



Celebrating Independence Day with the Commander-in-Chief's Guards

Our Chapter celebrated Independence day in the traditional manner with our color guard and reenactment detachment. Several members accepted the invitation of Col. John and Mary Ellen Mohler to gather at their home overlooking the famed Rose Bowl and enjoy the fireworks from their yard. Jim and Paula McHargue who attended said it was a wonderful affair as only the Mohler's can host.

Our Color Guard Commander, Melvin Harrell marched with the Riverside Chapter's 4th Connecticut Regiment in the Crestline parade. In celebration they fired their muskets every few yards, leaving the carrying of the Revolutionary War flags to their 'camp followers'.

Our Commander-in-Chief's Guards joined the Redlands Chapters detachment of the Guards at the Sylvan Park in downtown Redlands for the days festivities and our Revolutionary War encampment. The Redlands Chapter was under the leadership of Colonel Will Langford. The encampment had to be re-limited. Joining our living history group of the Riverside Chapter who portrayed General

George Washington at the event. A special thanks to the members of the Redlands Chapter who came, en-masse, and set up the entire encampment, pup tents, musket tent, cover, with all the equipment. The members of the Commander-in-Chief's Guards spent the majority of the day 'enlisting' the youngest soldiers in the Continental Army, with them signing

with quills and receiving historically correct certificates and Continental script as their first months pay - - or, answering the numerous questions asked by the visitors. In spite of the heat, and it was very hot, it was a successful event. Members of the Guard provided an honor guard which included General Washington for the raising of the National Colors by the Boy Scouts.

At 3:00 p.m. there was a traditional 4th of July Parade with American Legion Color Guard leading, followed by Morgan's Rangers, then our Commander-in-Chief's Guards, then our Camp followers. That evening the Commander-in-Chief's Guards presented the Colors at the opening ceremonies at the University Stadium fireworks display.

continued on page 8 and 9-->



George Washington and visitors

stricted owing to site
tory group was Roger

presented the Colors
University Stadium fire

at the opening ceremonies at the
works display.



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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

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.



12 NOON - SATURDAY AUGUST 15th, 2009

Topic:

UP-DATE ON THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, SAR

Speaker:

Karl Wm. Jacobs, Vice President General

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TOPIC:

“FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION”: A SURVEY OF WHAT’S AVAILABLE TODAY IN MEN’S HEREDITARY SOCIETIES

Speaker:

JAMES C. MCHARGUE

“For your consideration. . .” With these words the membership committee of many hereditary societies starts the process of vetting and selecting qualified men to be admitted to membership. The process can even be continued through a finance committee before a candidate’s name is presented to their governing board for election or rejection; “black ball.”

Hereditary Societies, as we know them today, are uniquely American. The objective of this presentation will allow you in the future to be able to distinguish between “event” societies with hereditary provisions from the much rarer “original veteran’s” society with similar hereditary provisions.

The talk will give some historical background on several that accept male members, how they evolved over the years, their purpose, qualifications for membership and what you should take into consideration before approaching them with a desire to join.

In summation you will be provided with additional information on how to approach groups that are Eastern centric in membership, attitude, purpose and activities while living in the Southwest or Pacific Northwest. Also covered will be the proper use of sponsors, documentation, and questions you need to ask yourself before contacting other groups short of receiving an invitation to join.

To be held at:

The Tam O’Shanter Inn 2980 Los Feliz Blvd. - Los Angeles
\$20.00 per person - Guests always welcome - reservations **not** required



Compatriot

Edward Alan St. Germain
July 19th 1945 - July 08th 2009

Ed, affectionately known to his friends as “*The Saint*” was born and raised in Poughkeepsie, New York. He served as a combat Corpsman during the Vietnam War. After leaving the Navy he earned a B.A. degree in Psychology from Marist College, N.Y. and relocated to California. He earned a law degree here. In 1988 “*Verdictum Juris Magazine*” named him Southern California Lawyer of the year. He worked as a Deputy District Attorney in San Bernardino. He then worked as an attorney for a National Insurance Company which the Saint described as “chasing ambulance chasers”.

Shortly after retiring, he moved back to New York, where he lost his battle with cancer after a valiant fight.

Ed was a forty-three year member of the SAR, and here in California was a member of the Riverside Chapter and an honorary dual member of our Chapter.

In addition to serving in several positions within his Chapter, he was the State Chancellor from 1993-1999. He was also a founding member of the Riverside Chapter’s very active Color Guard, and in 2004 created the popular George Washington Cotillion English Country Dancers.

Ed created a Revolutionary War web site, which brought him National acclaim. This subject is discussed on page 6.

The Saint will be greatly missed.

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 - (*Okinawa*)
LCpl Christopher Pickens USMC - (*CO*)
PFC Daniel Pickens USA - (*Fort Knox, KY*)



Welcome New Compatriot

The Sons of Liberty Chapter is delighted to welcome a new member into our ranks:

Compatriot
JOHN LUNDSTROM
Patriot Ancestor
CHARLES WEBSTER

Who served the Cause of American Independence as a Fifer in Lt. Charles Seymour’s Company, Brig. General E. Walcott’s Brigade, Connecticut Militia.



COMPATRIOT **MICHAEL GILLESPIE**
BEING PRESENTED HIS SAR MEMBERSHIP
CERTIFICATE BY 1st VICE PRESIDENT
MELVIN HARRELL AND REGISTRAR
BERNI CAMPBELL

Approved Supplementals



1st VICE PRESIDENT **MELVIN HARRELL** PRESENTING COMPATRIOT **KERRY DAVIDSON**, OUR GENEALOGIST, HIS LATEST APPROVED SUPPLEMENTAL. THIS ONE IS FOR **ABRAHAM BRASHEAR** WHO SERVED THE CAUSE OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE BY PERFORMING PUBLIC SERVICE IN NEW YORK

Compatriot
RONALD M. JOHNSON

Approved Supplemental Ancestor
HAYDEN EDWARDS

He served the cause of American Independence by performing public service in Virginia.





Compatriots in the News

Compatriot/Lt. Colonel David Smith, USAF, has been appointed Inspector General for Edwards Air Force Base. Our Congratulations.

Compatriot/Captain Eric Fourroux, USA, has returned safe and sound from Iraq and is now stationed at the Army Resources Command, Arlington, Virginia.

Compatriot James C. McHargue, serving as editor, has just published the 2008 Register of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of California. This is an extremely well done Society Register, beautifully printed.

Happy Birthday

- Daniel Smith 08/04
- Jameson Winthrop 08/08
- Berni Campbell 08/09
- William Miller 08/10
- George Branda, MD 08/12
- Howard Hardman 08/12
- Robert Phillips 08/21
- David R. Pratt 08/22
- Richard Camper 08/23
- James McHargue 08/26
- J. David Sympton 08/28
- Jason Gordon 08/29

Happy Anniversary

Thomas & Florence Ponton
Married: 08/02/1941 - - 68 years

Michael & Wanda Biferno
Married: 08/04/1974 - - 35 years

Douglas & Roswitha Bradley
Married: 08/07/1971 - - 38 years



Cdr. Charles & Anne Lampman
Married: 08/09/2003 - - 6 years

John & Cynthia Klinedinet
Married: 08/15/1981 - - 28 years

David & Laurie Hayball
Married: 08/18/1998 - - 11 years

Robert & Elizabeth Williams, M.D.
Married: 08/21/1945 - - 64 years

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

Editors note: The average length of time for our Compatriots who were married in August is 32 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sean O'Rourke	✓	✓			
Dana Patten	✓	✓			
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



THE SONS OF LIBERTY CHAPTER UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES TWO HONORARY DUAL MEMBERS

At our July 18th. 2009 meeting, the Chapter unanimously approved "Honorary Dual Memberships" to Two National Officers.

They are President General Edward "Ed" F. Butler, Sr., of Texas and Genealogist General Joseph "Joe" W. Dooley of Virginia. Joe also assumed the important position of National Color Guard Commander.



Presenting these Honorary Dual Memberships has been a long tradition with our Chapter, but it is rarity for us to present two in one year. In almost every case those so recognized have been General Officers and are always SAR Members. They will receive a special certificate and the Chapter medal.



Honoring Our Departed Veterans

Our former Chaplain (and State Chaplain), **Reverend Dr. Gary Alan Dickey** is a bagpipe musician. In addition to his duties as a pastor of the United Methodist Church of Westlake Village, he has volunteered to provide his services and bagpipes at five internments of our soldiers killed in action in Iraq and another fifteen veterans from earlier wars that have passed away. Gary's bag pipes add so much to these final tributes. Compatriot Dickey has been a regular at the George Washington Massing of the Colors and Salute to our Armed Forces for the past two decades. In recent years he has supplied the bag

pipe music which is much appreciated. A ceremony such as the Massing would be incomplete without the playing of "Amazing Grace."



THE REV. DR. GARY ALAN DICKEY LEADING THE HONOR GUARD AND CASKET OF A RECENTLY KILLED IN ACTION VETERAN



Several of the fifteen California delegates to the 119th Annual Congress held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 4th - 8th have kept us closely informed of all developments.

We are delighted to report that Larry Magerkurth of the Orange County Chapter, and long time dual member of our Chapter was elected *Treasurer General*. This important position needs the expertise that Larry's vast experience will bring to this office. The other General Officers are: Edward F. Butler, Sr. (TX) *President General* - See his message on page 5) - J. David Sympson, *Secretary General* (Dual Member of our Chapter) - James J. Say, *Chancellor General* - Joseph W. Dooley - *Genealogist General* - and *National Color Guard Commander* - Stephen A. Leishman, *Registrar General* - Lindsey C. Brock, *Historian General*, Miles J. Dechant, - *Librarian General* - Lee C. Park, *Surgeon General* - Rev. Rey A. Wisner, *Chaplain General*.

The Delegates to the Congress approved a dues increase of \$5.00 per year, bringing the National dues to \$30.00. They also increased the admission fee by \$20.00. The National Society has not raised the dues since 2001 - eight years so the in-

News From The 119th National Congress



crease is actually overdue.

There is some bad news as well. Our State President, The Rev. Louis Carlson took a nasty fall at the Memorial Service at the Congress. He tore a ligament, cracked his kneecap, and injured a rotator cup in the fall. He managed to stay through the Congress and returned home on July 9th, he requires surgery for his injuries.

Our Berni Campbell, serving for 28 years as our Registrar, was awarded his 10th "Liberty Medal". The Liberty Medal is awarded for being the first line signer on ten separate membership applications. Our Congratulations.

The much awaited answers to the question of acceptable genealogy evidence will be issued in an official report shortly.

Our Editor, who also edits the State Society's newsletter *The California Compatriot*. That Newsletter was named "honorable mention" for large State Society newsletters. Former State President Steve Renouf has prepared a detailed report on the Congress which will be published shortly in Summer edition of *The California Compatriot*.



A Message from President General Edward Butler

Compatriots,

I wish to express my appreciation for being elected unanimously as your 106th President General at the 119th Congress in Atlanta. As Secretary General I led the Strategic Planning Committee in developing a comprehensive Long Range Plan. The 22 page document was approved by the new Executive Committee at its first meeting on July 9th in Atlanta. It will be posted on the SAR web site as soon as possible. It will be my pleasure to lead our organization this year. My first objective is to negotiate a construction contract for our SAR Library on West Main Street in Louisville. Under the leadership of former President General Wilcox we are well on our way. I have appointed former President General Larry D. McGlanahan to lead the Design Review and Construction Committee. Larry is a licensed engineer with decades of experience in dealing with architects and contractors. Larry McGlanahan plans to meet with the architect and contractor next week.

As I said in my acceptance speech on July 8th, I firmly believe that that we have the talented manpower to "walk and chew gum at the same time". The approved Long Range Plan is the blue print which will guide us for many years in the future. From that plan I intend to concentrate on three areas:

Modernize - Publicize - Socialize

Tan Toler of the Maryland Society is well on his way toward a new and innovative SAR web site. Members will be able to register for the SAR Congress and Leadership Meetings online using Pay Pal or a credit card. Online purchases will be available using either method. The new web site promises to be faster, with much greater storage capacity. For the first time, there will be a members only section, which can be accessed by your SAR membership number plus a secret code to be provided by the staff. In the members only section there will be several forums, where members can discuss genealogy, history, membership, etc. SAR financial statements, balance sheets and the budget will be available.



DVD's were passed out at Congress with a message from me directed toward prospective new members. The disc contained footage of our color guard at several functions and showed our members at work at Leadership meetings. Hopefully, this will be a great recruiting tool. We are already working on a new DVD which I plan to send to each chapter president with a request that it be shown at a chapter meeting. This is designed to show chapter members how other chapters are engaged in SAR activities, with the hope that it will stimulate them to participate in programs for the first time.

As the First Lady and I travel around the country this year, we will be asking state presidents and Vice Presidents General to get us lined up to appear on morning TV talk shows, and to submit press releases to local media. In this manner we hope to focus attention on SAR activities.

I am asking each state, district and chapter to sponsor one new social event this year. This could be a picnic, cocktail party, ice cream social, swimming party, military ball or perhaps a sporting event. The key is to involve our wives and to invite prospects and their wives. By socializing, we get to know each other better, and this causes us to work together better. The support of our wives is very important to our society.

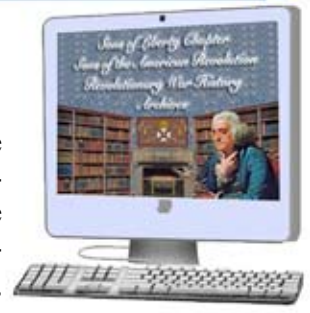
In conclusion, I plan to issue frequent updates to report our progress on the library, and the other programs that will be of interest to you. I am retired and plan to devote my full time and attention to your SAR business. I am thrilled to serve as President General. Robin and I look forward to visiting every district. So far, we are booked to be on SAR business 40 week-ends. We will be away from home over half of September, and will visit our home only a few days each in October, November, March, April and May.

*Fraternally,
Ed Butler
President General
National Society
Sons of the American Revolution*





American History and the 21st Century An editorial



Very early in the age of the internet, Ed. "The Saint" realized that there was then available a method of offsetting the multiculturalism and revisionist history being taught in the schools. He created one of the first web sites devoted to providing historically correct history on the founding fathers and the American Revolution. That site is named americanrevolution.org.

The Saint was adamant that every entry on his web site be absolutely historically correct. Literally hundreds of articles were transcribed and added. Your editor was honored to be one of the authors to have several of his articles published on The Saint's web site.

Long before Google's Book or Project Gutenberg wherein entire books were made available online, The Saint manually transcribed important and often rare books on his site. Some of these were: "Extracts from my Campaign Journals" by: John Paul Jones, "Loyalist Letter-book" "Military Journal of the American Revolutionary War" by: James Thacher, M.D. "The Private Soldier Under Washington" by: Charles K. Bolton. Additionally dozens of computer 'links' were provided to other excellent and accurate web sites. With in a few years his web site became nationally known and the number of individuals using it became phenomenal. When your editor last discussed it with Ed, he quoted having over 3,000 school districts linked to his site and over 250,000 visitors to the site during the school year every month! There is no arguing with success and Ed certainly was successful.

Your editor fully aware that the stated objectives of the Sons of the American Revolution are declared to be: "Historic, Educational and Patriotic" realized that if one Compatriot could accomplish so much good, think of what the resources and manpower of the SAR could do. He put together a proposal and presented it before the National Society, SAR's Executive Committee. They completely agreed and approved the

project. Your editor felt that we had available to the Society hundreds of excellent and accurate copyright free articles on the Revolution from the SAR Magazine, and many more from some of our State and Chapter newsletters. The recommended title for the proposed National Society, SAR web site was "American Revolution History Archives". Although we had Ed's proven web site as an example to emulate, the web master selected by the SAR chose not to do so. He also permitted a great many historically incorrect, multicultural propaganda and revisionist articles to be placed on the site. As a result

in just a few years the site was deemed to be negative and damaging to the image of the SAR as a source for reliable information.

Your editor, still hopeful of following the example set by The Saint, convinced our chapter to create our own web site, with the original recommended title. We did so under the leadership of web master Compatriot Jim Bradley. Within a year over 200 articles were in place and we were receiving hundreds of 'hits' each week. E-mails of appreciation and thanks for our efforts were received and the number of inquiries for additional information or the bibliography for some of the articles that did not have one

were requested. On several occasions our readers have provided additional information heretofore unknown adding to the value of the articles.

Unfortunately owing to finances, the History Archives web site had to be merged with our Chapter's web site and is no longer a stand alone site. It is hoped that in the near future it can be again spun off and once again become a stand alone site.

We also understand that the National Society has formed a committee to reinstitute their web site based on the original proposal and The Saint's format.

Donald N. Moran
Editor



COMPATRIOT ED "THE SAINT" ST. GERMAIN AS A MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHAPTER COLOR GUARD. THEY SAY ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS - THIS ONE CERTAINLY IS.



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Photographs courtesy of David Leonard and Linda Moran



THE RIVERSIDE CHAPTER'S COLOR GUARD MARCHING IN THE CRESTLINE 4TH OF JULY PARADE. MELVIN HARRELL IS SHOWN ON THE FAR RIGHT.

DURING THE CRESTLINE PARADE THE COLOR GUARD FIRED VOLLEYS TO CELEBRATE THE 4TH AND TO AMUSE THE AUDIENCE.



THE ENCAMPMENT - - NOT SHOWN ARE THE PUP TENTS AND THE MUSKET TENT. I-to-r: ROGER COOPER AS GEORGE WASHINGTON, KATHY HARRELL, RICHARD TOWNSEND, MICHAEL HARRELL AND RICHARD MAYNARD.

COMPATRIOT WILL LANGFORD DEMONSTRATING THE WORKINGS OF A MUSKET, WHILE OTHER VISITORS LINE UP TO 'ENLIST' IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY. THE CROWD SHOWN WAS TYPICAL OF THE DAY LONG EVENT.



THE OFFICERS AT THE ENCAMPMENT ANSWERING NUMEROUS QUESTIONS. I-to-r: ROGER COOPER, DON MORAN AND WILL LANGFORD.

DON MORAN STAFFING THE ENLISTMENT TABLE AND ANSWERING THE MANY QUESTIONS PUT FORTH BY THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE VISITING THE ENCAMPMENT

The Liberty Tree  *August 2009*

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY
 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6



THE LOCAL BOY SCOUT TROOP OPENED THE DAY'S CELEBRATION BY RAISING THE COLORS. THE SAR FURNISHED THE HONOR GUARD - I-to-r: WILL LANGFORD, RICHARD TOWNSEND, DON MORAN AND ROGER COOPER



THE GUARDS ON PARADE I-to-r: RICHARD TOWNSEND, RICHARD MAYNARD, MICHAEL HARRELL, MELVIN HARRELL AND WILL LANGFORD



OUR CAMP FOLLOWERS MARCH TOO! THE LADIES OF MORGAN'S RANGERS AND THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS FOLLOWED OUR COLOR GUARD, KATHY HARRELL AND P.J. WALKER IN THE LAST RANK. KENNY WALKER MARCHED WITH MORGAN'S RANGERS.



PART OF THE CROWD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS STADIUM FOR THE FIRE WORKS DISPLAY. THE GUARDS PRESENTED THE COLORS AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE STADIUM, TOO FAR TO BE DEPICTED FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT.



10 PART OF THE ENTERTAINMENT WAS A PARACHUTE JUMP WITH THE JUMPERS LANDING RIGHT IN THE STADIUM



A LOW LEVEL "FLY BY" BY TWO FIGHTERS AND THE C-17 JUMBO CARGO PLANE SHOWN HERE.

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

By: The Rev. Victor M. Springer

Our Chaplain, The Reverend Victor Springer delivered this speech to an Independence Day gathering at Westminster Gardens, Duarte

“My name is John Adams, 2nd President of the United States. I lived on this earth from 1735 to 1826, and along with my good friend Thomas Jefferson, died on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I have been sent to you, living in the 21st century, to tell you of the beginnings of this great nation, lest these things be forgotten in the course of history, and to let the respect of our forefathers for a Divine Providence shine through.

Let me state first of all that the original Jamestown colonists in 1607 erected a wooden cross at Cape Henry to proclaim their faith in a living God and to give Him thanks for a safe passage across the Atlantic Ocean. Their stated objective at that time included spreading the Christian faith among the Indians. And in 1620, 102 Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts in search of religious freedom. They had chafed under a state church in England, and wanted to be able to worship God as they felt led.

Let us now fast forward to the following century. In 1775, the American colonies were under the firm and harsh rule of King George III of England. And thus a movement began to break away from the rule of the British. On October 26th, 1775 at a speech before Parliament the King declared the American colonies to be in open rebellion; and he was committing land and sea forces sufficient to quash that rebellion. After much discussion, Parliament approved the commitment that very night.

Prior to this there had been several skirmishes, including first of all the “Battle of Lexington and Concord”, to which some have referred as the “*shot heard around the world.*” This was followed two months later by the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Americans won the first, and after three bloody assaults the British won the second - - only after the Americans ran out of ammunition. But the victory by the British at Bunker Hill was at a great loss of 1,000 wounded or killed out of 3,000, including 62 of their finest officers.

Between those two battles, the Second Continental Congress, representing the 13 American colonies, was opened in Philadelphia at what is now known as Independence Hall. Besides myself, some of our greatest patriots were in attendance, not the least of which were John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. Some might be surprised to

know that three famous men were not in attendance when the formal document called the “**Declaration of Independence**” was finally approved - George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Patrick Henry. All were elsewhere so were not among the 56 who signed that historic document.

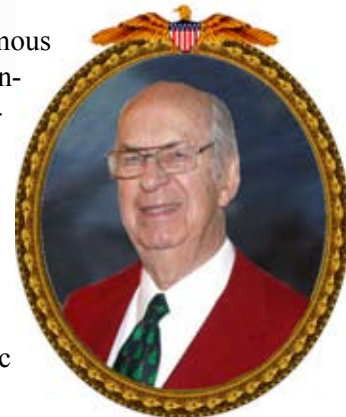
Let me read a portion of it. “*When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.*”

This was followed by ten serious charges against the King. And then toward the end we read in brief, “*We therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,*”

Listen carefully to the closing words: “*And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.*” There then followed the signatures of these 56 men from the 13 colonies.

The men who gave this pledge were, with few exceptions, all men of substantial property. All but two had families. Almost all were men of education and standing in their communities. They knew what they risked. A great British fleet was already in New York Harbor. It was principle, not property, that brought these men to Philadelphia.

Of the 56 who signed the Declaration of Independence, nine died of wounds or hardship during



CHAPLAIN
VICTOR M. SPRINGER



ing the war. Five were captured and imprisoned, each with brutal treatment. Several lost wives, sons, or entire families. Seventeen lost everything they owned. But none defected on his pledged word. This country to which they had pledged their total allegiance is still intact. Here are two examples of the great suffering of these faithful men. Francis Lewis of New York saw his home plundered and his estate completely destroyed by British soldiers. His wife was captured and treated with great brutality. Later exchanged for two British prisoners, she died from the effects of her abuse.

John Hart, of Trenton, New Jersey, risked his life to return home to see his dying wife. Soldiers chased after him, and he escaped to the woods. While his wife lay on her deathbed, the soldiers ruined his farm and destroyed his homestead. At age 65, Hart slept in caves and woods as he was hunted across the countryside. When at long last, emaciated by hardship, he was able to sneak home, he found his wife had already been buried, and his 13 children taken away. He never saw them again. He died a broken man in 1779.

We turn now to the main hero of the Revolution - George Washington. He had led the colonial troops against the French and Indians during the French and Indian War. The leader of all the Indian warriors engaged in that war, having seen the finest of their sharpshooters fail to kill the great Virginian leader, testified that, "He cannot die in battle." Washington had had four bullets pass through his coat, and had two horses shot from under him, but lived to tell the story. He believed in the Providence of God and taught it to his soldiers.

Washington was born into a godly Episcopal family, and through his life attended church regularly. Over and over in his diary you can read, "On Sunday . . . went to church." He was a man of famed honesty, and Thomas Jefferson himself couldn't say enough good about him. He not only attended church on Sunday, but refused to do official business on that day. Every night at 9 p.m., he took his candle and retired to his study. A young nephew one night opened the door of his study and found him on his knees before a chair in which was his open Bible. His recorded prayers are brief, of which one says, "Pardon me for the blood of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. I humbly

beseech Thee to be merciful to me in the free pardon of my sins, for the sake of Thy dear Son, my only Saviour, Jesus Christ."

This was the man who was appointed unanimously by the Second Continental Congress, to lead the American army in battle against the British. Lead it he did, prevailing against the greatest army and navy on earth at that time. Six years later he was elected by unanimous vote of all of the electors to be President of the United States, where he served with great distinction for two terms. I, John Adams, might never have been President had he not absolutely refused a third term. In my day, it was said of him, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." And of course, even you have heard of him as the father of his country.

In conclusion, let me, Victor Springer, quote some statements made by early American patriots, and by the Supreme Court, in 1892, the year of my Mother's birth.

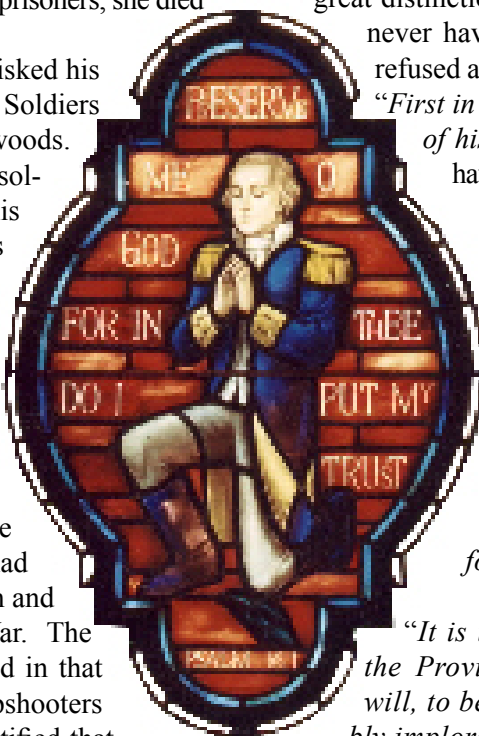
Alexander Hamilton, at his death in 1804: "I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty; through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy. Pray for me."

George Washington, October 3rd, 1789: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor."

Thomas Jefferson in 1781: "God Who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Finally, from the Supreme Court of the United States in 1892: "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent, our civilizations and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

Rev. Victor M. Springer
Chaplain
Sons of Liberty Chapter,
Sons of the American Revolution



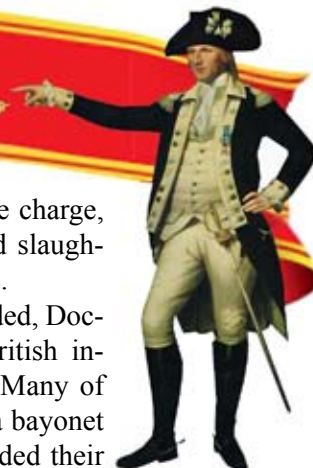
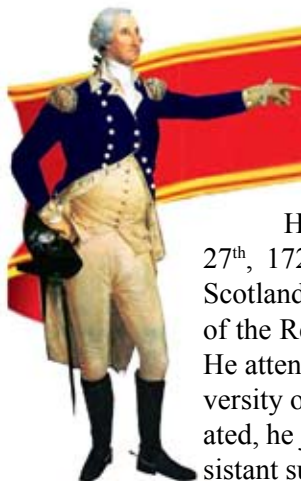
THE AMERICAN FLAG AND ITS STARS



NUMBER OF FLAG	NUMBER OF STARS	DATE FLAG ADOPTED	DATE STATE ADMITTED
1 st	13 stars	06/14/1777	Original flag.
2 nd	15 stars	05/01/1795	VT admitted 03/04/1791 KY admitted 06/01/1792
3 rd	20 stars	04/13/1818	TN admitted 06/01/1796 OH admitted 02/19/1803 LA admitted 04/20/1812 IN admitted 12/11/1816 MS admitted 12/10/1817
4 th	21 stars	07/04/1819	IL admitted 12/02/1818
5 th	23 stars	07/04/1820	AL admitted 12/14/1819 ME admitted 03/15/1820
6 th	24 stars	07/04/1822	MO admitted 08/10/1821
7 th	25 stars	07/04/1836	AK admitted 06/15/1836
8 th	26 stars	07/04/1837	MI admitted 01/26/1827
9 th	27 stars	07/04/1845	FL admitted 03/03/1845
10 th	28 stars	07/04/1846	TX admitted 12/29/1845
11 th	29 stars	07/04/1847	IA admitted 12/28/1846
12 th	30 stars	07/04/1848	WI admitted 05/29/1848
13 th	31 stars	07/04/1851	CA admitted 09/09/1850
14 th	32 stars	07/04/1858	MN admitted 05/11/1858
15 th	33 stars	07/04/1859	OR admitted 02/14/1859
16 th	34 stars	07/04/1861	KS admitted 01/29/1861
17 th	35 stars	07/04/1863	WV admitted 06/20/1863
18 th	36 stars	07/04/1865	NV admitted 10/31/1864
19 th	37 stars	07/04/1867	NB admitted 03/01/1867
20 th	38 stars	07/04/1877	CO admitted 08/01/1876
21 st	43 stars	07/04/1890	ND admitted 11/02/1889 SD admitted 11/02/1889 MT admitted 11/08/1889 WA admitted 11/11/1889 ID admitted 07/03/1890
22 nd	44 stars	07/04/1891	WY admitted 07/10/1890
23 rd	45 stars	07/04/1896	UT admitted 01/04/1896
24 th	46 stars	07/04/1908	OK admitted 11/16/1907
25 th	48 stars	07/04/1912	NM admitted 01/06/1912 AZ admitted 02/14/1912
26 th	49 stars	07/04/1959	AL admitted 01/03/1959
27 th	50 stars	07/04/1960	HI admitted 08/21/1959



General George Washington's Generals Brigadier General Hugh Mercer



Hugh Mercer was born on January 27th, 1726 in Rosehearty, Aberdeenshire, Scotland (North Eastern Scotland), the son of the Reverend William and Ann Mercer. He attended Marischal College at the University of Aberdeen. As soon as he graduated, he joined the Jacobite Army as an assistant surgeon.

Scottish Prince Charles Stuart returned from exile in 1746 from France and laid claim to the throne of England. The Scots rallied around him, including young Doctor Hugh Mercer. In November the Prince led his army south invading England. At the time England was at war with France and had deployed most of its troops to the continent accordingly there were few troops to resist the invading Highland army. During their march south Prince Charles and his advisors noticed that very few of the English were joining their ranks and it became obvious the English were opposed to the Prince and his claim. Without support of the people the invasion was doomed to failure. Realizing that, the Prince ordered his army back to Scotland.

Under the leadership of the Duke of Cumberland, the second son of King George II, a force of nine thousand British regulars were assembled and marched on Scotland to put down the rebellion. On April 16th, 1746, the two armies met at Culloden Moor, some five miles from Inverness. The Highlanders, famous for their fierce charges had never encountered the Brown Bess musket or the socket bayonet before. The muskets used earlier had what was known as a plug bayonet. It was fitted down the barrel, hence the musket could not be fired. With the socket bayonet the weapon could still be fired.

The new weapon made the Highland charge suicidal. When

the British infantry repulsed the charge, the British cavalry charged and slaughtered many of the retreating Scots.

Treating the Scottish wounded, Doctor Mercer learned that the British infantry employed a new tactic. Many of the wounded Highlanders had a bayonet wound under the arm that wielded their claymore (a Scottish broad sword). The British learned that the Highlanders would parry the British bayonet aside with his shield and strike down the soldier. To counter this, the British infantrymen thrust their bayonets into the Highlander on his left, thereby avoiding the shield of the Scot in front of him. This tactic proved devastating to the Scots.

With his army destroyed, Prince Charles escaped back to France. The British then began arresting the Scottish survivors of Culloden Moor. Hugh Mercer went into hiding in the Highlands and then he too escaped - to the "new world". In May of 1747, he arrived in Philadelphia. He soon found he had little in common with the largely Quaker population. He had learned that many of his fellow Scots and Irish had migrated to the Pennsylvania frontier. He relocated there and was soon very successful. Doctors were rare on the frontier and very much in demand.

It wasn't long before the war between France and England manifested itself in the colonies. The French had encouraged the Indians to terrorize the settlers throughout the frontier. The British sent General Edward Braddock with a large force of regulars supported by Pennsylvania and Virginia provincial troops to attack the key fortification of the French - - Fort Duquesne, located on the peninsula that is present day Pittsburgh. Hugh Mercer despised the



THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN - 1746 (painting by David Morier)

British, but also realized that his new found neighbors were at great risk if the French and Indians were not defeated.

Braddock's force was badly defeated. Upon hearing of the defeat Hugh's experience in Scotland told him that Doctors would be desperately needed. He saddled his horse and a pack horse with his medical supplies and rode to meet the retreating British regulars and Colonial militia. Arriving at the makeshift hospital he met Doctor James Craik (also Scottish born) and was immediately put to work. Craik was the personal physician to George Washington, and it was he that probably introduced them. Washington and Mercer became life long friends.

On March 6th, 1756, Mercer was commissioned a Captain in the Pennsylvania Militia. He continued to serve on



DR. HUGH MERCER'S APOTHECARY SHOP IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA. THE SIGN IS HUNG AT RIGHT ANGLE ON THE RIGHT END OF THE BUILDING AND WAS INSERTED IN THIS PICTURE.
(photograph taken by Don Moran)

thereby forcing now Colonel Hugh Mercer to retire back to civilian life. Thus ended Hugh Mercer's second war.

He decided to leave Pennsylvania. As a frontier doctor he was successful, but not in a financial way. His Virginia friends, Dr. Craik and George Washington had, on numerous occasions painted a beautiful picture of the Virginia Colony.

Mercer settled in Fredericksburg, purchased a small house on Caroline Street and opened his medical office. He was befriended by the towns

leading citizens. There he met and married Isabella Gordon, whose family was of Scottish origins. They had a large family, four sons and a daughter. 1. Anna Gordon Mercer. She married Robert Patton and they were the great Grandparents of General George S. Patton of World War Two fame. 2.



DR. MERCER WAS A FREQUENT VISITOR TO KENMORE HOUSE THE HOME OF FIELDING AND BETTY (WASHINGTON) LEWIS. OUR COMPATRIOT SCOTT CAMPBELL IS A DESCENDANT OF THIS FAMILY. *(Photograph by Don Moran)*



DR. MERCER WAS PHYSICIAN TO MARY BALL WASHINGTON AND WAS FREQUENT VISITOR. HER HOME SHARED A BACKYARD WITH KENMORE HOUSE. THE SIGN WAS ADDED.

the frontier and was involved in many skirmishes with the Indians. In one of these actions, a musket ball shattered his right arm, and he was almost captured by the Indians. The Pennsylvania Gazette, which was the main source of frontier news published an article on Captain Mercer's escape, stating: "he had a miraculous ten days on two dried clams and a rattlesnake". The story made Hugh Mercer a frontier hero. By the end of the French and Indian War he was commanding a battalion of Pennsylvania Militia. On May 29th, 1758 he was promoted to full Colonel of Militia, and then on January 15th, 1761, the Pennsylvania disbanded their militia

John Mercer, born in 1772 and died September 30th, 1817. 3. William Mercer, he died unmarried and was deaf. 4. George Weedon Mercer, died unmarried. 5. Hugh Tenant Weedon Mercer. He was a Colonel and was born on August 4th, 1776, and died on December 1st, 1853. His son, also named Hugh W. Mercer was a General in the Confederate Army.

It was Doctor Mercer who treated Washington's beloved step-daughter Patsy who fell ill during a visit to her step-grandmother at Ferry Farm. In 1772, Washington had a house built in Fredericksburg, for his aging mother, who needed to be near



her doctor (Hugh Mercer) and merchants. The house adjoined the home of his sister Betty Washington Lewis. Both houses are open to the public today.

With the family no longer living on Ferry Farm, Washington decided to sell it. Mercer offered the sum of £2,000 - Virginia currency for it. George Washington agreed. It took Mercer only five years to pay off the debt.

Hugh joined the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge in 1767. Two members of that Lodge, Washington and James Monroe became Presidents of the United States, and eight members served as Generals in the Revolution. They were: George Washington, Hugh Mercer, George Weedon, William Woodford, Fielding Lewis, Thomas Posey and Gustavus Wallace. The Marquis de Lafayette was made an honorary member in 1824. The Lodge is still in existence.

When word of the clash at Lexington and Concord reached Virginia, the Colony mobilized its militia. Numerous men applied for commissions to serve in the several regiments being formed. Virginia's governing body, the House of Burgesses was deciding on these applications when Hugh Mercer entered. He presented a letter to the House. *"Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country, and the cause of liberty, in any rank or station to which he may be appointed."* Mercer was instantly given the command of the Third Virginia Regiment. The date was January 10th, 1776. He was one of the few that had previous command experience.

When the Third Regiment was transferred to the Continental Line, Colonel Mercer received a letter from the President of Congress: *"June 6th, 1776, Sir: I am directed by Congress to inform you that they yesterday appointed you a Brigadier*

General in the armies of the United Colonies and that they request you will immediately on receipt hereof set out for headquarters at New York; for which purpose I am commanded to forward you this by express. Should you take Philadelphia in your way, I must beg you will do me the favor to call at my house, as it is highly probable I shall have something in charge from Congress ready for you at that time. I do myself the pleasure to enclose your commission; and have the honor to be, sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant. J. Hancock, President".

No record has survived denoting when now General Mercer arrived in New York City. But, it is certain that General Washington was delighted to see his old friend and neighbor at headquarters and as Washington was prob-

ably aware, he now had another General officer in his command he could fully trust.

Hugh Mercer served throughout the disastrous 1776 campaign, serving with boldness and courage.

He supported General Washington's plan to launch an assault on Trenton, New Jersey from the outset. His Brigade was assigned to Major General John Sullivan, attacking from the west. Mercer ordered his men to occupy the houses on the west side of town and fire on the Hessians from that cover. Additionally being out of the snow, it gave the men the



BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER WITH GENERAL WASHINGTON ACCEPTING THE SURRENDER OF HESSIAN COLONEL RALL AT TRENTON
(Painting by Edward Percy Moran.)



BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER BEING BAYONETED DURING THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY. (Painting by John Trumbull.)



opportunity to dry their muskets.

Following the victory at Trenton, Washington continued his offense. He realized that the British could not hold on to all their gains from that summer and fall if they could not garrison every captured town with a force capable of withstanding the entire force Washington could muster. His next target was Princeton. General Mercer is credited by several contemporary accounts to be the officer that suggested the strategy that led to another victory.

The British stationed at Princeton were alerted by the attack on Trenton and could not be surprised. Hugh Mercer's Brigade was one of the first to be engaged. They were met with heavy resistance. The two facing Regiments traded volley-for-volley inflicting terrible carnage. British Grenadier Captain William Hale of the Forty-Fifth Regiment of Foot realized that most of the attacking Americans were armed with rifles, hence had better accuracy and were inflicting more damage among his men. He also knew that rifles were not equipped with bayonets. He immediately ordered a bayonet charge. Mercer's men, seeing the oncoming British regulars coming at them with fixed bayonets knew they couldn't stand and retreated. In their rush back General Mercer was bringing up the rear when his grey horse was shot from under him, then 'he' was hit. As he went down he ordered "retreat". Before he could get up some of Captain Hale's Grenadiers were upon him. One struck him in the head with his musket butt. They ordered him to surrender, addressing him as a "damned rebel", Mercer defiantly replied "I am no rebel". The grenadiers then bayoneted him several times, and left him for dead. Later, he was found to be still alive and was made a prisoner of war. When General Washington learned his friend was still alive but mortally wounded, he dispatched Captain George Lewis, his nephew, who knew General Mercer to his bedside under a flag of truce. Brigadier General Hugh Mercer succumbed to his wounds on January 12th, nine days after the battle.

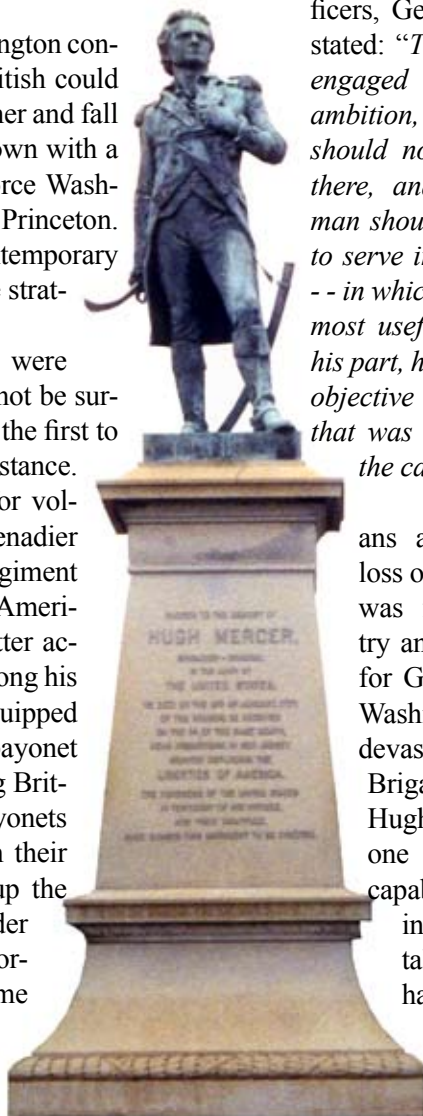
General James Wilkinson mentioned in his book: "Memoirs of My Own Times", published in Philadelphia in 1816, "In General Mercer we lost, at Princeton, a chief who, for education talents, disposition, integrity, and patriotism, was second to no man but the Commander-in-Chief, and was qualified to fill the highest trusts of the Country". Wilkinson also wrote that while discussion promotions with other Of-

ficers, General Mercer stated: "They were not engaged in a war of ambition, or that he should not have been there, and that every man should be content to serve in that station -- in which he could be most useful. That for his part, he had not one objective in view, and that was the success of the cause".

Most historians agree that the loss of Hugh Mercer was for the country and in particular for General George Washington, a devastating blow. Brigadier General Hugh Mercer was one of the most capable generals in the Continental Army and had he lived he could have greatly impacted the outcome of the Revolution.

General Mercer was buried at Christ Church in Philadelphia. On November 26th, 1849, his remains were reinterred at Lauren Hill Cemetery, also in Philadelphia and the above monument was erected to his memory,

Donald N. Moran



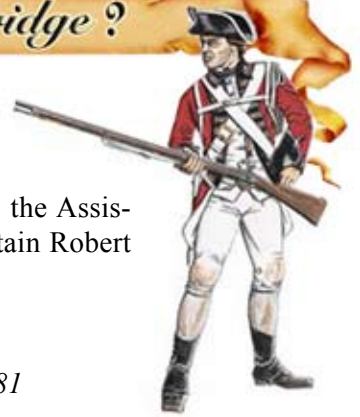
THE BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER MONUMENT ON WASHINGTON STREET IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA (Photo by Don Moran)



HUGH MERCER'S ORIGINAL HEADSTONE AT CHRIST'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA THE INSCRIPTION READS: "IN MEMORY OF GEN. HUGH MERCER, WHO FELL AT PRINCETON, JAN. 3RD, 1777"



What Really Happened at King's Bridge ?



Because of our Chapter's Color Guard representing the Commander-in-Chief's Guards, we have tried over the years to research and publish what information we could glean from the records. One major source of the history of the "Guards" is a 1904 book by Carlos E. Godfrey, entitled "The Commander-in-Chief's Guards". It is the only publication, other than an occasional short magazine article on this elite detachment of the American Army during the Revolutionary War. Godfrey, the State Archivist for New Jersey, did a reasonable job of research, but the amount of data, and access thereof was quite different than today.

The lack of primary records from the Revolution and the abbreviated format the participants used most often left us with more questions than answers.

At King's Bridge, New York, located at the northern end of Manhattan Island, connecting to the rest of the State, a devastating action was fought on July 3rd, 1781. The Guard suffered a third of their men as casualties.

Godfrey wrote in his book: "At three o'clock in the morning on the second of July, Washington, whose headquarters had been at the Van Cortlandt Mansion - two miles east of Peekskill - - since June 25, moved the army toward Valentine's Hill in order to cover detached troops, where he arrived at sunrise the following day and spent most of the morning in reconnoitering the enemy's works at the upper end of New York, near King's Bridge. As Washington moved leisurely along with the Guard and a detachment of New England Troops making observations, he was discovered by a foraging party of the enemy, 1,500 strong, who had sallied out at day break to scour the country, when an irregular skirmish ensued, which resulted very disastrously to the Guard. . ."



The only 'official' record of the skirmish was from the

second in command, Lieutenant Levi Holden of the Guard. He wrote an abbreviated after action report to the Assistant Inspector General, Captain Robert Pemberton,

Headquarters,
11th July 1781
to: Capt. Pemberton:

Return of killed wounded and missing of his Excellency's Guard in the late skirmish at King's Bridge - - one lieutenant and one sergeant wounded, fourteen rank and file wounded - one missing and three of the wounded since dead.

*Your H'uble Serv't
L. Holden, Lt. Comd't
Com'dr
in Chief's Guards".*

Needless to say, little of Godfrey's version of the skirmish made any sense. If on a reconnaissance mission, why didn't Washington and his



CAPTAIN WILL COLFAX LEADING THE CHARGING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS AT THE SKIRMISH AT KING'S BRIDGE, NEW YORK - JULY 2ND, 1781

escort just retire? Why would a handful of soldiers stand and fight - - the Guard, then numbering about fifty guardsmen, was out numbered thirty-to-one!

It is not known if General Washington was still attempting to convince the Count de Rochambeau to attack New York City, or to convince British General Sir Henry Clinton that he was going to attack the city. A third possibility, inflict enough casualties on the British Garrison to reduce the possibility of their attacking his columns as they marched across New Jersey en route to Yorktown.

In preparation for the attack on New York, Washington ordered the army encamped at West Point to march south to Peekskill, New York. He also wrote to the Count de Rochambeau for him and his army to march from Newport and join him at Peekskill. He set up his headquarters at the Van Cortlandt House, two miles east of Peekskill. On the 26th, Rochambeau and the senior officers of the French army arrived, with their army not far behind.

Washington carefully planned an attack on King's Bridge, the northern most position of the British in New York. Commanding the attacking force would be Major General Benjamin Lincoln assisted by Colonel Scammell and Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Sprout to command the attacking Regiments. Their objective would be to surprise and capture the British forts at the north end of New York island. If the attacking force was unable to achieve surprise they were to retreat and await the arrival of Washington's

army.

Secrecy was the key word. No published record of his plan was distributed before the attack. To the contrary, the surviving documents and letters all indicate that he was only reconnoitering the British positions. In fact, the General Orders of July 3rd, 1781, issued from Headquarters at Valentines Hill, New York, state: "*Colonel Scammell's detachment will follow the American Column and serve as a Rear Guard to it.*" In reality he had already proceeded to Teller's Point 30 miles north of King's Point and his light infantry would be the leading force in the attack. In the collection at the Library of Congress there is a pertinent letter attributed to Washington's spy network, the Culpers. Although the document is not dated, the Archivists at the Library date it to early July 1781. The information contained therein is extraordinary and would put today's intelligence services to shame. The Culper's identified all the warships in New York Harbor, described the conditions of all the northern fortifications, including the number of cannons, then went on to furnish the British troop placement. Obviously this took a great deal of work on their part, and would have only been accomplished at the request by the General himself. It was not until July 6th, 1781 that Washington notified the Continental Congress with a letter that was in fact an after action report.

We are fortunate that a private soldier, Asa Reddington left a detailed description of the action. "*..... On the 2nd day of July, the Regiment moved from their quarter to the Hudson River, and in the evening embarked on board flat boats at Tellers Point, about 30 miles above New York. We rowed down the river to near Dobbs Ferry, where we landed under the side of a mountain on the Jersey side of the River, cut green bushes and covered the boats to avoid discovery, went up the side of the mountain, and there remained through the day covered by thick woods - - - were not allowed to make any fires or cook any food.*

About the sun setting the companies were paraded, and Lieut. Sherburne who then had the care of the company to which I belonged, harangued us in rather a rough way. "My lads, said he, some of you will see H_{ll} before morning", and verified the assertion with a solemn oath, "and if one of you disobey my orders, I will run you through, and if you see me



LIEUTENANT LEVI HOLDEN ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS AFTER CAPTAIN COLFAX WAS WOUNDED.



flinch, serve me in the same manner." What a wicked man!

About nine o'clock in the morning we again embarked and fell down the River, a number of miles, and landed about two o'clock in the morning of the 3rd of July on the east side of the River about 2 1/2 miles above King's Bridge, and apparently undiscovered.

After ascending the bank, the troops were paraded and formed in order of battle. We then took up the line of march (the night being very dark) and paraded toward King's Bridge, where the enemy had a strong post - - just before day we came in contact with their picket guard, and a sharp firing commenced in front, when the enemy retreated and joined their friends on the other side of the bridge. We then quickly marched and took position about 100 rods from the Bridge, covered by some birch bushes by the road side. About this time it was about half way between day and sun rising. In a few minutes after we were thus posted, a body of the B. [British] cavalry came dashing along the road, and were immediately fired upon, some of whom were shot down and left dead in the road. The others instantly retreated over the bridge, and hauled up the draw to prevent our crossing it, which we had no idea of doing. We then lay on our arms, having a kind of respite saving now and then a few muskets were fired by sharp shooters, some of the balls doing execution, as several of our company were wounded, one of them, I think, mortally.

The enemy soon began to muster on [New] York Island, both infantry and cavalry. I could see their arms glistening in the sun in many place on the highlands.

We were then moved off the ground, and took post on a high swell of land, perhaps 3/4 of a mile from the bridge, where we could plainly see all the enemy on the other side [of] the East River, which the bridge crossed. By this time we were joined by Colonel Sporets [actually Lt. Colonel Ebenezer Sprout] Regiment of about 400 men, making the whole 900 men. These men also came down the River by boats.

At about 8 O'clock in the morning the enemy let down their bridge and a large body of cavalry and infantry advanced upon us and a severe action ensued. The Americans were commanded by General Lincoln. We were over-

powered by numbers and retreated from the ground, getting however behind double walls, and keeping up a fire upon them, retarding their advance. We were kept in close order to prevent the cavalry from charging upon us, whom we most dreaded.

The dead and wounded were mostly left on the ground, to the mercy of the enemy. I expected to have been killed, wounded or captured on that fateful day, indeed I saw no chance for escape. I, however, by the protection of Divine Being, got off with a whole skin.

After retreating about a mile, hard driven by the enemy, to our great joy a body of French Cavalry [The Duke de Lauzun's cavalry] hove in sight, and immediately after the front of the main army under Washington appeared. On discovery of this large force, the enemy gave up the pursuit and retired over the bridge. I felt quite relieved at this unexpected turn of good luck having given up all for lost.

I afterward learned the plan was for the party under Lincoln to engage the enemy, draw out a large body of them, and then retreat, while the meantime a part of Washington's army was to march down the River road and cut off their retreat unto York Island. This plan failed owing to the badness of the roads and bridges, so that the Army under Washington, who marched the whole night, were unable to arrive in season to accomplish their design. Of this arrangement, however, we poor soldiers were wholly ignorant, and seemed to be doomed to destruction. Many poor fellows lost



THE SKIRMISH AT KING'S BRIDGE ENDED IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

their lives on that day, and many were wounded.

Although I had no sleep for two nights, I had to watch with the wounded men the night after the action. They were taken into a large house, the lower floor of which was covered by these poor fellows. The next morning, 4th of July, those that were so badly wounded as to be unable to ride in wagons, were carried in biers on the men's shoulders, as the army marched that day up the river about 8 miles, and took post at Dobb's Ferry. About 12 men were assigned to carry one man, and relieve each other at intervals. I assisted in moving one poor fellow who was shot through the body. He was a young man, appeared to be a fine fellow, and belonged to Gen. Washington's Life Guard, most of who took part in the action. The day was very warm, and we had to rest him often, under the shade, and fan him with small bushes. He greatly lamented his fate, belonged to New Jersey, said that if he had minded his mother he should not have been in that dreadful situation. A number died on the march, and were simply buried by the roadside, being told that such a one had died, he said "It will be my turn next". He, however, lived through the day, but I understood he afterwards died. What a dreadful thing is war!"

No record can be found as to why the Commander-in-Chief's Guards were involved. 900 Continentals were engaged in the engagement, 50 were members of the 'Guard'. We can only assume that word was sent to General Washington that his attacking force was heavily engaged and needed support. As he did at Connecticut Farms, New Jersey, he ordered his Guard, under Lieutenant William Colfax, to rush forward and support the Light Infantry. The Guard was roughly handled, as the known injuries included bayonet and other wounds consistent with hand-to-hand fighting. One third of the Guards were either killed or wounded. Lieutenant Colfax was wounded and in the hospital,

Brigadier General Edward Hand was serving as Adjutant General of the Army, having replaced Colonel Scammell. He issued an after action report on July 15th detailing the total casualties at the engagement. A total of 65 men were

listed as casualties - 17 of which were members of the Guard, but even this 'after action' report was cryptic - with no indication that it was anything other than a chance encounter.

The brevity of these Revolutionary War reports is the singular most frustrating part of the war's history! All the report provides is that one third of the Guard were casualties! None of the Guard's muster rolls from that period have been found, hence we can not identify the casualties from those records. From other sources, including their pension records we have learned the names of the Lieutenant William Colfax, shot through the area above the hip, and of seven of the privates: Jedediah Brown was wounded in both arms, Lewis Campbell was wounded, no details, John Dent lost an eye, William Martin was hit in the neck by a musket ball, Luther Smith suffered a bayonet wound to his left leg, Edward Wade was wounded, but no details, Edward Whelan was wounded in the left foot. Only Private Dent was declared an invalid and left the Guards. The Guardsman Lieutenant Holden reported as being missing was probably the soldier that Private Asa Redington helped carry.

We can not honor those Guardsmen who gave their lives in this skirmish by listing their names, as they are and probably will always be "*unknown soldiers*".

Dr. William Colfax, Jr., the son of Lieutenant Colfax left us a vivid description of his father's wound, as told to him years before. ". . . while on horseback, in an exposed position a bullet was sent through his body, just above the hip and below the bowels, entering in front and coming out behind". The long buff waistcoat he wore at the time is preserved by his descendants, and the hole is apparent, made by the almost fatal shot. He went on to describe the care his father received and his return to duty.

COMMENTS:

Our thanks to Stanford University for permission to use Asa Redington's Journal.

Donald N. Moran



Lieutenant
William Colfax



THE QUESTION OF FRINGE AND THE FLAG ?

The questions has been raised concerning the legality of using gold fringe on the American flag.

Gold fringe is used on the National flag as an honorable enrichment only. It is not regarded as an integral part of the flag and its use does not constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statutes.

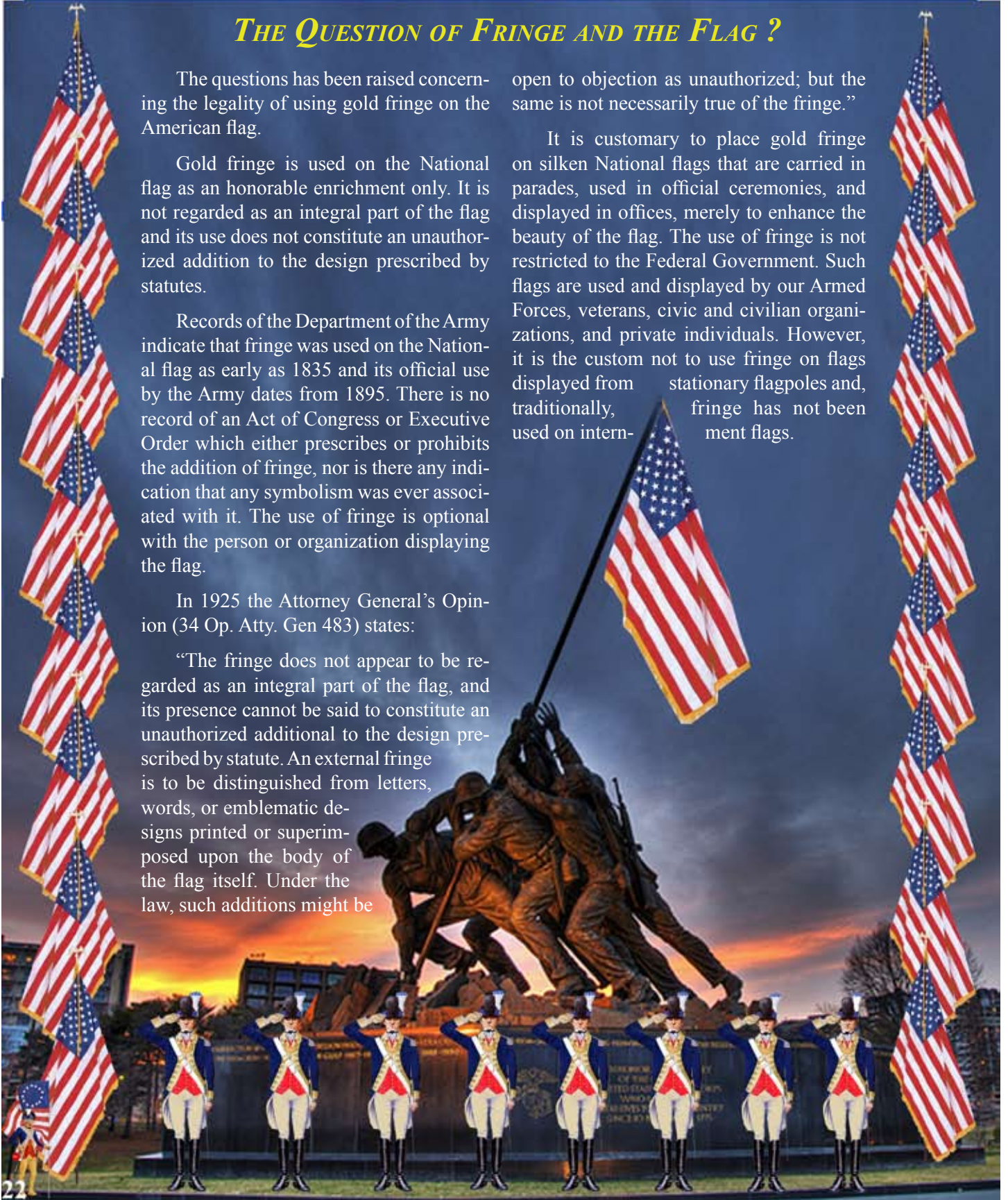
Records of the Department of the Army indicate that fringe was used on the National flag as early as 1835 and its official use by the Army dates from 1895. There is no record of an Act of Congress or Executive Order which either prescribes or prohibits the addition of fringe, nor is there any indication that any symbolism was ever associated with it. The use of fringe is optional with the person or organization displaying the flag.

In 1925 the Attorney General's Opinion (34 Op. Atty. Gen 483) states:

“The fringe does not appear to be regarded as an integral part of the flag, and its presence cannot be said to constitute an unauthorized additional to the design prescribed by statute. An external fringe is to be distinguished from letters, words, or emblematic designs printed or superimposed upon the body of the flag itself. Under the law, such additions might be

open to objection as unauthorized; but the same is not necessarily true of the fringe.”

It is customary to place gold fringe on silken National flags that are carried in parades, used in official ceremonies, and displayed in offices, merely to enhance the beauty of the flag. The use of fringe is not restricted to the Federal Government. Such flags are used and displayed by our Armed Forces, veterans, civic and civilian organizations, and private individuals. However, it is the custom not to use fringe on flags displayed from stationary flagpoles and, traditionally, fringe has not been used on intern- ment flags.





The Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR, held it's July 18th, 2009 meeting at the Tam O'Shanter, 1st Vice President Melvin Harrell presiding. Attending were: Michael Biferno, Gary Bohannon, Jim Bradley, Berni Campebl, Kerry Davidson, Michael Gillespie, Glenn Gujda, Greg Gujda, Mark Gujda, Melvin Harrell, Ron Johnson, Jim McHargue, John Mohler, Don Moran and LtC. Tom Pyburn. . Guests attending were: Cathy Bradley, Mary Campbell, Kathy Harrell, Barbara Johnson, Paula McHargue, Linda Moran, Ilona and Zelma Simm.

OPENING CEREMONY

The invocation was given by the Glenn Gujda, the Pledge of Allegiance by Lt. Colonel Tom Pyburn, and pledge to the SAR by Don Moran.

PRESENTATION OF A MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

1st Vice President Melvin Harrell presented Compatriot Michael Gillespie his membership certificate and rosette.

PRESENTATION OF AN APPROVED SUPPLEMENTAL

1st Vice President Melvin Harrell presented Compatriot Kerry Davidson an approved Supplemental.

PROGRAM

Former President Glenn Gujda gave a very informative presentation on the Polish contributions to the American Revolution. A written version will be published in the September edition of this newsletter,

JUNE 20th MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Kerry Davidson and seconded by Glenn Gujda that the minutes of the June 20th, 2009 meeting be accepted. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

In the absence of Treasurer David W. Eaton a written report was distributed showing a balance in our checking account of \$908.69. It was moved by the Glenn Gujda and seconded by Greg Gujda to accept the report. The motion carried.

PERMANENT FUND REPORT

The written report of Trustee

David W. Eaton on the Permanent Fund was distributed. The current value of all the funds is \$54,18.04. Earned interest at this time is \$1,128.75. It was moved by LtC Tom Pyburn and seconded by Kerry Davidson to accept. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Registrar Berni K. Campbell reported we have 17 applications in various stages of completion. John Lunstrom was just approved.



FORMER PRESIDENT GLENN GUJDA, OUR, GUEST SPEAKER, ACCEPTING THE CHAPTERS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM 1ST VICE PRESIDENT MELVIN HARRELL.

REPORT OF THE COLOR GUARD

Our Color Guard Commander, Melvin Harrell reported that our Color Guard participated in several events on July 4th with the Redlands and Riverside Chapters. A full pictorial report to be in the Liberty Tree.

REPORT ON NATIONAL CONGRESS ACTIONS

Secretary Don Moran reported that he has been officially informed that our Berni Campbell has been awarded his ninth cluster for his Liberty Medal, for being the first line signer on another ten

new members. Don also reported that the Delegates to Congress increased the National Dues by \$5.00, now at \$30.00. They also increased the National Admission Fee by \$20.00 to \$80.00.

Don expressed his concerns regarding the Chapter continuing it's exempting active duty members of our Armed Forces from dues and admission fees.

Vice President Harrell appointed a committee of three, Secretary Don Moran, Chancellor Greg Gujda and Trustee Jim McHargue to investigate the possibility of an "adoption program" and other alternatives and report back at our August meeting.

HONORARY DUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Secretary Don Moran proposed that we give the Chapter's Honorary Dual Memberships to President General Edward Butler of Texas and to Genealogist General Joseph Dooley, of Virginia who is also serving as National Color Guard Commander and is a member of the Commander-in-Chief's Guards. Both have already established a fine record of achievement. It was so moved, and seconded by Glenn Gujda. The motion unanimously passed. A certificate and the Chapter membership medal to be sent to them.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

The benediction was given by the our Chaplain Rev. Victor Springer and the SAR Recessional by 1st 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

Our Chapter's September Meeting will be onboard the SS Lane Victory



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 Chapter's September 19th, 2009 meeting will be held on board the World War II Victory ship, the SS Lane Victory moored in San Pedro.

This will be a joint meeting with the Harbor Chapter and other Southern California SAR Chapters. The Guest speaker and program will be announced in our September Liberty Tree.

Reservations are required! Please contact our secretary if you can attend (address to the left)

Donald N. Moran



**COMING EVENTS
MONTHLY MEETING**

AUGUST 15TH, 2009

Topic:
UP-DATE ON THE

NATIONAL SOCIETY, SAR

Speaker:

Karl Wm. Jacobs,
Vice President General



Topic:

**A SURVEY OF WHAT'S AVAILABLE
TODAY IN MEN'S HEREDITARY
SOCIETIES**

Speaker:

JAMES C. MCHARGUE



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

Two Points to Ponder



"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free - - in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Thomas Jefferson

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

Aristotle



2009

- Aug. 15th --- Monthly Meeting
- 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 --- Monttly Meeting