John Ross. John was not a Quaker, and the Quakers would not permit interdenominational marriages. In 1773 John and Betsy eloped to Hugg’s Tavern in New Jersey and were married. The marriage resulted in Betsy being “read out” of the Quaker meeting house, and cut off from emotional and economic support.

The young married couple started their own upholstery business in Philadelphia. In the 18th century an upholstering business did all manner of sewing jobs. Betsy’s skill with a needle drew customers like George Washington while he was serving at the Second Continental Congress. Washington was probably introduced to her by George Ross, a delegate from Philadelphia and the uncle of her husband.

When the Revolution started it had an immediate impact

by: Donald N. Moran

on the business. Materials were next to impossible to secure, so business slowed down. This allowed John time to join the Pennsylvania Militia. In mid-January 1776, John was on guard duty at an ammunition magazine outside Philadelphia. What appears to have been an accidental explosion mortally wounded him. Betsy tried her best to nurse John back to health, but his wounds were too severe. He died on January 21st, 1776 and is buried at Christ Church Cemetery.

Betsy married for a second time in June of 1777 to Joseph Ashburn, a ship’s Captain. Joseph was commanding an American Privateer when he was captured by the British. He died in March 1782 in England’s infamous Old Mill Prison leaving thirty year old Betsy a two time war widow.

Betsy learned of Joseph’s demise from an old friend, John Claypoole, who was also captured and imprisoned at the Old Mill. They were later married at Christ Church. They lived happily until 1817 when John passed away after a long illness. Betsy never remarried.

She had two daughters by Joseph Ashburn, Zillah, who died young, and Elizabeth. By John Claypoole she had five daughters, Clarissa, Susannah, Rachel, Jane and Harriet. Harriet died when she was but nine months old. Betsy continued in her upholstery business until 1827, when she retired and moved in with her daughter Susannah (Satterthwaite) who lived in Abington, just north of Philadelphia.

Betsy died at her daughter’s home on January 30th, 1836, at the ripe old age of 84 and was buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia.

In 1977 she and husband John Claypoole’s remains were removed from Mount Moriah Cemetery and reinterred

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in the garden of the Betsy Ross House, where they can be viewed today.

THE FIRST FLAG DEBATE

In March of 1870, undoubtedly for the forthcoming centennial, Betsy Ross' grandson, William Canby delivered a paper before the Pennsylvania Historical Society. In this paper, William glorified the contribution made by his grandmother to the cause of American independence.

Detractors of his report stated that he was but eleven years old when his grandmother died, hence, his recollections could not be totally accepted.

Additional family members then filed affidavits supporting kinsman William's recollections. They were Sophia Hildebrant, a granddaughter; Margaret Boggs, a niece; and Rachel Fletcher, a daughter. Unfortunately, all of their affidavits were based on stories told by Betsy. None had first hand knowledge of the events. However, Canby's report was widely accepted and in the July 1873 issue of Harper's Weekly, the story was retold. By the 1880's, the story could be found in textbooks, along with engravings of the painting by artist Casper Weisgerber, entitled "*Birth of Our Nation's Flag*", depicted above. The painting became so popular that it held a place of honor at the 1893 World Colombian Exposition in Chicago.

THE CONTROVERSY

The simplest way to present the controversy is to use a question and answer format.

Con: The recollections of William Canby only eleven years old when his grandmother died, can't be trusted.

Pro: True enough, but the question is not whether or not Canby can be trusted but whether we can trust Betsy Ross. It is clear that Canby and the other members of the family based their affidavits on their recollection of what Betsy told them. Eighteenth century people frowned on self-aggrandizement and when Betsy was telling her story, there were numerous people



BETSY ROSS'S TOMB STONE, PHILADELPHIA

living who could have criticized it. Betsy was proud of what she claimed to have done, and most likely was truthful.

Con: There are no official records or receipts of her having made the first American flag.

Pro: We have found one receipt showing that Betsy Ross was indeed a flag maker. At the Continental Board of War, dated May 29th, 1777 read: "*An order on William Webb to Elizabeth Ross, for 14 pounds, 12 shillings and 2 pence for making ships colours and put into William Richard's stores*".

Con: Not a single reference can be found that makes reference to the first American flag.

Pro: Although flags were important to the military of the 18th century they were not a high priority item, in fact were rather unimportant. There are many things purchased by the Army with no surviving records. No significance can be given to the lack of supporting documentation from that period of time.



**"BIRTH OF OUR NATION'S FLAG"
CASPER WEISGERBER'S PAINTING OF BETSY ROSS SHOWING
GENERAL WASHINGTON THE FIRST FLAG**

Con: Canby mentions Betsy had said she was visited by a "Committee", yet no record exists of a Congressional Flag Committee.

Pro: There being no record of a Committee is not at all surpris-

ing. At the time Congress was creating as many as six committees a day. Some of these committee actions were not recorded owing to the nature of what they were about. Others were established but no record of their actions were kept. In this particular case, why would a formal report be made of a three man "committee" taking an hour to have a flag sewn? Further, George Washington's personal involvement was no doubt more a social visit, as he knew Mrs. Ross.

Con: Again, citing Canby, he stated that Betsy said there was a debate over the flag design. There is no record of a debate over any flag.

Pro: The Flag Resolution was passed on June 14th, 1777 and read: "*Resolved. That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13*

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Union be 13 stars white in a field of blue representing a new constellation.”

Con: In January 1776, Washington adopted the Grand Union flag. Why, in six months would the Army want another flag?

Pro: Quite simple. The Grand Union Flag consisted of 13 red and white stripes (The Sons of Liberty flag) and in the canton the Crosses of Saint Andrew and Saint George, the flag of Great Britain. On July 4th, 1776, the United Colonies declared their independence from the England, hence the canton of the British flag was improper.

Con: Why would the Commander-in-Chief and two members of Congress call upon an upholsterer, obviously of much lower social status?

Pro: To the contrary, Betsy Ross knew all three of the gentlemen. Colonel George Ross was her late husband’s uncle. Congressman Robert Morris and General George Washington worshiped at Christ Church, as did Betsy. General Washington had employed her during his earlier stay in Philadelphia, and lastly, she lost her husband in the service of their Country. She was a very likely choice.



THE GADSDEN FLAG

Con: Francis Hopkinson, the New Jersey delegate to Congress submitted an invoice in which he listed among numerous other items “the design of the flag of the United States of America.” He deserves credit for designing the flag.

Pro: From his headquarters at West Point, General Washington wrote on September 14th, 1779 to the Board of War regarding the need for a uniform-Regimental flag. *“I agree with you in opinion, that the Standard, with the Union and Emblems in the Centre, is to be preferred; with this addition the number of the Regt. and the State to which it belongs inserted within the curve of the serpent, in such place, as the painter or designer shall judge most proper”*. It would appear that General Washington was thinking in terms of the Gadsden Flag with the coiled rattlesnake, whereas the actual design being discussed was based on Hopkinson’s Naval Jack. Since

Congress had already approved a design for the National Flag, the General wanted a uniform Regimental Flag for the Continental Army. The Rattlesnake design and the words “*Don’t Tread on Me*” had even more patriotic and emotional meaning then as it does today. Those are “tough” words from a tough people!

EYE WITNESS SUPPORT FOR BETSY ROSS

Those detracting from Betsy Ross as the person who made the first U.S. Flag state that the “Time Line” of Betsy’s flag predates Congress’s flag resolution of June 14th, 1777.



John Trumbull who served as an Aide to General Washington and was at both Trenton (December 25th, 1776 and Princeton January 3rd, 1777) is acknowledged as the preeminent artist of the Revolution. He painted huge pictures of both battles. His paintings, in which he went to great efforts for accuracy, depicted the Betsy Ross Flag in both pictures.

Another artist, of almost equal fame, is Charles Willson Peale, who primarily painted portraits, served as a Captain under General Washington. He led a company of infantry at Princeton. Peale painted a portrait of General Washington in 1778, in which he went to the trouble to have the captured Hessian flags brought to his studio, and painted them at the General’s feet. As a background of the painting, Peale used the 13 star Betsy Ross flag.



FIRST NAVY JACK

It is hard to believe that artists known for their eye for accuracy and detail, would make an error and include a flag that did not exist at the time. They were both there and saw it for themselves! Another historic relic. She and Samuel Wetherill, a long time friend of Betsy, were the last two members of the Free Quaker Meeting House in Philadelphia. The Free Quakers was established for those Quakers who were required to leave the group because they supported the Revolutionary War effort. The two of them closed the meeting house in 1834. The tradition of the Wetherill family states that Samuel visited Betsy shortly after the Congressional delegation

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BETSY ROSS MEMORIAL

Philadelphia, worthy of a visit.

THE FORT TICONDEROGA MUSEUM 13-STAR FLAG

Unfortunately, in our zeal to preserve the past, we take a lot for granted. *“If it is plausible, it’s probably true”* prevails over *“There is no truth without Proof”*. This thinking leads to errors. Such is the case of the General Schyuler / Betsy Ross flag now displayed at the Fort Ticonderoga Museum. For many years it was reported as being the second thirteen star sewn by Betsy Ross. The provenance of flag passed down through the Hamilton descendants, was undocumented and strictly ‘family tradition’. No doubt the descendants believed the family tradition when they donated the flag. The flag turned out to be an early 19th century flag. This was confirmed by the Fort Ticonderoga Curator of Collections, Chris Fox.

It is doubtful that historians will ever be able to prove who made the first American flag.

accepted her flag. Apparently Samuel spotted the paper template that Betsy had made to ensure that each star was identical in size. Realizing the historic value of the “first flag” and asked her for it. Today, the five pointed star template is on display at the “Free Quaker Meeting House” which is now a Museum, in Phila-



THE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FROM THE AMERICAN FLAG HOUSE AND BETSY ROSS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

However there appears to be a great deal of circumstantial evidence supporting the claim that it was Betsy Ross. She was there, she made flags, and she knew key people in the Congress including George Washington himself. The only thing of importance that is at stake is the continuation of the Betsy Ross House Museum in Philadelphia. The Betsy Ross House is located in the heart of Philadelphia’s Most Historic Square Mile, at 239 Arch Street, just blocks from Independence Hall and the Lib-



“Birth of the American Flag”
by: Edward Percy Moran 1917

erty Bell.

The question still remains. Did she or didn’t she?

Donald N. Moran



From the Writings of our Founding Fathers

“I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”

Thomas Jefferson




THE LIBERTY TREE **SEPTEMBER 2009**
The Minutes of the August 15th, 2009 Meeting

The Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR, held it's August 15th, 2009 meeting at the Tam O'Shanter, 1st Vice President Melvin Harrell presiding. Attending were: Gary Bohannon, Jim Bradley, Berni Campebl, Scott Campbell, Lowell Downer, David Eaton, Elliott Graham, Glenn Gujda, Melvin Harrell, David Hayball, Jim McHargue, Vice President General Karl Jacobs, Ron Johnson, John Mohler, Don Moran. and the Rev. Victor Springer. Guests attending were: Mary Campbell, Kathy Harrell, John Farr, Honor Hayball, Barbara Johnson and Anne Springer

OPENING CEREMONY

The invocation was given by the Reverend Victor Springer, the Pledge of Allegiance by Colonel John Mohler, and pledge to the SAR by Vice President General Karl Jacobs.

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

Vice President General Karl Jacobs, a long time dual member of our Chapter described some of the dues and admission fees approved. Karl then presented a cluster to Berni Campbell for his Liberty Medal.



VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL KARL JACOBS RECEIVING A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM VICE PRESIDENT MELVIN HARRELL.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The flyer was distributed regarding our meeting on the S.S. Lane Victory in San Pedro for the September meetings.

JULY 18TH MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes were not approved as an error was made and the June minutes, previously approved were presented in lieu of the July minutes.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer David W. Eaton distributed

the Treasurer's report showing a balance in our checking account of \$921.02. It was moved by the Glenn Gudja and seconded by David Hayball to accept the report. The motion carried.

PERMANENT FUND REPORT

Trustee David W. Eaton of the Permanent Fund distributed the report. The current value of all the funds is \$54,108.04. Earned interest at this time is \$1,128.75. A portion of the Permanent Fund has been called and the interest to be earned has decreased dramatically, to less than 2 percent. An effort is being made to see if better options are available. However earnings from the Permanent Fund will be much lower than in previous years.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Registrar Berni K. Campbell reported we have 18 applications in various stages of completion. One has been forwarded to National.

COLOR GUARD REPORT

Color Guard Commander, Melvin Harrell advised that our Color Guard will be presenting the colors at a minor league baseball game and distributed the flyer on the forthcoming Marching through History event.

REPORT OF THE WEB MASTER

Compatriot Gary Bohannon, our webmaster, that the number of viewers has dramatically gone down owing to summer vacations, but is still in the thousands. He also advised that several audios are now on the site, which can be downloaded and listened to while driving. He also related an amusing coincidence. He received an inquiry regarding the flag flown at Fort Standwix, and referred to our Secretary for an answer, Don had just finished writing an article about that very flag the evening before (scheduled for the

October edition of the Liberty Tree).

JOINT MEETING WITH THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS - JANUARY

Compatriot James McHargue asked if the Chapter intended on participating in the joint meeting in January. Since many of our members had already departed, it was decided to postpone the vote until the next meeting.

PROGRAM

Compatriot James McHargue presented an in depth description of a variety of hereditary Societies and the membership requirements as well as how and why they were formed. He also displayed an array of items relating to these societies. It was informative and interesting.



COMPATRIOT JAMES MCHARGUE RECEIVING A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM VICE PRESIDENT MELVIN HARRELL.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

The benediction and the SAR Recessional were given by First Vice President Melvin Harrell.

There being no further business before the Chapter the meeting was adjourned.

Donald N. Moran,
Secretary



Our Chapter Medals Are Still Available



THE SONS OF LIBERTY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEDAL

The membership medal, available to our Chapter members only, and depicted to the left, and our George Washington Massing of the Colors and Salute to Our armed Forces medal, available to any one who has participated in said event, and is depicted to the right can be purchased for \$ 27.00 each, including shipping and handling.





THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASSING OF THE COLORS MEDAL

If you wish to purchase either or both please send a request to our Secretary,

Donald N. Moran
 17651 Arlington Place,
 Tehachapi, California 93561-5300,
 or e-mail: dmoransar@att.net.

*The Wisdom of Compatriot
 Sir Winston Churchill*

“I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle”.

Sir Winston Churchill




**COMING EVENTS
 MONTHLY MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2009
 1:00 P.M.**

**JOINT MEETING WITH
 THE HARBOR CHAPTER**


**THE MEETING TO BE HELD
 ABOARD THE
 S.S. LANE VICTORY**

**THE SHIP IS MOORED
 IN SAN PEDRO**



To be held at the Tam O'Shanter Inn
 2980 Los Feliz Blvd.
 Los Angeles

A POINT TO PONDER



“The house of representatives ... can make no law which will not have its full operation on themselves and their friends, as well as the great mass of society. This has always been deemed one of the strongest bonds by which human policy can connect the rulers and the people together. It creates between them that communion of interest, and sympathy of sentiments, of which few governments have furnished examples; but without which every government degenerates into tyranny.”

James Madison

2009

- Sept. 19th --- Joint meeting on the SS Lane Victory
- Oct. 3rd & 4th ----- Marching Through History
- Oct. 17th --- Monthly Meeting
- Nov. 13th & 14th --- State Meeting Riverside - Mission Inn
- Nov. 21st --- Monthly Meeting
- Dec. tba ---- Christmas Party

2010

- Jan. tba ----- Installation of Officers Luncheon
- Feb. 20th --- Monthly Meeting
- Feb. 21st --- Massing of the Colors
- Mar. 20th --- Monthly Meeting
- Apr. ----- Monthly Meeting